



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

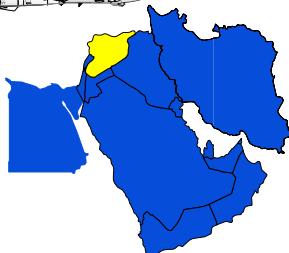
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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SYRIA 'FIRES ON ISRAEL WARPLANES'

September 6, 2007 BBC News reported: "Syria has said its air defences opened fire on Israeli warplanes after they violated its airspace in the north of the country. Syrian officials said the defences forced the jets to drop ammunition over deserted areas and turn back, according to the official news agency, Sana.

Israel's military said it would not comment on the reports. Israel and Syria remain technically at war and tensions between them have been rising in recent months.



The Syrian government has insisted that peace talks can be resumed only on the basis of Israel returning the Golan Heights, which it seized in 1967. Israeli authorities, for their part, have demanded that Syria abandon its support for Palestinian and Lebanese militant groups before talks can begin. The last peace talks between the two countries broke down in 2000.

A Syrian military spokesman said the Israeli warplanes had flown into Syrian airspace at around 0100 local time on Thursday morning, Sana reported.

"The Israeli enemy aircraft infiltrated into the Arab Syrian territory through the northern border, coming from the Mediterranean heading toward the eastern region, breaking the sound barrier," he said.

They were then engaged by Syrian air defence forces in the Tall al-Abyad, an area 160km (100 miles) north of Raqqa and near the border with Turkey, witnesses said.

"Air defence units confronted them and forced them to leave after they dropped some ammunition in deserted areas without causing any human or material damage," the spokesman said.

Pilots sometimes jettison ammunition or extra fuel to make their aircraft lighter and easier to manoeuvre."..."

JUDGE WANTS EVERYONE IN UK ON DNA DATABASE

September 5, 2007 The Guardian.co.uk reported: "The entire UK population and every visitor to Britain should be put on the national DNA database, a top judge said today. Lord Justice Sedley, one of England's most experienced appeal court judges, described the country's current system as "indefensible".

"We have a situation where if you happen to have been in the hands of the police, then your DNA is on permanent record. If you haven't, it isn't ... that's broadly the picture," Sir Stephen Sedley told the BBC.

It also means that a great many people who are walking the streets, and whose DNA would show them guilty of crimes, go free." He said that expanding the existing database to cover the whole population had "serious but manageable implications".

But he warned that putting everybody's DNA on file should be "for the absolutely rigorously restricted purpose of crime detection and prevention".

Britain's 12-year-old DNA database is the largest of any country in the world, growing by 30,000 samples a month. According to the Home Office website, 5.2% of the UK population is on the database, compared with 0.5% in the US.

The data is taken from criminal suspects or scenes of crime and there are currently 4m profiles held. Under the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, police are permitted to retain DNA samples from anyone charged with a crime. Previously, samples and fingerprints taken from those found not guilty, or those who had their charge dropped, had to be destroyed.

Today, Shami Chakrabarti, the director of the human rights organisation Liberty, warned against potential changes to how and when British authorities collected DNA data.

"The DNA debate reveals just how casual some people have become about the value of personal privacy," she said. "A database of those convicted of sexual and violent crime is a perfectly sensible crimefighting measure. "A database of every man, woman and child in the country is a chilling proposal, ripe for indignity, error and abuse."..."

GERMANY FOILS 'MASSIVE' BOMB PLOT

September 5, 2007 BBC News reported: "Three men have been arrested in Germany on suspicion of planning a "massive" attack on US facilities in the country, officials have said. Federal prosecutor Monika Harms said the three had trained at camps in Pakistan and procured some 700kg (1,500lbs) of chemicals for explosives. She said the accused had sought to target facilities visited by Americans, such as nightclubs, pubs or airports.

Defence Minister Franz Josef Jung said the men had posed "an imminent threat".

Media reports said the men were planning attacks against a US military base in Ramstein and Frankfurt airport.

