



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 11 2006

DOUNREAY 'LOSES' BOMB-GRADE URANIUM

February 9, 2006 Scotsman.com reported: "THE Dounreay nuclear plant has lost more than half a pound of highly enriched uranium (HEU), the material used to make nuclear weapons. Official government figures show that during an internal audit of UK nuclear sites over the last year, technicians at the Caithness site could not account for some 283g of HEU. Another nuclear plant, Winfrith in Dorset, has also mislaid some HEU, the audit found.

The material is at the heart of the crisis over Iran's nuclear ambitions... The discrepancies in stores of radioactive material were revealed in the Department of Trade and Industry's annual Nuclear Materials Balance survey.

The audit has previously shown even larger gaps in the nuclear balance-sheet. Last year, the Sellafield plant in Cumbria could not account for more than 30kg of plutonium.

The government insists that the missing material is not a cause for concern, trying to depict it as "paper losses". "Whenever nuclear material is measured there is an uncertainty associated with the measurement," the DTI said. The losses at Dounreay and other plans "conform to the pattern over previous years and give no rise to concern over either the safety or the security of the operation of the plants".

However, as the DTI admits in a briefing document on the findings, the audit process leaves open the possibility that the "lost" material is physically missing. "Theft of small amounts of material cannot be detected by nuclear materials accountancy alone," the document says.

Frank Barnaby, a former government nuclear scientist who now works at the Oxford Research Group, a think-tank, said that the uncertainty "should worry us very much". He said: "The fact is that they can't tell whether the material within these 'unaccounted for' margins is missing or has been stolen - there is no certainty at all about where this material is."

While the amount of missing uranium would not be enough for a conventional nuclear device, it could be used in a "dirty bomb", in which a conventional explosive blast is used to scatter radioactive particles..."

REBELLION ERUPTS IN N. YEMEN

February 9, 2006 The Middle East Newslines reported: "The Shi'ite rebellion appears to have resumed in Yemen. Yemeni troops and Shi'ite rebels have renewed battles in the northern province of Saada. The rebels were believed to have received help from Iran.

On Feb. 6, at least 20 people were killed and scores injured in clashes between government troops and the movement led by the late Shiite leader Hussein Badr Eddin Al Houthi. Al Houthi was killed by government troops in 2004.

The latest fighting has taken place in the Saifa mountains, about 250 kilometers north of Sanaa. Witnesses said the Yemen Army employed artillery and mortars against the Shi'ite rebels, identified as members of the Believing Youth. Shi'ites comprise nearly 40 percent of the Yemeni population..."



GLOBAL DIPLOMACY TO CURB MUSLIM CARTOON PROTESTS

February 8, 2006 The EU Observer reported: "In a historical move, leaders of three major international organisations have deplored the violent protests following the publication of cartoons of the prophet Mohammed in a Danish newspaper. The joint statement from the UN, the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and the EU also urged governments to guard embassies and foreigners from attacks.

"We are deeply alarmed at the repercussions of the publication in Denmark several months ago of insulting caricatures of the prophet Mohammed and their subsequent republication by some other European newspapers and at the violent acts that have occurred in reaction to them," said the statement.

The text was endorsed by UN secretary general Kofi Annan, Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu of the OIC and Javier Solana of the EU. "We fully uphold the right of free speech. But we understand the deep hurt and widespread indignation felt in the muslim world. We believe freedom of the press entails responsibility and discretion, and should respect the beliefs and tenets of all religions," they said.

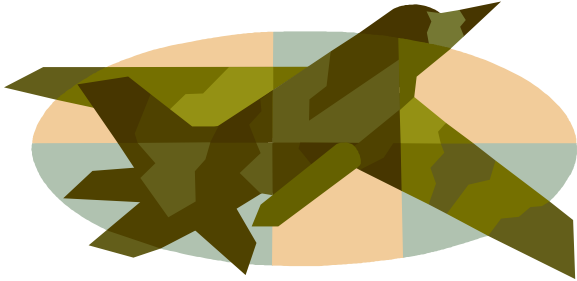
The EU foreign affairs chief Javier Solana is now considering travelling on a peace mission to a number of muslim countries to mediate in the conflict, according to Danish daily Berlingske Tidende.

