



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 27 2005

EU-IRAN NUCLEAR ROW WORSENS

August 24, 2005 EUobserver.com reported: "The EU has cancelled the next round of Iran talks as tensions rise over uranium enrichment, despite Tehran scoring a moral victory in a new weapons inspectors' report.

"There will be no talks on 31 August, because the Iranians decided to suspend the Paris accord", French foreign ministry spokesman Jean-Baptiste Mattei told European media on Tuesday (23 August). Other diplomatic contact with Tehran will continue as normal however, he added.

France, Germany and the UK – the EU 3 – signed a deal with Iran in Paris last November under which Tehran agreed to halt enrichment while negotiations continue. But Iran rejected the EU's trade-based proposal earlier this month and resumed enrichment at its plant in Isfahan, claiming a right to nuclear energy under international law.

Tehran is reportedly also considering restarting enrichment at a more sensitive underground facility in Natanz. "In Geneva we told the three European ministers clearly that if Europe's proposal did not contain Iran's right to uranium enrichment it would be rejected and Isfahan would be restarted", Iran's nuclear negotiator Hossein Moussavian said...

ISRAEL COMPLETES EVACUATION OF GAZA UNDER FIRE

August 24, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: "Israel has completed the evacuation of the Gaza Strip under Palestinian fire and has sent the military and police to evict Jewish residents of the northern West Bank. The military said the five-day eviction of about 16,000 residents took place under Palestinian fire. The military said nobody was killed in the Palestinian attacks.

"During the evacuation Palestinian gunmen opened fire at IDF positions and Israeli communities on 18 separate occasions, lightly wounding two IDF soldiers," a military statement said. "Furthermore, Palestinians launched two Kassam rockets and fired 10 mortar shells. Two explosive devices were uncovered and neutralized, in addition to an explosive belt that was uncovered in the Mouassi region, that was intended to be used in a terror attack in Gush Katif."

On Monday, the military evacuated the last Jewish community of the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers and police removed several hundred people from Netsarim, located near Gaza City in the central Gaza Strip. There was no confrontation between the 64 families and authorities..."

WHO SPEEDING UP FLU PANDEMIC PREPARATIONS

August 25, 2005 VOA News reported: "The World Health Organization (WHO) is urging countries to prepare for a bird flu pandemic with the potential to kill millions of people worldwide if the disease mutates. The U.N. health agency is urging countries to stockpile antiviral drugs and take other steps to prepare for the worst.

WHO Director-General Lee Jong-wook says the longer the current bird flu virus strain, known as H5N1, continues to circulate, the greater the risk that the virus will become easily transmittable between humans and trigger a pandemic. "It will be hugely irresponsible if WHO and the member states do not take preventive preparations against this potential pandemic now," he said. "Because of the huge sufferings and deaths and cost and so on that we must do it. We do not know when this will come. I hope that this will not hit us. I do not want to be right."



Dr. Lee says WHO is building a stockpile of antiviral drugs for rapid response were a pandemic to start. He says this is an important part of WHO's work, to prepare for, detect and mitigate the impact of a potential flu pandemic.

Wednesday, Swiss Pharmaceutical company, Roche, contributed to the stockpile with a donation of 30 million capsules of the antiviral Oseltamivir. The drug is one of the only treatments available for humans who contract the disease. Dr. Lee says antiviral drugs from the stockpile will be sent to people in greatest need at the site of an emerging influenza pandemic. He says this antiviral stockpile could especially help people in poorer countries.

The World Health Organization chief calls the stockpile of drugs just a first step. He says it does not replace the urgent need for countries to develop their own pandemic preparedness plans. He says coordinated and effective action by all nations can lower the death toll and reduce the suffering and social disruption a pandemic would otherwise cause.

