



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

15 JUNE 2001

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION CONFIRMS EBOLA CASES

June 14, 2002 *The Herald Sun* reported: "A new outbreak of ebola fever has been confirmed in the Republic of Congo, with six people already affected. The latest outbreak is in the republic's northwest, on the border with Gabon, the World Health Organisation said. WHO official Lamine Cisse Sarr said investigators in Mbomo reported "the epidemic returned on May 17 after the dismemberment of a chimpanzee found dead in a forest by two hunters".

An earlier epidemic, between December and April, claimed 42 victims. Five men and woman have been taken to hospital in the latest outbreak, the WHO representative said.

Ebola is one of the most virulent diseases known to man, and often causes death by massive haemorrhaging in which blood pours from the victim's skin like sweat. The disease is spread through contact with body fluids, including saliva. Early symptoms are similar to those of the flu.

There is no known cure once the disease has reached a developed stage. But patients can survive if they are treated early enough."

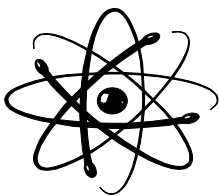
PLO DOCUMENT: MUBARAK PLANNED SINAI OPERATION

June 14, 2002 *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak planned to deploy troops in eastern Sinai near the Israeli border to provide military backing for Palestinian demands from the Jewish state, a Palestinian document says.

The PLO document quoted Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as pledging to move forces into the Sinai to force Israel to accept Palestinian demands. The document said Mubarak issued the pledge to PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in 1996. Mubarak, according to the document, planned to unilaterally terminate the restrictions placed on Egyptian troop deployment in the Sinai, a key element of the 1979 Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The president argued that the demilitarization clause of the peace treaty was to expire in 1997.

'We will move our forces, not to declare war, but to tell Israel, 'The time has come to fulfill our legitimate rights to deploy military forces in the Sinai under the Camp David agreement, that determined that Egypt has the right to deploy forces in the Sinai after 18 years,' Mubarak was quoted as saying in the PLO document..."

FEDERAL AGENCIES STOCKPILE PILLS TO COUNTER RADIOACTIVE IODINE



June 13, 2002 *The Washington Times* reports: "U.S. government agencies in the Washington area ordered 350,000 potassium iodide pills Monday and Tuesday from a company that sells the medicine intended to protect the thyroid gland from radioactive iodine. The government orders this week represent nearly 9 percent of NukePills.com's sales this year and are 17.5 times more than its total sales in 2000, said Troy Jones, president of the Mooresville, N.C., company.

Mr. Jones would not identify the agencies that purchased the potassium iodide pills, citing protection of customer privacy. 'I think that what happened is that these people are privy to information that neither you or I know,' Mr. Jones said. 'Anytime an unsolicited government agency calls to make a mass purchase of potassium iodide, that's a signal to me something is amiss.'

A spokesman for the Office of Homeland Security acknowledged the government is making large purchases of potassium iodide but said that they are part of an 'ongoing effort' not directly tied to the arrest of al Muhajir. 'You bet we are, and we have been for some time,' said Gordon Johndroe, Homeland Security spokesman.

Most of the purchases were made by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Energy, and the Department of Health and Human Services, he said..."

CHANCELLOR SCHRÖDER CAUTIOUS ABOUT ELECTING EU PRESIDENT

June 13, 2002 *The EU Observer* reports: "German chancellor Gerhard Schröder expressed moderate interest in the proposal put forward by leaders of three large EU states to elect an EU president for a five year period, which would

replace the present system of a rotating presidency held by each EU state.

As his representative in the Convention previously did, Schröder has discreetly taken the side of the European Commission in the battle between the two visions of Europe: the intergovernmental; giving more powers to the EU governments, and the community method; supporting more powers to the Commission.

Small EU states have already determinedly rejected the idea to elect an EU president, fearing this would give more power to the large member states, as the EU president would inevitably be a politician from a large state. The small EU countries are attached to the present system of a rotating presidency, saying it favors equality among states..."

EGYPT REJECTS PRESSURE AGAINST NUKE PLAN

June 12, 2002 The Middle East Newline reports: "Egypt has rejected U.S. pressure to suspend plans to construct eight nuclear reactors in the country.

Officials said President Hosni Mubarak has pledged to continue a program to establish a network of nuclear power plants in an effort to replace oil. The officials said the project is being conducted with the International Atomic Energy Agency as well as Western suppliers.

The United States has quietly relayed its concern over the nuclear power project. Western diplomatic sources said Washington does not want Egypt to build a nuclear infrastructure that could quickly be diverted for the production of weapons of mass destruction.

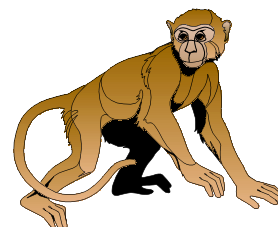
Last month, Egyptian Electricity Minister Hassan Yunis pledged to continue the nuclear program and denied that it had been suspended. Yunis told the London-based A-Sharq Al Awsat that the project would include training for Egyptian engineers and technicians as well as introduction of the most advanced safety features..."

MONKEYPOX COULD BE USED AS A BIOWEAPON

June 9, 2002 UPI reported: " The Russians worked with monkeypox virus, a close cousin to smallpox, in their bioweapons program and it is possible terrorists could use it in a biological attack against the United States, scientists and former United Nations weapons inspectors told United Press International.



Although some biological weapons experts are concerned with the possibility of terrorists using another smallpox-related virus called camelpox, which Iraq has admitted to researching, Mark Buller, a biologist at Saint Louis University who conducts research on smallpox vaccines, said he is more concerned about monkeypox.



Buller's concern stems from the fact that monkeypox, unlike camelpox, causes mortality in humans and the incidence of human infection is on the rise in central and western Africa. In addition, the

Russian biowarfare experts are known to have worked with the virus in the Soviet Union's biological weapons program.

The Soviets decided they did not want to work with smallpox by the late 1980's "and there was significant discussion of the possible use of monkeypox as a biological weapon instead of smallpox," Ken Alibek, who was former deputy chief of the Soviet biological weapons program and now resides in the U.S., told UPI.

Monkeypox, which causes symptoms similar to smallpox, can be fatal, but only in the minority of cases, said James LeDuc, director of the division of viral and rickettsial diseases at the CDC in Atlanta. Monkeypox is not as contagious as smallpox, but whether it could be or has been modified to be more virulent is unknown.

The "real fear is that (monkeypox) might be engineered as a bioweapon," said Jonathan Tucker, a former weapons inspector for the United Nations Special Commission who is now with the think tank Monterey Institute in Washington. Tucker noted the smallpox vaccine will protect against both monkeypox and camelpox, but Americans do not have access to this vaccine.

There are concerns that Russia's smallpox may have been leaked to terrorists, and whether something similar happened with monkeypox is uncertain."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor

UCGIA, Oakland, San Jose, & Santa Rosa, California

ljimtuck@netscape.net