



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

22 JUNE 2002

## MEPS DEMAND TO ELECT FUTURE EU PRESIDENT

*June 19, 2002* *The EU Observer* reports: "In a strongly worded press release, MEPs of the intergroup European Constitution have expressed their opposition to the European Council electing a president for the EU. The group, which consists of some 230 deputies in the parliament, declare that such a presidency would 'command neither sufficient legitimacy nor would it be transparent enough.'

The idea of electing an EU president, to be appointed by the European Council, for a period of five years, was put forward by the leaders of Spain, France and the UK. What has really riled the members of this group, as well as other members of the Convention on the future of Europe, were newspaper reports that the President of the Convent, Valérie Giscard d'Estaing, had bilateral meetings with the British prime minister, Tony Blair and the Spanish Premier, Jose María Aznar, to discuss this issue.

Members of the Convention were left to hear about this in the media. As Bruno Boissière, the secretary general of the EU federalists said to the *EU Observer*, 'this does not respect the work of the convention.' The intergroup European Constitution is not against having a European president in principle. However, it insists that the President be elected by the Parliament to give the post some democratic legitimacy. Boissière argues that this would be a logical step as the European parliamentary term is five years, which is also the amount of time that has been suggested for such a president."

## SCIENTISTS CONQUER LASER BEAM TELEPORTATION

*June 18, 2002* *The Australian Broadcasting Corporation* reports: "Scientists in Canberra have successfully teleported a laser beam for the first time in Australia. Teleportation is usually found in science fiction programs like Star Trek, but a team of researchers from the Australian National University (ANU) has carried out a successful teleportation experiment in a gravitational wave lab.

Team leader Dr Ping Koy Lam says it involved creating a laser beam, its disembodiment and the recreation of the original beam in a different location.

Dr Lam says the experiment involved laser light which is made up of photons which are quite different from any solid material. 'At the moment physicists are still puzzling over how to actually do it with a solid material, so we have to start with an atom,' he said.

The discovery has applications for the development of quantum computers and telecommunications..."

## EUROPEAN UNION SEEKS CLOSER TIES WITH IRAN

*June 18, 2002* *BBC News* reports: "European Union foreign ministers have agreed to open trade and political talks with Iran, a country still branded by the US as part of a global 'axis of evil'. EU Commissioner for External Affairs Chris Patten will meet Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Brussels on Tuesday to start the process that the EU hopes will bolster the reformist President Mohammad Khatami.



The European foreign ministers who met in Luxembourg said closer trade and economic links would have to be matched by Iranian efforts to stop terrorism and the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

But Israel expressed dismay at the agreement and the US has also lobbied against European rapprochement with Tehran, skeptical of Iran's ability to deliver on its promises.

Mr. Patten told the BBC: 'It can't seriously be anybody's idea of a good way of promoting stability in the region to think that we should isolate and cut Iran off for ever.' He said there should be recognition of the strength of the reform movement and be aware that there were other elements which were far less friendly to the West. 'If you don't talk to the reasonable people, you fetch up with fewer reasonable people to talk to.'..."

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## HAMAS THREATENS CHEMICAL TERROR

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*June 17, 2002* *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Hamis is threatening to use chemical weapons in future attacks against Israeli targets, claiming 'slaughter will bring slaughter,' Channel 2 reported last night. According to the report, Hamas issued a statement after conducting a strategic debate which generated the decision to use chemical weapons in addition to conventional bombs. 'When we reach that stage [using chemical weapons], the gates will be opened to develop suicide attacks with Allah's help,' the report said, quoting from the statement issued by the movement yesterday.

The statement claimed that the aim is to further harm those hit by shrapnel in a bomb blast and 'create a massacre.' Hamas spokesman Abdel Aziz Rantissi denied the meetings took place and referred to the reports as 'lies.'

Hamas yesterday claimed responsibility for the attack near Dugit on Saturday night in which St.-Sgt. Yehezkel (Hezki) Gutman, 22, of Beit El, and Sgt. Alexei Gladkov, 20, of Beersheba, were killed and four others wounded..."

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## U.S. CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS BACK EFFORT TO TOPPLE HUSSEIN

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*June 17, 2002* *CNN* reports: "Several key congressional leaders said Sunday they supported quick and decisive action to topple Saddam Hussein from the presidency of Iraq -- including, if necessary, a military strike.

Responding to questions about a *Washington Post* report saying President Bush had issued an executive order authorizing the CIA to use whatever means necessary to remove Hussein, Sen. Richard Shelby, R.-Alabama, said, 'The president's on the right track.' 'How we do it, when we do it, I don't know and I'm not even sure the president knows,' Shelby said on *CNN's* 'Late Edition with Wolf Blitzer.' 'But this man needs to go.'

*The Post* article, quoting an unnamed source, said the CIA was authorized to undertake a comprehensive covert operation that could include use of Special Forces. Another source told the paper that the covert operation would likely be preparation for a full-scale military attack..."

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## 1971 SOVIET SMALLPOX OUTBREAK REPORT WORRIES EXPERTS

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*June 16, 2002* *Reuters* reports: "Experts said on Saturday they were worried by a leaked report that describes an outbreak of smallpox in the Soviet Union -- one they say may point to the testing of a smallpox biological weapon. Seven people became ill in the 1971 outbreak and three died of what appeared to be the more fatal, and more rare, hemorrhagic form of the infection, said Dr. Alan Zelicoff of the Monterey Institute of International Studies, one of the authors of the report.

'Someone has successfully disseminated smallpox as an aerosol,' Zelicoff said in an interview. 'It has been talked about and it has been rumored about but no one has ever actually done it,' he added. 'It is real, it has happened and it works. We have to live with it.'

Zelicoff described the report at a meeting on Saturday of policymakers, bioterrorism experts, emergency response officials and others at the Institute of Medicine in Washington. The experts are helping to put together U.S. policy on whether and when to vaccinate against smallpox.

Smallpox was declared eradicated worldwide as a disease in 1979, but the former Soviet Union, and perhaps other countries, continued to develop the potentially deadly virus as a biological weapon.

Experts are considering whether to vaccinate Americans now that, after the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States, a biological attack is considered more likely than ever before. Vaccination in the United States stopped in 1972 and doctors say it is unlikely more than a small fraction of those who were vaccinated have any useful immunity left..."

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{next Prophetic Times July 6, 2002}*