



PROPHETIC TIMES

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CHINA WARNS OF 'ARMS RACE IN OUTER SPACE'

August 12, 2009 The AP reported: "China's Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi called Wednesday for international diplomacy to avert an "arms race in outer space."

Space should be reserved for peaceful purposes, Yang told the 65-nation Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. "Outer space is now facing the looming danger of weaponization," he said. "Credible and effective multilateral measures must be taken to forestall the weaponization and arms race in outer space."

China and Russia have been vocal advocates of a global treaty against space-based weapons and argue for this to be included in future Conference of Disarmament negotiations.

The United States has dismissed the criticism as designed to block its plans for a missile interceptor system — while leaving untouched Chinese and Russian ground-based missiles that can fire into space.

"Countries should neither develop missile defense systems that undermine global strategic stability nor deploy weapons in outer space," Yang said. He added that China welcomed moves to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

"The complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons and a nuclear weapon-free world have become widely embraced goals," Yang said. He appeared to be referring to President Barack Obama's call in April for a "world without nuclear weapons."..."

OFFICIALS SEE RISE IN MILITIA GROUPS ACROSS US

August 12, 2009 Breitbart.com reported: "Militia groups with gripes against the government are regrouping across the country and could grow rapidly, according to an organization that tracks such trends. The stress of a poor economy and a liberal administration led by a black president are among the causes for the recent rise, the report from the Southern Poverty Law Center says. Southwest are also growing amid the public debate about illegal immigration.

Bart McEntire, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, told SPLC researchers that this is the most growth he's seen in more than a decade. "All it's lacking is a spark," McEntire said in the report.

It's reminiscent of what was seen in the 1990s— right-wing militias, people ideologically against paying taxes and so-called "sovereign citizens" are popping up in large numbers, according to the report to be released Wednesday. The SPLC is a nonprofit civil rights group that, among other activities, investigates hate groups.

Last October, someone from the Ohio Militia posted a recruiting video on YouTube, billed as a "wake-up call" for America. It's been viewed more than 60,000 times. "Things are bad, things are real bad, and it's going to be a lot worse," said the man on the video, who did not give his name. "Our country is in peril."

The man is holding an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle, and he encourages viewers to buy one.

While anti-government sentiment has been on the rise over the last two years, there aren't as many threats and violent acts at this point as there were in the 1990s, according to the report. That movement bore the likes of Timothy McVeigh, who in 1995 blew up a federal building in Oklahoma City and killed 168 people.

But McEntire fears it's only a matter of time. These militias are concentrated in the Midwest, Pacific Northwest and the Deep South, according to Mark Potok, an SPLC staff director who co-wrote the report. Recruiting videos and other outreach on the Internet are on the rise, he said, and researchers from his center found at least 50 new groups in the last few months."..."



RUSSIA BUILDING NEW 'STAR WARS' MISSILES: AIR FORCE

August 11, 2009 SpaceWar.com reported: "Russia is developing new missiles to counter space-based missile systems that could soon be deployed by the United States, Russia's air force commander was quoted as saying on Tuesday.

"We are building new missiles that will be capable of defending not only against air-defence systems but space-based systems," General Alexander Zelin said, quoted by Russian news agencies.

The United States and other countries will have deployed such satellite-based missile systems capable of striking any target in Russia by 2030, he said.

"Foreign air forces, above of all the United States, will acquire the capability to deal time-synchronized precision strikes on a global scale at virtually any target on Russia territory," Zelin said. The threat "is not virtual, but real," he added.

To counter such potential, Russia has begun work on the S-500 surface-to-air missile system that would have ballistic missile tracking capabilities and aim at a range of up to 3,500 kilometers, according to defence reports.

"The S-500 system is capable of defeating all manner of ballistic missiles and supersonic air devices," Zelin said.

Moscow vehemently opposes US plans to site a missile defence shield in Eastern Europe and has reacted warily to plans under the previous US administration it claimed had accelerated the militarisation of outer space. Washington insists its shield plan is not directed against Russia but threats from "rogue states" such as Iran.

