



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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1st STRIKE ON IRAN 'GAINING TRACTION'

May 4, 2005 WorldNetDaily reported: "With Tehran announcing it will shortly resume some nuclear activities in spite of ongoing negotiations with European countries, a private report that was issued to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon urging an American or Israeli pre-emptive strike against Iran has been gaining some steam here.

"Iran is determined to pursue all legal areas of nuclear technology, including (uranium) enrichment, exclusively for peaceful purposes," Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi told a United Nations conference yesterday. He was the fourth Iranian official to make such remarks the past few days.

An EU negotiation team represented by Germany, France and the UK, which has been seeking guarantees Iran will not use its nuclear program to develop weapons, said if Tehran follows through with the threat to enrich uranium it could refer the country to the U.N. Security Council for punitive action.

Reports continue to stream in that Iran – with the assistance of Russia – has been moving ahead with its nuclear program. Several reactors with advanced production capabilities have been built, and Russia has been contemplating providing Tehran with rods that are able to enrich uranium, a deal that was first reported last September. Russia also recently trained a group of senior Iranian nuclear scientists and has installed a mobile anti-missile system to protect Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor, with similar systems allegedly in the works for other Iranian nuclear facilities, including a facility in central Iran.

Top Iranian officials have repeatedly warned they would use nuclear missiles to threaten the Jewish state. Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei has many times stated he would "vaporize the Zionist entity" if Iran obtained a nuclear bomb.

In response to the growing Iranian threat, a panel of foreign policy and military experts delivered to Sharon last year a series of recommendations entitled "Project Daniel: Israel's Strategic Future," regarding Israeli pre-emptive action. The authors of the plan, first reported by Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin, a premium online intelligence newsletter, told WorldNetDaily this week their report has been gaining traction in certain high-level military circles.

"Decision-makers at the very highest levels of government in Jerusalem and Washington as well as NATO have been briefed on Project Daniel. Sharon last month carried our urgent message directly to President Bush," said Dr. Louis Rene Beres, Project Daniel chair and a professor of international law at Purdue University whose books and articles are routinely considered by military officials.

Project Daniel recommends that with Tehran now developing the infrastructure that could allow the country to go nuclear, the United States or Israel should strike pre-emptively against Iran's nuclear installations if the diplomatic track fails.

"The group suggests strongly and unequivocally that conventional Israeli pre-emption against selected enemy nuclear infrastructures now in development be executed as early as possible and – wherever possible – in collaboration with the United States. Where America may be unable or unwilling to act proactively against these infrastructures, it is essential that Israel be able and willing to act alone," says the report..."

S.KOREA SAYS AT 'CRITICAL MOMENT' ON N.KOREA CRISIS

May 4, 2005 Reuter's reported: "South Korea believes diplomatic efforts to have North Korea end its nuclear programs are at a "critical moment," and that patience with Pyongyang is wearing thin, a top official said on Wednesday. The North is suspected of having conducted a test of a short-range missile on Sunday, and U.S. officials have recently indicated Pyongyang may be preparing for a nuclear test.

"We are at a critical moment in the process of trying to resolve this situation peacefully and diplomatically," Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon said at a regular press briefing. "The recent developments are grounds for serious concern as they continue to unfold," Ban said, adding: "The outlook for the resumption of the talks is not all that bright."..."



PIONEERING STEM-CELL SURGERY RESTORE SIGHT

May 2, 2005 TimesOnline.co.uk reported: "A PIONEERING form of surgery has been developed that can restore the sight of patients by using stem cells to encourage damaged eyes to repair themselves. A team of British specialists has successfully treated more than a dozen patients with impaired corneas by transplanting human stem cells grown in a laboratory on to their eyes. Recent operations on ten patients showed that the technique restored sight in seven cases of people who had been blinded after

getting acid, alkali and boiling metal in their eyes, or because of congenital disorders. Many of the patients treated at the Centre for Sight, Queen Victoria Hospital, in East Grinstead, West Sussex, had been told that they had no hope of getting their sight back, or had already undergone failed corneal transplants.

