

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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ISRAELI SECURITY CHIEF AGAIN WARNS OF WITHDRAWAL

January 6, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "Israel's security chief has warned against a military withdrawal from the Gaza Strip border with Egypt.

In perhaps the most stark warning yet, Israel Security Agency director Avi Dichter said a withdrawal from the eight-kilometer Egypt-Gaza border would increase the flow of heavy weapons to the Palestinian Authority and insurgency groups. Dichter said these weapons would include anti-aircraft missiles, Katyusha rockets and other equipment long sought by the Palestinians.

In a briefing to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee on Tuesday, Dichter said the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Gaza border would turn the entire area into southern Lebanon. Dichter pointed to the entry of thousands of missiles and rockets by Iran and Syria to Hizbullah positions along the Lebanese border with Israel over the last four years.

Dichter's warning was said to have marked the harshest assessment by an Israeli military or security chief regarding the ramifications of the government's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and the northern West Bank. Dichter, who is resigning his post, did not specifically oppose the plan, but portrayed a stark scenario in which Palestinian forces would pose a threat to Israel similar to that of Hizbullah..."

US REPORTS GLOBAL INCREASE IN ACTS OF ANTI-SEMITISM

January 6, 2005 Voice of America reported: "The U.S. government said Wednesday that long-standing anti-Jewish prejudice, anti-Israel sentiment, and a rise in Europe's Muslim population, are contributing to an increase in world-wide acts of anti-Semitism. The finding came in a State Department report mandated by Congress. In the first of what are to be annual reports on the problem, the State Department says anti-Semitic incidents, especially in Europe, have increased in frequency and severity in the new century, and have disrupted the safety and well-being of Jewish communities.

The State Department report, mandated by an act of Congress last year, covers 62 countries and documents anti-Semitic acts around the world between July 2003 and the end of last year. The report says overt acts of anti-Semitism have increased significantly in recent years including physical assaults on Jews and attacks and vandalism of Jewish institutions.

It says that in Western Europe, traditional far-right groups still account for a significant proportion of these acts. But it says disadvantaged and disaffected Muslim youths were increasingly responsible for other incidents and that the trend appears likely to persist as the number of Muslims in Europe grows and their economic prospects remain limited.

The report says the rise in anti-Jewish acts and sentiments has been influenced by Middle Eastern events and mixed with anti-Israel views. At a news briefing, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy and Human Rights Michael Kozak said not all anti-Israel rhetoric is anti-Semitic. But he said the lines between the two are becoming blurred.

He also said the stereotype of Jews as manipulators of the world economy persists, and that anti-Semitic language has crept into, for instance, leftwing criticism of economic globalization:

"You know it's not just some rightwing ultra-nationalist skinhead types," he said. "Now you're getting some fairly, otherwise respectable intellectuals that are left-of-center, who are anti-globalization who are starting to let this stuff creep into their rhetoric, and that's disturbing."

It said France reported more than 500 anti-Semitic incidents in the first six months of last year, nearly as many as in all of 2003..."

CANADIAN OFFICIALS CONFIRM CASE OF MAD COW DISEASE



January 3, 2005 Voice of America reported: "Canada's Food Inspection Agency - which confirmed the results Sunday - had suspected last week the cow was infected with the disease based on preliminary testing. The agency said at the time that human food and animal feed supplies were not affected.

The confirmation comes just days after the United States announced plans to reopen its border in March to nearly all Canadian beef and live cattle. U.S. officials banned the import of Canadian cattle in May, 2003, after Canada found its first case of the disease. Mad cow disease attacks the central nervous system of cattle and can

be harmful to humans if tainted meat is consumed..."

UN WARNS TSUNAMI DEATH TOLL COULD DOUBLE

January 5, 2005 Reuters reported: "The United Nations warned on Wednesday Asia's tsunami death toll could double to about 300,000 unless survivors received clean water and other basic services by the end of the week to prevent disease.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, in Indonesia for an emergency international aid summit on Thursday, flew over the worst scenes of devastation and said it was more horrifying than wars he had witnessed during decades as a soldier.

Australia and Germany pledged more than \$1 billion in aid, raising the U.N.'s global tally to nearly \$3.7 billion, and a debt relief initiative by rich nations gathered momentum. The World Health Organization (WHO) said it had sent emergency treatment to the region for diarrheal diseases such as cholera and dysentery but while the aid was reaching many locations, access to safe drinking water remained inadequate.

"If basic needs ... are not urgently restored to all populations by the end of this week, WHO fears that outbreaks of infectious disease could result in a similar number of fatalities as occurred due to the direct impact of the tsunami," the U.N. agency said in a statement on the Internet.

After getting a bird's-eye view of the battered northwest coastline of Indonesia's Sumatra island, Powell promised Washington would send more helicopters, food and clean water to isolated survivors of the tsunami.

"I have been in war and I have been through a number of hurricanes, tornadoes and other relief operations, but I have never seen anything like this," said America's former top soldier.

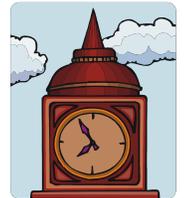
Powell, 67, served two combat tours in Vietnam during a 35-year military career that ended with his service as the country's military chief.

"I cannot begin to imagine the horror that went through families and all of the people who heard this noise coming and then had their lives snuffed out by this wave," he said...."

UK NO VOTE WOULD RAISE QUESTIONS, SAYS SOLANA

January 4, 2005 EUobserver reported: "A rejection of the European Constitution by the UK would result in questions about its relations with other member states, the EU foreign policy chief has said. "It will open up the question of the relationship with other members of the EU that have voted yes", said Javier Solana on Monday (3 January).

However, Mr Solana told a BBC news programme that a no vote would not exclude the UK from the "European family". Mr Solana also said that the Constitution is important for making the EU more efficient and that it represented a "fundamental step" in making the EU better able to fulfil its international obligations.



The UK is expected to have a referendum on the Constitution in spring 2006 and is one of the countries most likely to reject the new treaty, which needs all 25 member states to ratify it before it can come into force..."

MOHAMMED ENTERS TOP BOYS' NAMES

January 5, 2005 BBC News reported: "Mohammed has become one of the most popular names for baby boys in England and Wales. It entered the top 20 most commonly chosen names for 2004 baby boys for the first time ever, according to the Office for National Statistics.

But there was little change at the top with Jack and Emily retaining their status as the most popular name for newborn boys and girls. Charlie was a big climber in the boys' chart as was Evie for the girls. Chloe, the most popular girls' name for seven years until 2002 dropped to number five, behind Ellie, Jessica and Sophie..."

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