

# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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## BOSTON TERROR THREAT PROBED

*January 19, 2005* The Boston Herald reported: "Authorities are scouring Boston for four Chinese nationals and two Iraqi men who may pose a nuclear threat to the city based on a report from an unidentified man calling from Mexico who claims to have smuggled them over the U.S. border.

"They got a call from across the border in Mexico to the California Highway Patrol several days ago, and he said he brought two Iraqis and four Chinese (individuals) across the border and according to him, they stated soon to follow behind them would be some sort of (nuclear) material," said a law enforcement source. "He refers to some sort of nuclear material that will follow them through New York up into Boston."

The threat was serious enough that Mayor Thomas M. Menino hunkered down with Police Commissioner Kathleen O'Toole and Fire Commissioner Paul Christian and the city's Homeland Security chief in his office at City Hall. The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency also activated its bunker in Framingham with a downscaled staff.

According to the source, the caller has not identified himself and did not show up for a meeting with federal investigators in California, but he did leave pictures and the names of two Chinese men and two Chinese women - reportedly chemists - at a "drop" site at the Mexico-California border. The information also makes reference to something happening "within four days," said another law enforcement source.

Federal authorities in Boston identified the Chinese nationals being sought for questioning as Zengrong Lin, Wen Quin Zheng, Xiujin Chen and Guozhi Lin. Sources said investigators have no information on the two Iraqis - including their gender. Menino last night downplayed the threat, urging residents to partake in their normal activities. "Public safety is our first priority," Menino said, while stressing the report fielded by the Boston Joint Terrorism Task Force came from a "single anonymous source" and has not been confirmed.

Gov. Mitt Romney, in Washington, D.C., for President Bush's inauguration, planned to fly back to Massachusetts last night. "We have had threats in the past. We take them seriously, even when they're not corroborated," he said.

White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card told the Herald last night that President Bush [related, bio] was informed of the uncorroborated Boston threat at his daily intelligence briefing yesterday morning... "

## SADDAM FORCES PLAN LARGE-SCALE ATTACKS

*January 20, 2005* Middle East Newsline reported: "Iraq has determined that Saddam Hussein loyalists plan to launch massive and coordinated attacks during national elections. Iraqi officials said military intelligence has obtained information from Sunni insurgents and Saddam loyalists that indicate a plan for major strikes against polling stations and voters on Jan. 30. They said the insurgents aim to stop Iraqi voters from leaving their homes on election day.

"We're talking of a plan that would target both the Sunni and Shi'ite communities," an official said. "A few massive car bombings at key stations and everybody would be to scared to leave their homes. Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih has confirmed that Saddam loyalists have been planning a major campaign on election day. He said insurgency suspects have told interrogators details of the plan, but would not elaborate. ."

## 'LIVING' ROBOTS POWERED BY MUSCLE

*January 18, 2005* BBC News reported: "Tiny robots powered by living muscle have been created by scientists at the University of California, Los Angeles. The devices were formed by "growing" rat cells on microscopic silicon chips, the researchers report in the journal Nature Materials.

Less than a millimetre long, the miniscule robots can move themselves without any external source of power. The work is a dramatic example of the marriage of biotechnology with the tiny world of nanotechnology.

In nanotechnology, researchers often turn to the natural world for inspiration. But Professor Carlo Montemagno, of the University of California, Los Angeles, turns to nature not for ideas, but for actual starting materials. In the past he has made rotary nano-motors out of genetically engineered proteins. Now he has grown muscle tissue onto tiny robotic skeletons.

Montemano's team used rat heart cells to create a tiny device that moves on its own when the cells contract. A second device looks like a minute pair of frog legs. "The bones that we're using are either a plastic or they're silicon based," he said. "So we make these really

fine structures that mechanically have hinges that allow them to move and bend.

"And then by nano-scale manipulation of the surface chemistry, the muscle cells get the cues to say, 'Oh! I want to attach at this point and not to attach at another point'. And so the cells assemble, then they undergo a change, so that they actually form a muscle.

"Now you have a device that has a skeleton and muscles on it to allow it to move." Under a microscope, you can see the tiny, two-footed "bio-bots" crawl around. Professor Montemagno says muscles like these could be used in a host of microscopic devices - even to drive miniature electrical generators to power computer chips.

But when biological cells become attached to silicon - are they alive? "They're absolutely alive," Professor Montemagno told BBC News. "I mean the cells actually grow, multiply and assemble - they form the structure themselves. So the device is alive."

The notion is likely to disturb many who already have concerns about nanotechnology..."

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## **ISRAEL CONSIDERS ATTACK ON SYRIA**

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*January 20, 2005* Middle East Newline reported: "Israel's military has drafted plans for an air attack on Syria.

Military sources said the plan would retaliate for increasing attacks by Hizbullah against northern Israel. The sources said Chief of Staff Lt Gen. Moshe Ya'alon has urged the Cabinet to launch an air attack on a major Syrian military target in an attempt to force Damascus to restrain Hizbullah.

"Right now, nobody is stopping Hizbullah," a military source said. "They feel they have a green light to escalate."

The last Israeli air attack on Syria was in October 2003. At the time, Israeli F-16 multi-role fighters bombed a training base used by Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian insurgency groups.

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## **NATO TO BE MARGINALISED BY THE EU**

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*January 17, 2005* The EUobserver reported: "NATO is set to be marginalised by the EU as the primary institution for Europe, says a report compiled by US intelligence experts. Within a general analysis on world developments over the next 15 years, by CIA thinktank, the National Intelligence Council, the experts posed the question: 'Could Europe become a superpower?'

"The EU, rather than NATO, will increasingly become the primary institution for Europe, and the role which Europeans shape for themselves on the world stage is most likely to be projected through it", said the forecast. "Whether the EU will develop an army is an open question, in part because its creation could duplicate or displace NATO forces", says the report.

While weak on military force, Europe's strength may be in providing a model of global and regional governance, particularly if they are searching for a "Western" alternative to strong reliance on the United States, the report said.

For example, an EU-China alliance, though still unlikely, is no longer unthinkable. However, the 120-page report also warns that the EU could break down within the next 15 years if no major economic reforms are carried out.

Branding Japan and Europe as the "ageing" powers, the experts predict that ageing populations and shrinking work forces will become a major economic and political challenge for the years to come.

"Either European countries adapt their work forces, reform their social welfare, education, and tax systems, and accommodate growing immigrant populations or they face a period of protracted economic stasis that could threaten the huge successes made in creating a more United Europe", the US report warned.

The current welfare state is thought by to be "unsustainable" and the lack of any economic revitalization could lead to the "splintering or, at worst, disintegration of the European Union, undermining its ambitions to play a heavyweight international role", the experts said.

A total break from the post-World War II welfare state model may, however, not be necessary, as shown in Sweden's successful example of providing more flexibility for businesses while conserving many worker rights.

Going under the title, 'Mapping the Global Future', the report concluded that no other state in the world would match the US by 2020. In general, the emergence of China and India as new global actors will transform the geopolitical landscape of the globe, the report predicts.

The world economy is projected to be about 80 percent larger in 2020 than it was in 2000, and average per capita income to be roughly 50 percent higher.."