



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

APRIL 25 2009

IRAN WARNS ISRAEL NOT TO ATTACK NUCLEAR SITES

April 21, 2009 The Associated Press reported: "Iran's parliament speaker warned Israel on Tuesday against a possible attack on the country's nuclear facilities, Iranian state television reported.

"Iran will respond in a way that they will not be able to sleep easy anymore," Ali Larijani was quoted as saying. Larijani made the remark at a meeting of top prosecutors from Islamic countries, who are trying to find ways to arrange for the arrest and prosecution of Israeli leaders on war crimes charges over the offensive against Hamas in Gaza earlier this year.

Last week, President Shimon Peres dismissed the idea that Israel was planning an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities.

Israel, the United States and other western nations believe that Iran's nuclear program is aimed at covertly developing atomic weapons. Iran, the world's fourth largest oil producer, insists that the program is for civilian purposes only.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said Holocaust deniers would not be permitted to repeat a genocide against Jews. He was speaking in reference to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who has called for Israel to be "wiped off the map."

AL QAEDA CALLS FOR ATTACK ON JERUSALEM

April 20, 2009 Arutz Shiva reported: "While the eyes of the world are focused on the Durban II racism conference in Geneva, the international al-Qaeda terrorist organization issued a new call for an attack on Israel. The deputy al-Qaeda leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, urged the group's Iraqi followers to sneak the borders and "liberate" Jerusalem in a new recording posted on the As-Sahab terrorist internet website on Monday.

Osama bin Laden's deputy also slammed Egypt for brokering talks between the Palestinian Authority's Hamas terrorist organization and its rival Fatah faction."

The Egyptian-born terrorist insisted in Monday's harangue, however, that the negotiations were actually intended to pressure Hamas into recognizing the State of Israel, which he warned the group not to do. He also called on PA Arabs to attack Israelis and their allies outside the country. "If circumstances were difficult in one place they are easier in other places," he proclaimed. "Our enemies, crusaders and Jews are scattered everywhere."

Al-Zawahiri also scorned a plan by U.S. President Barack Obama to expand the number of American troops in Afghanistan. The terrorist leader warned that "America came to us with a new face, with which it is trying to fool us. He [Obama] did not change the image of America among Muslims... America is still killing Muslims," he commented.

The Obama administration, which has vowed to continue the fight against terrorist begun by former President George W. Bush, has decided to add 17,000 soldiers to the 70,000-strong international force already stationed in Afghanistan. President Obama has also said he will increase economic aid and intensify its diplomatic efforts to fight the increasing influence of the al-Qaeda-linked Taliban in Afghanistan and Pakistan."

EDF STRIKERS CUT POWER TO FRENCH HOMES

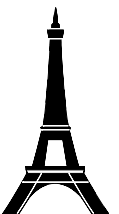
April 23, 2009 TimesOnline.com reported: "At an electricity substation on a bleak industrial estate north of Paris a masked union militant is preparing to deprive a neighbourhood of power."...It was the second time in a week that blackouts had hit the Paris region as striking gas and electricity workers adopted radical tactics to support their call for a 10 per cent pay rise and an end to outsourcing of jobs."

They are denounced as industrial saboteurs by the Government and face disciplinary action and prosecution, but say they are determined to press ahead with what they portray as a struggle against free-market forces.

After failing to prevent the partial privatisations of EdF and GdF, the gas supplier, they believe that the tide has turned in their favour because of the recession.

Redundancy plans have caused violent protests in private sector companies, left-wing students have blocked universities and unions are planning a demonstration on Labour Day. "There is a risk of revolution," Dominique de Villepin, the former prime minister, said."

- The revolutionary movement that shook France between 1789 and 1799 rejected the social and economic inequalities of the ancien régime, overthrew the Government and abolished the monarchy
- Popular revolt in 1848 led to the creation of the Second Republic and established the principle of the right to work
- In 1920, strikes on the railways forced the army to drive trains to get food around the country
- The de Gaulle administration's deployment of police against student rioters in 1968 provoked a widespread revolt, ending in widescale reform of the education system
- In 2005, rioting among poor African and Arab immigrant communities prompted the Government to impose a three-month state of emergency



- In 2006, students nationwide protested against an attempt to make it easier for French companies to sack employees under the age of 26. The law was withdrawn
- “Bossnapping” has become a popular technique in French labour disputes. Striking workers take their bosses hostage until they agree to demands.”...

