



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JULY 04 2009

## IRAN ACCELERATES IRBM MISSILE PRODUCTION

*June 30, 2009* Middle East Newswire reported: "Israel's intelligence community has determined that Iran was accelerating production of intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

Officials said the Teheran regime has embarked on a multi-year program that would double its missile production lines over the next five years. They said Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, in cooperation with the Defense Ministry, would manufacture both solid- and liquid-fuel missiles as well as launchers."..."

## JAPAN DENIES SECRET PACT ALLOWING NUKE-ARMED US WARSHIPS

*June 29, 2009* AFP reported: "Japan's government Monday denied a report that Tokyo had secretly agreed with Washington during the cold war to allow US warships carrying nuclear weapons to make port calls in the country.

"Such speculation has gone on for decades, but the government of Japan has said there is no such secret agreement," said a foreign ministry official. The Mainichi Shimbun national daily on Monday published a report saying that such a secret document existed, quoting Ryohei Murata, a former vice foreign minister who served in the late 1980s.

The issue is sensitive in Japan, the only country to have suffered nuclear weapon attacks when bombed by the United States towards the end of World War II. Since then it has heavily relied on its alliance with the United States for its defence, including nuclear deterrence.

Japan in 1968 adopted a "three non-nuclear principles" policy of not possessing or producing nuclear weapons or allowing them on its territory, and it regularly speaks out in favour of a nuclear-weapons-free world. The newspaper said the accord was reached when Japan and the United States revised their security treaty in 1960 to give more equal footing to Japan, which was rebuilding itself from the devastation of World War II.

Murata -- who served as vice minister for about two years from 1987 -- reportedly said that when he took his post, his predecessor gave him a document in an envelope, asking him to "brief the minister on its content."

"I had heard that there was a secret agreement, but I saw the Japanese side's paper for the first time when I became vice minister," Murata said according to the report.

When Washington and Tokyo revised their treaty, they agreed that the United States must consult with Japan before making any major changes to its deployment of equipment or troops in Japan."..."



## QAEDA WARNS FRANCE OF REVENGE FOR BURKA STANCE

*June 30, 2009* AFP reported: "Al-Qaeda's North Africa wing threatened on Tuesday to take revenge on France for its opposition to the burka, calling on Muslims to retaliate against the country, the US monitoring service SITE Intelligence reported. Earlier this month, President Nicolas Sarkozy said the burka, which covers the whole face, was not welcome in the strictly secular country.

"Yesterday was the hijab (the Islamic headscarf long banned in French schools) and today, it is the niqab (the full veil)," Abu Musab Abdul Wadud, head of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb was quoted as saying. "We will take revenge for the honour of our daughters and sisters against France and against its interests by every means at our disposal."

The group also called on Muslims to retaliate for what it called French "hostility" against the community and its attempt to obstruct Islam's practice on its territory. "For us, the mujahedeen ... we will not remain silent to such provocations and injustices," Abdul Wadud said without elaborating, according to SITE.

"We call upon all Muslims to confront this hostility with greater hostility, and to counter France's efforts to divide male and female believers from their faith with a greater effort ... (by) adherence to the teachings of their Islamic sharia."

He said Muslims in France, who are estimated at around five million, are "increasingly concerned about the practices of French politicians and leaders and their harassment".

On June 22, Sarkozy said the burka was not a symbol of religious faith but a sign of women's "subservience," adding that the head-to-toe veil was "not welcome" in staunchly secular France. The French National Assembly set up an inquiry into the rising number of Muslim women who wear the burka.

France is home to Europe's largest Muslim community and faces a dilemma between accommodating Islam and maintaining secularism. In 2004, it passed a law banning headscarves or any other "conspicuous" religious symbols in schools to uphold a separation between church and state."...France is the only state in Europe to have such a ban."..."

## SOUTH KOREA GETTING U.S. MISSILES TO BOOST DEFENCES

*June 28, 2009* Reuters India reported: "South Korea is acquiring 40 U.S.-made missiles for an Aegis destroyer this month to boost its defences amid reports North Korea may soon test-fire missiles, Yonhap news agency on Sunday quoted a military source as saying.

North Korea, which rattled regional security with a May 25 nuclear test, is preparing to test a long-range missile that could hit U.S. territory and mid-range missiles that could hit all of South Korea, a South Korean presidential Blue House official said last week.

The surface-to-air missiles for the Aegis destroyer, designed to track and shoot down objects including missiles, can hit targets up to 160 km away, Yonhap quoted the source as saying.

North Korea has also warned ships to stay away from waters off its east coast city of Wonsan, Japan's Coast Guard said last week, in a possible indication of a missile test.

North Korea launched in April a rocket it said was carrying a satellite. The move was widely seen as a disguised test of its long-range Taepodong-2 missile and a violation of U.N. resolutions barring the reclusive state from ballistic missile testing.

The U.N. Security Council punished it for the missile launch by tightening existing sanctions and imposing new ones after the nuclear test to halt its arms trading, one of the few items the cash-short state with a broken down economy can export.

The U.S. Navy has said it is monitoring a North Korean ship under the new U.N. security resolutions imposed after the nuclear test. A South Korean intelligence source said the ship is likely carrying missiles and parts, and it could be heading to Myanmar, broadcaster YTN said.

At the weekend, the prickly North warned in an official media report it would shoot down any Japanese military plane that breached North Korean air space."..."

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### **HAMAS REJECTS ISRAEL PEACE VISION**

*June 26, 2009* BBC News reported: " Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal has dismissed the terms for a demilitarised state laid out by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Mr Netanyahu offered "merely self-governance under the name of a country," Mr Meshaal said.

Speaking in Damascus, he described the demand that the Palestinians recognise Israel as a Jewish state as "racist". But he hailed what he said was "new language" towards Hamas from US President Barack Obama.

The exiled leader of the Palestinian militant Islamist movement, which backs attacks on Israel, was speaking in the wake of key address by both Mr Obama and Mr Netanyahu.

The US regards Hamas as a terrorist organisation and does not deal with it, but Mr Obama acknowledged that many Palestinians support the group.

Mr Netanyahu bowed to heavy US pressure to endorse the principle of a Palestinian state, but said it must have no military, no control of its air space and must recognise Israel as a Jewish state.

"The enemy's leaders call for a so-called Jewish state is a racist demand that is no different from calls by Italian Fascists and Hitler's Nazism," Mr Meshaal said.

He reiterated Hamas's position that its "minimum demands" are "the establishment of a Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital, that has full sovereignty on the borders of 4 June 1967... the removal of all settlements and the achievement of the right of return".

In his speech two weeks ago, Mr Netanyahu said Jerusalem should be the undivided capital of Israel and made clear that he wished to continue limited settlement activity in the West Bank and that he rejected the right Palestinian refugees want to return to Israel."..."

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### **UK SWINE FLU CAN NO LONGER BE CONTAINED**

*July 2, 2009* Guardian.co.uk reported: "Swine flu is spreading so rapidly across Britain that there could be 100,000 new cases a day by the end of next month, the health secretary, Andy Burnham, said today.

The UK would immediately move to the "treatment phase" of its plan to combat swine flu, meaning doctors would no longer test for the H1N1 virus and urge anyone with symptoms to stay at home, Burnham told the House of Commons.

The first swine flu vaccine would be made available from August, with 60m doses available by the end of the year, he added.

"We have reached the next stage in management of the disease," Burnham said. "The national focus will be on treating the increasing numbers affected by swine flu. We will move to this treatment phase across the UK with immediate effect."

The move does not mean the H1N1 virus, which was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organisation last month, is becoming more deadly, just that it can no longer be contained."..."

