



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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FATAH ANNOUNCES MISSILE WAR ON ISRAEL

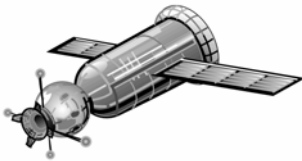
February 15, 2007 The World Tribune reported: "The Fatah movement headed by Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas has announced an offensive against Israel. Fatah's Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades has launched what it said was a military campaign against Israel. The military wing termed the operation "The Call of Al Aqsa," and said it would focus on missile strikes on the Jewish state.

Over the last week, Fatah and Islamic Jihad have intensified missile strikes against Israel, Middle East Newline reported. Israel's military has not responded.

In a statement on Feb. 12, Al Aqsa announced an alert inside and outside the PA. Fatah said operatives would attack what it termed the "enemy everywhere."

The statement said Fatah would fire hundreds of missiles into Israel. Fatah identified the weapon as the Al Aqsa-103, regarded as a variant of Hamas's Kassam-class missile. Fatah and Hamas have agreed to a unity government in the PA. In its statement, Fatah said the next government must adopt resistance against Israel "loudly and clearly."

The Fatah offensive comes as tensions have renewed with Hamas. Hamas has protested the dismissal of 150 commanders and officers of security agencies loyal to Abbas. On Tuesday, the Hamas-aligned officers staged a demonstration in the PLC."..."



CHINA, RUSSIA CLASH WITH US OVER SPACE WEAPONS TREATY

February 14, 2007 The Voice of America News reported: "China and Russia clashed with the United States Tuesday over a proposal to the United Nations Conference on Disarmament to create a treaty on space weapons.

During a meeting of the conference in Geneva Tuesday, Beijing and Moscow voiced their opposition to the U.S. refusal to sign a treaty banning space weapons, and warned that it could lead to an arms race in space.

In January, China secretly tested a satellite-destroying missile, shooting down one of its aging weather satellites. It later publicly confirmed the test, arguing that other countries should not view the test as a threat.

Last October, President Bush signed an order asserting the U.S. right to space weapons, and Washington's opposition to the development of treaties or other measures restricting them.

Speaking at the meeting in Geneva today, U.S. Ambassador Christina Rocca voiced Washington's commitment to the peaceful use of space. She stressed, however that the United States would also pursue programs to protect its satellites and spacecraft.

Rocca said Washington was very concerned about emerging threats to U.S. space assets. She criticized China's recent test of its satellite missile, noting that it had created hundreds of pieces of large orbital debris that will stay in orbit for more than 100 years.

The Conference on Disarmament was established in 1979 and focuses on the prevention of nuclear war, the use or threat of nuclear weapons and other disarmament issues. The organization is comprised of around 60 member countries and meets several times a year."

U.S. PLANS TO REDUCE MILITARY AID TO MIDEAST

February 14, 2007 The Middle East Newline reported: "The United States plans to reduce military aid to the Middle East. Officials said the Bush administration has submitted a budget designed to reduce military aid to what they termed non-critical allies in the Middle East and other regions. They said the aid would be determined by immediate need and whether these countries serve in the war against Al Qaida and its allies.

"We're trying to stabilize foreign aid and concentrate on GWOT [global war on terrorism]," an official said. "Unfortunately, certain countries would be affected."

Under the plan, Egypt, Israel and Lebanon would see an increase in U.S. military aid for fiscal 2008. Other U.S. allies, such as Bahrain, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Turkey and Yemen, would receive less military assistance."..."

PUTIN SPEECH RAISES ALARM ON EU-RUSSIA RELATIONS

February 12, 2007 The EUObserver.com reported: "Russian leader Vladimir Putin's tough speech in Germany this weekend is a wake-up call to the harsh realities in EU-Russia relations, early reactions from European politicians say.

The Russian chief used the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy to attack the US as a reckless "unipolar" power, criticise NATO expansion and warn against US plans to install anti-missile bases in Poland and the Czech republic.

"I don't want to accuse anyone of being aggressive," Mr Putin said on the missile scheme, but threatened he is considering an unspecified "asymmetric" response. He described NATO expansion as "a serious factor provoking reduction of mutual trust."

The Russian leader also took an anti-US and EU line on Kosovo, making clear Russia's opposition to any "imposed" form of Kosovo independence on the grounds it could inflame separatist tension around the world.

The bullish speech was seen by some analysts as a throwback to the Cold War era but US defence secretary Robert Gates played down the

comparison, with US officials planning to go to Moscow to help clarify some of the Russian remarks.

