



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

09 NOVEMBER 2002

U.S. WARNS OF NEW TERROR PLOTS, INCLUDING SUICIDE ATTACKS

Nov 7, 2002 Agency France-Presse reports: "Extremists are planning new terrorist strikes against U.S. interests overseas, including possible suicide attacks, the State Department has warned.

'The U.S. government continues to receive credible indications that extremist groups and individuals are planning additional terrorist actions against U.S. interests,' the department said in a worldwide caution issued late Wednesday. 'Such actions may include, but are not limited to, suicide operations.'

The warning came in advance of the scheduled November 14 execution by the U.S. state of Virginia of Mir Aimal Kansi, a Pakistani national convicted of murder and sentenced to death for his 1993 killing of two Central Intelligence Agency employees.

The two men, identified as Lansing Bennett, 66, and Frank Darling, 28, were shot dead from a Chinese-made AK-47 assault rifle as they sat in their cars in traffic outside CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

The attack left three other people wounded. The killings triggered a worldwide hunt for Kansi, which culminated in a daring raid on a Pakistani hotel by a Federal Bureau of Investigation team and his arrest in June 1997..."



SMALLPOX REPORT SPARKS MASS VACCINATION CONCERNS

Nov 7, 2002 ABC News reports: "A new report suggesting that more nations have stored the smallpox virus than previously thought has many physicians worried — but it is the possible solution that scares them more than the threat.

'For the last six months, administration officials have been secretly briefed about which nations are likely to possess covert stocks of smallpox, and what should be done about it,' said ABCNEWS correspondent Martha Raddatz.

According to U.S. officials, North Korea, Russia, Iraq and France have stored the deadly virus. Because of the possibility of war, Iraq is seen as the biggest threat. This revelation has awakened fresh fears that the virus could be used as a biological weapon against the United States if it fell into the hands of terrorist groups like al Qaeda, and brings the much-debated issue of mass

vaccination into sharper focus.

Yet despite the possibility of increased risk of widespread smallpox infection, many doctors and health organizations firmly maintain their concerns about the dangers associated with the only way to prevent infection: the smallpox vaccine.

Among the organizations in opposition to a mass vaccination program are the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians, who support the government's current approach to smallpox prevention, known as ring vaccination. Under the ring vaccination strategy, only those who have been infected or come into contact with an infected person receive the vaccine..."

ISLAMIC PARTY COULD CHANGE TURKEY'S CONSTITUTION

Nov 6, 2002 The Middle East Newslite reports: "A new Islamic-oriented government could be powerful enough to change Turkey's secular mandate.

Turkish political analysts said the Justice and Development Party, known as AKP, appears to have won close to two-thirds of the 550-seat parliament. Two-thirds of parliament is required to change the constitution. AKP won 363 seats, about 20 short of two-thirds of parliament. The party has insisted that it is not a religious movement.

The analysts said the AKP could win the required support from the nine independent candidates elected to parliament as well as members of the Republican People's Party, a secular and the only other movement elected to parliament. The Republican People's Party, called the CHP, was said to have won 178 parliamentary seats..."

RUSSIA, FRANCE, CHINA OPPOSE U.S. ON IRAQ

Nov 2, 2002 Japan Today reports: "The U.S. demand for speedy U.N. action on Iraq has run into strong opposition from Russia, France and China, who want Washington to change a draft resolution and eliminate any license for the United States to attack Baghdad on its own.

The three veto-holding Security Council members want to ensure that Iraq is given a chance to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors before any military action is authorized and they're now waiting to see what the United States and Britain are going to do to address their concerns.

After a third meeting council session Wednesday on the U.S. proposal, Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador Gennady Gatilov said Moscow still has 'quite a number of problems' with the U.S. draft, centered on the automatic authorization to use force.

The opposition has stymied the Bush administration's hopes to quickly push a resolution through the world body. In Washington, Secretary of State Colin Powell said debate would likely be concluded toward the end of next week. The Security Council only got the U.S. draft on Oct 23 and the three sessions since then gave all 15 members the opportunity to go over it line by line and suggest changes.

U.S. and British diplomats said the views of the council will now be studied carefully, ministers will continue talking, and there will be a response but when it will come and whether it will meet Russian, French and Chinese demands remains to be seen..."

HAMAS THREATENS U.S.

Nov 3, 2002 The Washington Times reports: "U.S. intelligence agencies are on the lookout for terrorists from the Palestinian group Hamas to carry out attacks in the United States. The group has been blamed for numerous deadly bombings in Israel.

An intelligence report sent to Bush administration officials recently said the group, also known as the Islamic Resistance Movement, is expanding outside Israel and targeting the United States, according to intelligence officials. 'Hamas is planning operations in the U.S.,' one official told us.

Hamas was formed in 1987 as part of the Muslim Brotherhood, a radical Islamic group. It is based primarily in the Gaza Strip and some areas of the West Bank. The group has not carried out attacks outside Israel but does fund raising abroad, including in Europe and the United States. It is backed financially by Iran, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states.

A U.S. official said the intelligence report is 'uncorroborated,' but noted that the threat 'is something to be taken seriously.'..."

JUSTICE DEPT. SAYS HEZBOLLAH, HAMAS HAVE MEMBERS IN U.S.

Nov 1, 2002 Ha'aretz reports: "The FBI believes extremist groups continue to have members in the United States who could be called upon for terrorist attacks, the Justice Department has told the Senate Intelligence Committee.

At least one group, Hezbollah, may be more interested in using its U.S. members to raise money than to undertake attacks, the department said. The comments, in a document released Thursday, were part of the department's written responses submitted on July 26 to questions from the committee in February.

Responding to a question about the involvement of Hezbollah, Hamas and other terrorist groups in the United States, the department said FBI investigations 'indicate the continued presence of suspected extremists of various groups who could be called upon to attack in the United States.'

It said Hezbollah, in particular, appears to have the ability to strike in the United States. Some Hezbollah members may have been instructed to evaluate potential targets. But that may have only been a test to prove their loyalty to Hezbollah and Iran, which backs the group.

The department noted Hezbollah has never conducted a terrorist strike in the United States. Hezbollah is blamed, though, for the 1983 bombing of a Marine Corps barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed 241 American servicemen..."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor

ljtuc@msn.com

UCGIA, Oakland, San Jose, & Santa Rosa, California