



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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BUSH PLEDGES US FORCES WILL DEFEND ISRAEL AGAINST 'MENACING IRAN

February 2, 2006 Scotsman.com reported: "George Bush vowed yesterday that the United States would rise to Israel's defence, if needed, against Iran and denounced the Iranian president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, for "menacing talk" about Israel. On board Air Force One en route to Nashville, the US president also said that he saw a "very good chance" that the governing board of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would refer Iran to the UN Security Council for possible sanctions.

"I am concerned about a person [Mr Ahmadinejad] that, one, tries to rewrite the history of the Holocaust, and two, has made it clear that his intentions are to destroy Israel," Mr Bush said. "Israel is a solid ally of the United States, we will rise to Israel's defence if need be. So this kind of menacing talk is disturbing. It's not only disturbing to the United States, it's disturbing for other countries in the world as well."

Asked if he meant the US would rise to Israel's defence militarily, Mr Bush said: "You bet, we'll defend Israel."

Mr Ahmadinejad has prompted international condemnation for anti-Israel rhetoric in recent weeks, including saying the state should be wiped off the map and also questioning the Holocaust.

Iran is engaged in a stand-off over its nuclear programme, which it maintains is aimed at developing nuclear power but which the US and other international powers believe is to build atomic weapons.

Asked if he thought the IAEA would refer or report Iran to the Security Council, Mr Bush said: "The IAEA must take a look at the facts, and listen carefully to the arguments, and there's a very good chance it will."

However, Mr Ahmadinejad yesterday showed no sign that the move towards possible sanctions was making him think of compromise. He reacted furiously to Mr Bush's State of the Union address, in which the president insisted the US would not let Iran develop nuclear weapons and claimed it was a country "held hostage by a small clerical elite that is isolating and repressing its people".

Speaking to Iranians over the heads of their leaders, Mr Bush said they had the right to choose their own future and win their own freedom. Mr Ahmadinejad responded with strident rhetoric, branding Mr Bush a criminal who should go on trial and calling the US a "fake superpower".

Before a cheering crowd of thousands in the Gulf port city of Bushehr, where Russia is helping Iran to build its first nuclear reactor, he said: "Those whose arms are stained up to the elbows with the blood of other nations are now accusing us of violating human rights and freedoms." Of Mr Bush, he added: "God willing, in the near future we will judge you in a people's tribunal."..."

IRAN REDEPLOYS SHIHAB-3 MISSILES

February 2, 2006 The Middle East Newline reported: "Iran, concerned over an Israeli or U.S. attack, has ordered the redeployment of its Shihab-3 intermediate-range missile force.

Western intelligence sources said the Islamic Revolutionary Guard has received orders to move Shihab-3 launchers in an attempt to prevent their destruction in an Israeli or U.S. air strike. The sources said the launchers were relocated to positions near the Iraqi border closer to U.S. military positions around Baghdad.

"The IRGC has been placed on war-footing," an intelligence source said. "The Shihab-3 units have been alerted to the prospect of an immediate strike."

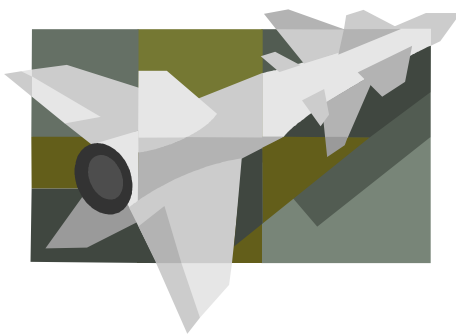
The sources said the IRGC issued an order to the Shihab-3 missile units on Jan. 19. They said the units were ordered to move the Shihab launchers every 24 hours..."

NEW WEAPON COULD MEAN THE END OF COLLATERAL DAMAGE

February 2, 2006 Insight on the News reported: "The U.S. military has been developing a gunship that could literally obliterate enemy ground targets with a laser beam. The military plans to test the Advanced Tactical Laser, a laser weapon mounted on a C-130H air transport that could destroy any weapon system without collateral damage.

The laser could have tremendous repercussions on the battlefield, particularly in urban warfare in such countries as Afghanistan and Iraq. "It's the kind of tool that could bring about victory within minutes," an official said. The applications of ATL could change military dynamics on the battlefield. Officials envision the laser being able to destroy or damage targets in an urban area with virtually no collateral damage. The range of ATL was expected to be 10 miles.

