



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## U.S. SUSPECTS AL QAEDA GOT NERVE AGENT FROM IRAQIS

*Dec 12, 2002 The Washington Post* reports: "The Bush administration has received a credible report that Islamic extremists affiliated with al Qaeda took possession of a chemical weapon in Iraq last month or late in October, according to two officials with firsthand knowledge of the report and its source. They said government analysts suspect that the transaction involved the nerve agent VX and that a courier managed to smuggle it overland through Turkey.

If the report proves true, the transaction marks two significant milestones. It would be the first known acquisition of a nonconventional weapon other than cyanide by al Qaeda or a member of its network. It also would be the most concrete evidence to support the charge, aired for months by President Bush and his advisers, that al Qaeda terrorists receive material assistance in Iraq. If advanced publicly by the White House, the report could be used to rebut Iraq's assertion in a 12,000-page declaration Saturday that it had destroyed its entire stock of chemical weapons.

On the central question whether Iraqi President Saddam Hussein knew about or authorized such a transaction, U.S. analysts are said to have no evidence. Because Hussein's handpicked Special Security Organization, run by his son Qusay, has long exerted tight control over concealed weapons programs, officials said they presume it would be difficult to transfer a chemical agent without the president's knowledge..."

## EGYPT TURNS DOWN U.S. REQUEST FOR BASES

*Dec 12, 2002 The Middle East Newsline* reports: "Egypt is said to have turned down a U.S. request for the use of military bases. Western diplomatic sources said President Hosni Mubarak rejected a U.S. appeal for the basing of U.S. security forces in Egyptian facilities. They said this would have included military personnel as well as combat forces.



*Egypt*

'Mubarak does not compromise on independent decision-making nor does he allow meddling in our internal affairs or the establishment of military bases in Egypt,' Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Sherif said.

The sources said the main U.S. request concerned the stationing of forces near the Suez Canal. The proposed deployment was meant to ensure the safety of U.S. naval vessels transporting personnel and equipment..."

## NORTH KOREA IS ENDING NUCLEAR PLANT FREEZE

*Dec 12, 2002 The Washington Post* reports: "North Korea's Foreign Ministry said Thursday it would immediately end a freeze on its nuclear power plant in response to an allied decision to suspend oil aid to Pyongyang, Seoul's *Yonhap* news agency reported. The nuclear reactor, suspected of producing plutonium for nuclear weapons, was frozen in 1994 under the Agreed Framework with the United States.

*Yonhap* quoted a North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying in a statement that Pyongyang would 'immediately lift the freeze on and reactivate and build nuclear facilities necessary for power production.'

Under the 1994 pact, Pyongyang promised to scrap plans to develop nuclear weapons in return for light water nuclear reactors and fuel oil supplies. In October, Washington said Pyongyang had admitted having a nuclear arms program in violation of the 1994 Agreed Framework.

Following Pyongyang's admission, Washington and its allies, including South Korea and Japan, decided to suspend fuel oil shipments to the poverty-stricken nation from December..."

## U.S. SEES NUCLEAR DETERRENCE AGAINST WMD ATTACK

*Dec 11, 2002 Reuters* reports: "The United States reminded Iraq and other countries on Tuesday that it was prepared to use nuclear weapons if necessary to respond to an attack from weapons of mass destruction. The warning, which underscored longstanding U.S. policy leaving open the use of nuclear weapons if needed, was contained in a statement of U.S. strategy against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons -- the first update since 1993.

The six-page strategy document says deterring attacks with the threat of 'overwhelming force' is an essential element in protecting America and its allies from weapons of mass destruction, also known as WMD.

'The United States will continue to make clear that it reserves the right to respond with overwhelming force -- including through resort to all our options -- to the use of WMD against the United States, our forces abroad, and friends and allies,' the strategy report said."

### NEW REPORT DISMISSES PROSPECT OF MIDEAST DEMOCRACY

*Dec 10, 2002 The Middle East Newslite* reports: "The toppling of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would not improve the prospect for democracy in the Middle East, a new report says.

The Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace asserted in a report that Arabs around the region would not clamor for democracy in wake of the destruction of the Saddam regime. The report said any democratic regime imposed on Baghdad would not inspire similar trends in neighboring countries.

'Even if the United States ousted Saddam Hussein and vigorously pursued political reform in the region, democratic results would be highly unlikely,' the report, entitled 'Democratic Mirage in the Middle East,' said. 'Such a policy would certainly shake up the region, but the final outcome in each country would owe much more to domestic factors than to the vigor of U.S. and European reformist zeal.'

The report said the United States, which has already spent \$250 million on pro-democracy programs, would require massive intervention and funding to promote regime change in the Middle East. Such a cost would be high amid the rapid population growth in the region..."

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### SADDAM GROWING 'SUPER SMALLPOX'

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*Dec 9, 2002 The New York Post* reports: "Iraq is developing a vaccine-resistant smallpox virus, a nerve gas that can penetrate protective gear and may be just months away from becoming a nuclear power.

Those are the disturbing highlights of numerous dossiers compiled over the last decade by the CIA, British intelligence services, former U.N. arms inspectors and prominent arms-control think tanks that will be used in the coming weeks to counter Iraq's defiant claim that it no longer has weapons of mass destruction.

Yesterday's Iraqi declaration of its weapons programs, mandated by the U.N. Security Council, will be analyzed over the next few weeks.

But U.S. intelligence officials and other experts say there is a mountain of evidence that Iraqi president Saddam Hussein has ordered the secret development of massive amounts of super-lethal poisons and bacterial agents and has hidden them away in secret laboratories underneath hospitals, mosques, ordinary homes and even mobile vehicles disguised as milk trucks - most probably in Iraq's Sunni heartland..."



### WASHINGTON, D.C. PLANS SMALLPOX SHOTS FOR ENTIRE CITY

*Dec 9, 2002 The Washington Times* reports: "The D.C. Health Department is scheduled to deliver a plan to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Monday that proposes offering smallpox vaccinations to the District's entire population within a year.

Like plans in other cities and states, the District's vaccination program raises the possibility that smallpox vaccine will be offered to the entire U.S. population under a policy President Bush is expected to announce in about a week.

The policy is intended to counter the risk of terrorists unleashing the smallpox virus on the United States. Smallpox is one of the world's most lethal viruses. It is characterized by rash and high fever."

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