

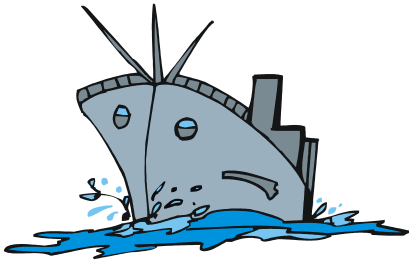


PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 18 2006



UAE CO. POISED TO OVERSEE SIX U.S. PORTS

February 11, 2006 The Associated Press reported: "A company in the United Arab Emirates is poised to take over significant operations at six American ports as part of a corporate sale, leaving a country with ties to the Sept. 11 hijackers with influence over a maritime industry considered vulnerable to terrorism.

The Bush administration considers the UAE an important ally in the fight against terrorism since the suicide hijackings and is not objecting to Dubai Ports World's purchase of London-based Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co.

The \$6.8 billion sale is expected to be approved Monday. The British company is the fourth largest ports company in the world and its sale would affect commercial U.S. port operations in New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia.

DP World said it won approval from a secretive U.S. government panel that considers security risks of foreign companies buying or investing in American industry. The U.S. Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States "thoroughly reviewed the potential transaction and concluded they had no objection," the company said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The committee earlier agreed to consider concerns about the deal as expressed by a Miami-based company, Eller & Co., according to Eller's lawyer, Michael Kreitzer. Eller is a business partner with the British shipping giant but was not in the running to buy the ports company. The committee, which could have recommended that President Bush block the purchase, includes representatives from the departments of Treasury, Defense, Justice, Commerce, State and Homeland Security.

The State Department describes the UAE as a vital partner in the fight against terrorism. But the UAE, a loose federation of seven emirates on the Saudi peninsula, was an important operational and financial base for the hijackers who carried out the attacks against New York and Washington, the FBI concluded.

Sen. Charles Schumer, a Democrat whose district includes the New York port, urged the administration to consider the sale carefully. "America's busiest ports are vital to our economy and to the international economy, and that is why they remain top terrorist targets," Schumer said. "Just as we would not outsource military operations or law enforcement duties, we should be very careful before we outsource such sensitive homeland security duties."..."

ISRAEL BRACES FOR KATYUSHAS, AAMs IN 2006

February 16, 2006 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Israel's military has assessed that the Palestinian Authority or aligned groups would acquire a range of rockets and anti-aircraft missiles over the next few months.

Military intelligence has determined that Palestinian forces in the Gaza Strip have or would acquire such weapons as the Soviet-origin Katyusha rocket, SA-7 anti-aircraft missile and advanced variants of anti-tank missiles in 2006. The assessment said the weapons would be provided by Hizbullah and smuggled through Egypt's Sinai Peninsula to the Gaza Strip.

"We estimate that in 2006 anti-aircraft missiles or Katyushas will infiltrate the Gaza Strip and change the situation," outgoing military intelligence chief Maj. Gen. Aharon Zeevi-Farkash said.

On Tuesday, Palestinian gunners fired missiles from the northern Gaza Strip that landed in the Israeli city of Ashkelon. At least one missile struck the industrial zone, which contains such strategic sites as an oil terminal and water facility. Two cars were said to have been damaged..."

ISRAEL: IRAN MUST BE STOPPED FROM ACQUIRING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

February 15, 2006 Voice of America News reported: "Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert says Iran is obsessed with hatred of Israel and the Jewish people and must be stopped from developing nuclear weapons. Speaking late Tuesday, the Israeli leader called for concrete, joint action by the international community to stop Iran's alleged push to develop a nuclear arsenal.

Hours earlier, the leaders of Russia and France joined the chorus of world leaders calling on Tehran to stop all uranium enrichment. China called for continued diplomatic efforts to ease growing international tensions. Iran insists its nuclear program is aimed at developing electricity.

Iran resumed small-scale uranium enrichment Monday -- an initial step in the process of producing fuel for nuclear reactors or atomic weapons. Iran had threatened to resume enrichment after the International Atomic Energy Agency referred it to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions earlier this month..."

