



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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## CHINA AND SAUDI ARABIA DISCUSS MILITARY TIES

*May 15, 2002* *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "China and Saudi Arabia are exploring the prospect of expanding their defense and military relationship. The two countries have held talks on launching joint projects and the purchase of Chinese weapons by Riyadh. Other topics included Chinese training, logistical help and joint exercises.

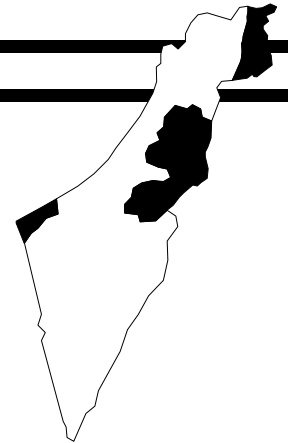
Saudi Deputy Defense Minister Prince Khalid Bin Sultan met a visiting Chinese delegation in Riyadh. The official Saudi Press Agency reported that the delegation that visited on April 28 was headed by assistant director-general for logistics in the People's Liberation Army, Gen. Rhu Chiang. "The two men discussed important mutual issues,' the agency said..."

## NETANYAHU SEEKS TO DEFANG PA STATE THREAT

*May 15, 2002* *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Former Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu expressed confidence yesterday that he will succeed in convincing both the nation and the government not to permit the establishment of a Palestinian state. Netanyahu told *The Jerusalem Post* that passing the resolution opposing the establishment of a Palestinian state west of the Jordan in Sunday's Likud central committee meeting was the first step in his effort to 'defang' the threat of a Palestinian state.

'My positions may have seemed far out at first, but they eventually became government policy,' Netanyahu said. 'But it doesn't happen overnight. You cannot change the perspective of an entire country in one day, especially if [the inevitability of a state] has been repeated ad nauseam.'

Netanyahu said his calls for ending Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's restraint policy, destroying the Palestinian Authority's infrastructure of terror, and entering Area A were all dismissed as crazy and extreme at first, but they were all adopted to great success. He predicted the same would happen with his recommendations of exiling PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and preventing a Palestinian state from being created..."



Israel

## SAUDI OFFICIALS SILENT AS ANTI-U.S. BOYCOTT SPREADS

*May 14, 2002* *The World Tribune* reports: "A national boycott against U.S. products is growing in Saudi Arabia and spreading to other Gulf states. The boycott campaign has spread through messages on cellular phones and E-mails.

Saudi activists said members of the royal family have pledged their support for the boycott in protest of Washington's support for Israel. The government in Riyadh has not expressed an official position. Activists said the boycott has resulted in a sharp drop in purchases of U.S. imports as well as sales in restaurant chains that stem from the United States, *Middle East Newsline* reported. The Saudi government *Al Watan* daily said the boycott has so far led to a drop of sales of up to 30 percent.

Clerics in mosques throughout the kingdom have also urged congregants to boycott U.S. products. 'With each dollar you pay you kill a Palestinian,' one Saudi message said in reference to Israel's use of U.S.-made weaponry in the war against the Palestinians..."



## PRIME MINISTER BLAIR'S STRATEGY FOR THE EURO

*May 13, 2002* *The London Daily Telegraph* reports: "Tony Blair's chief strategists have drawn up a secret 'war plan' for a referendum on joining the euro, possibly as early as next year, The Telegraph reveals today.

A report from the Prime Minister's personal polling consultancy suggests that for the first time the referendum is now winnable, though it admits that resistance remains strong. However, Mr. Blair still has much to do if he is to convince the electorate to take such an historic step.

In a blunt message to the Prime Minister - almost a year after he won a second landslide election victory - the report says Britain is 'in a pessimistic mood' and voters view the Government with 'distrust and cynicism'..."

### **JAVIER SOLANA CALLS FOR AN END TO ROTATING EU PRESIDENCY**

*May 12, 2002* *The EU Observer* reports: "The high representative for the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana, calls for ending the rotating system of EU presidencies as well as for restricting the right of veto in the European Council, according to *El Mundo*."

Speaking in Madrid, Mr. Solana talked about the process of reforms that the EU must undertake before the enlargement. He maintained that the European Council must be at the 'heart' of the development of the Union, but urged its reforms to make it more efficient. Solana says decisions would have to be adopted by qualified majority at European summits. Mr. Solana is against having a presidency which changes hands every 6 months, saying that it is 'a thing of yesterday and not of tomorrow.'

In a report on the functioning of the Council unveiled in March, Javier Solana, who is also the Secretary General of the Council, points out that the present system of the rotating six month presidency of the European Union harms the efficiency of EU work and is a source of constant unbalance within the EU, which risks worsening after enlargement.

Mr. Solana suggests several modalities of reforming the EU presidency: longer term programming through co-operation between successive EU presidencies, designation of presidents of certain groups or committees for a period longer than six months, or presidency of some EU committees by the Council's secretariat. He also proposes the modification of Treaties to allow the election by the European Council of their president for a period longer than six months, eventually two and a half years, and the designation of certain or all presidents of Council formations for more than six months..."

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### **IRAN PREPARING FOR AN ATTACK**

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*May 11, 2002* *The Washington Times* reports: "Iranian military forces recently moved additional air defense missiles to a key nuclear facility in what U.S. intelligence officials view as a sign Tehran is preparing for an attack. Several batteries of Iran's U.S.-made improved Hawk missiles, known as I-Hawks, were added to defenses ringing Iran's Bushehr nuclear facility and were photographed late last month by a U.S. spy satellite. Iran has about 150 I-Hawks."

The Bushehr nuclear power plant is located 10 miles south of the city of Bushehr and has been under construction since the 1970s. Russia has been the main supplier of the equipment for the two reactors.

CIA nonproliferation officials have told Congress that Iran is actively pursuing the acquisition of fissile material and the expertise and technology necessary to form the material into nuclear weapons. The weapons are based on both plutonium and highly enriched uranium nuclear arms, according to the agency..."

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### **IRAQ DEPLOYS MISSILES, VIOLATES NO-FLY ZONES**

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*May 11, 2002* *The Washington Times* reports: "U.S. intelligence agencies have identified new surface-to-air missile batteries near Nasariya in southern Iraq, and Iraqi military pilots are increasingly violating no-fly zones created by the United Nations. The missile batteries are protecting an airfield and several underground bunkers near Nasariya that could be involved in the development of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, the officials say. U.S. intelligence officials said the SAM deployments spotted in April appear to be part of a nationwide air-defense buildup by Iraq in preparation for an attack by U.S. forces."



Iraq

Iraqi MiGs recently conducted flights over southern Iraq in violation of a post-Persian Gulf war ban by the United Nations. The officials did not identify the type of MiG aircraft that were detected during the incursions. One official said the jets were either MiG-23 or MiG-25 fighters.

Iraq is believed to have up to 25 SA-3 missile systems and 10 SA-6s, a more advanced air defense weapon. A fiber-optic communications network purchased from China was used to link the air defense weapons. The fiber-optic system was targeted during U.S. bombing strikes last year."

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