



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 18 2005

CONGRESS MULLS U.S. EMBARGO ON SAUDIS

June 16, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "The Senate has begun to examine legislation that could halt U.S. arms sale to Saudi Arabia.

Sen. Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, has introduced the Saudi Arabia Accountability Act of 2005 into the Senate. The co-sponsors of the bill, designated Senate bill 1171, are Senators Evan Bayh, Susan Collins, Russ Feingold, Tim Johnson, Patty Murray and Ron Wyden.

The legislation, introduced on June 7, establishes sanctions for Saudi Arabia unless the kingdom complies with United Nations Security Council resolution 1373, which calls on states to deny haven to terrorist financiers and planners. The bill asserts that Riyadh has failed to arrest Saudi nationals deemed to have funded terrorism.

The proposed sanctions against Saudi Arabia include a ban on the export of advanced U.S. weaponry and technology to Riyadh. Saudi Arabia has been the leading importer of U.S. weaponry although orders by the kingdom dropped significantly since 2001, when it bought \$2.7 billion worth of air-to-air missiles missiles and aircraft systems. Riyadh has been negotiating with the United States for the purchase of Black Hawk multi-role helicopters..."

WORLD FIRST: BRAIN CELLS GROWN IN LABORATORY

June 14, 2005 Independent.co.uk reported: "Scientists have grown fully mature brain cells in a laboratory for the first time, using a technique that mimics the natural process of brain regeneration.

It promises to open the door to new ways of treating and possibly curing debilitating brain diseases such as Parkinson's, epilepsy, and Alzheimer's. The scientists said they were able to produce virtually unlimited quantities of brain cells, which could revolutionize transplant medicine as well as leading to new drugs to stimulate the regrowth of damaged nerves.



Bjorn Scheffler, a neuroscientist at Florida University who made the breakthrough, said the procedure involved mimicking the natural process through which key stem cells in the brain orchestrate partial regeneration of the brain. 'Our study shows for the first time the entire process that goes on in our brain for life. We can, in a dish, recapture the process in front of our eyes,' Dr. Scheffler said.

It was not the first time that scientists have shown stem cells can be manipulated in the lab to produce mature brain cells, he added. 'But nobody has been capable of replicating the process from the very first step to the very last step - it's unique to get the whole process happening before your eyes.'...

Professor Dennis Steindler, who led the Florida research team, said the strength of the technique lay in its ability to identify vital stem cells that have the power to grow into adult brain cells. 'We've isolated for the first time what appears to be the true candidate stem cell,' Professor Steindler said. 'There have been other candidates but, in this case, we used a special microscope that allows us to watch living cells over long periods of time.'

'So we've actually witnessed the stem cell give rise to new neurons. We've watched it under a living microscope generate brand new neurons.'

'For many years, different groups - including mine - have claimed we're getting close to identifying the true stem cell progenitor, characterizing it and watching its magic.'

'What we've learnt from the 50 years of research into bone marrow and blood stem cells is to be extremely careful in

claiming we've got the mother of all stem cells in adult brain tissue,' he said..."

BRITAIN WAITS TO 2006 UNTIL HANDOVER START

June 11, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "Britain has decided to wait until 2006 until its military begins to relay security responsibility to Iraq.

British officials (said) the military has assessed that the Iraq Army was incapable of assuming security responsibility for southern Iraq. They said an assessment completed by the Defense Ministry cited rampant Iraqi absenteeism, poor discipline and inability to coordinate counter-insurgency missions.

Security responsibility in Basra and the surrounding area of southern Iraq have been under the responsibility of about 25,000 British troops. Officials said security in Basra has surpassed that of Baghdad, under U.S. Army responsibility.

In May, British officials completed a tour of Iraq Army and police facilities and training courses. Later, officials said Iraqi authorities did not have sufficient number of trained and equipped troops to enable a handover of security responsibility..."

N KOREA 'IS BUILDING MORE BOMBS'



June 9, 2005 BBC News reported: "North Korea is boosting its arsenal of nuclear weapons, the communist state's Vice-Foreign Minister, Kim Gye-gwan, has told the US ABC News network.

He said North Korea had enough atomic bombs to protect itself against attack by the US and was building more. He refused to say whether North Korean missiles could reach the US.

US President George Bush has meanwhile said Pyongyang must show it is ready to give up its nuclear weapons programme in a "serious and substantive" way.

Mr Kim told ABC News that North Korea had "enough nuclear bombs to defend against a US attack".

Asked whether North Korea had the technology to attach nuclear warheads to its long-distance missiles, he responded: "I want you to know that our scientists have the knowledge, comparable to other scientists around the world."..."

U.S.-TURKISH STRATEGIC TIES END

June 12, 2005 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Turkey and the United States were said to have ended their strategic relations. A leading Turkish strategist asserted that strategic relations between Ankara and Washington gradually eroded over the last two years. As a result, the strategist, Kemal Koprulu, chairman of the Ari Movement, said the Bush administration has downgraded the U.S.-Turkish relationship and transferred responsibility from the Defense Department to the State Department.

On June 8, President George Bush met Prime Minister Recep Erdogan in the White House in a discussion meant to improve relations between Ankara and Washington. White House spokesman Scott McClellan, providing no details, said Bush and Erdogan had aimed to reinvigorate the strategic relationship. Over the last month, Turkey has agreed to expand U.S. Air Force use of the Incirlik air base and train Iraqi military officers.

In April 2005, the Ari Movement, which promotes Turkish-U.S. relations, sent a delegation to Washington to meet senior U.S. officials. The delegation met representatives of the National Security Council, State Department and Congress and discussed bilateral relations as well as the prospect of a revival in strategic cooperation between Ankara and Washington..."