



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

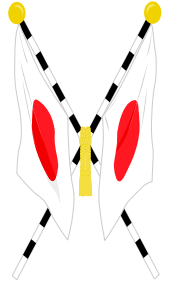
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CHINA TELLS JAPAN IT IS NOT A THREAT

August 31, 2007 SpaceWar.com reported: "China's defence chief called Thursday for a ban on the military use of space and dismantlement of all nuclear weapons, saying that Beijing's own work in the two areas posed no threat.



General Cao Gangchuan, paying the first visit by a Chinese defence minister to Japan in nearly a decade, said that closer military exchanges between the countries, which often have rocky relations, would benefit the region. "Those who speak of the theory of China as a military threat are ignorant of the true situation and their claims are unfounded," Cao said in an address to invited officials and politicians.



In January, China became the third country after the United States and the former Soviet Union to shoot down an object in space, a test that rattled Washington, Tokyo and other nations. "China is not the first one to conduct such an experiment. As you are well aware, other countries have done similar tests," Cao said through a translator. "This test was done only once, and it was purely experimental. It was not targeting any third party," he said.

"China is against the military use of space. Personally, I believe the best thing is to gather everyone involved to hold close discussions and to create a treaty totally banning military use of space. The best thing is for everyone to obey that treaty," he said. China shot down its own weather satellite after the United States, which has suspended "Star Wars" tests, refused a permanent ban on future experiments.

Cao also said Japan should not worry about China's nuclear weapons. "China does hold missiles and nuclear weapons. But they are for defence purposes," he said. "China wants to see total nuclear disarmament."

He added that China's rapid rise was not without challenges. "Although development in China has reached a certain point, the fact remains the nation has a huge population, weak infrastructure and development is unbalanced," he said."..."

'RUSSIA CAUSED TENSIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL, SYRIA'

August 30, 2007 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Russia was partly responsible for the heightened tension between Israel and Syria at the beginning of the summer, head of the Diplomatic-Security Bureau at the Defense Ministry, Gen. Amos Gilad (ret.) said on Thursday.

During an interview with Army Radio, the former general noted that recent messages sent by Israel to Moscow have caused the Russians to cease their activity, thus easing the tensions in the region. At a certain time, the Russians caused the Syrians to believe that Israel was preparing for war," Gilad said. "I think that they have stopped this. Syria is not planning on attacking Israel, and Israel is definitely not planning on attacking Syria."

According to a report published in the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, diplomatic and security officials in the Kremlin purposely misled the Syrians in order to further maximize their profits from the sale of military equipment. Russia is currently one of the main suppliers of military equipment to Syria."..."

AHMADINEJAD SAYS IRAN READY TO FILL EMERGING 'POWER VACUUM' IN IRAQ

August 29, 2007 Voice of America News reported: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says a power vacuum is emerging in Iraq and that his government is ready to fill the gap with the help of neighboring states.

Speaking Tuesday in Tehran, Mr. Ahmadinejad attributed the developing vacuum to what he called the rapidly declining political power of "the occupiers," an apparent reference to the United States. He did not elaborate on how Iran could fill such a power gap.

Washington accuses Tehran of fueling violence in Iraq by training and supplying weapons to Shi'ite insurgents. Iran denies the charge and says it is doing its best to stabilize its neighbor.

Mr. Ahmadinejad also said he sees "no possibility" of a U.S. attack on Iran. The United States has accused Iran of seeking a nuclear weapon, but says it favors diplomacy in ending the crisis. Iran denies seeking atomic weapons and says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes."

BUSH WARNS OF 'HOLOCAUST' IF IRAN GETS NUKES

August 29, 2007 SpaceWar.com reported: "US President George W. Bush raised the specter of a "nuclear holocaust" in the Middle East if Iran gets atomic weapons, and vowed he would not let that happen.

"Iran's actions threaten the security of nations everywhere, and the United States is rallying friends and allies to isolate Iran's regime, to impose economic sanctions," he said in a speech to the American Legion veterans group on Tuesday. "We will confront this danger before it is too late," vowed Bush, who has pressed for tougher international sanctions and said he hopes for a diplomatic solution but has repeatedly refused to rule out the use of force.

