



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

17 AUGUST 2002

U.S. NOT RULING OUT ISRAELI NUCLEAR STRIKE AGAINST IRAQ

Aug 15, 2002 Ha'aretz reports: "If Iraq strikes at Israel with non-conventional weapons, causing massive casualties among the civilian population, Israel could respond with a nuclear retaliation that would eradicate Iraq as a country. This grave assessment, from American intelligence, was presented last week to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

During the 1991 Gulf War, then U.S. defense secretary Richard Cheney, now vice-president, told *CNN* that Israel could respond with nuclear weapons to an Iraqi strike that included the use of chemical weapons. This assessment has only been strengthened since then, because according to all the signs, Iraq now has biological weapons that could cause mass casualties. According to one assessment, military-grade biological weapons can be almost as lethal as a nuclear bomb.

The U.S. intelligence assessments include an analysis of possible Israeli responses. The lowest probability is that Israel would respond initially with a conventional military retaliation if it is slightly harmed, and would add a warning that a non-conventional response was possible if the Iraqi attacks on the Israeli civilian population continued.

The possibility of Israel using nuclear weapons against Iraq appears in a document submitted by military expert Dr. Anthony Cordesman, a fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Presumably, the document is based, in part, on official administration assessments..."

SAUDI ARABIA GIVES AMERICA THE COLD SHOULDER

Aug 15, 2002 The Times Online reports: "Relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia have deteriorated so far that the Saudi Arabians are no longer considered allies, senior diplomatic sources said yesterday.

Saudi Arabia, once the indispensable cornerstone of U.S. policy in the Arab world, has refused to co-operate with the war on terrorism or support President Bush's plans to overthrow President Saddam Hussein. According to the sources, it has handed over no Intelligence of any value about the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, which has roots in Saudi Arabia.

The final 'stab in the back' for Washington was the decision to ban American bombers from attacking Iraq from Saudi airbases. That has soured relations to such an extent that the country from which America launched its 1991 invasion of Iraq is now being excluded from discussions about a post-Saddam era.

Even Syria, which in public is opposed to an attack on Iraq and has been engaged in trade and arms deals with Baghdad, is talking secretly to the Americans and the British about the role that Damascus may play in the region if Saddam is overthrown. A Syrian delegation is understood to have had discussions with British officials in London this week.

British diplomatic sources said that the Saudi ruling elite was immersed in a 'dynastic battle' and was so concerned about survival that the key figures were afraid of taking any decision that would be interpreted by the people as being pro-Western and anti-Arab. It had become increasingly difficult to find anyone with sufficient clout and influence in Riyadh 'to talk about anything'..."

MUSLIM RADICALS IN LONDON ISSUE 'HOLY WAR' WARNING



Aug 14, 2002 The London Daily Telegraph reports: "Radical Islamic leaders in London issued a thinly-veiled threat yesterday that the United States and Britain could face a terrorist onslaught akin to the September 11 attacks if they go to war on Iraq.

Sheikh Omar Bakri Muhammad, a preacher from north London, said he and other radicals would issue a fatwa, or religious edict, telling Muslims how to respond to the 'evil' of an attack.

Islamic hard-liners have little love for Saddam Hussein, but they see any US-British military action against Iraq as the greater evil, part of a 'Satanic alliance' against Muslims around the world. 'I believe September 11 was a direct response

to the evil American policy in the Muslim world,' said Sheikh Omar Bakri. 'We do not want another event like this in the West. If there is an attack by the British Government against Muslims abroad, then Muslims abroad have the right to retaliate and defend themselves.

'Muslims in Britain are not allowed to do anything. But I believe the Government must expect a lot of resistance from Muslims outside the UK. We are giving sincere advice to the British Government and the British public so they understand the consequences of playing with fire.'

He will be joined at a press conference tomorrow by several other radicals, some of whom have been accused of links with Osama bin Laden and his al-Qa'eda network..."

EU WARNS AGAINST U.S. IMMUNITY

August 13, 2002 *The Washington Post* reports: "The European Union yesterday told all countries hoping to join the bloc that they should not sign U.S. accords granting immunity to U.S. peacekeepers from the new International Criminal Court. Yugoslavia said yesterday it would not sign such a pact.

The warning by European Commission President Romano Prodi to aspiring EU members followed an EU announcement of regret that Romania had become the first country to sign an ICC-immunity agreement with the United States.

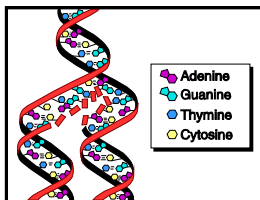
'Other candidate countries which have also been approached by the United States, for now in any case, should not make any more moves to agree to sign such an accord,' said a spokesman for Mr. Prodi in Brussels yesterday.

Mr. Prodi 'would like that before going forward, the other candidate countries wait for a complete analysis to be completed by the EU' on the consequences of this type of accord, said the spokesman...

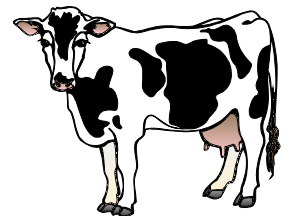
A Washington spokesman for the European Union said the warning against bilateral immunity treaties with the United States was not a threat directed at aspiring EU members...

The United States has refused to sign the Rome Treaty creating the International Criminal Court, designed this year to try war crimes such as genocide. China, Russia and Israel have also refused to sign..."

JOINT VENTURE CLONES CATTLE WITH HUMAN ANTIBODIES



Aug 2002 *The New York Times* reports: "Scientists reported yesterday that they had produced cloned calves that made human antibodies in their blood. The achievement could eventually pave the way to using cattle as a source for a disease treatment that is now derived from human blood but is in short supply.



The four calves were created by a venture of Hematech, a small biotechnology company in Westport, Conn., and Kirin Brewery, the Japanese beer maker that is involved in pharmaceuticals. The research was published online yesterday in the journal *Nature Biotechnology*.

The disease treatment, variously called immune globulin, immunoglobulin or gamma globulin, is a mixture of human antibodies given to people with immune system deficiencies or as treatment for infections. Since it is derived from human blood it is often in short supply.

Another problem is that patients often require antibodies aimed at specific viruses and bacteria, which are derived from the blood of people exposed to such diseases. But in some cases, particularly in the case of biological warfare agents, it is unethical to expose people to generate antibodies.

But, said Dr. James M. Robl, president and chief scientific officer at Hematech, 'A cow carrying complete human antibody genes could simply be immunized against the target disease agent and human antibodies could be collected in a couple of months.'..."

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