



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

19 OCTOBER 2002

SOLANA SAYS EU PRESIDENT WOULDN'T SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

Oct 17, 2002 The EU Observer reports: "The European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, yesterday sharply criticized the idea to create a powerful president for the EU council. Britain and France have been lobbying for this proposal, hoping that a high profile president would make EU policies more visible and help to improve co-operation with the White House. Mr. Solana on the other hand stressed, that EU foreign policy problems run much deeper and they couldn't be solved only with new titles and personalities.

'If this new architecture is just about empowering somebody to talk to President Bush - well there should be better arguments than that,' Mr. Solana said, according to the Financial Times. 'No matter who the EU president was, the prime ministers and presidents of member states will still want to go to Washington to see President Bush,' he added.

Mr. Solana told the working group of the Convention that the EU needs a single voice on foreign policy most of all. In order to run a successful foreign policy the EU needs more political will, more continuity and more money..."

SADDAM'S FALL WILL LEAD TO ARAFAT'S AS WELL

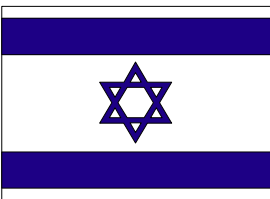
Oct 17, 2002 The Jerusalem Post reports: "If Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein is driven from power it is likely to bring about the fall of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat as well, Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories Maj.-Gen. Amos Gilad said Wednesday. Gilad outlined Israel's thinking about how a US military strike against Iraq might play out, and predicted Saddam's ouster would have ramifications for the Mideast conflict, including the demise of Arafat.

Saddam is a strong backer of the Palestinian cause, and 'is a symbol to tyrants like Yasser Arafat and others,' Gilad told a gathering of journalists and diplomats in Jerusalem. 'If [Saddam] will collapse, it will create an earthquake in this area.' Saddam's fall would accelerate a deterioration in support for Arafat even among his closest allies, Gilad said.

'Arafat is in decline as a result of economic, social, and political elements and this will be increased after a war against Iraq,' Gilad said. 'There is no alternative but to replace Yasser Arafat,' he added. 'I don't mean in violent ways. I recommend that he retire.'

Gilad said that if Arafat were to pass from the scene, it would help Israel and the Palestinians to return to peace talks that broke down at the beginning of last year..."

ISRAEL ISSUES THREAT IN WATER FIGHT



Oct 17, 2002 BBC News reports: "Israel has warned that it reserves the right to defend its water resources as Lebanon went ahead with a project on a river near the two countries' border.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told parliament that Israel did not and would not 'tolerate unilateral measures'. His speech came just before Lebanon inaugurated a new pumping station on a river a mile (1.6 km) from the border - a move the Israeli Government has said could provoke war.

The installation will draw water for irrigation and drinking from a tributary of a river that feeds the Jordan River and Sea of Galilee - Israel's largest freshwater reservoir.

The high-profile ceremony was attended by Lebanese President Emile Lahoud and cabinet ministers along with representatives of the European Union and Russia. Also present were hundreds of villagers who clapped at the defiant speeches by Lebanese politicians as the station started pumping water from the Wazzani River.

Despite American efforts to dissuade the Lebanese, the Beirut government said it would not go back on its plans - a stand backed by the militant group Hezbollah..."

FOREIGN POLICY CHIEF SOLANA SAYS EUROPE TO BECOME A SUPER POWER

Oct 15, 2002 The EU Observer reports: "EU member states must realize the importance of their role in the World, said the EU's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana in an interview published by the German paper, *Die Welt*.

This week, on the 18 October, Mr. Solana will have been three years in the difficult post as Secretary General of the Council of the European Union/High representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy. Over this period, the Spanish socialist, who is both a former Spanish foreign minister and a former Secretary-General of NATO, has coordinated the foreign affairs policies of the EU member states.

An enlarged EU with 25 member states would have double as many citizens as the US and four times as many as Japan. 'We have no choice, we must play a role', Mr. Solana said in the interview. He referred to the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who said two years ago that Europe would become 'A superpower, but not a super state.'

Mr. Solana expressed his doubt about whether a new EU president would be able to succeed in coordinating the views of the different EU member states. 'I have my doubts, whether an artificial created post, of which the outline is not yet clear, would be able to contribute to any solution', Mr. Solana said and characterized the debate as being still at an 'embryonic stage'.

He declared the six-monthly rotating EU presidencies as inefficient, especially when it comes to foreign affairs policy. However he failed to come up with any concrete alternative proposal. 'I am not sure what will be the best solution', he said..."

HUNDREDS MISSING IN BALI BOMBINGS

Oct 14, 2002 CNN reports: "The death toll from the Bali nightclub bombing -- most recently confirmed at 187 -- is expected to rise after authorities said there were still more than 200 people missing.

At least another 300 people were injured by the blasts -- believed to be the work of terrorists -- which ripped through two Bali nightclubs.

A spokesman for Australia's Department of Foreign Affairs told media there were 13 Australians dead, 110 injured and a further 220 unaccounted for. Some of the most seriously injured were flown overnight to Royal Darwin Hospital by the Australian air force.

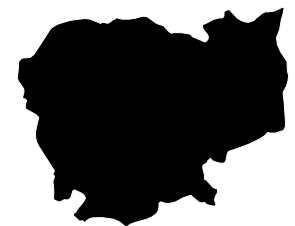
The majority of the dead and wounded were Australians, but Indonesian, German, French, British and Americans also were among the casualties. Two Americans and five Britons were among the confirmed dead. Identification of the dead was difficult because of serious burn injuries.

Government officials Sunday called attacks the work of terrorists, while U.S. and regional intelligence officials linked the bombings to the al Qaeda terror network. The blasts were 'the worst act of terrorism in the country's history,' according to Indonesian police Chief Da'e Bakhtiar. "

NATURAL DISASTERS THREATEN FOOD SHORTAGES FOR 1 MILLION CAMBODIANS

Oct 13, 2002 The Associated Press reports: "A serious drought followed by floods in Cambodia will create food shortages that could affect as many as a million people, an official said Thursday.

The natural disasters have already ruined U.S. \$30 million worth of rice plants, said Nhim Vanda, vice chairman of Cambodia's National Disaster Management. Twenty-nine people, including 11 children, have perished in the floods, he said. A total of 3.4 million Cambodians have been affected by the drought and floods this year, he said.



Cambodia

While ruling out the possibility of a famine, Nhim Vanda said this year's ruined crops mean that up to half a million people will suffer food shortages next year. Another half million are at risk, depending on whether they can obtain assistance, he said. 'A lot of people in the countryside will find it very difficult to make ends meet,' he said."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck

UCGIA Pastor Oakland & San Jose, CA

LJimTuc@msn.com