



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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EU HAPPY BUT CAUTIOUS ABOUT IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

November 16, 2004 The Voice of America: "Iran's decision to temporarily suspend its uranium enrichment activities is being quietly welcomed in European capitals, but diplomats say a long-term agreement aimed at neutralizing fears that Iran aims to make a bomb could take several months.

Diplomats in Brussels who have been monitoring the negotiations in Tehran say the agreement for Iran to suspend its uranium conversion activities in exchange for political and economic incentives from Europe's Big Three is still a work in progress.

Under the deal, if Iran's suspension of enrichment activities is verified, the European Union must resume negotiations with Iran on a trade and cooperation agreement, and support the opening of talks on Iran's accession to the World Trade Organization.

Analyst Martin Navias, a senior fellow at King's College in London, is skeptical about Iran's intentions. "I believe that the Iranians have made a strategic decision to acquire weapons of mass destruction, and no parcel of sticks or carrots will convince them otherwise," said Mr. Navias. "I believe the Iranians are playing for time and that, ultimately, they will continue to develop weapons of mass destruction. I believe we are heading for a crisis with Iran in the next 18 months."

MEET NAFTA ON STEROIDS

November 15, 2004 WorldNetDaily: "North American national borders would be virtually eliminated under plans being considered by senior business and political leaders from Canada, the United States and Mexico for a "NAFTA-plus," continent-wide, customs-free zone with a common approach to trade, energy, immigration, law enforcement and security.

The mission has the formal blessing of Tom Ridge, U.S. Homeland Security secretary, who is close with President Bush. The committee is scheduled to issue its report next spring.

The elimination of borders along the lines of the EU experiment seems to be high on the agenda of the panel. The "NAFTA-plus" plan has also been referred to as "deep integration." Skeptics see it as a plan to eliminate national sovereignty and erode the American concept of representative government accountable to the people under the framework of the Constitution.

Discussions so far indicate that Canada, under the new agreement, would immediately sign on to the U.S. strategic missile defense initiative. Canada would also make its vast lumber resources available to the U.S. and Mexican markets and provide more open access to the northern neighbor's oil, natural gas and hydro-electric power resources."



FIRST LIGHT FOR AIRBORNE LASER WEAPON

November 15, 2004 Reuters reported: "A Boeing Co.-led team has successfully fired for the first time a powerful laser meant to fly aboard a modified 747 as part of a U.S. ballistic missile defense shield, officials said Friday.

The test, dubbed "First Light" by insiders, lasted only a fraction of a second but gave the project an important boost at a time it was deemed at risk of cuts or cancellation.

The Pentagon's Missile Defense Agency described the event (carried out on Wednesday in a 747 fuselage on the ground at Edwards Air Force Base in California) as a "landmark achievement" for the Airborne Laser system.

"It showed they work," Kenneth Englade, an agency spokesman, said of the laser's six identical, pickup-truck-sized, modules linked to fire as a single unit. "The rest is fine-tuning."

The Chemical Oxygen Iodine laser is built by Northrop Grumman Corp. It includes breakthrough optics designed to focus a basketball-sized spot of heat on a missile's skin to rupture it up to hundreds of miles away... The goal is to detect, track and destroy a missile when that would be easiest, before it releases a warhead that could be tipped with chemical, nuclear or germ weapons."

US TO DEPLOY HYPER-MISSILES

November 15, 2004 The Guardian UK: "American scientists are developing hypersonic cruise missiles that will fly 10 times faster than current rockets, penetrate concrete armouring and could be launched from any site in the world. The missiles would have a range of 9,000 miles, more than a third of Earth's circumference and be able to reach their targets within two hours. First prototypes

are expected to be tested next year, though the missile is not expected to be deployed until the end of the decade.

'If someone is messing with us - or Britain - from far away, we could whack them straight away,' said Preston Carter, an aerospace engineer at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, in California. The new missiles will exploit supersonic combustion ramjet - or scramjet - technology. NASA engineers will tomorrow attempt to fly a robot X-43A scramjet over the Pacific at speeds around 7,200 mph, 10 times the speed of sound.

The flight will be crucial in demonstrating the feasibility of hypersonic travel. Most media attention has focused on its commercial exploitation for jets that could travel from London to Sydney in two hours. The prime aim is to create hypersonic rockets that would replace current cruise missiles.

Scramjets work on the same principle as all jets, by igniting fuel in compressed air and using the expanding gases to propel the aircraft. Standard turbojets use fans to compress the air: scramjets use a plane's forward motion alone to bring air into the combustion chamber and require an initial boost from a rocket..."

FATAH SEEKS TO SPEARHEAD INSURGENCY WAR

November 14, 2004 The Middle East Newline: "The Fatah movement has launched an effort to spearhead the Palestinian war against Israel. Palestinian sources said Fatah commanders have ordered their cadres to step up attacks against Israel in wake of the death of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. They said Fatah has acquired mortars and other weaponry for attacks on Israeli military and civilian targets in the Gaza Strip.

On Thursday, Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade said it fired 20 mortars at Israeli communities in the Gaza Strip. There were no reports of injuries. "The bombardment is in retaliation to the cowardly crime committed by the enemy against our leader and the symbol of our Arab and Islamic nation, Yasser Arafat," Fatah said in a statement. "Al Aqsa is determined to continue the armed resistance in all the Palestinian regions and avenge the blood of the leader Arafat."

SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT WARNS AGAINST HARD-LINE POLICY TOWARD NORTH

November 13, 2004 The Voice of America: "South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun has urged continued dialogue with North Korea, which is suspected of developing nuclear weapons. The South Korean leader addressed the Los Angeles World Affairs Council during a two-day stop in the city. Mr. Roh warned Friday that a hard-line policy in achieving a nuclear-free Korean peninsula could lead to what he called grave consequences.

The United States, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia are engaged in six-party talks with North Korea on the nuclear issue, and Mr. Roh says differences among them complicate the discussions. North Korean representatives failed to turn up for a fourth round of talks, scheduled for September.

Mr. Roh said North Korea either has or is pursuing nuclear weapons. He said, however, North Korea relies on economic aid from South Korea, China, and Russia, and he believes that aid alone provides enough incentive to persuade the North to forego its nuclear ambitions..."

THE DOLLAR IS DOWN, BUT SHOULD ANYONE CARE?



November 15, 2004 The New York Times: "It sounds eerily like the worst economic nightmare for President Bush's second term. Bugged down in a costly war that shows no sign of ending, the United States faces a gaping budget deficit and ballooning foreign indebtedness. The dollar plunges against other major currencies, while turmoil in the Middle East sends oil prices soaring. The rest of the decade is plagued by rising inflation, increased joblessness and sky-high interest rates. But the president under fire was Richard M. Nixon - not George W. Bush. The war was in Vietnam, not Iraq. And the dollar crash was in 1973 rather than 2005.

Could it happen again? With the dollar down more than 40 percent against the euro since 2002, and hitting new lows since Mr. Bush's re-election, economists are debating whether America's foreign indebtedness could lead to a collapse in the dollar and a global financial crisis. Many analysts expect the financing gap to widen and the dollar to decline further. But there are at least three schools of thought on whether a dollar collapse is likely and, if it happens, what it would mean.

One group, which includes the Federal Reserve chairman, Alan Greenspan, contends that global financial markets are awash in so much money that the United States can borrow much more than seemed possible 20 years ago.

A second school of thought holds that foreign governments like China and Japan will continue to finance American borrowing and keep the dollar strong because they are determined to sustain their exports and create jobs. But a third school, which includes officials at the International Monetary Fund, worries about a collapse in the dollar that would send shock waves through the global economy..."