The project has been headed by Boeing Missile Defense Systems in a project with the U.S. Air Force. Boeing has already taken



delivery of the aircraft and plans to modify the platform for the ATL program. Officials said a C-130H transport that belonged to the U.S. Air Force's 46th Test Wing was being modified to contain a high-energy chemical laser. The platform would also contain battle management and beam control subsystems.

Under the program, Boeing would test the aircraft in July 2006. The aircraft would have all subsystems on board except the high-energy laser. Officials said a low-power surrogate laser would be used instead of the kilowatt-class, high-energy laser.

At the same time, the high-energy laser would be completed in Albuquerque, N.M. Officials said the first ground tests of the laser would take place in the summer of 2006.

By 2007, Boeing plans to install the laser on the aircraft and operate the weapon during flight. The laser, designed to be fired through an existing 50-inch-diameter hole in the aircraft's belly, would be demonstrated for military missions.

Officials said ATL was being developed through the Pentagon's Advanced Concept Technology Demonstration program. Should the tests in 2007 prove successful, the Pentagon was expected to approve full-scale development of the airborne tactical laser.

The ATL was deemed as complementary to the Airborne Laser program for the Missile Defense Agency. ABL was meant to mount a megawatt-class chemical laser on a Boeing 747-400 freighter aircraft."

BIG FIVE AGREE TO REFER IRAN TO UN

January 31, 2006 The EUObserver reported: "China and Russia have agreed to join the EU and US in efforts to refer Iran to the UN's security council due to its resumed nuclear activities. Foreign ministers from five permanent members of the UN security council (US, UK, France, Russia and China) plus Germany reached a consensus late Monday (30 January) in London.

They suggested that the UN watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) "should report to the security council its decision on the steps required of Iran," stated a joint statement released after the meeting. But ministers noted that the security council would not take any action until March after it has received a formal report on Iran from the IAEA, the BBC reported.



In a reaction to the move, Iran's deputy head of the Supreme National Security Council Javad Vaedi said that his country would not bow to the international pressure. "Research and development is the Iranian nation's legitimate right and is irreversible," Mr Vaedi told state television on Tuesday, adding that Tehran remained open to "logical and constructive talks" with the EU over its nuclear case, according to Reuters.

But earlier on Monday, UK, France and Germany rejected a fresh bid by Iran to slow down nuclear research, with the EU trio arguing the offer was in fact not "new" at all.

While Iran claims it wants to use enrichment programmes for peaceful objectives, the international community fears they could be used to develop nuclear arms and calls for their complete closure.

According to analysts, the message of Monday's meeting of the superpowers is less radical than was desired by the US and EU members of the council, as it stops short of the immediate formal referral of the country to the UN. If Tehran is eventually referred to the UN, it could face sanctions..."

EU EXTENDS AID TO PALESTINIANS IN BID TO PREVENT 'MINI IRAN'

January 31, 2006 The EUObserver reported: "EU foreign ministers meeting on Monday (30 January) agreed to continue aid to the Palestinian Authority under strict conditions put to election winner Hamas, fearing a complete cut-off of funding will create room for Iran to step in. The ministers refrained from quick moves to slash its aid to the Palestinians, amounting to €500m a year, following last week's shock election victory of the Islamist Hamas movement which is on the EU's list of terrorist organizations.

The EU is first awaiting coalition-building efforts, which officials said could last as much as three months, while making it clear that any future funding to the Palestinian administration would be made dependent on Hamas backing down on its radicalism.

A statement read "The [EU] Council expects the newly elected PLC [Palestinian Legislative Council] to support the formation of a government committed to a peaceful and negotiated solution of the conflict with Israel based on existing agreements and the Roadmap as well as to the rule of law, reform and sound fiscal management."

"On this basis the European Union stands ready to continue to support Palestinian economic development and democratic state building," ministers added. Diplomats indicated that an immediate stop of EU funding was not an option, as this would mean a break-down of the Palestinian administration, followed by chaos and fresh violence.

This would undermine EU hopes for a broad coalition government, also involving the moderate Fatah faction led by Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas.

"We should avoid a situation of chaos, which could lead to an Islamic regime at the heart of the Middle East, or, as someone termed it, a mini-Iran", Dutch foreign minister Bernard Bot told reporters, referring to existing ties between Iran and Hamas..."