



PROPHETIC TIMES

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KHAMENEI: IRAN WON'T BUCKLE IF PRESSED ON NUCLEAR PROGRAM

January 18, 2006 Haaretz.com reported: "Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday the world could not deflect Iran from its "scientific developments," a reference to mounting pressure over the country's nuclear program.

Britain, France and Germany, which suspect Iran's nuclear scientists could be working on weapons, have drafted a resolution seeking that Iran be referred to the U.N. Security Council, where it could face sanctions.

"The Islamic Republic, based on its principles, without being scared of the fuss created, will continue on its path of scientific developments and the world cannot influence the Iranian nation's will," state television quoted him as saying.

"We are not after nuclear weapons and the West knows this because obtaining nuclear weapons is against the country's political and economic interests and is against Islamic teachings," added Khamenei, who has the last word on all state matters.

Iran says it needs nuclear technology to meet booming demand for electricity. "The International Atomic Energy Agency has accepted that we are now part of the atomic club," the leader said..."

ISRAEL WILL NOT ALLOW IRAN TO OBTAIN WMDs

January 17, 2006 SpaceWar.com reported: "Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert warned Iran on Tuesday that Israel would not let anyone who threatened its existence obtain weapons of mass destruction as officials headed to Moscow for talks over Tehran's nuclear programme. In one of his first forays into foreign policy since taking over from the coma-stricken Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Olmert also said he believed a diplomatic solution was possible before Iran was able to obtain nuclear weapons.

"Israel cannot allow in any way or at any stage someone who has such hostile intentions against us to obtain weapons that could threaten our existence," Olmert said in talks with President Moshe Katsav.

Israel has come to view the Islamic republic as its number one enemy and its fears were heightened when President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in October called for the Jewish state to be "wiped off the map."

Army chief Dan Halutz said the possibility of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons was "the sole existential threat facing the state of Israel."

"I suggest that Israel should not consider that this man is crazy. We must take him seriously," he said in an address at Haifa University.

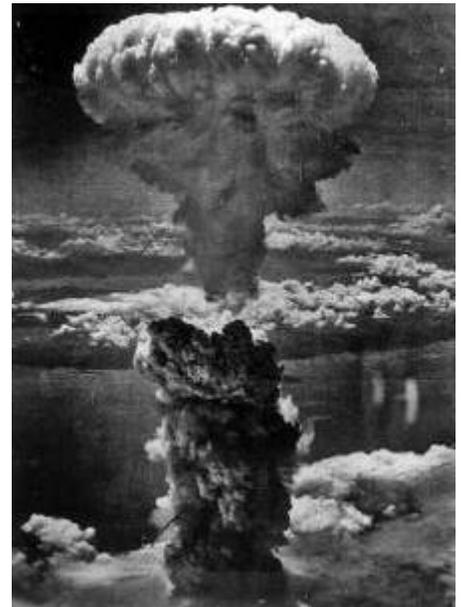
Israel itself is believed to be the only nuclear power in the Middle East, although it has never admitted to having a non-conventional arsenal.

Iran faces the threat of being referred to the UN Security Council for resuming nuclear fuel research work that Israel and the Western powers fear would give the regime the know-how to build a bomb.

Tehran insists such work is legal given it has signed the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and has branded atomic weapons "un-Islamic".

Olmert said concerted international pressure could still bring about a diplomatic solution. "I believe that there is a way to prevent non-conventional weapons coming into the hands of those who pose a danger to the entire world," Olmert said.

Israeli officials have played down the idea of a pre-emptive strike against Iran's nuclear facilities but the outgoing head of military intelligence, Aharon Zeevi, said last month that such a move was "not impossible".



U.S. TROOPS DEPLOY ALONG SYRIAN BORDER

January 16, 2006 The Middle East Newslines reported: "Thousands of U.S. and Iraqi troops have been deployed along the border with Syria in an attempt to halt the flow of Sunni insurgents into Iraq. U.S. officials said that over the last year U.S. Marines and special forces units have been patrolling the 600-kilometer Iraqi-Syrian border. They said the units have been allowed to fire into Syria as part of their effort to stop the influx of Sunni insurgents into Iraq. "The troops are allowed to fire over the border to stop the insurgents from entering Iraq," an official said. "There have not been any directives that would allow ground troops to enter Syria."

