



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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THE 'NEW ANTI-SEMITISM'

December 17, 2003 Haaretz.com reported: 'A new wave of anti-Semitism is sweeping Europe. In Britain, Anglo-Jewry's dream world has been jolted twice over: once by the intifada, and then by September 11. The left-liberal media are scathing in their criticism of Israel. Spokesman for Britain's two million-strong Muslim community are virulent in their attacks on the Jewish state and on its supporters. London's chattering classes are reportedly making uninhibitedly anti-Semitic remarks at dinner parties.'

Across the Channel, meanwhile, a wave of Jew-hatred seems to be inundating France, eliciting grave concern in the 600,000-strong Jewish community there. Synagogues have been fire-bombed, schools have been attacked and individuals have been cursed and harassed on the street.'

VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY SAYS CHEMICAL, NUCLEAR ARMS STILL 'MAJOR THREAT'

December 17, 2003 The Washington Post reported: 'Vice President Cheney warned this week that "the major threat" facing the nation is the possibility that terrorists could detonate a biological or nuclear weapon in a U.S. city. Cheney told commentator Armstrong Williams that the war on terrorism is "going to go on for a long time" and that U.S. soil remains vulnerable to al Qaeda, the network behind the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. The vice president said one of his biggest worries is "the possibility of that group of terrorists acquiring deadlier weapons to use against us -- a biological weapon of some kind, or even a nuclear weapon."

"To contemplate the possibility of them unleashing that kind of capability -- of that kind of weapon, if you will, in the midst of one of our cities -- that's a scary proposition," he said. "It's one of the most important problems we face today, because I think that is the major threat."

Cheney's language about threats was similar to previous admonitions. He made the remarks in response to a question about what scares him as vice president. He said part of his job is "contemplating sort of worst-case scenarios for attacks on the United States."

Cheney said in the 35-minute interview, taped Monday and made available to The Washington Post yesterday, that he believes "we're winning now" in the war on terrorism. "We've seen, just recently, of course, the wrap-up of Saddam Hussein, one of the worst offenders in the 20th century," Cheney said. "We've wrapped up a large part of the al Qaeda organization, but there are still a lot of folks out there." He cited an estimate that training camps in Afghanistan in the late 1990s produced at least 20,000 terrorists...'

PROSPECT OF A MULTI-SPEED EUROPE GROWS

December 13, 2003 The EU Observer reported: 'The prospect of a core group of member states integrating at a faster pace than the rest was once again mooted after the collapse of talks on the EU Constitution today (13 December). French President Jacques Chirac was the most outspoken about this possibility. Speaking to journalists, he reminded them that he had already proposed to German parliamentarians in June 2000 that "pioneering groups" dedicated to a particular area of European construction should be made.'

"I continue to think that it is a good solution because that will provide a motor that will set an example. I think that it will allow Europe to better go faster and further", said Mr. Chirac. He added that for such a group to go ahead there should be two conditions: that the *acquis communautaire* (the EU body of legislation) not be put into question and that the door be open to everyone to join.

Germany expressed itself in a similar manner on faster integration. Chancellor Gerhard Schröder said "the countries who want more integration will have to consider this route". The next months will show whether it works to have everyone on board, said Mr Schröder. In the run up to the Summit both Mr Schröder and his foreign minister Joschka Fischer had increasingly spoken about a core Europe if talks on the Constitution should fail.

Paris and Berlin are not alone in their ambitions. Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt mentioned the six founding member states (Germany, France, Italy and the Benelux countries) saying that if the situation does not evolve over the next few weeks, "it would be obvious that these countries will ask themselves how to make progress on European integration".

It is not just current member states who are thinking of moving ahead at a faster pace; the future member states have been too - among them Hungary and the Czech Republic. Klaus Hänsch, the European Parliament's representative in the talks said "it is not only the six founding member states who want to go ahead; there is a whole row of states who are willing".

Those countries who are willing to shape Europe's future based on the Convention's text should join together to see how they come out of this crisis, he added. But not all are in favour, Polish Foreign Minister Włodzimierz Cimoszewicz whose country's hard-line stance on the Constitution talks contributed to the failure of negotiations, said it would threaten the whole idea of a united Europe.'

ISRAEL URGED TO STOP IRAN'S NUKE PROGRAM

[December 17, 2003](#) Middle East Newslite reported: 'The government of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has been urged to halt Iran's nuclear weapons program. A senior Israeli parliamentarian regarded as a leading expert on Iran's strategic programs has warned the Sharon government that it cannot rely on the United States to stop Teheran's nuclear weapons project. The parliamentarian said Iran will achieve independent nuclear weapons capability over the next year.

"If we don't act by ourselves, then others won't do anything," Knesset member Ephraim Sneh told a strategic conference in Herzliya on Tuesday. "They will only do something if they know that we will act, providing no other alternative. This moment is approaching."

Sneh, a minister in previous Israeli governments, warned of Iran's nuclear capability as early as 1993 and helped draft policy that called for U.S. pressure to stop Russian technology to Teheran. He is a member of the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee, which receives frequent intelligence briefings on Iran's nuclear weapons program.'

N. KOREA SHARPLY INCREASES MISSILES SALES TO MIDEAST

[December 16, 2003](#) Middle East Newslite reported: 'North Korea was said to have delivered 400 ballistic missiles to clients in the Middle East and sharply increased sales over the last year. The South Korean Defense Ministry told parliament in a report that Pyongyang delivered 400 Scud-class missiles to a range of Middle East countries since 1985. The report said the missile export constituted the largest source of hard currency for the Stalinist regime.

The report said the best clients of North Korea were Iran, Iraq, Syria and Yemen. The report did not say how much Pyongyang earned from the exports. But the Yonhap News Agency said the figure was \$110 million.

"Since the middle of the 1980s, North Korea has exported 400-odd Scud missiles along with missile-related parts to the Middle East region," Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Ki-Beom, quoting the report, said.'

'HUMANIZED' ORGANS CAN BE GROWN IN ANIMALS

[December 17, 2003](#) NewScientist.com reported: 'It's bad news, says your doctor. Your liver is failing. So he extracts stem cells from your bone marrow and injects them into a sheep fetus while it is still in the womb. When the sheep is born, much of the animal's liver will consist of your own cells - ready to be harvested and given back to you.

This dream therapy is still years off, if it happens at all, but the first steps have already been taken by a team led by Esmail Zanjani at the University of Nevada, Reno. "Esmail has some pretty startling results," says Alan Flake of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia.

Zanjani's team hopes the animal-human chimeras they are creating will one day yield new cells genetically identical to a patient's own for repairing damaged organs, and perhaps larger pieces for transplantation. It might even be possible to transfer whole organs, since in some cases having at least a partly human organ would be better than a purely animal xenotransplant. Immune rejection of the animal portion would still be a problem, but it is not insurmountable, says Flake. "I don't think that in 10 to 15 years that's out of the question."

If perfected, the technique could overcome some of the big stumbling blocks facing researchers who want to make tissues and organs for implants. It might yield significant quantities of just about any kind of cell or tissue, for instance, with no need to fiddle about with different culture conditions or growth factors.

Of course, the idea of using part-human, part-animal chimeras as living factories for producing cells or organs raises a host of ethical and safety issues. There is the risk of transferring animal diseases to humans, for a start. And the creation of such chimeras has long been controversial. Is a sheep with human cells making up part of its brain no longer just a sheep?...