



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

MARCH 26 2005

## CHINESE MILITARY BUILDUP CAUSES US CONCERN

*March 24, 2005* Voice of America News reported: "Two developments are focusing renewed attention and concern in Washington toward China's military buildup. Earlier this month, China's legislature passed a law authorizing military action to take control of Taiwan, if it moves toward independence or if all other efforts at reunification fail. And at the same time, the European Union wants to lift its arms embargo against China, which was imposed after the Tiananmen massacre in 1989.

A recent report prepared for the U.S. Defense Department says China is proceeding with a substantial military buildup, leading some experts to worry that 25 years after starting its economic reforms, China may soon have the means to project military power in new and, from the U.S. point of view, potentially dangerous ways.

According to the report issued by the Defense Department in November and made public in January, China has built a series of facilities and strategic relationships stretching to the south and west from its own coastal waters. The facilities and relationships involve Thailand, Cambodia, Burma, Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The report, prepared by a consulting firm for the office of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, says the primary goals of China's strategy are to protect the sea lanes through which much of its oil travels and to build its capability for a possible confrontation with Taiwan. The report says China is working to make its navy capable of operating farther from Chinese shores, putting long-range cruise missiles on its new warships, building up its submarine fleet and developing modern undersea mine systems to help it take control of strategic areas of open water.

The Pentagon report also says China is building its air force with new long-range targeting systems and unmanned aircraft. In addition, the New York Times reported this month that recent intelligence reports indicate China has conducted an ambitious ship-building program, including 23 new amphibious assault ships that could land troops and heavy equipment on Taiwan, and 13 new attack submarines that could limit the United States' ability to come to the island's aid in any conflict.

In recent testimony to a congressional committee, the new director of the CIA, Porter Goss, acknowledged that China's military buildup could "tilt the balance of power in the Taiwan Strait."

"Beijing's military modernization and military buildup, which I know have not gone unnoticed by this committee, are posing new questions for us," he said "Improved Chinese capabilities seemingly threaten U.S. forces in the region. China's recent legislation on anti-secession speaks for itself..."

China's two-and-a-half million member military has long been thought of as out of date in its equipment, strategies and tactics, and relatively ineffective as a result. But the U.S. defense officials who spoke this month say China is working hard to change that, and is closely watching the U.S. military campaigns in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere to gain a better understanding of how modern militaries are organized and how modern wars are fought..."



## IRAN ACHIEVES BREAKTHROUGH IN SHIHAB

*March 24, 2005* Middle East Newslines reported: "Iran has achieved a breakthrough in development of its Shihab-3 intermediate-range missile. Israeli and Western intelligence sources said Iran has developed a new version of the Shihab-3 that could travel significantly farther than previous models. The sources said the new version was also more accurate and contains a larger warhead.

Iran tested the new liquid-fuel Shihab, termed Shihab-3A, twice in 2004. In the first test in August, the sources said, the missile did not fulfill expectations. But the second test, which took place in September, marked the greatest success of the Shihab program. The sources said the Shihab-3A reached a range of 1,700 kilometers, by far the longest distance of the missile..."

There is new evidence connecting Saddam Hussein to support for al-Qaida before the Sept. 11 attacks, but even more disturbing links between the terrorist network and Russian intelligence, reports..."

## RUSSIA HELPED AL-QAIDA, STILL ARMING IRANIANS

*March 22, 2005* WorldNetDaily reported: "According to the report in the premium, online intelligence weekly published by the founder of WorldNetDaily, Moscow is playing a dangerous and duplicitous chess game aimed at shortening the U.S. military occupation of Iraq.

In addition to the covert intelligence support provided to al-Qaida, sources say Russian intelligence personnel met in early January with their Iranian and Indian counterparts to discuss frankly and candidly ways to get the U.S. out of the region as quickly as possible.

According to intelligence sources, some of the talks included the acquisition by Iran of more powerful and modern weaponry to use in attacks on U.S. and U.S.-led coalition forces in Iraq. But Russia's undermining of U.S. interests in the area go even deeper, say these sources.

Iraqi Interior Minister Falah al-Naqib has reportedly discovered a memo archived by the Saddam Hussein regime that shows Baghdad was supporting Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the al-Qaida terrorist thought to be leading the insurgency in Iraq today. Other support of al-Qaida is also discussed in the memo. Some suggest this memo could prove to be the smoking gun to prove Hussein's support for Osama bin Laden's network leading up to 9-11 and thereafter.

But, not only Hussein was supporting al-Qaida, according to the memo, so was Libya's Moammar Gadhafi. Many of the Sunni clerics in Iraq and throughout the Mideast were, too. And Russian intelligence was also lending its support..."

---

## **NATO TO PROTECT ITS TROOPS WITH ANTI-MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM BY 2010**

---

*March 19, 2005* Spacewar.com reported: NATO announced Wednesday that it would protect its deployed troops with a new single theater missile defense system by 2010. "NATO has agreed to give itself a single deployable theatre missile defense capability to give protection to troops against incoming missiles," a NATO official said. "It will combine (existing) national systems (such as the US-made Patriot missile)."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the system would be a first and would cap 10 years of talks on the issue. "The importance of being able to defend deployed troops against theatre-range ballistic missiles, such as SCUD missiles, was made apparent during the 1990s," NATO said in a communique.

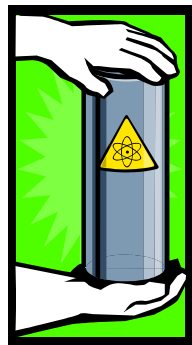
"As a number of foreign nations continue working on ballistic missile programmes, as well as developing chemical, nuclear, and biological warheads for those missiles, the need for effective defences has increased."

The NATO official said the Western alliance planned to spend roughly 650 million euros on the project. The decision to launch the program, which will involve all 26 allied members, was made last Friday but only announced Wednesday."

---

## **US STILL CONCERNED ABOUT PAKISTANI NUCLEAR BLACK MARKET**

---



*March 18, 2005* Voice of America News reported: "The United States says it wants more information about the nuclear black-market activities of detained Pakistani scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice discussed the proliferation issue with Pakistani leaders as part of wide-ranging discussion.

Secretary of State Rice says she told Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf and other top leaders that Washington is committed to completely eliminate any remnants of the A.Q. Khan nuclear black market.

"We all have an interest in knowing what happened, that we all have an interest in making sure that this network does not continue to operate in any way. And perhaps most importantly, we all have an interest in knowing how it happened, so we can safeguard against this kind of black market entrepreneurship in the future," she said.

Described as the father of Pakistan's atomic bomb, Mr. Khan has confessed to illegally selling nuclear technology to several foreign countries, including Iran. The Pakistani scientist is currently under house arrest and is being questioned by authorities, but few details of the interrogation have been made public.

For the first time last week, senior Pakistani official admitted Mr. Khan gave Iran centrifuges, which could be used for making fuel for nuclear weapons.

Ms. Rice said the Khan network represent a threat to the entire world, and said everything possible must be done to uproot any illegal nuclear proliferation. "It is a network that we want to make certain that its tentacles are broken up as well, and so we have cooperation with other countries on that front," she added..."