



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 13 2007

## TURKEY SET TO ATTACK KURDS IN IRAQ

*October 11, 2007* Asia Times reported: "Turkey has defied the wishes of the United States by giving its military a green light to cross the border into Iraq, following a number of ambushes apparently waged by a Kurdish rebel group with bases in northern Iraq. And on Wednesday, Turkish warplanes and helicopter gunships attacked suspected rebel positions close to the Iraq border.

Turkey's decision could come to imperil the already precarious stability and prosperity of Iraq's Kurdish region. And while the stakes for the United States, Iraq and Turkey in Iraqi Kurdistan are substantial in broad economic and geopolitical terms, one of the major factors is the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK), a rag-tag group numbering in the low-thousands and holed up in rugged, mountainous terrain.

In the face of ambushes on Sunday linked to the PKK, in which more than 10 Turkish soldiers were killed, and the subsequent escalation of tension with Turkey, the Iraqi Kurdish leadership appears to be facing the situation with a certain aplomb - at least in its rhetoric. In a telephone interview, the foreign minister for the Kurdish area of Iraq, Falah M Bakir, said, "Of course we understand Turkey's concerns, but we don't believe that crossing the border will effectively address them."

Bakir, who is in New York for a meeting of the UN General Assembly, said that his regional government and Turkish officials are currently reduced to communicating with each other through the media. In the wake of the recent elections in Turkey, Bakir said he and his colleagues had held out the hope that a constructive dialogue with Turkey would begin..."..."

## ISRAELI LEADERS BACK DIVISION OF JERUSALEM

*October 9, 2007* The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Two senior Israeli politicians - including the prime minister's closest ally - have backed the transfer of Arab parts of Jerusalem to Palestinian control. But although the offer included Palestinian neighbourhoods, it excluded the "holy basin" - home to holiest site for Jews, the Temple Mount, and the third holiest site in Islam, the Al Aqsa mosque compound.

The ideas raised by Haim Ramon, the Israeli vice premier, therefore still fell short of Palestinian demands to set up their capital in all of east Jerusalem, which Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. Nevertheless, the proposal could indicate an important concession by Israel, as it has been claiming the whole Jerusalem as its undivided capital.

Mr Ramon, who is a confidant of Ehud Olmert, the prime minister of Israel, spoke on two main radio stations as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators prepared to resume peace talks for the first time in seven years.

The two sides are meeting in Jerusalem to draw up a joint document that will guide a US-hosted peace conference in Annapolis, Maryland, on November 15. The document will address the most explosive disputes in the long-running conflict - including the division of Jerusalem, which has derailed peace talks in the past.

"I agree that all the Palestinian neighbourhoods except the Arab neighbourhoods in the holy basin ... would be transferred," Mr Ramon told Army Radio. He added that the holy basin could be controlled by a "special administration". The vice premier did not elaborate, but past talks have raised the idea of turning oversight to an international body.

Later in the day, Mr Ramon's suggestion was backed by Avigdor Lieberman, the leader of the hardline Israel Beitenu Party. Mr Lieberman, a cabinet minister and part of Mr Olmert's coalition, said his party would be willing to hand over Palestinian refugee camps within Jerusalem. However, the Palestinians must then let Israel can keep control of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, he said in a radio interview. The Palestinians want a future state to include the entire West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem.

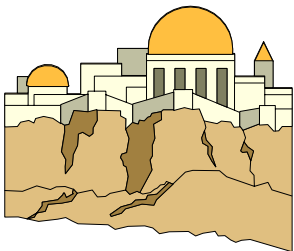
In his speech at the opening of parliament's winter session, Mr Olmert did not mention Jerusalem. But he said he would make every effort to pursue peace with the Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen..."..."

## RETHINK ON HUMAN HYBRID EXPERIMENTS

*October 9, 2007* Breitbart.com reported: "A radical Government re-think on the law governing hybrid embryos will allow scientists to carry out virtually any work they like - if it is approved by regulators. The move opens the door to experiments involving every known kind of human-animal hybrid. These could include both "cytoplasmic" embryos, which are 99.9% human, and "true hybrids" carrying both human and animal genes.

In addition "chimeras" made of a mosaic-like mix of cells from different species, and "human transgenic embryos" - human embryos modified with animal DNA - will also be allowed under licence. Provision has also been made for the regulation of hybrid embryo research to incorporate any unforeseen developments that might arise in the future. Ministers have moved a long way from original White Paper proposals for an outright ban on all human-animal embryos, prompting outrage from scientists.