Since the bird flu began spreading around Asia several years ago, 112 human cases of bird flu have been reported, including 57 deaths in Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand and Indonesia. New outbreaks have recently been confirmed in birds in Kazakhstan, Mongolia and the Russian Federation, sparking renewed fears the disease could evolve into a global influenza pandemic if the bird flu virus changes into a form that spreads easily among people.”

SALAFISTS CALL FOR STRIKES IN EUROPE

August 25, 2005 Middle East Newline reported: “For the first time, a leading Al Qaida-aligned group has called for Islamic attacks in Europe. The Salafist Brigade for Combat and Call has called on Muslims to strike targets in France. The brigade is an Algerian-based group that has expanded operations in North Africa and Europe.

The Salafist group called on "Muslim brothers in France" to track and ambush senior officials in France. The group designated French officials in the field of politics, military and economy as targets.

"Our real enemies aren't only the military rulers, but also numerous civilians known for their allegiance to French leaders," the Salafist Brigade said in a statement posted on an Al Qaida-aligned website. "Support your brothers in Algeria by tracking these criminals in France."

KIM JONG-IL GAVE SWISS WATCHES WHILE MASSES STARVED



August 25, 2005 WorldTribune.com reported: “North Korea imported \$24 million worth of Swiss watches from 1995 to 2004 — a time when hundreds of thousands of North Koreans were starving to death. The impoverished communist country bought watches from Switzerland, worth \$4.5 million in 1998 and 1999 when it was facing the worst food shortage in the wake of natural disasters, Radio Free Asia said, citing information provided by the Federation of the Swiss Watch Industry.

Kim Jong-Il has reportedly also used Switzerland for money laundering while sending family members and close aides to the European country for education and medical treatment. Seoul's intelligence agency estimates Kim's wealth at \$4 billion, part of which is deposited in Swiss bank accounts. All of Kim's three sons — Jong-Nam, Jong-Chol and Jong-Un, have studied in Bern, Switzerland, it said.

"North Korea seems to be interested in only one item from Switzerland and it is [the] watch," Swiss Federal Economic Affairs Department spokesman Christophe Hans was quoted as saying. Notably in 1997,

North Korea imported only one Swiss watch, but it cost about \$18,000.

North Korea also purchased luxury goods from Germany, spending \$12 million on furniture, jewelry, sports goods, games and toys from 2000 to 2004, the RFA said, citing data released by the German Federal Statistical Office.

Seoul's intelligence officials said the Swiss watches and other luxury items were mostly used for North Korea's "Dear leader" Kim Jong-Il as gifts to aides considered loyal...”

DEADLY TSUNAMI REACHED AROUND THE GLOBE

August 25, 2005 The Associated Press reported: “Last year's Sumatra tsunami focused its death and destruction on the lands around the Indian Ocean, but the great wave traveled around the world and was recorded as far away as Peru and northeastern Canada. The wave rose a massive 30 feet as it destroyed communities around the Indian Ocean.

Tide gauges worldwide recorded its arrival from hours to a day after its Dec. 26 start, and movement of the wave was also tracked by satellite, according to a study appearing Thursday in Science Express, the online edition of the journal Science. A research team led by Vasily Titov of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle reported that the wave moved in a complex pattern as it circled the globe, guided by ocean floor ridges that helped focus its energy in particular places. The wave traveled several times around the globe before it finally dissipated, Titov reported....”

Wave heights recorded at Callao, Peru, 11,400 miles east of the epicenter of the quake that caused the wave, and at Halifax, Nova Scotia, 14,400 miles west, were higher than at the Cocos Islands, located just over 1,000 miles south of the quake, the team noted. The unusually high waves so far from the quake site result from two factors, the main east-west direction of the wave's energy and the focusing mechanism of the deep-sea ridges, Titov's team reported.

Tsunami wave heights along the East Coast of the United States are less exact because a storm passing along the coast also induced oscillations in the water. Tsunami height estimates included 9 inches at Atlantic City, N.J., 14 inches at Trident Pier, N.J. and 3 inches at Magueyes Island, Puerto Rico.”