



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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IRAN WARNS ISRAEL ON NUCLEAR FACILITIES

August 18, 2004 The Voice of America reported: "A senior Iranian military commander says Iran would destroy Israel's Dimona nuclear reactor, if the Jewish state were to attack Iranian nuclear facilities. Iran's first nuclear power station, at Bushehr on the Persian Gulf coast, is scheduled to begin operating next year.

Israel has not directly threatened to attack the facility. But the United States says it suspects Iran is secretly building nuclear weapons, and Israel says it will not allow Tehran to have a nuclear bomb.

Iran insists its nuclear program is for generating electricity and other peaceful uses.

Israel has never confirmed or denied having a nuclear arsenal. But its reactor at Dimona is widely believed to be the source of plutonium used to build as many as 200 nuclear warheads."

SAUDIS MAINTAIN F-15 SQUADRON IN TABOUK

August 18, 2004 The Middle East Newline: "Saudi Arabia has maintained a squadron of advanced F-15 fighter-jets in the northwestern city of Tabouk near the Israeli border.

Israeli officials said Saudi Arabia has ignored Israeli and U.S. appeals to remove the F-15S from the air force base in Tabouk. They said the deployment of the F-15S or other models of the F-15s in Tabouk marks a violation of an agreement by Riyadh to the United States in 1978.

The Saudis bought the F-15 and there was a very clear agreement," Israeli Air Force commander Maj. Gen. Eliezer Shkeidy said. "When the Saudis bought it, it was agreed that the F-15 would not be in Tabouk. The fact is that there is a squadron of F-15s in Tabouk."

This was the first time Israel reported the number of F-15s in Tabouk. In September 2003, U.S. officials said Saudi Arabia had transferred about 50 F-15S aircraft, or two squadrons, to Tabouk, about 150 kilometers from the southern Israeli port of Eilat."

MIDEAST MILITARIES REMAIN POORLY TRAINED, EQUIPPED

August 18, 2004 The Middle East Newline reported: "Despite a huge investment, Middle East militaries remain poorly trained and equipped.

A report by the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies said the militaries of Iran and the Arab world continue to fall behind that of their Western counterparts. The report, authored by senior fellow and former Pentagon official Anthony Cordesman, said virtually all of the militaries in the Middle East have failed to properly train their soldiers and keep pace of the revolution in military affairs.

"Most Arab land force reserve manpower has little training, second- or third-rate equipment, and little capability in maneuver and demanding combined arms warfare," the report, Middle East Military Balance of 2004, said. "Modern military forces are so expensive that Middle Eastern states cannot afford to use much of their total manpower pool because they cannot fund suitable equipment, training, and sustainability."

EU TO BUILD WALL AFTER BLASTING ISRAEL'S

August 17, 2004 The WorldNetDaily reported: "Just one month after the U.N. and EU launched a furious campaign against Israel's security fence, culminating in the International Court of Justice ruling that the fence is illegal, the EU announced it's planning to build a separation fence of its own, and invited Israel to participate in the construction.

The fence is being built to separate recently added EU members Poland and Hungary from their new neighbors B Russia, Belarus and Ukraine. The EU said the fence is necessary to "prevent the free movement of migrants seeking to enter" EU territory.

Israeli companies that specialize in the construction of fences and security systems will participate in tenders to build hundreds of miles of fences along the EU's new eastern border.

"It's incredible the EU has no problem building a fence just to keep illegal immigrants out, but when the Jewish State builds a security fence as a last resort for the purpose of keeping terrorists out and saving Israeli lives, we are blasted by them and the U.N.," a spokesman for Ariel Sharon told WorldNetDaily. "Makes you think, doesn't it?"

ID CARDS ARE UNSAFE, WATCHDOG WARNS

August 16, 2004 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Labour's plans to introduce identity cards and a population register could result in Britain "sleepwalking into a surveillance society", the information watchdog has warned.

Richard Thomas, the information commissioner, said he had strong concerns about the identity card scheme proposed by David Blunkett, the Home Secretary. He also warned that a separate population register planned by the Office of National Statistics and plans to hold details on every child until they are 18 were dangerous. Mr Thomas said: "My anxiety is that we don't sleepwalk into a surveillance society where much more information is collected about people, accessible to far more people shared across many more boundaries than British society would feel comfortable with."

Asked if he thought that there was a risk of that occurring because of the Government's plans, Mr Thomas told the Times: "I think there is a danger, yes." Mr Thomas said he did not want to "start talking paranoia language", but suggested that some of the plans could be likened to controls imposed by police states. "Some of my counterparts in eastern Europe, in Spain, have experienced in the last century what can happen when government gets too powerful and has too much information on citizens," he said.

Mr Thomas said although he does not oppose identity cards, he has concerns about the Government's failure to give details about their exact purpose. "The Government has changed its line over the last two or three years as to what the card is intended for. You have to have clarity. "Is it for the fight against terrorism? Is it to promote immigration control? Is it to provide access to public benefits and services?"

Mr Thomas's other concerns include the ONS's Citizens Information Project, which would create a population database for use by public services. He is also worried about the database proposed by the Children Bill which would hold details of all children from birth to adulthood.

A Home Office spokesman said: "The Government remains committed to its plans for a national identity card scheme which, among other things, will protect people in the fight against identity fraud and organised crime."

ROBOT SUIT A CULMINATION OF SCI-FI DREAMS

August 14, 2004 The Japan Times: "Scientist Yoshiyuki Sankai was fascinated in his childhood by robots depicted in the U.S. literary classic "I, Robot" as well as Japanese comic books such as "Cyborg 009" and "Tetsujin No. 28."

Now he has become the creator of one of the world's most advanced robotic technologies: a robot suit. The lower-body suit, called Hybrid Assistive Limb-3, is designed to help disabled or elderly people smoothly perform everyday activities such as walking and climbing up and down stairs. It will go on sale later this year as the world's first commercial product of its kind.

"As a child, I was thrilled at the possibility that machines can help people expand their (physical) abilities, and I still have that feeling," said Sankai, 46, a professor at the University of Tsukuba's institute of systems and engineering mechanics. "As a researcher, I have been working on projects to study how to supplement weakened human functions by (using) machines."

The powered suit consists of frames to support the user's legs and has motors installed at knees and hip joints, sensors to detect changes on skin surfaces, a battery and a computer to control the system.

When a user tries to move a leg, the sensors detects through the user's skin faint electrical signals transmitted from the brain to muscles. The computer analyzes what the user is going to do, and almost simultaneously the motors start moving to support the user's motion.

The prototype HAL-3 suit weighs 15 kg to 17 kg, but users would not find it heavy because the heel section absorbs the weight. The weight of the commercial version will be less than 10 kg because it will use light and thin components, Sankai said.

Sankai said he hopes to introduce HAL-3 on the market around autumn through his venture firm, Cyberdyne Inc.

"The most difficult part (in developing the suit) was to develop a system to gauge the user's will" from the physical signals to make the motors move, he said. "If the motors start moving one-trillionth of a second behind (the right timing), it would become a drag to the user."

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