



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## PRESIDENT BUSH CONVENES WAR CABINET

*March 6, 2003* *The Washington Times* reports: "President Bush yesterday convened his war Cabinet on the U.S. plan for invading Iraq, and his field commander emerged to say that American forces are now ready to capture Baghdad and oust President Saddam Hussein.

'If the president of the United States decides to undertake action, we are in a position to provide a military option,' Gen. Tommy Franks, head of U.S. Central Command, said at a Pentagon press conference.

The White House meeting is likely to be the last face-to-face briefing between Mr. Bush and his four-star commander, Gen. Franks, before war begins. 'They don't want to tip off the timing with another meeting,' a U.S. official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. War planners realize they have lost any chance of strategic surprise as they position more than 200,000 U.S. troops around Iraq. But they still hope to gain some tactical surprise when the first shot is fired.

Gen. Franks, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and CIA Director George J. Tenet all attended the war briefing for Mr. Bush. Gen. Franks told the war Cabinet how he plans to capture Iraq, either with or without stationing a large number of U.S. ground troops in Turkey to open a northern front against Saddam's forces..."

## SADDAM VOWS IRAQ WILL BEAT ANY INVADERS

*March 4, 2003* *The Associated Press* reports: "In a letter marking the Islamic new year Tuesday, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein said Iraq will defeat any invaders and accused the United States of trying to turn Arabs into slaves. 'The tyrant thinks he is capable of enslaving the people and hiding the decisions, freedoms and legitimate choices (they were born with) when their mothers delivered them as free people,' Saddam said in the letter, read Tuesday morning by an announcer on state-run television. 'Tyranny will be defeated. ... Arrogance will be of no help to it.'

Referring to the United States, Saddam said: 'The tyrant of this era thinks that he is an alternative to God and is His shadow on Earth. The tyrant imagines himself, God forbid, as God ... and thus his devil has thrown him into the abyss of evil.'

Saddam said Iraq would be victorious in any war. We believe, with the coming of the Islamic new year and with God's help, we will be victorious against the tyrant,' he said. 'The believers will triumph over tyranny and its accomplices.'..."

## NORTH KOREA WARNS OF 'HORRIFYING DISASTERS'



Korean Peninsula

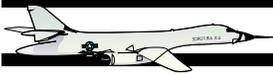
*March 3, 2003* *CNN* reports: "North Korea warned Sunday that if the United States ignites a war on the Korean peninsula, the world 'will suffer horrifying nuclear disasters,' according to a newspaper article released by Pyongyang's Korean Central News Agency.

The article in *Rodong Sinmun* also said the U.S. is 'pushing ahead with nuclear war preparations in full swing on the Korean peninsula,' according to the news agency. North Korea has issued several warnings through its government-controlled media in recent weeks that the United States is preparing to launch a large-scale attack on the peninsula.

The United States denies it has any plans to attack North Korea, consistently saying it is seeking a diplomatic and political solution to the increasing tensions sparked by Pyongyang's decision to reactivate its nuclear program.

This week, U.S. officials announced that North Korea reactivated its five-megawatt nuclear reactor at Yongbyon, a move that would produce enough plutonium as a byproduct of electricity generation to make a nuclear weapon in about a year.

Referring to U.S.-South Korean joint military exercises scheduled to begin March 4, North Korea says the actions are 'in accordance with the second Korean war,' according to the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA). The newspaper article, as quoted by KCNA, also said U.S. Central Intelligence Agency operatives staged a 'secret drill' in preparation for a surprise attack on the Yongbyon facility in order to destroy it. If that happens, it 'presupposes a nuclear war,' the article says..."



## B-52S SENT AS WARNING TO NORTH KOREA



*March 2, 2003* *The New York Post* reports: "The Pentagon is deploying long-range bomber aircraft on the Pacific island of Guam in response to growing tensions with North Korea over its nuclear program, defense officials said.

Deployment of about 24 long-range bombers - including B-52s and B-1Bs along with hundreds of support and maintenance personnel - is expected to take place within days in the latest move in the ever-worsening crisis over North Korea's defiant revival of its nuclear weapons program.

U.S. officials insist that the dispatch of heavy bombers to Guam is a precautionary move and that no military options are now being considered by the White House.

But with the startup of a North Korean nuclear reactor capable of producing five or six bombs in a matter of months, Pentagon officials said additional firepower would be needed if the standoff starts spinning out of control and North Korea launches preemptive strikes on South Korea..."

## REPORT: ISLAMISTS PLANNING 'LARGE ATTACK'

*March 2, 2003* *WorldNet Daily.com* reports: "Islamist sources in London say terror network al-Qaida is preparing 'a large attack' against American targets that will coincide with the expected U.S. war against Iraq, reports the London-based Saudi daily *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat*.

According to the report, which was translated by the Middle East Media Research Institute, the sources refused to reveal the precise location of the attack, but said it is expected to take place in Asia.

The story is similar to one reported by WorldNetDaily this week that an Islamist website is predicting an imminent terror attack against the U.S. The site published a religious exhortation on Monday claiming that 'the train of death is on its way' within 10 days.

The report in the Saudi paper said that a 'London Islamist referred to an electronic message he received from Asia which calls for the glad tidings [Istibshar] of a forthcoming new operation by al-Qaida.' The Islamist said the operation could be against U.S. military forces in Afghanistan, the purpose being 'to mess up' American plans and to 'incite Islamists everywhere to carry out suicide activities against the Americans at the outbreak of the war against Iraq.'

According to the report, the attack will be 'huge and no small [sic] than the Sept. 11 operation.' Sources said that terror leader Osama bin Laden will participate 'only in [the operation's] funding.'

The sources reportedly told the paper that participants in future terror acts may not necessarily be 'direct members of al-Qaida,' but rather could simply be in agreement with bin Laden's principles. 'It is likely that bin Laden has provided them with financial support without necessarily connecting them with al-Qaida,' the report said..."

## RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL STOLEN IN NIGERIA

*March 2, 2003* *Fox News* reports: "A team from the International Atomic Energy Agency is on the ground in Nigeria for what it describes as a 'radiological emergency.' Sources say radioactive and highly toxic material that could be used to build a 'dirty bomb' was stolen from a Nigerian oil company. Agency workers arrived Feb. 16, an agency representative said on condition of anonymity.

The Nigerian Nuclear Regulatory Agency admitted earlier this week that devices used to X-ray oil pipelines for cracks were lost, but sources tell *Fox News* that officials now believe the disappearance of the material was a 'strategic theft.'

Officials could not say whether the material may have been transported out of the country. They did not specify how much material was stolen, but they said it was a significant amount of americium and beryllium.

Americium is a synthetic radioactive element produced by the bombardment of plutonium with high-energy neutrons. Beryllium is not radioactive, but it is a highly toxic metallic element used in aerospace alloys, windows in X-ray tubes, and in nuclear reactors.

Defense and U.S. intelligence officials say many African countries provide safe-haven for terrorist cells, and that Nigeria may be one of them..."