The US praised the actions of the German government and said the incident showed everyone needed to be vigilant in finding "terrorists"..."

HUMAN-ANIMAL EMBRYO STUDY WINS APPROVAL

September 4, 2007 The Guardian Unlimited reported: "Plans to allow British scientists to create human-animal embryos are expected to be approved tomorrow by the government's fertility regulator. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority published its long-awaited public consultation on the controversial research yesterday, revealing that a majority of people were "at ease" with scientists creating the hybrid embryos.

Researchers want to create hybrid embryos by merging human cells with animal eggs, in the hope they will be able to extract valuable embryonic stem cells from them. The cells form the basic building blocks of the body and are expected to pave the way for revolutionary therapies for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and even spinal cord injuries.

The consultation papers were released ahead of the authority's final decision on the matter, which will mark the end of almost a year of intense lobbying by scientists and a fervent campaign by organisations opposed to research involving embryonic stem cells.

Using animal eggs will allow researchers to push ahead unhindered by the shortage of human eggs. Under existing laws, the embryos must be destroyed after 14 days when they are no bigger than a pinhead, and cannot be implanted into the womb.

Opponents of the research and some religious groups say the work blurs the distinction between humans and animals, and creates embryos that are destined to be destroyed when stem cells are extracted from them.

Two research groups based at King's College London and Newcastle University have already applied to the HFEA to create animal-human embryos, but their applications have been on hold since November last year amid confusion over whether the authority was legally able to issue licences. If the authority approves the research, the applications will go forward to a committee, with a decision on both due within three months."..."

AHMADINEJAD TO MEET PALESTINIAN LEADERS

September 5, 2007 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Iranian President Malmoud Ahmadinejad is expected to meet with Palestinian faction leaders in Teheran on Thursday, in an attempt to resolve the crisis between Fatah and Hamas, the United Arab Emirates newspaper *Al-Khaleej* reported on Wednesday.

Participants in the meeting are to include Damascus-based Hamas chief Khaled Mashaal, Islamic Jihad leader Ramadan Shalah, Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine head Nayef Hawatmeh, and Ahmed Jibril, the boss of the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command. In addition, senior Fatah leader-in-exile Farouk Kadoumi, an adversary of Palestinian Authority Chairman Malmoud Abbas will join talks, the report said.

Kadoumi met with Ahmadinejad on Tuesday, according to Iran's Mehr news agency. The Iranian leader praised the Palestinian organizations for staying true to the path of "armed struggle," the report said.

"The Palestinian problem is still a gaping wound for the entire Islamic world and nations of the region," Ahmadinejad said. "The only way to treat it is through the resistance of the Palestinian nation, along with faith, unity and an unwavering stance."

He said no one could defeat the Arabs of Palestine, and promised that the world's superpowers were headed for destruction."..."

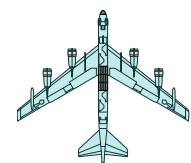
UK JETS SCRAMBLED TO INTERCEPT RUSSIAN AIRCRAFT

September 6, 2007 Guardian.co.uk reported: "British fighter jets were today scrambled to intercept eight Russian "Bear" reconnaissance aircraft in the second such incident in recent weeks. Four Tornado F3 planes took off from Leeming, in north Yorkshire, and Waddington, in Lincolnshire, to head off the aircraft. The Ministry of Defence said the Russian planes had not entered British airspace but did not provide details on where the incident took place.

The Associated Press reported that Norwegian F16 fighters were scrambled twice to monitor the same eight Russian bombers that came close to its territory in the latest show of air power by the Kremlin.

Lieutenant Colonel John Inge Oegland, of the Norwegian joint headquarters, said the Russian bombers, all Tupolev-95s, neared but did not enter Norwegian air space in the far north. "They followed a normal route in international airspace," he told AP. He said they flew near Norway's northern tip over the Barents Sea, then over the north Atlantic and back.

Lt Col Oegland said two Norwegian fighters were sent up both times the Russian aircraft approached Norway, in keeping with normal practice."..."



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