Most of the time, Syrian troops refused to respond to U.S. fire, officials said. The exception was in July 2005, when several Syrians

were killed in a battle with U.S. Army Rangers along the border area. Later, Syria relayed a protest to the U.S. embassy in Damascus..."

PALESTINIAN MISSILES COULD REACH 40 KM



January 14, 2006 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Israel has assessed that Palestinian insurgency groups have obtained the technology to extend the range of their missiles to up to 40 kilometers.

Israeli officials said a review by the military and Israel Security Agency asserted that Hamas and Islamic Jihad have acquired technology and expertise from Iran and Hizbullah to extend the Kassam-class missile to 40 kilometers. They said the two groups have already succeeded in extending the range of their missiles to about 14 kilometers.

"Over the last few months, there has been a significant leap in Palestinian rocket development," an official said. "It's safe to say that they have achieved a breakthrough, although we have not seen its full extent yet."

Officials said the increase in Palestinian missile capability was achieved in wake of Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip in September 2005. They said that over the last four months, Hizbullah has sent scores of Palestinians trained in missile and rocket development to the Gaza Strip..."

SCIENTISTS SET TO CREATE HUMAN-RABBIT HYBRID

January 13, 2006 Scotsman.com reported: "British scientists are planning to create human-rabbit hybrid embryos to speed up research into the causes of inherited conditions such as motor neurone disease and Parkinson's. The controversial work, which involves placing the nucleus of a human cell inside a rabbit egg, is rejected as immoral by churches and anti-cloning campaigners. One of the key ethical problems is whether the hybrid embryo should be treated legally as a human or an animal.

Edinburgh University's Professor Ian Wilmut - who created Dolly the Sheep - and colleagues in London believe the hybrids will help them circumvent a shortage of human eggs which is hampering research. The procedure has already been carried out with some success by two groups of scientists in China and Mr Wilmut is preparing to write to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) for permission to test it here.

Professor Wilmut told The Scotsman the results of Chinese research appeared to show that the hybrid embryos could be used to study human diseases. "What we would be doing is using an unusual method to produce a human embryo which could be used to study very unpleasant diseases for which there isn't a treatment," he said yesterday.

"In effect what we'd do is mimic the disease in the young person who, some unknown number of years in the future, would develop the disease. It gives a way to study the development of the disease which you could not do in any other way."

The embryos would only be about 200 cells and would not be allowed to develop for longer than 14 days or be implanted into a woman's womb. However, the Church of Scotland said the proposal violated the distinction between humans, who were "created in God's image", and animals, who were not...

Although made of rabbit-cell material, the embryos would be controlled by human DNA.

Prof Wilmut said he believed a hybrid embryo should be treated as human by the HFEA. Asked about the moral objections of church groups and others, the scientist said: "A critical element in this is to recognise we would only be working at a very early stage with a maximum of 200 cells. I wouldn't think of a human embryo at that stage as being a person."

His colleague, Professor Chris Shaw, from King's College London, said the lack of human eggs meant they had to consider an alternative source..."

UN EXPERTS WARN BIRD FLU COULD DEVASTATE AFRICA

January 19, 2006 The Voice of America reported: "U.N. experts are warning that Africa is a likely new location for the emergence of bird flu, and they say the spread of the virus onto the African continent could have devastating consequences unless governments move quickly to improve health and surveillance.

The warning came this week from world health experts taking part in a conference co-hosted by China. The conference was called to raise money to fight the spread of the H5N1 strain of bird flu.

The virus, which first appeared in East Asia, has recently begun infecting birds and humans in Turkey. David Nabarro, the United Nations Coordinator for Avian Influenza, said it is difficult to say where the H5N1 virus will appear next - but he said Africa is a likely location this spring, as wild birds begin their annual migration.

"I can't say and nor can anybody else say where it's going to go next. We suspect almost certainly Africa, because of the pathways of the migrating birds," he said..."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor

UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa

ljtuc@msn.com