



PROPHETIC TIMES

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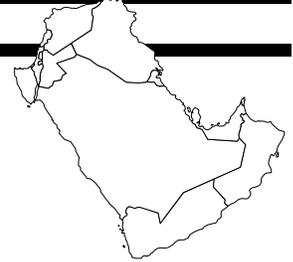
SHARON WARNS DARK 'WAR CLOUDS' HOVER OVER REGION

Oct 10, 2002 *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned at a large military maneuver in the Negev Wednesday that dark 'war clouds' are hovering over the region, and promised that if attacked, Israel will 'defend its citizens.'

'I hope that they don't come to us,' Sharon said, referring to 'the clouds of war that are casting a shadow over our region. But it should be known, Israel if attacked will defend its citizens.'

This is the standard line the prime minister has been using regarding Iraq for nearly two weeks. At Sunday's cabinet meeting, when he told the ministers to tone down their remarks on Iraq, he made clear that the only official response he wanted to hear to the question of what Israel would do in the eventuality of an Iraqi attack would be that Israel will 'know how to defend itself.'

'For the sake of real peace not just talk, but real peace Israel will be willing, I believe, to make concessions, and not easy concessions,' he said at the army base, using another standard line. At the same time, he said again, 'Israel will not make concessions when it comes to its security.'..."



Mideast

SADDAM ACQUIRING TECHNOLOGY FOR 'LONG-RANGE SUPERGUN'

Oct 10, 2002 *The Independent UK* reports: "Saddam Hussein has been acquiring the technology to build a long-range 'supergun' capable of firing nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, German prosecutors allege.

The claim follows the charging of two Germans who allegedly bought cannon drilling equipment and shipped it to Iraq via Jordan four years ago.

The investigation into the Mannheim-based firm Alriwo began last year. Hubert Jobski, from the prosecutor's office, said other arrests were expected, and the two men under arrest could each be sentenced to 15 years if found guilty.

'We are convinced that from Mannheim the equipment went to Iraq,' said Mr. Jobski. 'Others will be accused in the case, and we hope to wrap it up very soon.'

The prosecution says that one of the accused men, Alriwo employee Bernd Schompeter, bought equipment worth about £220,000 from another company called Burgsmueller in north Germany..."

NATO LAUNCHES WARM-UP TO IRAQ WAR

Oct 9, 2002 *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "NATO allies have launched a naval exercise in the Mediterranean that could be a warm-up to an international effort to topple the regime of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The exercise, entitled *Destined Glory-2002*, is meant to test the air, naval and marine capabilities of NATO allies. The exercise began on Saturday and includes Britain, Canada, Germany, Greece, Italy, Norway, Spain, Turkey and the United States.

For Turkey, the 10-day exercise is regarded as a key opportunity for training. A Turkish General Staff statement said Ankara has contributed a missile frigate, a tank-transport vessel, an amphibious infantry company, an undersea attack unit and eight F-16 warplanes. In all, NATO has contributed 70 naval vessels, 170 warplanes and 8,000 troops. The exercise takes place off the coast of Italy..."

ARAFAT SIGNS LAW ON JERUSALEM AS FUTURE CAPITAL

Oct 7, 2002 *Ha'aretz* reports: "Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat signed a law Saturday formally declaring Jerusalem to be the capital of a future independent Palestinian state, said the speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council Abu Ala (Ahmed Qureia) said.

'President Arafat signed the 'Jerusalem The Capital' law stipulating that Jerusalem is the capital of a future independent state and the center of the legislative, judicial and executive authorities,' said Abu Ala. He said Arafat decided to sign off on the bill, which was passed by parliament two years ago, in response to a demand by the U.S. congress that the United States recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

Arafat called the law Bush signed a 'catastrophe,' and Palestinians and Arabs saw it as a biased move backing Israel's claims to the city.

Although Palestinians have long stated their intention to make East Jerusalem their capital, the new law is for now symbolic only, as Israel has full control over both parts of the city and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has pledged not to re-divide it..."

JORDAN HOSTS U.S.-ARAB EXERCISE



Oct 8, 2002 The Middle East Newslite reports: "Jordan hosts an unusual U.S.-Arab military exercise that will test for rapid response to any crisis in the Persian Gulf or Middle East.

The exercise began on Monday and included thousands of troops from the Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, the United Arab Emirates and the United States. The exercise will continue until Oct. 29. A U.S. official confirmed the start of the exercise. He said 1,450 U.S. troops would participate.

A senior Jordanian official told the pro-government Al Ra'i daily on Monday that the exercise was not related to any expected U.S.-led attack on Iraq. The official said the exercise had been arranged between the countries and would not take place near the eastern border..."

AL-AQSA MOSQUE 'MAY COLLAPSE'

Oct 4, 2002 The Guardian Unlimited reports: "Ariel Sharon risks provoking another Palestinian backlash over control of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem as he decides in the coming days what to do about a large and unstable bulge in a wall of one of Islam's holiest sites.

Archaeologists have warned the prime minister that without urgent repairs the mount's southern wall and buildings attached to it - including the al-Aqsa mosque - could collapse on some of the hundreds of thousands of Muslim worshippers who are expected to visit during Ramadan, which begins next month.

But Muslim religious authorities have told the Israelis not to touch the wall, saying such that a move would be interpreted as an attempt to assert control over the site. The issue is all the more sensitive because it was Mr. Sharon's controversial visit to the Temple Mount - which is also a holy site for Jews - that provoked the start of the Palestinian intifada two years ago.

The bulge is more than 30 meters long and protrudes by about a meter. Some archaeologists have compared it to a slow pregnancy. 'A year ago you could barely see the bulge,' said Dr Eilat Mazar, a Hebrew university archaeologist. 'Now it's much more serious. If it was a 'four month' bulge back then, now it's an 'eight month' bulge.

'There's no doubt that it will collapse before long. The question is by how much, and whether it will bring down other structures nearby, including the al-Aqsa mosque.'..."

INTELLIGENCE REPORTS TERRORISTS TARGETING AMERICAN SCHOOLS

Oct 5, 2002 The Washington Times reports: "U.S. intelligence agencies received reports this week indicating Islamic terrorists have targeted American schools for attack, intelligence officials said. The reports indicate that the targeting includes plans to attack all levels of educational institutions in the United States, ranging from elementary schools to colleges and universities, said officials familiar with the reports.

The information on schools as terrorist targets is among the scores of threat reports received by U.S. intelligence agencies every day. Some officials questioned the veracity of the report but said U.S. intelligence agencies have to weigh all the reports carefully..."

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