



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JULY 30 2005

U.S. SUSPENDS TRAVEL FOR SOLDIERS IN SAUDI

July 28, 2005 Middle East Newsline reported: "U.S. Central Command has suspended non-essential travel for American soldiers based in Saudi Arabia.

Officials said the decision was taken amid information that Al Qaida has planned an attack in the Saudi kingdom. They said Al Qaida has sought to target Westerners, particularly Americans, to demonstrate that the movement remained a threat amid Saudi counter-insurgency efforts.

"The American Embassy in Riyadh advises all American citizens living in Saudi Arabia that, in response to continued indications of operational planning for a terrorist attack or attacks in the kingdom, U.S. military personnel stationed in Saudi Arabia have been instructed to suspend all non-duty related leisure travel outside of their work or housing stations," a July 25 warden message by the U.S. embassy said.

On Tuesday, the Interior Ministry reported the capture of four Al Qaida operatives in Medina..."

THE RISE OF A JIHADI SUICIDE CULTURE

July 25, 2005 Christian Science Monitor reported: "Sharm el-Sheikh. London. Casablanca. The men who carried out the terrorist bombings in each of these cities came from dramatically different backgrounds.

In London, the attackers were lower middle-class Britons. In Casablanca in 2003, they were all from one of the city's poor neighborhoods. And in Sharm el-Sheikh Saturday - although the investigation into the deadliest terror attack in Egyptian history is just getting under way - local officials say there are indications the attackers have links to an attack here last October carried out by a cell of working-class Egyptians.

While some counterterrorism experts say evidence may eventually link all of these attacks to the core of Al Qaeda's leadership suspected of hiding along the Pakistan-Afghan border, the diverse backgrounds of the presumed attackers underscore a shift: The culture of Islamist suicide bombers is becoming more commonplace, as is the defining of civilians as "enemies."

Even in the wave of Islamist terror attacks that destabilized Egypt for much of the 1990s, suicide bombers weren't used. Now the country has seen two major attacks of this kind in eight months, with the latest death toll now at least 88.

What concerns counterterrorism experts is that tactics that once prompted fierce ideological debates within radical circles - suicide and attacks on civilians are both classically defined in Islam as sins - are now more likely to be embraced by young men. A decade or two ago, Muslim males might have been willing to take up a rifle and risk death fighting against the Soviets in the mountains of Afghanistan, but many would have balked at making the ultimate sacrifice or at blowing up civilians in a Moscow train station.

While the attacks on London and Egypt in recent days have dominated the headlines, Iraq appears to be playing a central role - in shifting views and as ground zero in a new wave in of suicide attacks.

"You can probably average it out to about one a day almost," says M.J. Gohel, a terrorism researcher at the Asia Pacific Foundation in London. (In June, the peak month in June 2004, there were 18 suicide bombings. This June, there were 30). "They're using them like confetti for what are frequently minor attacks, and what this shows is they have a virtually endless supply [of bombers] at this point. In the old days, suicide bombing was a rare event."

The tactical logic of the suicide bomber hasn't changed: He's difficult to stop, and equalizes the power differential between the militarily weak and the strong. But it appears, say some analysts, to have developed a momentum of its own. As it has become more common among the circles of supporters of the global jihad, taboos have been broken down creating a greater willingness among young men to take their own lives, which in turn feeds the cycle.

The Shiite group Hizbullah, which pioneered modern suicide bombings against Israel during its occupation of Lebanon, used the tactic fewer than 40 times. Palestinian militants, who adopted the tactic from Hizbullah, used suicide attackers 100 times in the 10 years until the end of 2002. Since, there have been 35 suicide attacks. And in Iraq, where suicide terrorism was virtually unknown before the US invasion, there have been 188 suicide bombings since August 2003, according to the Brookings Institute Iraq Index (although some research puts the tally as high as 400.) That compares to 315 total suicide attacks carried out worldwide between 1980 and 2003, according to data compiled by University of Chicago professor Robert Pape in his book "Dying to Win."..."



