

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR ESTIMATE TO RISE

April 28, 2004 The Washington Post reported: "The United States is preparing to significantly raise its estimate of the number of nuclear weapons held by North Korea, from "possibly two" to at least eight, according to U.S. officials involved in the preparation of the report.

The report, expected to be completed within a month, would reflect a new intelligence consensus on North Korea's nuclear capabilities after that country's decision last year to restart a nuclear reactor and plutonium-reprocessing facility that had been frozen under a 1994 agreement. Among the evidence used in making the assessment is a detailed analysis of plutonium byproducts found on clothing worn by members of an unofficial U.S. delegation that was allowed to visit North Korean nuclear facilities several months ago.

The increase in the estimate would underscore the strides North Korea has made in the past year as the Bush administration struggled to respond diplomatically while waging a war against Iraq in an unsuccessful effort to search for such weapons there.

Intelligence officials also have broadly concluded that a separate North Korean uranium-enrichment program will be operational by 2007, producing enough material for as many as six additional weapons a year, one U.S. official said.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF: IRAQI WMD COULD BE IN SYRIA

April 27, 2004 Middle East Newline reported: "Israel's military leader asserted that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction might have been sent to neighboring Syria.

Israeli Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Moshe Ya'alon explained the failure of the U.S.-led coalition to find WMD in Iraq by saying Saddam Hussein's biological and chemical weapons might have been transferred to Syria. Ya'alon said Syria might have then concealed the WMD.

"Perhaps they were transferred to a neighboring country, such as Syria," Ya'alon told the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot on Monday. "We very clearly saw that something crossed into Syria."

It was the first time a high-level Israeli military official asserted that Iraqi WMD could have been transferred to Syria. Last year, a similar assertion was issued by the head of the U.S. National System for Geospatial-Intelligence, Lt. Gen. James Clapper."

HUMANISM BECOMES ONE OF THE NEW GODS OF RE

April 27, 2004 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Humanism, attitudes to sexuality and the ethics of wealth are to be taught alongside Christianity and other faiths in the first national curriculum for religious education. The national framework published in draft form yesterday was welcomed by the Church of England but the Catholic Education Service said there was more work to be done to ensure it did not turn into "a sociology of religions".

Representatives from all of Britain's main religions had advised the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as it made its first attempt to provide a common framework for RE lessons. But some Christian groups said the document "betrayed" Christianity by its emphasis on comparing different religions and examining "secular faiths" such as humanism.

Religious education must be taught in all state schools but parents have the right to withdraw their children. Governors of church schools will remain in charge of their RE lessons, and the new framework is voluntary for all schools.

The draft says Christianity must be taught throughout a child's time at school but in order to provide balanced education there must be study of the other principal religions in Britain, other world religious traditions and pupils' own world views "including secular philosophies, for example humanism". Pupils should not just learn about religion but learn from religion by being taught to "reflect and evaluate their own and others' beliefs about world issues such as peace and conflict, wealth and poverty and the importance of the environment".

RE teachers are also urged to "promote other aspects of the curriculum" such as financial capability through considering the ethics of wealth, debt, poverty, gambling and business. They should also promote personal, social

and health education by looking at religious beliefs on such issues as "relationships and human sexuality" and sex education.

Fred Naylor, spokesman for the Parental Alliance for Choice in Education, said Christianity was being "betrayed". "Christianity is a fundamental part of our history and tradition and yet it is being portrayed as no more important to schoolchildren in Britain than other world religions. The result is a multi-cultural mish-mash."

The Campaign for Real Education said most parents wanted their children taught about their own faith. "Of course pupils should be told about other faiths, but in a factual way and not as part of a sociological study of religions."

The Church of England Board of Education said children were to be taught about Christianity from the age of three to 19. "There is a very strong commitment to the teaching of Christianity," said Canon John Hall, its chief education officer.

"It does not talk about atheism but it talks about humanism. You can't talk about faiths without also recognising... there will be children in the class or their parents who do not believe in God."

EXPEDITION WILL SEEK TO FIND NOAH'S ARK

April 27, 2004 Fox News reported: "A joint U.S.-Turkish team of 10 explorers plans to make the arduous trek up Turkey's tallest mountain, at 17,820 feet, from July 15 to August 15, subject to the approval of the Turkish government, said Daniel P. McGivern, president of Shamrock_The Trinity Corporation of Honolulu, Hawaii.

The goal: to enter what they believe to be a mammoth structure some 45 feet high, 75 feet wide and up to 450 feet long that was exposed in part by last summer's heat wave in Europe.

"We are not excavating it. We are not taking any artifacts. We're going to photograph it and, God willing, you're all going to see it," McGivern said.

Explorers have long searched for an ark on the high slopes of Mount Ararat, where the biblical account of the Great Flood places it. In 1957, Turkish air force pilots spotted a boat-shaped formation in Agri province. The government did not pursue the sighting, however. The entire area, including Mount Ararat, was off limits to foreigners because of Soviet complaints that explorers were U.S. spies. That ban was lifted in 1982, and since then teams of explorers have visited the area but have been unable to substantiate any claim of an ark.

McGivern and Ahmet Ali Arslan, a Turkish mountain climber who grew up in a town near Mount Ararat, say satellite photos have helped them pinpoint a more exact location. Arslan will be leading the expedition. The biblical account in the Book of Genesis says that after the great deluge, the ark came to rest on the mountain with Noah's family and a cargo of male and female pairs of every kind of animal.

Geologists say even though there is evidence of a flood in Mesopotamia in Sumerian times, it is not possible for a ship to make landfall at an altitude as high as Mount Ararat."

BERLIN CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS RISING ANTI-SEMITISM

April 28, 2004 The Voice of America reported: "U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has joined foreign ministers and other senior officials from more than 50 countries for a conference in Berlin aimed at combating a resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe. The conference is sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Powell's presence underlines U.S. concern about the rising number of anti-Semitic incidents in the OSCE region in recent years. He arrived here with a delegation of prominent Americans, including Jewish holocaust survivor and 1986 Nobel Peace laureate Elie Wiesel.

Last week, an Israeli watchdog group said worldwide incidents of attacks on Jews and vandalism of Jewish sites increased 15 percent, from 2002 to 2003. France, Britain, Germany, Russia and Canada reported the most incidents. The attacks are attributed both to right-wing radical organizations and youthful members of Muslim communities in Europe, inflamed by the upsurge in Israeli-Palestinian violence since 2001.

Some analysts say opposition in Europe and elsewhere to Israeli policies toward the Palestinians is producing increasing antipathy toward Jews. However, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher says events in the Middle East are no excuse for acts of anti-Jewish hatred..."

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