EUROPE SCRAMBLES TO STOP BIRD FLU

February 15, 2006 CNN.com reported: "European Union veterinary experts have backed plans to boost surveillance of migratory birds and impose stricter bans on imports as officials desperately tried to find ways to curb the spread of deadly bird flu on the continent. Austria and Germany said on Wednesday wild birds in their countries tested positive for the deadly H5N1 strain of the disease.



The European Commission also said samples taken from three dead wild swans in Hungary were being sent to a laboratory in England for further testing. "The Hungarian authorities are applying the same precautionary measures as other member states in which the H5N1 virus has been confirmed or in which it is suspected in wild birds," the Commission said in a statement.

The announcement came as the EC approved more than 1.9 million euros (\$2.26 million) for surveillance programs and added testing to ensure early detection of bird flu outbreaks. "The aim of these national surveillance programs is to provide early detection of cases of avian influenza, particularly in wild birds and poultry in the European Union," EU spokesman Philip Tod told the AP.

On Tuesday, Germany officials said tests showed two wild swans had died of the H5N1 strain on Ruegen island in the Baltic Sea. That followed news the same day that Austria had found two cases of the virus in dead swans in the south. Italy and Greece reported swan deaths from the highly pathogenic strain on Saturday.

Germany and Austria have also sent samples to a laboratory in Britain for further confirmation. As a precaution, Germany's Agriculture Minister Horst Seehofer ordered all domestic poultry be kept inside beginning Friday.

Seehofer said the Germany's National Crisis Board is meeting Wednesday to discuss the situation with all ministers and all relevant organizations in a bid to prevent wild birds transmitting the virus to farming livestock..."

HAMAS EXTENDS CONTROL INTO LEBANON

February 14, 2006 The Middle East Newline reported: "Hamas has sought to use its victory in Palestinian legislative elections to extend control over Lebanon. Hamas has sought to gain control over the 300,000-member Palestinian community in Lebanon. The Islamic insurgency group has offered to help resolve friction between Palestinians and Lebanese, particularly in the Sidon area of southern Lebanon.

The effort has been spearheaded by Hamas leader Khaled Masha'al, based in Damascus. Palestinian sources said Masha'al has been in contact with Lebanese officials and parliamentarians.

"Hamas wants to form a front with Hizbullah in Lebanon in which Hamas would become responsible for Palestinian security," a Palestinian source said..."

SUNDAY TELEGRAPH CLAIMS US DRAWING UP PLANS FOR IRAN ATTACK

February 14, 2006 SpaceWar.com reported: "US military strategists are drawing up plans for an attack on Iran as a last resort to stop the Islamic republic from developing nuclear weapons, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper in London reported. In a front-page dispatch from Washington, it said Central Command and Strategic Command planners were "identifying targets, assessing weapon-loads and working on logistics for an operation".

The planners are reporting to the office of Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld with a view to having a military option if diplomatic efforts fail to put the brakes on Iran's suspected quest for nuclear weaponry.

"This is more than just the standard military contingency assessment," the Sunday Telegraph quoted a senior Pentagon adviser as saying. "This has taken on much greater urgency in recent months."

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad warned Saturday that Tehran could quit the Non-Proliferation Treaty if it is forced by the West to limit its disputed nuclear programme, which it insists is for civilian purposes.

Earlier this month, the International Atomic Energy Agency referred Iran to the UN Security Council after the oil-rich nation resumed its uranium enrichment programme..."

SYRIAN PAPER BLAMES ISRAEL FOR BIRD FLU

February 13, 2006 Arutz Sheva reported: "The state-controlled Syrian el-Thawra newspaper used a 1998 report by the Sunday Times of London, which documented Israel's development of biological warfare, hinting that the bird flu was the work of Israel, aimed at the Arab nations.

The Times report cited Israel's scientists were working to identify genes that were characteristic to Arabs, and to then develop diseases that would target those genes. The paper adds the flu's presence in the Far East is nothing more than an attempt to mislead the international community.

The paper also blames Israel for killing Yasser Arafat, stating it used the very same technology to target Arab genes to kills the late Palestinian Authority (PA) leader..."