

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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BUSH INVOKES WWII TO FORTIFY IRAQ ALLIES

June 3, 2004 The Associated Press reported: "Invoking the spirit of unity in World War II, President Bush is trying to rebuild solidarity among American allies bitterly divided over Iraq and skeptical about U.S. pledges to grant full sovereignty to the new caretaker government in Baghdad.

Bush, beginning a three-day trip to Europe to mark the 60th anniversary of D-Day, will encounter some of his fiercest critics on Iraq - the leaders of France and Germany - as well as some of his most stalwart supporters - most notably the prime ministers of Italy and Britain.

The president was flying to Rome after a White House meeting Thursday morning with Australian Prime Minister John Howard. An unwavering ally in Iraq, Howard has sent 850 troops to help the United States.

Bush's European visit opens a month of intense global diplomacy focusing on Iraq, the Middle East and the future of the NATO alliance. When he returns home from Normandy on Sunday night, Bush will fly directly to Sea Island, Ga., where he will welcome seven world leaders for the annual summit of industrialized nations. In late June, the president will return to Europe for a summit in Ireland with European Union leaders and then travel to Turkey for a NATO summit.

Five months before the presidential elections, Bush's advisers hope the emphasis on foreign policy will highlight his status as commander in chief, restore confidence in his handling of Iraq and lift his approval ratings from the lowest point of his presidency..."

ADDRESSING CADETS, BUSH SEES PARALLEL TO WORLD WAR II

June 3, 2004 The New York Times reported: "President Bush told nearly 1,000 cadets at the United States Air Force Academy on Wednesday that they would soon be part of a struggle against terrorism that he likened to World War II as the historic challenge of the time and "the storm in which we fly."

In a grim commencement speech on a sparkling morning at the foot of the Rocky Mountains, Mr. Bush outlined in the most detail yet what he sees as the continuing threat of terrorism. Rather than expressing any misgivings about the course of the war in Iraq, Mr. Bush emphatically affirmed his belief in striking enemies before they can strike first to protect Americans against Al Qaeda and other terrorist threats.

Quoting from a statement on a Qaeda Web site last year, Mr. Bush said that Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, a spokesman for the terrorist network, wrote: "We have the right to kill four million Americans — two million of them children — and to exile twice as many and wound and cripple hundreds of thousands. Furthermore, it is our right to fight them with chemical and biological weapons."

Mr. Bush warned the crowd of 29,000 gathered in Falcon Stadium that Americans must not lose heart or patience as his administration tries to bring democracy to Iraq and the Middle East. He compared today's efforts to those in Europe immediately after World War II, noting that two years after the Nazi surrender there was still starvation in Germany and reconstruction appeared to be faltering. In 1948, he added, Stalin blockaded Berlin. In 1949, the Soviet Union exploded a nuclear weapon and the Communists in China won their revolution.

"All of this took place in the first four years of the cold war," Mr. Bush said, in a speech that was interrupted intermittently by applause, most of it modest. "If that generation of Americans had lost its nerve, there would have been no 'long twilight struggle' only a long twilight."

TIME RUNNING OUT FOR SUDAN WARNS UN

June 3, 2004 The Scotsman reported: "The World Health Organization warned yesterday that disease and death threatened some two million people in the Sudan's troubled Darfur region unless the international community intervened to end a humanitarian crisis. The United Nations agency called for urgent action by the outside world to ensure that doctors, medical supplies, food and materials to provide shelter are moved into the area to avert a major catastrophe.

Tens of thousands of people have died and hundreds of thousands more have fled their homes amid clashes between Africans and Arabs in the isolated region. Aid agencies have described the situation as the largest humanitarian emergency facing the world.

"Death and disease spiral upwards when there is inadequate food, unsafe water, improper sanitation and shelter, widespread violence ... and insufficient access to medical care," Lee Jong-Wook, the director-general of the World Health Organization (WHO) said in a statement yesterday. "A massive scale-up in international commitment, action and effective ground presence is needed now to save precious lives..."

SAUDIS RECRUITED FOR ANTI-U.S. MISSION IN IRAQ

June 2, 2004 The Middle East Newslite reported: "The U.S. military has obtained evidence of Islamic recruitment in Saudi Arabia for the Sunni insurgency in Iraq as well as for Al Qaida-inspired attacks on Kurdish and Shi'ite communities in that country.

U.S. military sources said the arrest of suspected Al Qaida operatives as well as raids of insurgency strongholds have turned up evidence of a significant Saudi presence among the thousands of foreign Muslim volunteers in Iraq. The sources said Al Qaida recruitment for operatives has taken place in most Saudi cities.

Many of the Saudis entered Iraq through the northern border of the kingdom where they were provided with new identities, the sources said. Others entered Iraq via Jordan or Syria and were recruited for attacks against both the U.S.-led coalition as well as non-Sunni communities in Iraq.

Many of the Saudi insurgents were centered in the Iraqi city of Qusaybah, the sources said. They said the Saudis, many of whom carry forged travel documents, have been joined by Afghans, Egyptians, Iranians, Jordanians, Kuwaitis, Palestinians and Yemenis to participate in the insurgency in Iraq."

SAUDIS ALLOW AL QAIDA TO FLEE KHOBAR

June 1, 2004 The Middle East Newslite reported: "Saudi commandos allowed Al Qaida insurgents to flee a foreign compound to halt their execution of Western hostages.

Saudi security sources confirmed that a National Guard special operations forces unit agreed to an offer by Al Qaida gunmen to end the execution of the Western hostages in the Oasis compound in exchange for a safe exit. The sources said three of the four Al Qaida operatives managed to drive in a car for nearby Dammam.

The sources said about 40 Saudi commandos landed on the roof of the compound on early May 30 and engaged in a shootout with Al Qaida insurgents. Within the first hour, two of the commandos were killed and eight were injured.

At that point, the sources said, the insurgents gathered Westerners into a room and threatened to blow up the building unless they were allowed to flee. The Saudi commando force, which had earlier blocked the entry of a carload of explosives, kept advancing."

IRAN PLANS TO PROVIDE MILITARY AID TO LEBANON

May 31, 2004 The Middle East Newslite reported: "Iran plans to provide military aid to Lebanon, including exporting weapons to its Arab ally.

Iranian officials said the two countries plan to form a joint committee to examine Lebanon's military and defense requirements. They said Iran has agreed in principle to help fulfill some of those Lebanese military needs.

Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani agreed to defense and military cooperation during a visit to Lebanon in late February. Shamkhani told reporters on Feb. 29 that Beirut and Teheran have agreed to launch a joint panel to bolster Lebanon's military.

The defense minister said Teheran would offer Lebanon a range of products from Iran's defense industry. He said Iran's goal would be to rebuild and improve Lebanon's military."