While the US president George W. Bush on Tuesday (7 February) lent his full support to the Danish government, his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, urged the Danish government to apologise. Speaking on a visit to Spain Mr Putin said "One must think twice before printing, making, or drawing something."

The European Parliament president Josep Borrel issued a statement together with members of ten Mediterranean parliaments, including the Syrian, Jordanian and Lebanese houses.

The joint statement from The Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly Bureau (EMPA) called for "responsible use of the freedom of the press and of expression" and condemned "any disrespect for religions as well as any attempt to incite religious hatred, xenophobic or racial remarks." ...

IRAN ACQUIRES RUSSIAN FIGHTERS



February 8, 2006 The Middle East Newline reported: "Iran has quietly acquired three fighter-jets from Russia. Russian industry sources said Teheran has procured three Su-25UBT twin-seat attack aircraft from Moscow. The sources said the contract was concluded in 2005 and deliveries would take place in 2006.

The deal marked the first Iranian purchase of the Su-25. In 2001, Iran negotiated with Georgia for surplus MiG-25s, but the two countries failed to reach agreement.

The sources said the Su-25UBT marked the most advanced model of the attack aircraft. They said the fighters received new electronic warfare and jamming systems..."

MUSLIM PROTESTS AGAINST PROPHET CARTOONS SPREADS

February 7, 2006 Voice of America News reported: "New protests erupted Tuesday across Asia and the Middle East over controversial cartoons that many Muslims see as an insult to the Prophet Muhammad. Meanwhile the prime minister of Denmark, where the cartoons were first published, has appealed for calm. VOA's Sonja Pace reports from the Syrian capital, Damascus, on the deeply held views and basic cultural misunderstanding surrounding this issue.

The series of 12 cartoons first appeared in a Danish newspaper last September. The editor in chief says that even though one cartoon depicts the Prophet Muhammad as a bomb carrying terrorist, the picture was not meant to insult Muslims, but rather to spark a debate about Islam inside Denmark.

The cartoons have sparked less debate, than outrage. Islamic tradition does not allow any depiction of the prophet and Muslims feel that to portray him as a terrorist is not only blasphemy, but defames their religion and culture.

Muhammad Habash, a professor at Damascus University and director of the Islamic Studies Center, and also a member of the Syrian parliament, tells VOA there is a very fundamental misunderstanding between Muslim countries and the West. He says in the West there is a long culture of separation of church and state, of faith and society. Not so, in the Islamic world.

"Here in the Middle East it is so different," noted Professor Habash. "We believe that religion is a part of our history, a part of our identity, a part of ours [us]." He says people in the West simply do not understand that Muslims feel they must protect the image of the prophet and their religion with heart and soul.

Thousands of angry Muslims have taken to the streets in Arab capitals, in other Muslim countries and in Europe. Protests turned violent in Damascus last Saturday when angry mobs set fire to the Danish and Norwegian embassies. On Sunday in Beirut, demonstrators burned the Danish consulate and then attacked a nearby church, threatening briefly to turn the protest into a sectarian clash. In London, a protest by Muslims took on very strident tones, with calls for revenge and for beheading those responsible for printing the cartoons.

There is a widespread sense that the anger expressed in the streets goes well beyond protests over cartoons and also expresses a general feeling by Muslims that the West does not respect them, their religion or their concerns..."

IRAN ENDS VOLUNTARY COOPERATION WITH IAEA

February 6, 2006 Voice of America News reported: "Iran says it has ended all voluntary cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency, after the agency voted to report Tehran's disputed nuclear program to the U.N. Security Council. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki told a news conference Sunday, Tehran has stopped all voluntary measures undertaken in the past several years. He says Iran will continue to honor its commitments to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Earlier, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the government was still open to negotiations despite Saturday's vote by the IAEA's board of governors. Iranian officials also say they will go ahead with planned talks with Russia about the enrichment of uranium

President Bush said the IAEA's decision sends a clear message that the world will not permit Iran to have nuclear weapons..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa
ljtuc@msn.com*