



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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MAY 23 2009

FBI THWARTS ATTACKS ON NYC TEMPLE, UPSTATE AIRPORT

May 21, 2009 wcbstv.com reported: "The FBI arrested four men in New York City on Wednesday evening in an alleged plot to detonate a bomb outside a Jewish temple and to attack an Air National Guard Base in upstate Newburgh. Officials said arrests came after a long-running undercover operation that began in Newburgh. Federal authorities tell CBS 2 HD the motive for the attack was revenge over the United States' involvement in Afghanistan.

Federal authorities announced the arrests of James Cromitie -- a.k.a "Abdul Rahman," David Williams, Onta Williams and Laguerre Payen on charges arising from a plot to detonate explosives near a synagogue in the Riverdale section of the Bronx, and to shoot military planes located at the New York Air National Guard Base at Stewart Airport in Newburgh with Stinger surface-to-air guided missiles.

In their efforts to obtain weapons, the defendants dealt with an informant acting under law enforcement supervision, and the FBI and other agencies monitored the defendants' actions up to the time of arrest, including providing an inactive missile and inert explosives to the informant for the defendants. The feds told CBS 2 HD's Lou Young they picked up the inert weapons at a meeting in Stamford, Conn., and during the last few days secured small arms, including assorted handguns. The investigation had been under way for about a year.

Rep. Peter King of New York, the senior Republican on the House Homeland Security Committee, was briefed on the case following the arrests. "All the explosives and missiles were obtained from the FBI, so there was never any danger to anyone at any time, even, obviously, the four men involved," Rep. King, R-Long Island, told CBS 2 HD by phone. "[The suspects] thought these were real missiles and thought that C4 was real."

King said this bust was a long time in the making. "This was a long, well-planned investigation, and it shows how real the threat is from homegrown terrorists," said King. The feds also said had the weapons been real and the plan hatched successfully, the damage to the Riverdale area around the synagogue would have been devastating."..."

US OFFICIALS: IRAN MISSILE MAY BE MORE ADVANCED

May 20, 2009 The Associated Press reported: "The missile test-fired by Iran is the longest-range solid-propellant missile it has launched yet, a U.S. government official said Wednesday, raising concerns about whether the sophistication of Tehran's missile program is increasing. The U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss technical details of Iran's missile program, said Tehran has demonstrated shorter-range solid-propellant missiles in the past.

Solid-propellant rockets are a concern because they can be fueled in advance and moved or hidden in silos, the official said. Liquid-propellant rockets have to be fueled and fired quickly, which makes preparations for launches easier to monitor and would allow a preemptive strike if necessary.

But according to Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who Wednesday provided the first official U.S. confirmation of the Iranian launch, the Iranian missile had a range of 2,000 to 2,500 kilometers.

That translates to 1,200 to 1,500 miles, putting Israel, U.S. bases in the Mideast, and parts of Eastern Europe within striking distance.

"The information that I have read indicates that it was a successful flight test," Gates told the House Appropriations Committee nearly eight hours after the test was announced by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

Gates added that "because of some of the problems they've had with their engines we think at least at this stage of the testing we think it's probably closer to the lower end of that range. Whether it hit the target that it was intended for, I have not seen any information on that."..."

DAY OF RECKONING LOOMS FOR THE U.S. DOLLAR

May 20, 2009 The Financial Post reported: "The U.S. dollar's day of reckoning may be inching closer as its status as a safe-haven currency fades with every uptick in stocks and commodities and its potential risks - debt and inflation - are brought under a harsher spotlight.

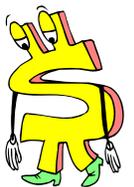
Ashraf Laidi, chief market strategist at CMC Markets, said Wednesday a "serious case of dollar damage" was underway. "We long warned about the day of reckoning for the dollar emerging at the next economic recovery," Mr. Laidi said in a note.

Mr. Laidi said economic recovery would weigh on the greenback as real demand for commodities, coupled with improved risk appetite, caused investors to seek higher yields in emerging markets and commodity currencies. This would draw investment away from the U.S. dollar, which was dragged down by growing debt and the risk quantitative easing would eventually spark a surge in inflation.

The U.S. dollar slid against most major currencies Wednesday, hitting a five-month low of US\$1.3775 against the euro and pushing the Canadian dollar up US1.21¢ to a seven-month high of US87.69¢.

John Curran, the senior corporate dealer at Canadian Forex, said the U.S. dollar would likely fall further in the next week, with the Canadian dollar likely reaching about US88.35¢, at which point it could break higher to test the US92.35¢ level.