Meanwhile, Swedish foreign minister Carl Bildt told Reuters: "we should take [Putin] at his word. This was the real Russia of now and possibly in four or five years time it could go further in this direction."

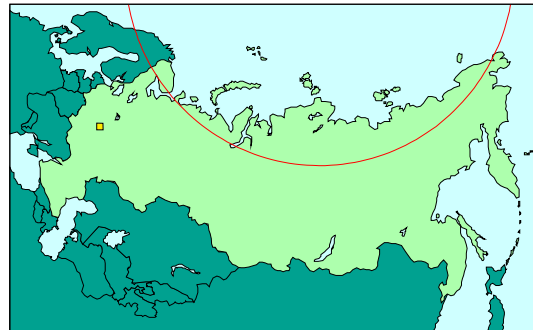
RUSSIA INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO REBUILD ITS MILITARY MACHINE

February 12, 2007 The Christian Science Monitor reported: "The cold war days when the USSR matched the US missile-for-missile may be gone. But experts say that Russia is increasingly capable of turning out cutting-edge weaponry and selling it to countries that are shunned by Western suppliers.

"The fact that our country is playing a leading role in the world in the sphere of export of military production is a sign that the Russian defense industry has not only survived but has a powerful potential for further development," Sergei Chemezov, the head of the state arms-export monopoly Rosoboronexport, told a political meeting late last year.

Russian defense budgets have been soaring since Putin came to power, buoyed by a rising tide of petroleum income, and are set to jump by 23 percent in 2007 to a post-Soviet high of \$32.4 billion. Moscow does arms business with over 70 countries, including China, Iran, and Venezuela, and in 2006 exported \$6 billion worth of arms.

"Under Putin there has been a wish and an attempt to go beyond the Soviet inheritance," in developing high-tech military capabilities, says Ivan Safranchuk, Moscow director of the independent World Security Institute. "Now there's cash, and a good political situation, to intensify that effort."



- Last week Defense Minister Sergei Ivanov unveiled a \$189 billion rearmament program that will replace about half of Russia's current military equipment by 2015. Among the armed forces' acquisitions will be a completely revamped early-warning radar network, new intercontinental missiles, a fleet of supersonic Tu-160 strategic bombers, and 31 new warships, including aircraft carriers.

- Last month Mr. Putin offered to partner with India to build a futuristic "fifth generation" fighter plane, which Russian designers is already under development and could be flying as early as 2009. Only the US has so far managed to field one of these new era combat jets – which have breakthrough capabilities of stealthiness, supersonic cruising, ultramaneuverability and over-the-horizon electronic visibility. And at \$260 million per model, the new F/A-22 Raptor is by far the world's most expensive warplane.

- Russia is already supplying India with the Sukhoi-30MKI, an advanced "fourth generation" warplane that consistently defeats its Western counterparts, such as the frontline US fighters, the F-15C and F-16. Versions of the Su-30 are also being sold to China, Venezuela, and Malaysia.

- At a recent press conference, Putin said that Russia has nothing to fear from US missile defense systems because the new Topol-M intercontinental ballistic missile has stealth characteristics that enable it to penetrate the American shield. "But this is not all," he added, mentioning a "new generation ... of strategic weapons systems," against which missile defense systems would be "powerless."

- In January, Moscow announced it had completed deliveries of 29 sophisticated Tor-M1 mobile anti-aircraft batteries to Iran, and Mr. Ivanov hinted that Russia might also supply S-300 long-range air defense weapons. Experts believe that the Tor-M1, which can track 48 targets simultaneously, could seriously complicate any potential air strike on Iran's nuclear facilities."..."

WIFELESS FUTURE FOR CHINA'S MEN

February 12, 2007 BBC News reported: "Four boys sit next to a girl. Further back, a girl in pigtails and a pink jumper stands out amid a group of boys. In recent years, the kindergarten has been getting more and more boys.

Since the late 1970s Chinese couples have been allowed just one child - and most parents here prefer to have a son. "It's having a real effect," said Ms Zheng, the school's head teacher.

"One of our classes has 39 boys and just eight girls. It's a serious problem. When there are more boys than girls, the girls copy the boys and they become more aggressive," she said. At break time, the girls need to be pretty good at defending themselves. One girl beats off four boys who try to have a look at what she was drawing.

China is worried about what may happen in 20 years or so when these kids grow up and start trying to settle down. An official estimate says that, by 2020, there may be 30 million men of marriageable age who will not be able to find a wife.

The gender imbalance has various causes. Abortions on female fetuses are believed to be widespread as couples, particularly in rural areas, hope for a son who will look after them in their old age. There is also suspected under-reporting of female births."..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*