



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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## HUMANITY IN 'GRAVEST POSSIBLE DANGER' OF BIRD FLU PANDEMIC

*February 24, 2005* Scotsman.com reported: "The world is on the brink of a bird flu pandemic that could claim the lives of millions of people, scientists warned yesterday. The World Health Organisation (WHO) called an emergency conference of 20 nations to urge wealthy western countries to play a bigger role in halting the spread of avian flu.

"The world is now in the gravest possible danger of a pandemic," Shigeru Omi, of the WHO, said at the conference in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, where health authorities are meeting to consider emergency measures to control the virus. "If the virus becomes highly contagious among humans, the health impact in terms of deaths and sickness will be enormous," Dr Omi warned in the most strongly-worded statement issued so far by the WHO.



The countries afflicted by the latest outbreak of bird flu, are Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand. They are expected to outline their technical and financial needs at the conference. Joseph Domenech, of the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations, called on rich, developed countries to do more. He said: "If they don't do more, sooner or later the problem could appear in their place."

In 1918, H1 appeared and millions died worldwide. In 1957, the Asian flu was an H2 and in 1968, the Hong Kong flu was an H3. Dr Gerberding said: "We are seeing a highly pathogenic strain of influenza virus emerge ... across the entire western component of Asia. You may see the emergence of a new strain to which the human population has no immunity "..."

## U.S. PREPARES FOR GERM ATTACK

*February 23, 2005* WorldNetDaily reported: "The world's richest governments are looking to create an international germ-warfare crisis center and vaccine bank as "a matter of top priority. According to Jane's Terrorism and Security Monitor, the Group of Seven industrialized countries, also known as the G7, has agreed to locate the center in Canada's capital city of Ottawa, and will work in tandem with the United Nations' World Health Organization

The goal is to battle the threat of mass infections which could claim the lives of millions, whether sparked intentionally by terrorists or occurring naturally. Joining the effort to defuse the threat of bio-terror attacks are some of the world's most advanced germ-warfare establishments originally built by the Soviets in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

"The Soviets are believed to have utilized as many as 50 biological agents in their weapons program, genetically engineering some of them to be resistant to antibiotics," reports Jane's. "Soviet Cold War secrets are now being used in the development of defenses against biological weapons of mass destruction."

Still, said U.S. Health Secretary Tommy Thompson, "despite our best efforts, we must concede that the terrorists can still hit any of us at any time." Thompson's comments were echoed by other foreign leaders. The nations officially involved in the program not only include the G7 (the U.S., Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan), but also Mexico and the European Union as a whole..."

## HAMAS PLANS TO TORPEDO CEASEFIRE

*February 23, 2005* Middle East Newsline reported: "Israel's military has concluded that Hamas seeks to torpedo the cease fire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority. Israeli military sources said military intelligence has obtained information of Hamas plans to carry out suicide strikes to shatter the ceasefire declared in February 2004. The sources said the Hamas plans stem from operatives in the northern West Bank.

Some of the information on Hamas's plans came from a senior operative, identified as Said Ahras. Ahras, said to be a key operative in the northern West Bank, was captured on Feb. 21 in a joint military-police operation near Nablus. The sources said Ahras planned a major attack on Israeli military forces in the Nablus area. They said Ahras was promised that he would receive several large bombs from Hamas in Nablus..."

## IAF CHIEF SAYS ISRAEL MUST BE READY TO BOMB IRAN

*February 22 2004* Arutz Sheva reported: "The commander of the Israeli Air Force said Monday that Israel must be prepared to bomb Iran's nuclear reactor. Eliezer Shakadi, speaking with foreign journalists, did not say whether Israel has the ability to attack the reactor, which is expected to be operational by the end of the year. In 1991, Israel bombed the nuclear reactor under construction in Baghdad, Iraq..."

## U.N. TO CONTROL USE OF INTERNET?

*February 22, 2005* WorldNetDaily reported: "Leaders of a U.N. Internet panel yesterday said they hope to set up a global system where cyberspace would be under the control of the United Nations. The committee, which was set up in December 2003, is laying the groundwork for the U.N.-sponsored World Summit on the Information Society where a final decision on the control of the Net will be determined, stated a Reuters report. The summit will take place in Tunis in November. The panel is considering such problems as cyber-crime and e-mail spam.

ICANN, the International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, currently is the most recognizable Internet governing body, but developing countries want a U.N. agency, such as the International Telecommunication Union, to have control over domain names and other issues.

"There is an issue that is out there and that needs to be resolved," Nitin Desai, chairman of the panel and special adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, told Reuters..."

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## N. KOREA: JAPAN, U.S. PLOTTING INVASION

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*February 20, 2005* CNN.com reported: "North Korea has accused Japan of aspiring to rule a "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" beginning with an invasion of Korea with the assistance of the United States. Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's state newspaper, said Sunday the Japanese had joined with the United States' "vicious hostile policy" toward North Korea and that the "military threat" they perceive from the Koreans "is a far-fetched allegation fabricated by themselves."



The paper's comments followed a day of talks in Washington between U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and their Japanese counterparts on the two countries' security relationship. The two countries urged North Korea to return to six-party talks aimed at ending its nuclear program.

North Korea's use of the term "Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere" harkens back to Japan's brutal domination of East Asia before and during World War II. The term described how Tokyo, under the guise of ridding the region of Western influence, set up puppet governments to establish Japanese hegemony and plunder foreign resources.

"We share a concern about events on the Korean Peninsula," Rice said at a news conference following the Saturday meetings. She added, "It is really time for the North Koreans to take seriously that concern" and return to six-party talks..."

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## RUSSIA PLANS S-18 SALE TO SYRIA

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*February 18, 2005* Middle East Newsline reported: "Russia plans to sell the SA-18 surface-to-air missile to Syria. In a reversal of its position expressed less than a month ago, Russia's Defense Ministry acknowledged negotiations for the sale of the SA-18 man-portable anti-aircraft system to Syria. The ministry said the SA-18 was a defensive system and it would be mounted on Syrian vehicles.

"Negotiations are now taking place on delivery to Damascus of the Strelts close-range anti-air system," a Russian Defense Ministry official was quoted by the Interfax agency as saying. It was the first time a Defense Ministry official acknowledged negotiations for the SA-18 to Syria. In January 2005, Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov denied that Moscow intended to sell the SA-18. Ivanov said Russia and the United States would sign an agreement to ban the export of man-portable air defense systems, or MANPADS..."

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## IRAN TO COMPLETE NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE IN 2005

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*February 17, 2005* The Middle East Newsline reported: "Israel has determined that Iran would acquire the expertise to complete the nuclear fuel cycle by the end of 2005. Israeli officials said that despite the suspension of Iran's uranium enrichment program, Teheran continues to conduct research and other activities meant to acquire capabilities required to develop a nuclear bomb. The officials said Iran would achieve indigenous nuclear capability within 2005.

"The question is not if the Iranians will have a nuclear bomb in 2009, 10 or 11," Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said. "The main question is when are they going to have the knowledge to do it. We believe that in six months from today they will end all the tests and experiments they are doing to have that knowledge..."

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