



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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U.S. WARNS OF POST-ARAFAT STRIKE

November 23, 2004 Middle East Newslite: "The United States has warned Americans throughout the Middle East to be on guard for a major Islamic strike in wake of the death of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

U.S. officials said warden messages posted in embassies throughout the Middle East have warned of the prospect of an attack on Americans. They said the attack could be carried out by a Palestinian insurgency group or an Islamic cell in an Arab state or Turkey.

"The recent death of PA Chairman Arafat has the potential to produce demonstrations and unrest throughout the region," a State Department announcement said. "In addition, the Department of State continues to warn of the possibility for violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests in the region."

The announcement, posted in warden messages on Nov. 17, said Americans could be attacked on passenger jets, buses or ships throughout the Middle East. The department regards the Middle East as including the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, Arabian Peninsula and North Africa."

FOR NOW, U.S. RULES OUT ATTACK ON IRAN

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EU TO PUSH AHEAD WITH MILITARY 'BATTLE GROUPS'

November 22, 2004 EUobserver reported: "Defense Ministers on Monday are expected to commit up to 16,500 troops to make up a series of EU 'battle groups' which can be deployed to the World's hot spots. EU council diplomats said that they expected ministers to pledge enough troops to create 11 battle groups, with each group expected to number 1,000-1,500 troops, ready to be deployed for peacekeeping missions within 10 days, for a period of up to four months.

The groups are set to be operational by 2007 and are expected to work under a UN mandate. The EU council of ministers would have to agree unanimously before any deployment takes place. France, Italy, Spain and the UK are to set up their own groups which are likely to be ready before 2007 - possibly by 2005 according to EU military sources.

Another seven groups are expected to be formed:

- -Germany the Netherlands and Finland;
- -Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia and Germany;
- -Italy, Hungary and Slovenia; Italy, Spain, Greece and Portugal;
- -Sweden, Finland and Norway ;The UK and the Netherlands

In addition a French Spokesperson said late on Friday that there would also be a French contingent in the 'Eurocorps' composed of France, Germany, the Netherlands and Belgium. Based on the 'lead nation' model set up during the EU's peacekeeping mission in Bunia, in the Democratic Republic of Congo, each group will have a lead country in command.

Military officials say that some of the contingents will be specialized forces. Finland is expected to commit troops trained to combat chemical and biological weapons, Lithuania will offer experts in water purification while Greece is pledging troops with maritime

transport skills.

But not all EU countries are participating. Domestic political problems mean that Austria is not likely to participate until 2009 - although the country has committed itself to 200 troops. The Irish government has expressed its willingness to take part but will not be committing troops on Monday. A spokesperson said on Friday that the Czech army, because of restructuring, would not be able to meet the criteria at this point, "It will be 2007 at the earliest" said the spokesperson..."

AL QAIDA SEEKS NUKES FROM RUSSIA

November 22, 2004 Middle East Newline: "Al Qaida has embarked on a strategy to procure a nuclear weapon -- preferably from a former East Bloc state.

A leading CIA veteran said Osama Bin Laden has sought a nuclear weapon on the Russian black market. The veteran said Bin Laden's goal was to detonate the nuclear weapon in the United States.

"He always said it was a religious obligation for Muslims to have the same weapons as their enemies," said Michael Scheuer, former director of the CIA team that has been searching for Bin Laden. "He has clearly said that he would use it. He doesn't intend it as a deterrent. It is going to be a first strike weapon."

In mid-November, Scheuer retired after 22 years in the U.S. intelligence community. He was discussing Bin Laden during a briefing on Nov. 19 in Washington to promote his new book, "Imperial Hubris..."

EUROPE STEPS UP FIGHT ON NEW TB

November 22, 2004 BBC News: "Europe's first center to fight the spread of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis is opened in the Latvian capital Riga on Monday. It is a joint project between Latvia and the World Health Organization.

New drug-resistant strains of TB are 100 times more expensive to treat than regular TB, and can often be fatal. TB patients in eastern Europe are 10 times more likely to have a multi-drug-resistant strain of the disease than anywhere else in the world.

Normal TB is a global pandemic. But curing it is cheap and effective. A six-month course of drugs costs about \$10. That is not the case with new strains of TB which are increasingly resistant to the treatment currently available.

Patients must take high-powered antibiotics or even extensive chemotherapy for up to two years. And if a patient does not get the right drugs, in most cases it is fatal. The World Health Organization says 300,000 people around the world contract multi-drug resistant TB every year..."



U.N. GIVES UP ON HUMAN CLONING BAN

November 19, 2004 FoxNews.com: "U.N. diplomats abandoned contentious efforts to draft a treaty that would outlaw human cloning and will likely settle for a weaker declaration that won't seek a comprehensive ban, officials said.

The last-minute agreement on Thursday appeared to be a major blow to President Bush, who had called for a total ban on cloning when he spoke before the U.N. General Assembly in August.

While there is near universal support among the United Nations' 191 members to ban reproductive cloning X the cloning of babies X countries have wrestled over whether to allow cloning for stem cell and other research.

For more than a year, the General Assembly's legal committee has been wrestling with rival cloning resolutions. One, offered by Costa Rica, calls for the drafting of a treaty banning all forms of cloning. The other, from Belgium, would allow some cloning for science.

In the end, the two sides were too divided to get enough support for a treaty that would achieve worldwide ratification, said Marc Pecsteen, a Belgian diplomat in the thick of the talks. Instead, they agreed to settle on a less powerful, nonbinding declaration that would include language ambiguous enough to please both sides..."

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