The process involves taking stem cells, which occur naturally in the eye, and developing them into sheets of cells in the laboratory. These are transplanted on to the surface of the eye where they are held in place by an amniotic membrane, which dissolves away as the sheet fuses to the eye.

Sheraz Daya, an ophthalmic surgeon leading the Sussex team, which has spent five years perfecting the technique, said that doctors had been astonished at how the cells appeared to trigger the eye's natural regeneration of its damaged surface. Tests on the patients after a year revealed no trace of the DNA of the stem-cell donor, meaning that the repair was carried out by the eye's own cells — a permanent healing process that does not require long-term use of powerful drugs to suppress the patient's immune system.

Mr Daya said: "The technique not only works, but there was no donor tissue there. That is what really blew our minds. The cells appeared to have been shed from the eye and replaced by the patient's own, much more hardy, cells."...

CAREFUL HOW YOU MONKEY WITH DNA



May 2, 2005 Wired.com reported: "The laboratory creation of chimeras -- animals with mixed-species heritage -- has become so advanced that scientists have drawn up regulations to prevent the production of creatures that blur the line between animal and human. The National Academies, a body chartered by Congress to advise the government and the public on science and technology, last week outlined guidelines for scientists who want to work with certain types of chimeras.

Animals implanted with human cells, scientists say, may reveal the secrets of primordial human development and lead to novel medical treatments. But some projects, particularly those involving human embryonic stem cells, raise remote but worrisome scenarios.

Embryonic stem cells have the ability to differentiate into any type of cell in the human body.

Incorporating these highly morphological cells into an animal embryo or brain opens up amazing scientific possibilities and unthinkable ethical quandaries, such as a human brain trapped in a mouse's body, or a human baby with mice for parents.

The guidelines, which are voluntary, say scientists should never implant human embryonic stem cells into non-human primates, such as chimpanzees. They urge caution for similar experiments in other species. They also say that no matter what species, chimeras carrying human embryonic stem cells should never reproduce. If they did, it would present the remote possibility of a human conception resulting from an animal producing human eggs mating with an animal bearing human sperm.

Researchers should also prevent human embryonic stem cells from populating the majority of an animal's brain. It's unlikely, but possible, that the scenario could lead to a human trapped in an animal's body..."

AYATOLLAH WARNS U.S. NEEDS PUNCH IN MOUTH

May 2, 2005 WorldNetDaily reported: "The spiritual leader of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, is warning the U.S. to stay out of his country's business – and, in particular, its nuclear program, which is set to resume this week. Speaking on a tour of southeast Iran, Khamenei called the U.S. "arrogant," "rude" and said the country "deserved a punch in the mouth." He also said Iran's presidential elections in June would not make any difference to its nuclear policy. Khamenei said it was not up to the U.S. to decide which countries needed nuclear technology. Iran announced yesterday it is likely to resume uranium enrichment-related activities next week, following a breakdown in negotiations between the Shiite regime and the European Union..."

NORTH KOREA CAPABLE OF FIRING NUCLEAR-ARMED MISSILE AT US

April 29, 2005 SpaceWar.com reported: "North Korea has the capability of mounting a nuclear warhead on its missiles that could hit the United States, a senior US defense official said Thursday. Vice Admiral Lowell Jacoby, the head of the Defense Intelligence Agency, gave the assessment during a Congressional hearing.

Asked by Senator Hillary Clinton whether North Korea had the ability to arm a missile with a nuclear device, Jacoby said: "The assessment is that they have the capability to do that, yes, ma'am." He said that North Korea also had the ability to deploy a two-stage intercontinental missile that could successfully hit US territory. "Assessed to be within their capacity, yes," Jacoby told Clinton during the hearing on the defense intelligence budget of the US Senate Armed Services Committee.

North Korea said this month it had shut down its nuclear power plant at Yongbyon and was preparing to reprocess the plant's spent fuel, a move that could result in the production of enough plutonium to build up to six more nuclear bombs.

Reports quoting a US official said last week that the United States believed North Korea was planning to test a nuclear weapon and has asked China to intervene..."

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