



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## U.S. DETERMINES IRAN DEVELOPS NUKE WEAPONS

*September 22, 2005* The Middle East Newsline reported: "The United States has determined that Iran seeks to assemble nuclear weapons. A State Department report said Iran has been conducting activities that point to a nuclear weapons program. The report, released on Aug. 30, said that as early as 1993 the United States determined that Iran was interested in developing nuclear weapons and related technology.

As a result, Washington has determined that Iran was in the early stages of developing a nuclear weapons program, with an emphasis on acquiring centrifuge technology. In 1968, Iran signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

"Based on the totality of the available information, the United States assesses that Iran is pursuing a program to develop nuclear weapons," the report said. "Aspects of this activity are in violation of Iran's NPT commitments."

## NORTH KOREA SAYS US USING TALKS AS PRETEXT FOR ATTACK

*September 21, 2005* Reuters reported: "North Korea accused the United States on Wednesday of using diplomatic talks to try and take away its nuclear arms so that Washington could crush the reclusive state with an atomic weapons strike. The statement follows another by North Korea on Tuesday which threw into doubt a six-country deal on giving up its nuclear arms, just one day after it was struck. In that statement the North vowed to keep the weapons until Washington provides it with civilian atomic reactors.

In a commentary on Wednesday in its official communist party newspaper, Pyongyang said Washington is waiting for a chance to attack it. "Clear is the ulterior intention of the U.S. talking about settlement of the nuclear issue through dialogue under the pretext of the six-party talks. In a word, it is to disarm the DPRK and stifle it with nuke," the paper said, according to a report carried on the official KCNA news agency. DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The commentary said the North "will steadily strengthen its war deterrent to defend national sovereignty and security with supreme vigilance".

The six countries agreed to a set of principles on Monday on winding up Pyongyang's nuclear programs in return for economic aid and recognizing its right to a civilian nuclear program. The six agreed to discuss providing a light-water reactor "at an appropriate time". Washington pledged not to attack the North.

Washington has insisted that North Korea must completely, irreversibly and verifiably end its nuclear programs before consideration of a civilian nuclear program could begin.

North Korea has often said it was forced to develop nuclear weapons to counter what it saw as Washington's hostile policy toward it and has charged many times that Washington was going to attack it..."

## 'JUDGE DREDD' POWERS FOR POLICE URGED



*September 22, 2005* The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Britain's top police officer was accused last night of paving the way for "Judge Dredd law" by proposing that officers should be allowed to by-pass the courts and confiscate driving licences, seize vehicles and issue anti-social behaviour orders on the spot.

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Ian Blair said "modernisation" of the force should be carried forward by introducing "an escalator of powers" for the dispensing of instant justice.

"One idea is to have some police officers - paid more and with more powers - to impose an interim anti-social behaviour order, for instance, or suspend a driving licence," he said. This would have an immediate effect rather than waiting for intervention by the courts, Sir Ian suggested. He acknowledged that giving police powers currently exercised only by the courts would be controversial but could be seen as legitimate if they were used by properly trained constables.

"There is something here about making justice more immediately apparent, not only to the offender but also to the society that the offender is irritating," Sir Ian said.

However, Shami Chakrabarti, the director of the human rights group Liberty, said Sir Ian was behaving like Judge Dredd, the post-apocalyptic comic book law enforcer whose catchphrase is "I am the law". She added: "This is more like summary justice which has no place in a democracy. He's supposed to be the Met Commissioner, not Judge Dredd. Sir Ian should concentrate on the difficult job of running the Metropolitan Police rather than working on political speeches arguing for ever more draconian laws..."

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## **BLOW TO TEXAS' ECONOMY COULD CRIPPLE NATION**

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*September 22, 2005* The Dallas Morning News reported: "Across Texas' Gulf coast, businesses scrambled Wednesday to prepare for Hurricane Rita, shutting down operations and relocating employees and equipment to safe ground.

The stakes for the U.S. economy are huge, largely because of the concentration of the nation's energy infrastructure around Houston, the Gulf Coast's most populous and commercial city. Idling that region's economy would ripple across the country, spiking prices not only for gasoline, but for lumber, cement and a host of agricultural products.

"If Rita does to Houston what Katrina did to the Gulf Coast, that would probably be too much for the U.S. economy," said Economy.com's chief economist, Mark Zandi. "At that point we'd have some very serious problems."

With a \$250 billion economy Houston represent 2 percent of national economic activity—three times that of New Orleans. Southeast Texas is also home to 20 percent of U.S. refining capacity.

Rita, a Category 5 storm, is set to make landfall this weekend. With memories still fresh of the devastation from Hurricane Katrina, the Greater Houston economy began shutting down in earnest..."

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## **RIPE CROPS LANGUISH IN THE FIELDS**

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*September 18, 2005* The San Francisco Chronicle reported: "It's the middle of harvest season for California raisin grapes, and only half of the farmworkers needed are in the fields.

What holds for raisin grapes is happening widely in California agriculture. In the Central Valley alone, there is a shortage of from 70,000 to 80,000 workers to bring fresh fruits, nuts and vegetables to market, according to an estimate by the trade association Western Growers.

Some growers are planting fewer acres than normal as they scramble to save the season. Western Growers is worried that the lack of workers -- mostly immigrants from Mexico and Central America -- could cause \$1 billion in losses to California agriculture this year.

Manuel Cunha Jr., president of Nisei Farmers League in Fresno, is getting 50 calls a day from growers asking where the workers are. It's a disaster," Cunha said. "We have an immigration program that is broken."

Many of the farmworkers who year after year make the trip from their homelands to California, doing the work Americans shun, have found their own ladders of success to climb. They're taking better-paying jobs in construction and landscaping in the booming Central Valley communities where they once picked a cornucopia of crops. Construction alone may be taking 40 percent of the available workforce, growers estimate.

Farmworker numbers are fewer, too, because of increased border protection in the post-Sept. 11 climate, both from the authorities and private citizens who deputize themselves to try to stanch illegal immigration..."



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## **IRAQ DEPLETES DEFENSE PROCUREMENT FUNDS**

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*September 21, 2005* The Middle East Newslite reported: "Amid widespread corruption, Iraq has depleted its defense procurement budget in a move that torpedoed plans to end the military's dependence on the United States.

An official Iraqi audit said \$1.27 billion allocated by the Defense Ministry for military procurement in 2005 was embezzled by officials and suppliers. In a report completed in May, the Board of Supreme Audit blamed the theft on U.S.-appointed senior Defense Ministry officials, including a former defense minister.

"There have been many violations of the bidding process that have led to huge losses of public funds," Hadi Al Amiri, chairman of parliament's Integrity Committee, said. "Many bids were improperly conducted and awarded by ministers without any input from committees established to assess the bids,"

Citing the audit, Al Amiri told parliament on Sept. 18 that incompetent officials were given responsibility for supervising defense projects and procuring weapons and other equipment. He said that despite the audit little has changed in the procurement process..."

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