



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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SHARON'S NATIONAL UNITY GOVERNMENT COLLAPSES

Oct 31, 2002 The Jerusalem Post reports: "Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has begun working on building a new government Thursday in place of the national unity government that ended when Labor Party ministers submitted their resignations, he told President Moshe Katsav Wednesday.

Sharon told Katsav he wants to first make an effort to form a narrow government that could last at least until the budget passes its second and third readings, before considering when elections should be held. He told the president that he tried very hard to keep the government together, and was surprised by Defense Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer's resignation ..."

EGYPT OBTAINS U.S. AID FOR ARMORED PRODUCTION

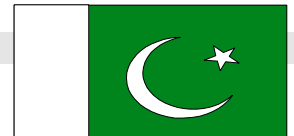
Oct 31, 2002 The Middle East Newsline reports: "The United States plans to help Egypt manufacture heavy military vehicles. The Defense Department has approved a project for Egyptian coproduction of the M88A2 Hercules tank-recovery vehicles. The Pentagon awarded a \$5.2 million contract to United Defense for manufacturing technical assistance.

United Defense executives said the M88A2 is an enhanced version of the M88A1 and is meant to recover the M1A1 tank, a mainstay of Egypt's armored fleet. They said the latest model has 25 percent more towing muscle, 40 percent more lifting strength, and 55 percent more winch power, and is able to operate with fewer crewmembers. Egypt has more than 550 M1A1 tanks and plans to produce another 200 such vehicles..."



IRAN, PAKISTAN DISCUSS JOINT EXERCISES

Oct 31, 2002 The Middle East Newsline reports: "Iran and Pakistan are discussing joint military exercises and training.



Officials said the first such exercise could begin in 2003. The two countries discussed expanded military ties last month in the Pakistani city of Karachi. The talks were headed by the naval chiefs of Iran and Pakistan, who met at the IDEAS-2002 defense exhibition last month.

'There is a desire to increase this cooperation,' Pakistani naval chief Adm. Abdul Aziz Mirza said. But Mirza dismissed reports that the two countries were also considering weapons deals or joint defense production. Earlier, Pakistani officials said Islamabad and Teheran were discussing the issue of an Iranian purchase of weapons platforms and the prospect of joint production..."

UNVEILED: THE BLUEPRINT FOR UNITED STATES OF EUROPE

Oct 29, 2002 The Independent.co.uk reports: "The blueprint for a new constitution for Europe, unveiled yesterday, paves the way for sweeping changes to the EU but provoked instant British opposition by suggesting the bloc could be renamed 'United States of Europe'.

Published by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, the former French president who is chairing an inquiry into the future of Europe, the document raises the prospect of a massive overhaul of the EU to accommodate up to 10 new countries due to join in 2004. It lists three possible titles besides the European Union. They are: European Community, the United States of Europe, and United Europe.

The outline document also suggests that all Europeans should be given the right to citizenship of the EU as well as their member states..."

JORDANIAN ENGINEERS SAY TEMPLE MOUNT WALL IN NEED OF REINFORCEMENT

Oct 29, 2002 The Jerusalem Post reports: "A new report by a group of senior Jordanian engineers concerning the ominous bulge in the southern wall of Jerusalem's Temple Mount recommends replacing some of the eroding stones in the two-thousand-year-old wall in order to prevent it from future collapse, Jordanian officials said Monday.

A year long dispute between Israel and the Wakf, the Islamic religious trust - which oversees day-to-day maintenance at the site - over who will fix the large bulge was resolved earlier this month with a decision to involve Jordanian engineers, who inspected and took a sampling of the protruding wall.

The decision to let the Jordanians do the work, which was made at a top-level meeting headed by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, follows repeated warnings by Israeli archaeologists that sections of the wall are in unequivocal danger of collapse, and comes just ahead of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan when hundreds of thousands of Muslims are expected to flock to the site. ..."

JORDAN FEARS IRAQI INVOLVEMENT IN ASSASSINATION OF U.S. ENVOY

Oct 29, 2002 Ha'aretz reports: "The assassination of American diplomat Laurence Foley outside his Amman home stirs some of Jordan's worse fears. While there is no immediate evidence of Iraqi agents behind the murder, Jordan does have fears that tens of thousands of Iraqi refugees living there could become restive in the runup to an American attack on Iraq.

Jordanian intelligence predicted months ago that Iraqi agents could target American and Israeli interests. Despite the country's strict security, attempted terrorist attacks against Western targets in Jordan - mainly American and Israeli and occasionally British - are nothing new. Since the start of the intifada there have been two attempts to kill Israeli diplomats, but they escaped with injuries.

Last August an Israeli businessman, Yitzhak Snir, was shot dead when he reached his Amman home. An Israeli security source said there were indications of a 'local organization' being behind the assassination, but there are no reports of Jordan arresting anyone connected with the murder. In most cases Jordanian intelligence foils attacks at the planning stages - only last month the trial opened in Amman of citizens planning to open fire at U.S. diplomats..."

U.S. WITHHOLDS WAR PLANS FROM TURKEY

Oct 28, 2002 The Middle East Newsline reports: "The U.S. is said to have withheld from Turkey military plans for a war against Iraq. Turkish officials said the U.S. refusal to discuss war plans has angered both the military and government in Ankara. They said this has increased Turkish suspicion of U.S. intentions concerning the future of Iraq and whether a Kurdish state will be established in northern Iraq.

Ankara wanted a discussion of details of the U.S. war plan during military talks over the last week with the United States. The talks included Central Command chief Gen. Tommy Franks and Defense Department officials.

But Turkey was not provided with any documents or significant details of the expected U.S. offensive. Officials said Ankara wants to know what role Turkish military bases would have in the offensive, the role of the Kurdish allies of the United States in northern Iraq and the operation of Iraqi oil fields after the toppling of the Saddam regime..."



REPORT: NEXT ATTACK COULD TOP 9/11

Oct 25, 2002 The Associated Press reports: "The United States remains 'dangerously unprepared' to deal with another major terrorist attack, said a report by former top government officials, academics and business leaders.

'In all likelihood, the next attack will result in even greater casualties and widespread disruption to American lives and the economy' than the Sept. 11 attacks, said the task force chaired by former Sens. Gary Hart, D-Colo., and Warren Rudman, R-N.H. The report was released late Thursday.

Because a year has passed without a major terrorist attack against the United States, the report says, 'there are already signs that Americans are lapsing back into complacency.' Few of the ships, trucks and trains that enter the United States each day are searched, the report said. Emergency personnel are unprepared for chemical or biological attacks. Oil refineries and energy distribution lines could be sabotaged. State and local police still lack access to State Department terrorist watch lists.

'When it comes to combating terrorism, the police officers on the beat are effectively operating deaf, dumb and blind,' it said..."

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