JAMAICAN ARMY DEPLOYED AHEAD OF TAX INCREASE

April 23, 2009 Reuters reported: “Jamaica’s government put police and the army on alert to prevent violent demonstrations as it prepared to announce tax increases on gasoline, cigarettes and other consumer items on Thursday. Police and soldiers were deployed at what the government called “strategic” locations across the Caribbean island to quell any violent protests. Finance and Planning Minister Audley Shaw was expected to announce the tax increases during a budget debate later on Thursday.

Prime Minister Bruce Golding told the nation during a national broadcast Wednesday night that Jamaicans should brace for tougher times because the island could not continue to borrow money to fill holes in the budget. “There is speculation about the likelihood of tax increases and that there could be disturbances. But what purpose would that serve? Would it close the budget gap. Jamaica can no longer borrow to fill the gap in the budget,” Golding said.”...

Media reports said business operators were employing additional private security to protect their establishments if there is violence and looting. Nine people were killed during riots that broke out when a gasoline tax increase was announced in April 1999.”

US HOSPITALS BETTER PREPARED FOR DISASTER - REPORT

April 23, 2009 Reuters reported: “U.S. hospitals are better prepared for disasters than they were before the Sept. 11 attacks, but many medical facilities remain ill-equipped for catastrophic situations like large natural disasters or terrorist attacks, preparedness experts said on Thursday.

A 2002 U.S. government program, initiated after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, has helped hospitals train staff and coordinate planning with one another and with emergency officials, the report from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center’s Center for Biosecurity found.

“Prior to 2002, most hospitals did not have adequate plans to handle common medical disasters, much less catastrophic emergencies,” the report reads.

“Our research found that U.S. hospitals are significantly better prepared than they were in 2001 to deal with common disasters, such as tornadoes, bridge collapses and mass shootings. Moreover, much of that progress is attributable to the Hospital Preparedness Program,” the center’s experts wrote.”...

“While we found ... that a strong foundation has been built for hospitals to be able to respond to catastrophic situations -- such as large earthquakes, pandemic influenza, or the aftermath of nuclear or biological terrorism -- there is much to be done before hospitals are prepared to address the complicated challenges associated with those large-scale events that drain response resources over a prolonged period of time,” they wrote.”...

'QUIET SUN' BAFFLING ASTRONOMERS

April 21, 2009 The BBC News reported: “There are no sunspots, very few solar flares - and our nearest star is the quietest it has been for a very long time. The observations are baffling astronomers, who are due to study new pictures of the Sun, taken from space, at the UK National Astronomy Meeting.

The Sun normally undergoes an 11-year cycle of activity. At its peak, it has a tumultuous boiling atmosphere that spits out flares and planet-sized chunks of super-hot gas. This is followed by a calmer period. Last year, it was expected that it would have been hotting up after a quiet spell. But instead it hit a 50-year year low in solar wind pressure, a 55-year low in radio emissions, and a 100-year low in sunspot activity.

According to Prof Louise Hara of University College London, it is unclear why this is happening or when the Sun is likely to become more active again. “There’s no sign of us coming out of it yet,” she told BBC News.

“At the moment, there are scientific papers coming out suggesting that we’ll be going into a normal period of activity soon. “Others are suggesting we’ll be going into another minimum period - this is a big scientific debate at the moment.”



In the mid-17th Century, a quiet spell - known as the Maunder Minimum - lasted 70 years, and led to a “mini ice-age”. This has resulted in some people suggesting that a similar cooling might offset the impact of climate change.

According to Prof Mike Lockwood of Southampton University, this view is too simplistic. “I wish the Sun was coming to our aid but, unfortunately, the data shows that is not the case,” he said.

Prof Lockwood was one of the first researchers to show that the Sun’s activity has been gradually decreasing since 1985, yet overall global temperatures have continued to rise.”...