



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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WARNING ISSUED NOT TO SIGN WITH VATICAN

March 30, 2009 Arutz Sheva reported: "Pope Benedictus XVI is scheduled to arrive in Israel six weeks from now, and concern is growing over possibly irreversible Israeli concessions to the Church.

For more than ten years, Israel and the Vatican have been negotiating a diplomatic agreement regarding their tax dispute over Catholic Church properties in Israel, as well as other issues over which they disagree. Though public details are sparse to nil, Foreign Ministry officials say major progress has been made – leading many to fear that the Church will be granted a political and religious foothold in the Holy Land.

Though Church officials hope the agreement will be completed before the Pope's arrival in May, this is not certain. The Foreign Ministry's Bahij Mansour, who heads its religious affairs section, said two weeks ago, "We are 85-90% there."..."



The Sanhedrin, a body of 71 rabbis that is attempting to renew the ancient tradition of Judaism's most authoritative court, has written a public letter to Israel's leading officials, warning that any agreement regarding the transfer of national, historic, and/or religious Jewish assets to the Catholic Church will be null and void and will not be recognized by Jewish authorities."...



The Sanhedrin, which sees itself as a "vehicle to bring about Jewish unity and civil justice, to help repair some of the deepest rifts in our society, and to provide an active, exemplary and unified Torah leadership," warns President Shimon Peres and incoming Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu against the Church's religious agenda hiding behind diplomatic agreements.

The letter states as follows:

The State of Israel grants freedom of worship to every religion – except to Jews on their most sacred spot, the Temple Mount. They do not have the right to pray there, nor even minimal religious rights. The State thus contravenes the purpose for which it exists, and undermines its own foundations. On the other hand, the State of Israel goes out of its way to transfer diplomatic, religious and spiritual assets to foreigners.

Over the course of many years, contacts have been underway and promises of various agreements have been made regarding what the Catholic Church sees as its property or wishes were its property, in Mt. Zion, the Old City of Jerusalem, the Sea of Galilee, and elsewhere. There are those who came up with the idea of the Holy Crescent [an area around the Old City to the north and east, newly known as the Holy Crescent - ed.] -- the main purpose of which is to rid the Temple Mount and the Old City of exclusive Jewish sovereignty.

Ever since the Israeli army liberated the entire city of Jerusalem in 1967, the members of other faiths and nations have not accepted the Jewish People's sovereignty and return to its eternal capital, the place in which its Temple for the G-d of Israel and G-d's kingdom will be established.

In recent years, the Vatican – acting on behalf of Catholic theology – signed a series of secret agreements, behind the public's back, with various elements in the State of Israel, bereft of respect for the spiritual and political essence of the Jewish Nation. The essence of these agreements is the transfer of ownership over national Jewish property in Jerusalem to the hands of foreigners, and the instigation of processes to destabilize the Jewish People's ownership over its sacred sites – primarily, the Temple Mount, the Western Wall, and the entire Old City of Jerusalem.

Giving these and other sites to the Vatican and international elements will lead to their detachment from the State's territorial area.

The State of Israel is bound to the document of acquisition [known as] the Bible, which was the basis for the Jewish People's claim to its Land when it established the State of Israel. The State must therefore actualize Jewish sovereignty in Jerusalem, the City of G-d, the city of kingship, the capital of Israel, the heart of the world. It must guarantee the right of worship for Jews on the Temple Mount..."..."

PM: WE MAY BE FORCED TO ATTACK IRAN

April 1, 2009 The Jerusalem Post reported: "In what has become somewhat of a tradition for incoming prime ministers on their first day in office, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu visited the Western Wall and spoke with the US president on Wednesday - not necessarily in that order.

Barack Obama, currently on his first overseas trip as president, phoned Netanyahu in the early morning hours Wednesday, and congratulated him on his first day in office. Obama, according to Olmert's office, made clear that US support for Israel's security was unwavering, and wished him well.

According to Netanyahu's office, the conversation lasted close to 30 minutes, and was held in a "friendly" atmosphere. The two agreed to meet in the near future, though no date was given."...

An indication of what will be at the center of Olmert's agenda was apparent in an interview he gave *The Atlantic* on Tuesday, which was

placed on the web on Wednesday and is one of a number of interviews Netanyahu is expected to give the foreign press over the next few days to present his message to the international community.

