



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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## FBI SAYS NUKE PLANTS SHOULD BE ON GUARD

*May 1, 2003 USA Today* reports: "Operators of the nation's nuclear power plants should remain vigilant about suspicious activity that could signal a potential terrorist attack, the FBI says in its latest terrorism bulletin. Things to watch out for include people who are seen photographing the plants or aircraft that fly too close to them, says the bulletin circulated Wednesday to about 18,000 state and local law enforcement agencies.

The FBI has no specific intelligence that an attack is planned against any of the nation's 103 nuclear power plants. But a senior FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the bulletin is meant to ensure that plant operators and local law enforcement personnel remain alert to the possibility.

The FBI's message follows the release Tuesday of new Nuclear Regulatory Commission security rules requiring more training for guards, placing limits on how many hours they can work and mandating additional, classified protective measures to defend against sabotage or terrorist attacks.

The FBI bulletin spells out the actions nuclear plant officials should take if they see suspicious activity around a plant, such as reporting to the Federal Aviation Administration the tail number of any plane spotted flying too close..."



Syria

## SARS DEATH RATE RISING



*May 1, 2003 CNN* reports: "The death rate from SARS is rising, according to a senior WHO official, with mainland China accounting for more cases than the rest of the world. There are now more than 5,600 cases of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome worldwide, with 3,647 of those in China.

As workers neared completion near Beijing of a new 1,000-bed SARS facility, mainland China counted 187 new SARS cases and 11 more deaths on Thursday, the country's ministry of health said. China has now reported 170 deaths.

The head of the WHO's clinical network, Mark Salter, says current death rates are at 6 percent, but could likely reach 10 percent. The disease is still in its early stages, Salter said, and it was normal for death rates to increase in such circumstances.

In Beijing the city's acting mayor, Wang Qishan, said the nation was not fully prepared to cope with the outbreak, and none of the capital's hospitals specializes in respiratory ailments..."

## NORTH KOREA WARNS SANCTION MOVE COULD TRIGGER WAR

*April 30, 2003 The Associated Press* reports: "North Korea said Wednesday that it would regard any U.S. move to seek U.N. sanctions against the communist country as 'the green light to a war.' The warning came after South and North Korea agreed to try to peacefully resolve the nuclear crisis, though Pyongyang has said further talks with the United States are useless unless it drops its demand that the North first scrap suspected atomic weapons programs.

North Korea says abandoning such programs would leave it defenseless and has in the past said sanctions would be seen as a step toward war. Pyongyang 'will take self-defensive measures, regarding it as the green light to a war' if Washington seeks a U.N. resolution authorizing economic sanctions against it, North Korea said in a statement on KCNA, its official news agency.

South Korea's Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan declined to answer a reporter's question Tuesday as to whether the South would support sanctions. He described the issue as a 'very delicate and very sensitive.'

The agreement between the two Koreas pledging to resolve the dispute peacefully was made after four days of talks in Pyongyang. But was unlikely to mark a change in attitude by North Korea. The communist state agreed to similar communiqués at previous Cabinet-level talks.

The North has insisted that the South should not meddle in the nuclear standoff, calling it a dispute with the United States..."

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## SYRIA SMUGGLES SADDAM AIDES OUT OF COUNTRY

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*April 30, 2003* *The Middle East Newsline* reports: "Syria has been smuggling aides of deposed Iraqi President Saddam Hussein out of the country to such destinations as Belarus, Lebanon and North Africa.



Western intelligence and Lebanese opposition sources said the regime of President Bashar Assad has ordered Iraqi officials to leave Syria immediately in wake of U.S. threats against Damascus. The sources said the Iraqis -- including Saddam's wife Sajida and her three children -- were provided with travel documents and placed on passenger flights to such destinations as Libya and Belarus. Others were taken to neighboring Lebanon for safe haven.

So far, Syria is said to have surrendered three Iraqis to the United States. They included Saddam's son-in-law and an Iraqi intelligence agent suspected of attempting to assassinate the father of President George Bush, a former president, in 1993.

'There were hundreds of Saddam's aides and family members in Syria by April 15,' a Western intelligence source who monitors Syria said. 'Assad gave up three of them who held no use for Syria or Iran. Syria might give up another two or three Iraqis, but the rest will be hidden or flown out of the country.'..."

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## POWERFUL EU FOREIGN MINISTER PLANNED

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*April 27, 2003* *The EU Observer* reports: "The planned foreign minister of the European Union will have far-reaching powers under the new proposals unveiled yesterday by the Convention on the future of Europe. This individual, who will also be vice-president of the Commission, will be able to have the right to initiate proposals in the area of Common Foreign and Security Policy.

If this proposal is supported by the Commission, then member states have to agree by qualified majority voting, suggests Article 9.2. These are two huge innovations - taking away member states' treasured right of veto and giving the minister the right of initiative in the area.

Until now the High Representative for CFSP - which the new post will combine with the external relations commissioner - could only 'assist the Council' by contributing to the 'formulation, preparation and implementation of policy decisions.'

UK government representative Peter Hain told the *EUobserver* that the veto issue is one of the details that 'we're going to look at.'

Michel Barnier, Commissioner and Chair and of the Convention working group on defense, is optimistic, however, that such a lifting of the veto can be accepted by all the member states. He told the *EUobserver* that so long as the foreign minister is chosen by the EU leaders (as is foreseen) and that an initiative comes from the minister, then member states are likely to be in favor of this innovation..."

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## OHIO SCHOOL DISTRICT CLOSES ON SARS FEARS

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*April 29, 2003* *The Washington Post* reports: "The possibility that a group of students who visited Toronto last week may have been exposed to the SARS virus prompted officials to shut down an 1,100-student school district Monday.

None of the students showed any signs of severe acute respiratory syndrome, but two school board members received five or six calls each from worried parents requesting that schools be closed, said Rocco Adduci, superintendent of Weathersfield School District in suburban Youngstown.

The school shutdown represents one of the most drastic reactions to a virus that Ohio health officials believe has infected only one person. Ten other cases are suspected.

Worldwide, SARS has killed about 333 people, mostly in Asia, since it surfaced in November. There have been no SARS deaths in the United States.

SARS symptoms include fever, chills and headache and body aches. After two to seven days, patients may develop a cough. Other symptoms can include shortness of breath, difficulty in breathing and pneumonia..."

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