



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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REPORT: ISRAEL PREPARING TO STRIKE IRAN WITHOUT U.S. CONSENT

December 4, 2008 FOXNews.com reported: "Israel is drawing up plans to attack Iran's nuclear facilities and is prepared to launch a strike without backing from the U.S., an Israeli newspaper reported Thursday.

Officials in the Israeli Defense Ministry told The Jerusalem Post that while they prefer to act in consultation with the U.S., they are preparing plans that would allow them to act alone.

"It is always better to coordinate," a senior Defense Ministry official told the newspaper. "But we are also preparing options that do not include coordination."

It would be difficult, but not impossible, to launch a strike against Iran without permission from the U.S., as the American Air Force controls the Iraqi airspace Israel's jets would have to enter on a bombing mission.

"There are a wide range of risks one takes when embarking on such an operation," a senior Israeli official told the Post.



Iran

Iran, the world's fourth-largest crude oil producer, maintains that its uranium enrichment activities are aimed at making fuel for a network of planned electricity-generating nuclear power plants and not for developing weapons.

However Israel intelligence sources say Iran has sufficient nuclear material to make an atomic bomb. Last month, amid mounting fears in Israel that the U.S. was doing nothing to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power, Ehud Olmert, Israel's Prime Minister, warned President Bush the last chance of destroying Tehran's nuclear bomb-making program was passing.

Iran dismisses the possibility of an Israeli strike."...

A report, published in September in Britain's Guardian newspaper, claimed that Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert requested a green light to attack Iran in May but was refused by Bush."

NUCLEAR OR BIOLOGICAL ATTACK CALLED LIKELY

December 2, 2008 The Washington Post reported: "The odds that terrorists will soon strike a major city with weapons of mass destruction are now better than even, a bipartisan congressionally mandated task force concludes in a draft study that warns of growing threats from rogue states, nuclear smuggling networks and the spread of atomic know-how in the developing world.

The sobering assessment of such threats, due for release as early as today, singled out Pakistan as a grave concern because of its terrorist networks, history of instability and arsenal of several dozen nuclear warheads. The report urged the incoming Obama administration to take "decisive action" to reduce the likelihood of a devastating attack.

"No mission could be timelier," says the draft report of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, which spent six months preparing an assessment for Congress and the new president-elect. It adds: "In our judgment, America's margin of safety is shrinking, not growing."

The report, ordered by Congress last year, concludes that terrorists are more likely to obtain materials for a biological attack than to buy or steal nuclear weapons. But it says the nuclear threat is growing rapidly, in part because of the increasing global supply of nuclear material and technology.

"Without greater urgency and decisive action by the world community, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013," says the draft report..."..."

INDIA DEMANDS PAKISTAN HAND OVER SUSPECTS

December 2, 2008 FT.com reported: "India has served Pakistan with a demand to hand over 20 of its most feared criminals and militants, seeking co-operation with its neighbour rather than military confrontation in response to last week's attacks on Mumbai.

Pranab Mukherjee, India's foreign minister, said on Tuesday: "We have asked for the arrest and handover of those persons who are settled in Pakistan and who are fugitives of Indian law. "Nobody is talking of military action [against Pakistan]," he said of the threat of a rapid deterioration of relations between the two nuclear armed rivals.

The comments were made ahead of a visit by Condoleezza Rice, US secretary of state, to New Delhi on Wednesday. Western diplomats believe Ms Rice's meetings with senior Indian government figures will be far from easy.

One question that Indian leaders may well raise with Ms Rice is why the US expects India to take a measured and controlled response to the Mumbai attacks, given the US has had a policy for some time of launching direct military strikes against core members of al-Qaeda in Pakistan's tribal areas.

Some western diplomats believe India could argue that it, too, should take similar action against terrorist groups within Pakistan, given the threat they pose to India's national security.

