



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## COMMISSION WORKS ON STRONGER ROLE IN FUTURE EUROPE

*Nov 14, 2002* *The EU Observer* reports: "The European Commission is trying to come with ideas to secure itself a stronger role in a future Europe. A working group especially set up by Romano Prodi is looking for alternatives to a president of the EU – elected for several years – something many member states support. One route being examined is for the Commission to try and make itself more democratically accountable so that the Council presidency post becomes superfluous, writes *der Standard*."



The working group suggests that the member states should have the possibility to fire the Commission. At present, only the European Parliament has the right to sanction the Commission - but Mr. Prodi's proposal aims at making the College politically accountable in front of both the Parliament and member states' leaders. Under the new institutional set-up planned by Mr. Prodi's team, the election of the Commission president could also be changed.

At present the Commission's president is appointed by the member states with agreement of the Parliament. One option would be that Mr. Prodi's successor could be selected by the MEPs and then confirmed by the heads of state and government. An argument is against this is that the institution would be politicized if it were to become politically responsible before the heads of state..."

## TERROR GROUPS WARN PA NOT TO INTERFERE WITH ATTACKS

*Nov 14, 2002* *The Jerusalem Post* reports: "Four Palestinian terror groups on Wednesday issued a stern warning to the Palestinian Authority not to try to stop them from continuing attacks. The 'military communiqué,' issued in the Gaza Strip, carried the signatures of Izzaddin al-Kassam Brigades (Hamas), al-Kuds Brigades (Islamic Jihad), Salah Eddin Brigades (Fatah), and Ahmed Abu Reesh Brigades (Fatah)."

The groups promised to launch more 'resistance operations' despite calls to put an end to such attacks inside the Green Line. The statement appeared shortly after Hamas and Fatah representatives ended three days of talks in Cairo without reaching an agreement on halting terrorist attacks inside the Green Line..."

## DRUG-RESISTANT BACTERIA DISCOVERED IN DETROIT

*Nov13, 2002* *The Detroit Free Press* reports: "A 40-year-old Detroit area woman had endured painfully infected foot sores for more than a year. Doctors gave her numerous antibiotics, but nothing worked. Finally, last April, they amputated one of her toes -- and made a frightening discovery."

Her sores were infected with a virulent new strain of the bacterium staphylococcus aureus, or staph aureus. By stealing genetic material from another bug, the new strain became totally resistant to vancomycin, the longtime drug of last defense against it. Health officials would not identify the metro Detroit woman or what hospital treated her.

The infection was the first of its kind in the world and a landmark defeat for doctors and public health officials in the fight against growing antibiotic resistance. It also was evidence that the Detroit area has become an incubator for resistant strains... Staph aureus is a common pathogen that infects about 400,000 U.S. hospital patients a year. About one-quarter of them die. For decades, scientists have been dreading -- but expecting -- a staph aureus strain to emerge that is resistant to vancomycin.

Some experts postulate that eventually, so many bacteria will develop resistance that antibiotics won't work and hospitals will be filled with people dying from infections, as they were in the 1920s..."

## WEST IN MORTAL DANGER FROM ISLAM, SAYS PUTIN

*Nov12, 2002* *The London Daily Telegraph* reports: "Islamic radicals are pursuing the systematic annihilation of non-Muslims, President Vladimir Putin claimed yesterday. The Russian leader said at a European Union summit in Brussels that western



civilization faced a mortal threat from Muslim terrorists, and claimed that they had plans to create a 'worldwide caliphate'.

His words overshadowed the main achievement of the summit, which was to end years of wrangling over Moscow's isolated enclave in Kaliningrad. The EU and Russia reached a compromise deal that will prevent Russian citizens from being cut off in the Baltic port as the EU's borders move east in

2004.

Mr. Putin said the world no longer faced isolated acts of terrorism but a 'concerted effort and program' by a global network bent on slaughter, perhaps with nuclear weapons. He said the West should face up to the reality that Chechen terrorists were religious extremists in league with al-Qaeda, rather than a separatist movement seeking a breakaway republic.

If the West failed to deal with the Chechen terrorist threat, he said, there would be repeats of the Moscow theatre siege and the Bali bombing 'all over the world'.

Mr. Putin secured a joint EU-Russian action plan to fight terrorism at the mini-summit, but he was firmly warned that Europe would not give Russia carte blanche in its fight against terrorism, particularly after reports that fragmentation bombs were being used widely against civilians in Chechnya..."

### ARMY'S HIGH-SPEED LASER HITS SHELL

*Nov 11, 2002* *The Associated Press* reports: "Weapons that travel far faster than the proverbial speeding bullet are as little as five years from use in combat, say defense officials who used a laser to shoot an artillery shell out of the sky this week.

In a first-of-its-kind feat, the Army used a high-energy laser built by TRW Inc. to heat the shell, fired from a howitzer at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, and cause it to explode in flight. The test was successfully repeated a second time. The shell, moving at about 1,000 mph, was tracked by radar and heat-sensing infrared sensors, then locked onto and zapped by the laser beam traveling at light speed.

The so-called Mobile Tactical High-Energy Laser is a short-range weapon being co-developed with Israel, which wants it to destroy Katyusha rockets fired at its border villages by Hezbollah guerillas in Lebanon. The chemically powered weapon, which looks like a searchlight, is one of a handful of laser devices the Pentagon is working on under the umbrella of missile defense.

'This was, science-wise, a significant accomplishment,' said William Congo, a spokesman for the Army Space and Missile Defense Command."

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### JORDANIAN EXPERT: NO DANGER OF AL-AQSA WALL COLLAPSING

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*Nov 11, 2002* *Ha'aretz* reports: "The delegation of Jordanian experts that examined the southern wall on the Temple Mount advises dismantling some 140 square meters of the structure, filling and reinforcing it with building material and then covering it up again with stone.

The political echelon will now have to decide whether to accept the Jordanian findings and recommendation, and who will then be entrusted with dismantling portions of the southern wall of the Temple Mount and rebuilding them.

Meanwhile, the Jordanian architect in charge of reconstruction who works on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque, said yesterday that there was no danger that the bulge in the southern wall would cause it to collapse.

Archaeologists have warned that the 35-foot-long protrusion in the southern wall of the mosque compound, just around the corner from where Jews pray at the Western Wall, could cause the structure to topple. The mosque is built on the ruins of the biblical Jewish Temples and the site is sacred to both religions...

Palestinians and Israelis have been blaming each other for causing the bulge. Palestinians point to Israeli excavations at the base of the wall, far below the bulge, while Israel maintains that renovation work by the Waqf (Muslim religious trust), which oversees the compound, caused the wall to sag outwards. A collapse could rain huge stone blocks onto Muslim worshippers. Jews do not worship at the site.

Nijem said the Jordanian team had recently completed the examination of the site and had found a few gaps in the wall caused by rain entering cracks over hundreds of years, and several eroded stones that could fall outward, away from worshippers..."

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