



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

06 NOVEMBER 2004

SCIENCE'S LATEST FRONTIER B HEADLESS HUMANS

November 4, 2004 WorldNetDaily reported: "With Californians voting overwhelmingly to borrow \$3 billion to begin cloning for stem-cell research, it's just a short leap to the suggestions of an Indian scientist who proposes breeding headless humans to be used for harvesting organs and other forms of commercial exploitation.

That's the notion put forth by P.B. Desai, former director of the Tata Medical Center, who addressed the issue in a speech Friday titled "Conquest Over Mortality," according to the Indo-Asian News Service.

"Science is moving at such a fast pace that scientists have proven that they can create headless mice through removal of genes in embryo that control development of the head," said Desai. "But the body would have the capacity to keep the organs functional for use as transplants."

Desai floated the idea at a meeting of the Chicago-based International College of Surgeons in New Delhi. Desai anticipates restrictions on the creation of a headless human being who has the capacity to keep organs functioning but no thinking mind.

"The ultimate aim of science and medicine is toward immortality," he said. "But I personally think a human being has to first learn to be a man, and once you learn the value of finite, you will not play god."

The quest for immortality could lead to the creation of headless humans for commercial exploitation and plunder of organs, Desai said. "Embryonic stem cell, which holds promise of cure of any organ, is but a slow move toward immortality," he said. "The capability of stem cells is amazing as they can reproduce any organ."

PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS: ARAFAT LOSES CONSCIOUSNESS SEVERAL TIMES

November 4, 2004 The Voice of America reported: "Palestinian officials say ailing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has lost consciousness several times while in the intensive care unit of a French military hospital. The officials say Mr. Arafat has drifted in and out of consciousness since Wednesday. There are conflicting reports about his present condition and it is not clear whether he is in a coma.

Doctors at the Paris hospital are expected to speak to reporters later Thursday about Mr. Arafat's condition. The Palestinian officials provided no more details.

Mr. Arafat has been receiving emergency medical treatment at the hospital since late last week. He was airlifted to France after being ill for about two weeks. The exact nature of his illness is still not clear, but officials say he was experiencing intense stomach pains, diarrhea and vomiting."

FRENCH SOURCES: ARAFAT IS BRAIN DEAD

November 4, 2004 Arutz Sheva reported: "French news services continue to report that Arafat is "brain dead," that he will not wake up from his present coma, and that the only thing separating him from death is the machine to which he is attached. All earlier reports of Arafat's death pulled to a full stop when doctors at the French hospital in which he is hospitalized said clearly this evening, "Arafat has not died." The Prime Minister of Luxembourg, who had stated that Arafat was dead, was forced to issue an embarrassing retraction. His spokesman said that the Prime Minister's announcement was based on a "regretful misunderstanding."

EU PLANS TO DEPLOY FORCE IN GAZA STRIP

November 4, 2004 Middle East Newslines reported: "The European Union has drafted plans to deploy a peace-keeping force in the Gaza Strip.

EU officials said Brussels was discussing a proposal to help organize a force to stabilize the Gaza Strip after an Israeli withdrawal in September 2005. The officials said the EU would send both peace-keepers and trainers to ensure order and bolster Palestinian Authority security forces.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said the EU planned to send trainers in a joint effort with Egypt. Solana said the EU trainers would arrive over the next few months to prepare PA security forces for the Israeli withdrawal.

"Probably together with Egypt, we will send well-prepared people so that the Palestinians can enact a sensible command structure and also have the ability to fulfill their duty," Solana told the German weekly Der Spiegel. "We are ready to contribute and to cooperate with our Palestinian friends on all the elements that they need: security, or administration reform, or whatever is necessary."

SOLANA UNVEILS MID EAST PLAN

November 3, 2004 EUobserver reported: "EU high representative Javier Solana on Tuesday ...unveiled a series of concrete measures to push forward the establishment of a Palestinian state. During a meeting of Foreign Ministers in Brussels, Mr Solana presented a seven-page plan...outlining the steps the EU can make to ensure a Palestinian state can be established.

The paper outlines how the EU could help build an effective Palestinian security force, hold elections and continue reforms in the Palestinian Authority. "The window for the two-state solution is closing fast", says the paper, recommending that the EU present a series of measures to the US administration soon after the elections.

The paper represents a bid to inject some momentum into the Middle East Peace Process, which has been moribund since the launch of the EU-backed Roadmap. Speaking to the press on Tuesday, Mr Solana said he hoped the paper would help the Roadmap B drafted by the EU, US Russia and the UN B be implemented in "a less incremental manner". The document comes as the Israeli government moves to withdraw from Gaza. Some in Brussels fear the withdrawal - although welcomed - is being used to dictate the pace of the wider process. The paper focuses, along with the Egyptian government on assisting the Palestinian police force, however a more robust role should not be ruled out according to one aide."

MICE BRAINS CAN FIX THEMSELVES

November 2, 2004 Wired.Com reported: "The researchers' goal is not to create a therapy that would kill neurons in order to activate the birth of new ones. Rather, they hope experiments like this one, which appeared in the proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences online, will lead to new ways to grow neurons. Researchers could eventually identify key molecules involved with neuron birth and translate them into drugs, said Jeffrey Macklis, a researcher at Harvard Medical School who led the study.

Harvard scientists have manipulated stem cells already present in the brains of mice to induce the birth of new neurons, an advance once considered impossible by most scientists. "(The neurons) developed into mature neurons that not only took up proper locations within the brain, but reconnected to the spinal cord," Macklis said.

They induced the birth of new cells by killing nearby neurons in mice, which set off a cascade of events that led to stem cells, also called precursor cells, producing new neurons in the cerebral cortex. If scientists can turn this into a therapy for humans, it would mean that patients could literally heal themselves with stem cells already present in their brains.

The newborn neurons took the place of many damaged neurons in the mice. The work could be a model for neuron replacement in spinal cord injury or diseases including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lou Gehrig's. And such a therapy would avoid any immune or other complications that might result from stem-cell transplantation.

Researchers long thought the adult central nervous system had little or no ability to regenerate. But recent studies have shown some regeneration, mainly in the hippocampus and olfactory regions. In 2000, Macklis and his colleagues showed for the first time they could induce neurogenesis (the birth of new cells) in complex brain regions such as the cerebral cortex. Other experiments showed that surrounding brain cells turn on molecular signals when certain types of neurons die.

In this latest work, the Harvard researchers wanted to see if they could specifically generate corticospinal motor neurons, which are located in the cerebral cortex and which play important roles in neurodegenerative diseases.

The researchers used a special molecule activated with long-wavelength light to kill neurons, injecting it into the brains of adult mice. The photo-activated molecules selectively killed corticospinal motor neurons, which live in the cortex and control voluntary motor function.

Neurogenesis occurred shortly after the neurons died. Immature neurons emerged from another region of the brain, the subventricular zone, and migrated into the cortex. They matured into neurons that resembled corticospinal neurons. Some of them survived for more than a year and even sent signals all the way into the spinal cord."

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