"The U.S. dollar is continuing to slide as investor appetite is gaining momentum," Mr. Curran said. "People are getting comfortable about



taking on a little more risk."

The rise in the Canadian dollar has moved in lock-step with the improvement in equity markets since March 9. Over this time, the S&P 500 has risen by 34%, the S&P/TSX composite index has gained 35% and the Canadian dollar has increased by 14%, equal to almost US11¢. Since Feb. 18, light-crude oil has risen by 46% to US\$62.12.

But as risk appetite and equities improve, Mr. Curran said it was unlikely the U.S. dollar would embark on a long-term decline. "While things are beginning to thaw, it doesn't mean it's full-on summertime just yet," he said. "A lot of people are looking for the Canadian dollar to strengthen dramatically again towards par. I'm not sure about that just yet."

Nevertheless, concern has been mounting that the increasing U.S. debt load, as well as a potential inflation time bomb in the form of the quantitative easing, could drag down the greenback. Garnering attention is the risk the United States could lose its triple-A sovereign credit rating, which reflects the chance of the borrower defaulting on its debt.

"By many measures, the U.S. appears just a few short steps away from losing its coveted triple-A status, unless the recovery turns out to be considerably stronger than expected and the fiscal repair is faster than commonly expected," said Douglas Porter, deputy chief economist at BMO Capital Markets. "A downgrade could boost the cost of funding U.S. debt at the margin, but underlying inflation and fiscal fundamentals will ultimately be the primary driver."

Despite the risk, Paul Ashworth, chief economist at Capital Economics, said the United States was unlikely to lose its rating. But, in the event of a downgrade, he said it would probably not have a lasting impact on the U.S. dollar."..."

ITALY APPROVES HARSH ANTI-IMMIGRATION BILL

May 14, 2009 The EU Observer reported: "The Italian lower house on Wednesday approved legislation which criminalises irregular immigration, sets up citizen anti-crime 'patrols' and sentences landlords to up to three years of prison if they rent to undocumented migrants.

The legislation, which still has to be approved by the Senate, makes entering or staying in Italy without permission a crime punishable by a fine of €5,000 to €10,000. A provision to triple the time irregular immigrants can be detained in holding centres also forms part of the security package, approved by 316 votes for to 238.

Silvio Berlusconi, who last year made irregular immigration the core of his successful re-election campaign, linked the bill to a vote of confidence for his government. The move ensured that more liberal-thinking members of the ruling coalition would not vote against it and so bring down the government.



"This is a fundamental step to equip law enforcement officials and mayors with the means to combat crime in general," interior minister Roberto Maroni from the hard-right anti-immigrant Northern League party said following the vote.

Italy's centre-left opposition, the Catholic Church and human rights activists have slammed the criminalisation of immigrants and said the citizen-patrols would soon turn into vigilante groups likely to harass foreigners and minorities such as the Roma."..."

SWINE FLU CASES SURGE ABOVE 11,000

May 21, 2009 The VOA News reported: "The World Health Organization says the number of swine influenza A-H1N1 cases around the world has surged above 11,000, including 85 deaths. Three more deaths have been confirmed in Mexico, the epicenter of the outbreak, while the United States is reporting two more fatalities linked to the virus - a 13-year-old boy in the southwestern state of Arizona and a 21-year-old man in the neighboring state of Utah.

The U.S. death toll has now reached 10 confirmed fatalities. The U.S. has the greatest number of infections, with nearly 5,500 confirmed cases, while Mexico, with nearly 3,900 cases, has the most deaths with 75.

WHO says the virus has now spread to 41 nations. Cases have been confirmed throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia and Oceania. Despite the expanding nature of the outbreak, WHO has not raised its pandemic alert from Phase 5 to the declaration of a pandemic at Phase 6."..."

NETANYAHU: ALL OF JERUSALEM TO REMAIN ISRAELI

May 21, 2009 The VOA news reported: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says all of Jerusalem will always remain under Israeli sovereignty. Mr. Netanyahu said united Jerusalem is the Jewish state's capital, and will never again be partitioned or divided.

The prime minister spoke Thursday on Jerusalem Day at a ceremony marking 42 years since Israel captured East Jerusalem from Jordan in the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem has not been internationally recognized, and Palestinians want East Jerusalem to be the capital of a future Palestinian state.

Palestinian officials rejected Mr. Netanyahu's remarks. Aides to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said the declaration goes against a two-state solution and threatens the peace process.

In East Jerusalem Thursday, several hundred people protested against Jerusalem Day celebrations."..."