The gist of his message to *The Atlantic* had to do with Iran. "The Obama presidency has two great missions: fixing the economy, and preventing Iran from gaining nuclear weapons," Netanyahu said. "You don't want a messianic apocalyptic cult controlling atomic bombs. When the wide-eyed believer gets hold of the reins of power and the weapons of mass death, then the entire world should start worrying, and that is what is happening in Iran."

Netanyahu said in the interview that he supported Obama's policy of engaging Iran, as long as it would bring to an end Teheran's nuclear program. "How you achieve this goal is less important than achieving it," he said."..."

DRUG WAR HITS MEXICAN ECONOMY IN CRISIS

April 4, 2009 Reuters reported: "Mexico's economy, already in recession, is being dragged even lower by a brutal drug war that is frightening off some investors and hurting the Mexican currency.

From manufacturing centers on the U.S. border to the southern beach resorts of Cancun and Acapulco, Mexicans have seen regular beheadings, shootouts and kidnappings as gangs fight over smuggling routes into the United States. The turf wars killed 6,300 people last year and the U.S. government, fearing that the violence will spill over onto its soil, is boosting security along the border.

Some U.S. investors have pulled money out of Mexico worried that drug cartels are overwhelming security forces, and a recent study by the United States Joint Forces Command said Mexico could be at risk of a "rapid and sudden collapse."

"The issue of security has effected economic growth in Mexico," Finance Minister Agustin Carstens said recently. "If we could resolve this issue it could give the economy an extra shine of at least 1 percent," he said."..."

Mexico's government says the economy will shrink 2.8 percent this year, tumbling into recession on a sharp drop in U.S. demand for Mexican exports. Many economists say the slump could be even more dramatic."..."



IRAN PREPARES TO DEPLOY IRBM

April 2, 2009 The Middle East Newline reported: "Iran was said to be preparing to deploy a Soviet-origin intermediate-range ballistic missile that could be quipped with a nuclear warhead.

Israeli intelligence sources said Iran was completing modifications of the BM-25 ballistic missile, supplied to Teheran in 2007. They said Russian scientists and engineers were preparing the BM-25 for operational use in 2009. "The BM-25 would give Iran the capability to strike anywhere in the Middle East and Europe," an intelligence source said."..."

N KOREA WARNED OVER MISSILE LAUNCH

April 2, 2009 The Financial Times reported: "The US and South Korea on Thursday warned North Korea not to proceed with a planned satellite launch, as Pyongyang threatened a "fiery bolt of retaliatory lightning" if Japan tried to shoot down the rocket.

North Korea says it will launch a satellite between April 4 and 8. The US, South Korea and Japan say the launch – even if the missile carries a satellite – would breach a United Nations resolution passed after North Korea tested a long-range Taepodong-2 without advance warning in 2006.

Barack Obama, US president, and Lee Myung-bak, South Korea's president, agreed after their G20 meeting in London on the need for a "unified" international response if Pyongyang carried out the launch. South Korea said Mr Lee wanted a "stern response".

While North Korea says the missile – which satellite imagery shows on the launch pad at Musudan-ri – will carry a communications satellite, the US and its Asian allies see the launch as a pretext to test the Taepodong-2. When North Korea first tested the intercontinental ballistic missile, which has the ability to reach the continental US, in 2006 it failed shortly after launch.

The US has sent navy ships to the region that could be used in any attempt to shoot down the missile. In an interview with the Financial Times, Robert Gates, US defence secretary, said he was "pretty confident that this is a space shot, a satellite shot"..." "Our concern is principally if it does go astray, or is some kind of a failure, that looks like it is potentially a danger to Japan or to Hawaii, that we would contemplate doing something."..."

IRAN DENIES US REPORTS OF WARM TALKS AT CONFERENCE

April 2, 2009 The Associated Press reported: "Iran dismissed American government reports that senior U.S. and Iran envoys had a cordial and promising face-to-face exchange at an international conference, saying Wednesday that no "talks" took place. The competing accounts of Tuesday's encounter in the Netherlands appeared to reflect the different approaches to overtures to end the United States' and Iran's nearly 30-year diplomat standoff.

Washington has seemed eager to build on President Barack Obama's surprise video message last month to seek engagement with Iran's ruling clerics. Iran has in public, at least been far cooler to making immediate contacts, but has not fully rejected some openings in the future."..."