Hours after Bush's speech, US forces swooped on a Baghdad hotel and briefly detained seven Iranians, whose identities were not confirmed. They were released early Wednesday and taken to Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's office, a diplomat at Tehran's mission in Baghdad said.

Billed as a defense of the Iraq war, Bush also branded Iran as "the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism," and accused it of backing such militant groups as Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad as well as Shiite fighters killing US troops in Iraq.

"And Iran's active pursuit of technology that could lead to nuclear weapons threatens to put a region already known for instability and violence under the shadow of a nuclear holocaust," he said.

The United States accuses Iran -- OPEC's number two oil producer and owner of the second-largest proven gas reserves in the world -- of seeking to make nuclear weapons under the guise of a civilian energy drive.

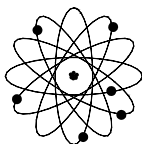
Iran insists that the drive is entirely peaceful and that its growing population will need nuclear power as fossil fuels start to run dry. Tehran's refusal to suspend uranium enrichment -- a sensitive process that can be used both to make nuclear fuel and nuclear weapons -- has already seen it slapped with two sets of UN sanctions.

Shortly before Bush spoke, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad scoffed at the notion of a US attack on his country and dismissed a warning from his new French counterpart, Nicolas Sarkozy, as a symptom of inexperience.

"There is no... possibility of such an attack by the United States," Ahmadinejad told a news conference marked by his characteristic defiance. "Even if they take such a decision, they cannot implement it," he said."..."

IRAN RISKS ATTACK OVER ATOMIC PUSH, FRENCH PRESIDENT SAYS

August 28, 2007 The International Herald Tribune reported: "In his first major foreign policy speech as president of France, Nicolas Sarkozy said Monday that Iran could be attacked militarily if it did not live up to its international obligations to curb its nuclear program.



Addressing France's ambassadorial corps, Sarkozy stressed that such an outcome would be a disaster. He did not say that France would ever participate in military action against Iran or even tacitly support such an approach.

But the mere fact that he raised the specter of the use of force is likely to be perceived by Iran as a warning of the consequences of its continuing course of action and by the Bush administration as acceptance of its line that no option, including the use of force, can be excluded.

Sarkozy praised the current diplomatic initiative by the world's powers that threatens even tougher sanctions mandated by the United Nations if Iran does not stop enriching uranium for possible use in a nuclear weapon, but holds out the possibility of incentives if Iran complies.

This two-pronged approach, he said, "is the only one that can enable us to avoid being faced with an alternative that I call catastrophic: an Iranian bomb or the bombing of Iran."

Calling the Iranian nuclear crisis "the most serious that weighs on the international order today," Sarkozy also reiterated his position that a nuclear-armed Iran was "unacceptable" for France.

Although Sarkozy's aides said that French policy had not changed, some foreign policy experts were stunned by the blunt, if brief remark."..."

SARKOZY SEEKS TO GIVE EU GREATER WORLD ROLE

August 28, 2007 The EU Observer reported: "As France prepares to assume the EU's driving seat in July next year, president Nicolas Sarkozy has indicated he wants to turn the 27-nation bloc into a decisive player in the global arena -- something he says would result in a fairer and more harmonious world order.

"Europe must progressively affirm itself as a first-rank player for peace and security, in co-operation with the United Nations, the Atlantic Alliance and the African Union", Mr Sarkozy said in the first foreign policy speech of his presidency on Monday (27 August).

According to the French leader, it is time for Europe to form a common perception of the main global challenges and of ways in which to tackle them. He himself identified relations between Islam and the West as the main issue that currently needs to be examined.

"The European Union alone has accumulated, during the long process of building the community, the practical experience of a shared sovereignty that corresponds well to the demands of our times", Mr Sarkozy told his audience of 180 diplomats, stressing the EU bloc has at its disposal a broad palette of instruments, ranging from military force to humanitarian and financial means.

While outlining new ideas, Mr Sarkozy urged the 27-nation club to boost its common security strategy -- namely to improve its conduct of joint military operations, to rationalize its arms procurement as well as boost countries' contributions to Europe's defence budget.

"The construction of Europe will remain the absolute priority of our foreign policy", France's Nicolas Sarkozy concluded, underlining that "France is not strong without Europe, just as Europe is not strong."..."

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