The new measures are contained in a revised version of the Human Tissue and Embryology Bill which will be included in the Queen's



Speech next month. They have been set out as part of the Government's response to a Parliamentary committee's verdict on the Bill.

Another major change is that plans to combine two regulatory bodies into a single authority have been dropped. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) and Human Tissue Authority (HTA) will now remain separate entities. They were to have been fused together to create a new Regulatory Authority for Tissue and Embryos (RATE)."..."

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## **BRITAIN 'ON BOARD' FOR US STRIKES ON IRAN**

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*October 8, 2007* The London Daily Telegraph reported: "British defence officials have held talks with their Pentagon counterparts about how they could help out if America chose to bomb Iran. Washington sources say that America has shelved plans for an all-out assault, drawn up to destroy the Iranian nuclear facilities and take out the Islamist regime..."

The Sunday Telegraph has learned that President Bush's White House national security council is discussing instead a plan to launch pinpoint attacks on bases operated by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Quds force, blamed for training Iraqi militants. Pentagon officials have revealed that President Bush won an understanding with Gordon Brown in July that Britain would support air strikes if they could be justified as a counter-terrorist operation...

Vincent Cannistraro — who served as intelligence chief on Ronald Reagan's National Security Council and then as head of operations for the CIA's counter-terrorist centre — said: "What's on the table right now is tactical strikes."...

He said: "The British Government is in accord with plans to launch limited strikes on facilities inside Iran, on the basis of counter-terrorism." While the US Air Force and naval jets could carry out raids without help from the RAF, the Pentagon is keen to have the Royal Navy's cooperation in the event of an attack, to prevent Iran from sowing mines in the Gulf to block oil exports in retaliation.

Mr Cannistraro said: "The British have to be a major auxiliary to this plan. It's not just for political reasons: the US doesn't have a lot of mine clearing capability in the Gulf. The Dutch and the British do...If there was a retaliatory response by the Iranians, they might close the Straits of Hormuz and that would affect the entire West."

The White House and Downing Street would justify such an attack as a defensive move to protect allied troops in Iraq. But moderates in the US government are concerned that the counter-terrorist argument may be used by hawks as a figleaf for military action that could escalate into all out war with Iran...

American officials told the New Yorker: "During a secure video conference earlier this summer, the President told Ryan Crocker, the US ambassador to Iraq, that he was thinking of hitting Iranian targets across the border and that the British 'were on board'."..."

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## **RUSSIA TESTS SUPERSTRENGTH BOMB, MILITARY SAYS**

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*September 12, 2007* Reuters reported: "Russia has tested the world's most powerful vacuum bomb, which unleashes a destructive shockwave with the power of a nuclear blast, the military said on Tuesday, dubbing it the "father of all bombs". The bomb is the latest in a series of new Russian weapons and policy moves as President Vladimir Putin tries to reassert Moscow's role on the international stage.

"Test results of the new airborne weapon have shown that its efficiency and power is commensurate with a nuclear weapon," Alexander Rukshin, Russian deputy armed forces chief of staff, told Russia's state ORT First Channel television. The same report was later shown on the state-sponsored Vesti channel...

It showed a Tupolev Tu-160 strategic bomber dropping the bomb over a testing ground. A large explosion followed. Pictures showed what looked like a flattened multi-storey block of flats surrounded by scorched soil and boulders. "The soil looks like a lunar landscape," the report said...



Such devices generally detonate in two stages. First a small blast disperses a main load of explosive material into a cloud, which then either spontaneously ignites in air or is set off by a second charge. This explosion generates a pressure wave that reaches much further than that from a conventional explosive.

The consumption of gases in the blast also generates a partial vacuum that can compound damage and injuries caused by the explosion itself."..."

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## **ISRAEL BELIEVES N. KOREA SELLING NUKE MATERIAL TO SYRIA REPORT**

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*September 12, 2007* SpaceWar.com reported: "Israel recently carried out reconnaissance flights over Syria, taking pictures of possible nuclear installations that Israeli officials believed might have been supplied with material from North Korea, The New York Times reported Thursday.

A US administration official said Israeli officials believed that North Korea might be unloading some of its nuclear material on Syria, the Times reported. A US defense official confirmed Tuesday that Israel carried out an air strike well inside Syria last week, apparently to send Damascus a message not to rearm Hezbollah in Lebanon."..."