Last year, when the US military was planning to shoot down a rogue US spy satellite, Russia's defence ministry said the plans looked like a veiled weapons test and an "attempt to move the arms race into space."

Both Russia and China have proposed a new treaty banning the use of weapons in space, but the idea was rejected by the White House."

ISRAELI FM: MIDEAST PEACE NOT IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE

August 10, 2009 Voice of America News reported: "Israel's foreign minister says there is no possibility of a comprehensive settlement with Palestinians in the next few years. Foreign Minister Avigdor Lieberman told a visiting delegation of U.S. Democratic lawmakers Monday that improving security and the Palestinian economy were the most that could be achieved through negotiations.

Lieberman blamed the stalemate on what he called the Palestinian side's "uncompromising, extremist positions" concerning Jerusalem and Jewish settlements. The foreign minister said Israeli policy must be based on reality and not illusions while maintaining a dialogue with Palestinians.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has vowed to liberate Palestinian land occupied by Israel and establish an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

U.S. officials have been pushing Israel to commit to a settlement freeze to facilitate Arab concessions in the peace process. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused that call, saying limited settlement construction must continue to allow for "natural growth." And he has said Israel's sovereignty over all of Jerusalem is not negotiable.

Also Monday, Lieberman told a meeting of Foreign Ministry officials that one of the country's diplomats should "resign" after criticizing Israeli policy.

Nadav Tamir, Israel's chief diplomat in Boston has come under criticism after warning that the dispute with the U.S. over Israeli settlement expansion in the West Bank is causing "strategic damage" to Israel."

IRAN CLERIC SAYS OBEYING AHMADINEJAD LIKE OBEYING GOD

August 13, 2009 Reuters reported: "A senior Iranian cleric seen as President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's spiritual mentor said obeying the head of government was like obeying God, the moderate Etemad-e Melli newspaper said on Thursday.

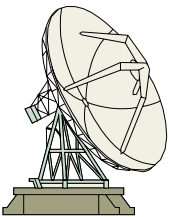
Firebrand cleric Ayatollah Mohammad Taqi Mesbah-Yazdi believes the authority of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei comes from God, not from the people. Khamenei presides over a complex political and clerical system as vali-ye faqih, or religious jurispudent, with the president running the day-today governing of the country.

"When a president is endorsed by the vali-ye faqih, obeying the president is like obeying God," the daily quoted Mesbah-Yazdi as saying.

Khamenei swiftly endorsed Ahmadinejad's re-election after the June 12 presidential vote which was followed by the biggest anti-government protests since the 1979 Islamic revolution. The losing candidates say the poll was rigged, a charge denied by Iran's authorities, including Khamenei, who has accused Western powers of fomenting the vote unrest."..."

EXPERTS WARN OF POTENTIAL CYBER WAR

August 11, 2009 VOA News reported: "Recent attacks on computer systems operating on the Internet, such as last month's assault on U.S. government systems, which is believed to have been instigated by North Korea, and the attack last week that disrupted service on the popular Twitter network show the vulnerability of cyber space. Many experts are worrying about what might come next and are urging the government to take preventive measures to defend America's vital infrastructure.



Experts say the August 6 attacks that briefly shut down the Twitter and Facebook social networking websites were aimed at silencing a Georgian blogger who is critical of Russia's military incursion into his country last year. Large scale cyber assaults against Chechnya and Georgia preceded Russia's military actions there.

The open nature of the Internet and its use by governments and business make it a rich target for an enemy attacks. Retired U.S. Air Force General Harry Raduege served on the commission that provided President Obama with recommendations on how to best protect the United States from cyber attacks. He spoke to the World Affairs Council in

Houston earlier this month about the dangers and costs of cyber assaults.

"It is estimated that \$1 trillion worth of data was stolen, globally, in the year 2008," he said. General Raduege later spoke about how countries and private businesses can protect themselves."..."

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