JAPAN TO BRING FORWARD MISSILE DEFENSE SHIELD TO 2006

July 25, 2005 SpaceWar.com (& AFP) reported: "Japan wants to put a missile shield it is developing with the United States in place in early 2006, one year earlier than planned, due to threats from North Korea and China, a report said Saturday. The move reflects the government's decision that a missile defense system is needed as soon as possible because of the growing threat posed by North Korean and Chinese ballistic missiles, the Yomiuri Shimbun said.

The launch of the system would coincide with the timing of the revised Self-Defense Law, the mass-circulation daily said, citing government sources. Japan's parliament enacted the law Friday to let the defense chief order the interception of a missile without prior cabinet permission in a crisis.

It is yet to be officially announced when the revised law would come into force but the defense agency wants to put it into effect in March 2006, the Yomiuri said.

North Korea provoked an international outcry in 1998 by test-firing a Taepodong-1 missile over Japan. The communist state is also believed to have deployed around 200 Rodong missiles with a range of about 1,300 kilometers (800 miles), meaning Japan could be hit by them, the Yomiuri said..."

CHINA PLAYS DOWN WARNING IT COULD USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS AGAINST US

July 22, 2005 SpaceWar.com (& AFP) reported: "China on Thursday distanced itself from reported comments by a general last week that Beijing could use nuclear weapons to retaliate against the United States if it attacked over Taiwan. Foreign Minister Li Zhaoxing said China would not be the first to use nuclear weapons "at any time and under any condition," the official Xinhua news agency said.

"China has consistently observed the commitment since its first nuclear test in 1964," Xinhua reported, quoting Li as saying such a stance "will not be changed in the future."

The rebuttal followed comments reported Friday by a professor at China's National Defence University, saying China could use nuclear weapons to retaliate against the United States if it attacked in any conflict over Taiwan.

"If the Americans draw their missiles and position-guided ammunition on to the target zone on China's territory, I think we will have to respond with nuclear weapons," General Zhu Chenghu was quoted as saying. The comments were reported in the Financial Times and the Asian Wall Street Journal, which attended a briefing with the general organised by a private Hong Kong organisation, the Better Hong Kong Foundation.

"If the Americans are determined to interfere (then) we will be determined to respond," said Zhu. Xinhua quoted Li as saying the general was speaking in a personal capacity and was not representing the Chinese government's position.

The United States responded to the general's statement by saying the remarks were "unfortunate" and hoped they did not reflect the views of the Chinese government..."

NEW SUPERBUG OUTBREAK SWEEPS SOUTHERN ENGLAND

July 21, 2005 The Independent.co.uk reported: "An outbreak of a superbug resistant to antibiotics has infected more than 1,000 people and caused dozens of deaths. The bug, which can lead to blood poisoning, is spreading in southern England and is more serious than *Clostridium difficile*, which hit the headlines last month after a virulent strain infected 15 hospitals.

The new superbug, an antibiotic-resistant strain of *E. coli*, put 357 people in the hospital in the Southampton area in 2004, half of all those infected, and caused 29 deaths. It is still spreading through the community and attempts to control it have so far failed.

Details of the outbreak are contained in the annual report of Sir Liam Donaldson, the chief medical officer published yesterday. The disclosure comes in the wake of growing concern of the hospital-acquired infections MRSA (methicilin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*) and *C. difficile*, which has caused many deaths throughout the NHS.

Last month, Patricia Hewitt, the Secretary of State for Health, ordered an inquiry into an outbreak of *C. difficile* at Stoke Mandeville Hospital at Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, that has infected 300 patients and 12 deaths since 2003.

Unlike MRSA and *C. difficile*, the *E. coli* bug is concentrated in people living in the community. Difficulties in containing the outbreak have been compounded by laboratories that have used inadequate methods to identify the infection...

Most of those affected are elderly or have chronic diseases and weakened immune systems. In almost nine out of 10 cases, the bug causes a urinary infection, with one in 20 causing blood infections..."

