



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## RUSSIA JOINS US IN CONDEMNING IRAN'S NUCLEAR WORK

*January 11, 2006* The Voice of America reported: "Russia says it shares with the United States a sense of "deep disappointment" over Iran's decision to resume nuclear fuel research. The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the Iranian situation Wednesday, following discussions by telephone on Tuesday between Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

European officials also have criticized Iran's announcement that it removed U.N. seals and resumed work at one of its nuclear sites. British, French and German officials are to meet this week about asking the the U.N. Security Council to impose sanctions on Iran.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the United Nations' nuclear watchdog body, says Iran plans to produce limited amounts of nuclear fuel for research purposes. Iranian officials say their scientific work has resumed, but they have not yet ended a moratorium on nuclear-fuel production.

The United States and its European allies say Iran's ultimate goal is to build nuclear weapons - a charge that Tehran denies."

## US: SECURITY COUNCIL REFERRAL FOR IRAN MORE LIKELY THAN EVER

*January 12, 2006* The Voice of America reported: "The Bush administration said Wednesday the prospect of a U.N. Security Council referral for Iran over its nuclear program is more likely than ever. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice is engaged in telephone diplomacy on the issue following Iran's move this week to resume work at previously-sealed nuclear sites.

Bush administration officials have long expected the Iran nuclear issue to end up in the Security Council, which could impose far-reaching sanctions against Tehran for its non-compliance with nuclear accords.

Officials say that prospect is even more likely now following Iran's decision this week to break internationally-monitored seals on at least three of its nuclear sites to clear the way for renewed uranium enrichment.

State Department Spokesman Sean McCormack told reporters Iran has forced the political confrontation by responding with silence, obfuscation or deception to efforts by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the European Union, and others to ascertain its true nuclear intentions.

"I think we are fast approaching a decision point on what diplomatic next steps the international community is going to be taking. We are in close contact with the EU-Three and others on this issue, and I would only add that it is more likely than ever that Iran is headed to the Security Council concerning their failure to live up to their international obligations," he said.

Spokesman McCormack said the convening of an emergency meeting of the IAEA governing board is an option under discussion among concerned governments..."

## IRAQ BRACES FOR CIVIL WAR

*January 11, 2006* The Middle East Newsline reported: "Less than a month after parliamentary elections, Iraq has begun to brace for civil war. Officials said the resurgence of suicide bombings and other violence could mark the start of a civil war that would pit Sunnis against Shi'ites and Kurds in Iraq. They said the Sunnis have sought to infiltrate and control the nation's security forces to support such an effort

On Jan. 8, the Iraqi Defense Ministry issued a statement that warned of a civil war between the nation's three main ethnic communities. The ministry said the war could be sparked by the current outbreak of terrorism. After a lull of more than a month, Sunni insurgents have launched a wave of suicide bombings, mostly in the Baghdad area. So far, about 250 people have been killed over the last week..."



## UN WARNING OVER TURKEY BIRD FLU

*January 11, 2006* BBC News reported: "Bird flu could become endemic in Turkey and pose a serious risk to neighbouring countries, the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation has warned. Health officer Juan Lubroth said it may be spreading despite controls. More than 300,000 birds have been culled.

The UN's bird flu co-ordinator says Turkey has revealed that the best prevention is through a rapid response to outbreaks and widespread education. Two people have died from the H5N1 strain in Turkey - 13 are in hospital.

The UN's Dr David Nabarro said \$1.4bn was needed to help countries put bird flu programmes in place. He said he hoped it would be pledged at an international donors summit on bird flu to be held in Beijing on 17 and 18 January.

The FAO believes the "highly pathogenic avian influenza virus H5N1 could become endemic in Turkey".

"Far more human and animal exposure to the virus will occur if strict containment does not isolate all known and unknown locations where the virus is currently present," Mr Lubroth added.

The FAO has sent a team to Turkey to help efforts to control the virus. It has warned neighbouring countries such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iraq, Iran and Syria to be on high alert, advising them to apply surveillance and control measures and ensure the public is fully informed about the virus..."

### **IRAN LEADER: ISLAM TO 'RULE THE WORLD'**

*January 10, 2006* WorldNetDaily reported: "Islam must prepare to rule the world, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a crowd of theological students in Iran's holy city of Qom, according to a report.

"We must believe in the fact that Islam is not confined to geographical borders, ethnic groups and nations. It's a universal ideology that leads the world to justice," Ahmadinejad said Jan. 5, according to Mehran Riazaty, a former Iran analyst for the Central Command of the Coalition Forces in Baghdad.

Ahmadinejad, who has drawn global attention recently for his contention the Holocaust was a "myth," said: "We don't shy away from declaring that Islam is ready to rule the world."

Riazaty, in a post on the website *Regime Change Iran*, said the Iranian president emphasized his current theme that the return of the Shiite messiah, the Mahdi, is not far away, and Muslims must prepare for it. According to Shiites, the 12th imam disappeared as a child in the year 941. When he returns, they believe, he will reign on earth for seven years, before bringing about a final judgment and the end of the world.

Ahmadinejad is urging Iranians to prepare for the coming of the Mahdi by turning the country into a mighty and advanced Islamic society and by avoiding the corruption and excesses of the West.

"We must prepare ourselves to rule the world and the only way to do that is to put forth views on the basis of the Expectation of the Return," Ahmadinejad said. "If we work on the basis of the Expectation of the Return [of the Mahdi], all the affairs of our nation will be streamlined and the administration of the country will become easier."

Riazaty pointed out that Iran's speaker of parliament, Mehdi Kahrubi, said Saturday that some people working closely with Ahmadinejad believe the Mahdi probably will return in the next two years, which means Iran needs to start building more hotels..."

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### **HALF OF AMERICANS USE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS: SURVEY**

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*January 12, 2006* Reuters reported: "About half of all U.S. women and 40 percent of U.S. men are currently using or have recently used a prescription drug, according to government statistics published on Thursday.

This "snapshot" of information was based on a survey that found that 54 percent of white non-Hispanic women and 43 percent of white non-Hispanic men had used a prescription drug in the past month, the National Center for Health Statistics said in a statement.

Fewer blacks and Hispanics used prescription drugs, according to the survey, done between 1999 and 2002. Nearly 44 percent of black women and 35 percent of black men reported using prescription drugs and nearly 38 percent of Mexican-American women and nearly 26 percent of Mexican-American men, the survey found."

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### **U.S. MUST GUARD AGAINST IRAQI MILITARY BUILDUP**

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*January 9, 2006* The Middle East Newsline reported: "The Bush administration has been urged to prevent an Iraqi military buildup meant to deter neighboring Iran.

A report by the Washington Institute raised the prospect that Iraq would rebuild its military with T-72 main battle tanks, helicopters and other major platforms supplied by the U.S.-led coalition. The institute said Iraq might resort to its reconstituted Western-based military to promote regime support as well as project deterrence.

"Iraqis are impatient to develop strong armed forces capable of deterring and defeating both domestic insurgents and external aggressors," the report said. "This influx of armored vehicles has delighted the Iraqi military, which could potentially become the central focus in the rebirth of Iraqi national pride."

Entitled "The Three-Way Game: Iran, Iraq and the United States," the report expressed wariness over the prospect of Iranian-Iraqi defense relations. Author Michael Knights envisioned the prospect that Iraq would be caught between Iranian and U.S. influence.