The request to hand over some of India's most wanted terrorists is the first sign of the intense pressure India is expected to exert on Pakistan, following the Mumbai atrocities, which Indian authorities blame on Pakistani militants. The suspects possibly have links to Lashkar-e-Taiba, a group that has fought against Indian control of Kashmir.

India was waiting for a reaction from Pakistan that showed it genuinely wanted a shift for the better in relations with India in the wake of the attacks, a government spokesman said yesterday. But few consider New Delhi's demands realistic since the militants are on the run and possibly not even in Pakistan."..."

GLOBAL ECONOMIC WOES TRIGGER CANADA POLITICAL CRISIS

December 3, 2008 Agence France Presse reported: Canada's Conservative government vowed to fight an opposition bid to topple it and take over without new elections, saying it is an attack on democracy. Global economic woes trigger Canada political crisis

"We will be fighting this with every legal means at our disposal," a senior government official said. "It's an attack on Canada. It's an attack on Canada's democracy. It's an attack on our economy."

The official was speaking as the country's acting head of state Governor General Michaëlle Jean announced she was cutting short a European trip to return home to manage the brewing crisis. "I think that my presence is required in the country," Jean told public broadcaster CBC from the Czech Republic.

The G8 nation has been plunged into a constitutional crisis after opposition parties this week vowed to oust the government and install a leftist-separatist coalition led by Liberal leader Stéphane Dion. The opposition move was triggered over differences on how to seed an economic turnaround, as Canada confronts the global financial crisis. But it comes just six weeks after Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper was reelected with a stronger minority in the country's third snap elections in four years.

"As prime minister, it is not my responsibility to turn the keys of power over to a group like that," Harper said in parliament during a heated exchange with Dion.

"The highest principle of Canadian democracy is that if you want to be prime minister, you get your mandate from the Canadian people, not from Quebec separatists."

He said Dion's actions are "a betrayal of the voters of this country, a betrayal of the best interests of our economy, a betrayal of the best interests of our country, and we will fight it with every means we have."

The Conservatives meanwhile unfurled radio advertisements denouncing the Liberals and the socialist New Democratic Party for plotting with the separatist Bloc Québécois to bring down the government in a no-confidence vote, which has been set for December 8."..."



In the coming days, Harper could ask the governor general to prorogue parliament until the end of January when Finance Minister Jim Flaherty hopes to unveil his budget and present a plan for an economic turnaround.

It would be up to the governor general whether parliament is shut down over the Christmas holidays to give Harper more time to sort out the crisis, or allow the coalition's request for a chance to govern now. Alternately, the governor general could dissolve parliament and ask voters to weigh in.

"The prime minister and myself need to have a conversation, that we haven't had yet, and as soon as I will be back to Ottawa, my door is open," the governor general, who is the representative of Queen Elizabeth II, said.

Canada is the only Group of Eight industrialized country which so far appears to be weathering the financial crisis that started in the United States with a subprime mortgage market meltdown."..."

BRITISH TEAM LEAD STEM CELL HEART SURGERY THAT COULD END NEED FOR TRANSPLANTS

December 3, 2008 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "The researchers at Imperial College London are perfecting a technique to rebuild a heart severely damaged and scarred by disease or cardiac arrest. They have discovered a way to extract, grow in the laboratory and then graft on a patient's own muscle-building cells which then can be used to patch up the heart and increase its pumping power.

Eventually it could end the need for transplants, revolutionise heart surgery and reduce the 238,000 lives lost every year to heart disease, the UK's biggest killer. What is more, it could increase the quality of life for the million or so people who suffer a heart attack every year.

The world-leading research, which is being led by the American Professor Michael Schneider, was last night awarded The Medical Futures Innovation Award, otherwise known as a medical Oscar.

Dr Nicholas Boon, President of the British Cardiovascular Society and one of the judges for the awards, said: "This could transform the care for patients who have had heart attacks or have heart disease. "Because the cell therapy uses a patient's own cells, it negates the risks or complications associated with other treatment options such as rejection linked to transplantation."..."