

# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## KOREAS TRADE MACHINE-GUN FIRE AT BORDER

*July 17, 2003* The Associated Press reports: "South and North Korean soldiers briefly traded machine-gun fire in their border zone Thursday, raising tensions even as Secretary of State Colin Powell expressed optimism about diplomatic efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear standoff. There was no comment from North Korea on the exchange.

The South Korean military said it did not suffer casualties in the shooting between two guard posts a half mile apart in the heavily mined Demilitarized Zone, or DMZ, the buffer created at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War to keep opposing armies apart.

South Korean military officials said the North Koreans shot first. The South was investigating whether the shooting was inadvertent or a scheme to rattle nerves, possibly to gain leverage in the dispute over the North's suspected development of nuclear weapons.

'We need to clarify whether it's intentional or accidental before we can say anything about its impact on the nuclear issue,' said Lee Jihyun, a spokeswoman for South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun.

A team from the U.S.-led United Nations Command, which oversees the southern half of the DMZ, inspected the site of the shooting near the South Korean town of Yonchon, 35 miles north of Seoul. The Pentagon said it was aware of the incident, but had no comment.

Decades ago, shooting incidents were commonplace along the DMZ, but they have tapered off in recent years. The last exchange of fire in the DMZ, in November 2001, caused no casualties. A naval battle between ships from the two Koreas in June 2002 killed six South Koreans and an unknown number from the North..."

## CONGRESS DISCUSSES SANCTIONS ON SYRIA

*July 16, 2003* The Middle East Newsline reports: "Congress prepares to formally discuss the imposition of additional U.S. sanctions on Syria. The House of Representatives is expected to discuss legislation that would impose an embargo as well as other sanctions on Syria as early as this week. Legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate that would impose U.S. sanctions unless Syria expels groups deemed as terrorists and ends its occupation of neighboring Lebanon.

The hearing in the House International Relations Committee is expected to disclose the Bush administration's position on the proposed sanctions. The State Department, which fought off a similar effort in 2002, has urged the White House to oppose the Syria Accountability Act.

So far, the bill has garnered the support of a majority of the House and Senate. The Syria Accountability Act has 238 backers in the House and 63 in the Senate..."

## REPORTS OF HIV 'SUPERINFECTION' INCREASE

*July 15, 2003* ABC News reports: "Evidence is growing that 'superinfection' with more than one strain of HIV may be more common than previously thought, which could complicate efforts to make a vaccine, experts said Monday at an international AIDS conference. Scientists reported three new cases of HIV-infected people who initially were doing well without drugs but became sick years later after contracting a second strain of the AIDS virus.

'Superinfection is sobering,' said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the chief U.S. AIDS research agency. He was not involved in the studies. 'That means that although you can mount an adequate response against one virus, the body still does not have the capability to protect you against new infection, which tells you that the development of a vaccine is going to be even more of a challenge.'

Fauci said it is too early to tell how big a problem superinfection will become but that he does not believe superinfections are the reason patients on treatment can suddenly deteriorate.

None of the patients in the three cases discussed at the conference were being treated for HIV, which can become resistant to drugs over time.

At the meeting, Dr. Luc Perrin, a professor of clinical virology at the University of Geneva in Switzerland, reported finding superinfections in two Swiss intravenous drug users. In the study, Perrin followed 136 drug users with HIV and found that the amount of HIV in the blood of five patients suddenly shot up after years of control without drugs..."

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## DEADLY HORSE DISEASE RAMPAGES ACROSS US EAST COAST

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*July 15, 2003* NewScientist.com reports: "Health officials in the US are warning that a deadly horse virus which can jump to humans may be coming to its 10-year peak, after a hike in cases on the East Coast. Eastern equine encephalitis is a rare but potentially fatal disease affecting mainly horses. The virus normally resides in birds and is spread by mosquitoes, in a similar way to the deadly West Nile Virus.

Health officials on the East Coast are urging greater public awareness of mosquito-borne diseases following the death of a Georgia man on 21 June from the deadly disease - known as 'triple E', and the highest number of cases seen in horses for many years.

The virus kills about 90 per cent of horses that become infected. Although rare in humans, experts are concerned because it kills between 50 to 70 per cent of those who contract the disease. Those who survive the virus often suffer permanent neurological damage..."

## DEFECTOR TO BUSH OFFICIALS: STRIKE NORTH KOREA BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

*July 12, 2003* The World Tribune reports: "A North Korean defector now living in Japan came to Washington this week with an urgent message. In a meeting with White House officials, he called for a pre-emptive strike on 'selected targets' in North Korea before the Kim Jong-il regime succeeds in arming its missiles with miniaturized nuclear warheads.

'As we have witnessed in recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the only effective measure against terrorists is a pre-emptive strike,' said Park Gap Dong. Park met early this week with officials of the President's National Security Council and spoke at a luncheon meeting of the American Foreign Policy Council on July 9.

Park meets frequently with senior military officials in Japan and South Korea and said the North Korean nuclear threat is credible. He said the North Korean missile test in the late 1990s had produced a 'sea change' in Japan, prompting a series of measures to strengthen its defense posture which has been greatly limited by its post-World War II 'peace constitution.'

The United States is however the only power that can end the Kim Il-Sung dynasty's nuclear blackmail tactics and the enslavement of the North Korean people, Park argued.

'Many North Koreans believe that the United States is their savior and the only nation that can liberate North Korea,' he said. The flood of hate-America propaganda from North Korea represents only the relatively small number of people around Kim Jong-Il, he said..."

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## NANOTECHNOLOGY MAY CREATE NEW ORGANS

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*July 9, 2003* NewScientist.com reports: "Scientists have built a minute, functioning vascular system - the branching network of blood vessels which supply nutrients and oxygen to tissues - in a significant step towards building whole organs.

Conventional tissue engineering methods have successfully grown structural tissues such as skin and cartilage in the lab. But not being able to create the supporting vascular system has proved a major stumbling block preventing scientists from creating large functioning organs such as liver or kidneys.

Now, researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Medical School have used computers to design branching networks of venous and arterial capillaries, which start at three millimeters wide and reach a fineness of just 10 microns. 'We used living vessels as a guide to model factors such as the angle and size ratio between branching vessels. But we optimized our design to improve it,' said lead researcher Mohammad Kaazempur-Mofrad, from MIT's department of mechanical engineering and division of biological engineering.

The networks were etched on to 15 centimeter-wide silicon wafers and the paths were then used as a mould to set a layer of biodegradable polymer. Two of these were then sealed together with a microporous membrane sandwiched between them, producing a mini artificial vascular system..."

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