



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## 'MEGA-TERROR' ATTACK POSSIBLE, PRIME MINISTER SHARON TOLD

*August 8, 2002* The *Jerusalem Post* reports: "As Prime Minister Ariel Sharon consulted with senior officials Wednesday about prospects for a 'mega-terror' attack that could kill scores and explored possible responses, the Palestinian Authority tentatively endorsed Israel's offer of a phased pullback.

Intelligence officials warned Sharon that terrorists could be plotting to bomb a high-rise building or some other type of attack that could cause widespread damage unseen so far in the current conflict.

The focus of the talks appeared to be on potential Israeli responses rather than on how to prevent such an attack. There have recently been murmurs that Israel could respond by deporting PA Chairman Yasser Arafat or reinstating the civil administration in the West Bank and Gaza Strip..."

## CONFLICT COULD SOON BE NUCLEAR

*August 7, 2002* The *Times Online* reports: "The U.S. Congress has been warned that President Bush's proposed attack on Iraq could escalate into a nuclear conflict.

An assessment of Iraq's capabilities says that the U.S. is unlikely to knock out many, if any, of President Saddam Hussein's mobile missile-launchers in a first wave of airstrikes. It raises the possibility of Baghdad hitting an Israeli city with a missile carrying biological agents, saying that Saddam is likely to use chemical and biological weapons.



Israel's likely reaction would be nuclear ground bursts against every Iraqi city not already occupied by U.S.-led coalition forces. Senators were told that, unlike the 1991 Gulf War, when Washington urged Israel not to retaliate against Iraqi missile strikes, Israeli leaders have decided that their credibility would be hurt if they failed to react this time.

The assessment was written by Anthony Cordesman, a former Pentagon and State Department official now with the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. He was a witness before last week's Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and chosen to open a national debate on the looming Iraqi conflict. He queried the ability of US forces to use pre-emptive airstrikes to cripple Iraq's mobile launchers, which would be used for chemical or biological weapons. Donald Rumsfeld, the U.S. Defense Secretary, has alluded to the problems of locating the launchers..."

## EUROPE WARNS AGAINST ATTACK ON IRAQ

*August 7, 2002* The *EU Observer* reports: "A broad opposition against US plans to attack Iraq emerges in Europe, with French and German leaders rejecting a military action, and Britain becoming more cautious.

An opinion poll unveiled on Monday that a majority of Britons believe their government should not support a U.S. led attack on Iraq. The Tory opposition has warned the British Prime minister on the consequences of a military action aiming to change the regime in Iraq, and urged the premier to reconvene Parliament to debate the issue before taking any decision.

The British government has called the speculation about an attack as 'rubbish' and claims the time has not come for a decision..."

## FIFTH WEST NILE VICTIM DIES

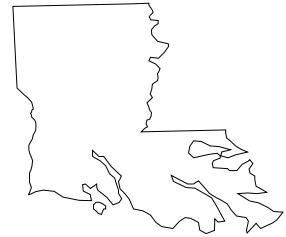
*August 7, 2002* CNN reports: "A fifth person has died from West Nile virus in Louisiana and 71 cases have been confirmed, making this the nation's worst outbreak of the disease, authorities reported Tuesday.

The fifth Louisiana victim died last week, but the cause of death was not confirmed until Tuesday, said Dr. Erin Brewer,



regional medical director for the state's Office of Public Health. Meanwhile, health officials are concerned the virus may be moving at a faster rate and infecting younger people than expected.

Alarmed by how many cases have already been confirmed, David Hood, secretary for Louisiana's Health and Hospitals Department, noted, 'We have about three months left of warm weather here in Louisiana.'



The West Nile virus was discovered in Uganda in 1937, then found its way to New York in 1999, Hood said. That New York outbreak was the largest outbreak in the nation's history, resulting in 62 cases, including seven deaths. The virus has since spread by migrating birds, scientist believe. It was found near New Orleans in 2001..."

## BIG BROTHER FEARS AS JAPAN USHERS IN ID ERA

*August 6, 2002* *The Scotsman* reports: "Japan launched a scheme yesterday to cut red tape by giving every citizen an 11-digit ID number as critics protested that the computerized system would open the door to privacy violations and abuse by hackers.

A group of academics and activists presented the home affairs ministry with a petition demanding that the government halt the program, which links municipal computer systems.

'We don't want to be under government surveillance, stop the resident registry system,' shouted a small band of protesters outside the ministry.

The new nationwide database stores personal information - names, addresses, dates of birth, gender and the new identification numbers - for each of Japan's 126 million citizens. But at least six municipalities have already announced that they will not take part in the system, while Mayor Hiroshi Nakada of Yokohama, Japan's second-largest city, said residents would be allowed to choose whether to participate.

Opponents fear that something sinister is at work. 'With the resident registry network system, the state will become a stalker with control over personal information,' Kyodo news agency quoted Makoto Sataka, a well-known critic of the system, as saying. 'With the system, the Japanese people will be put in a prison-state.'

Critics also worry that the new system could serve as a stepping stone to a slew of personal data stored at different locations and make it easier for hackers to create mischief..."

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## JORDAN'S KING RULES OUT U.S. BASES

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*August 4, 2002* *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "Jordan's King Abdullah said he will not allow the United States to employ the kingdom's air bases for a military campaign against Iraq.

Abdullah told a U.S. television network on Thursday that he does not envision allowing the United States to use Jordanian air bases amid a Washington-led war on Iraq. His statement came hours before the king discussed Iraq with President George Bush.

'I believe not,' Abdullah said when asked whether he would allow U.S. combat jets to use Jordanian bases. 'I mean, it's very difficult, when our policy is really one of dialogue and peace to stop problems, to allow military activity through Jordan towards any country.'

But in an appearance with Bush, the king praised the U.S. president. Abdullah said Bush understands the dynamics of the Middle East and Jordan's position in the region..."

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