



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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HOSPITALS MAY FACE SEVERE DISRUPTION FROM SWINE FLU

August 25, 2009 Bloomberg.com reports: "Swine flu may hospitalize 1.8 million patients in the U.S. this year, filling intensive care units to capacity and causing 'severe disruptions' during a fall resurgence, scientific advisers to the White House warned.

Swine flu, also known as H1N1, may infect as much as half of the population and kill 30,000 to 90,000 people, double the deaths caused by the typical seasonal flu, according to the planning scenario issued yesterday by the President's Council of Advisers on Science and Technology. Intensive care units in hospitals, some of which use 80 percent of their space in normal operation, may need every bed for flu cases, the report said.

The virus has sickened more than 1 million people in the U.S., and infections may increase this month as pupils return to school, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. If swine flu patients fill too many beds, hospitals may be forced to put off elective surgeries such as heart bypass or hernia operations, said James Bentley with the American Hospital Association.

'If you have 1.8 million hospital admissions across six months, that's a whole lot different than if you have it across six weeks,' said Bentley, a senior vice-president of the Washington-based association, which represents 5,000 hospitals.

President Barack Obama was urged by his scientific advisory council to speed vaccine production as the best way to ease the burden on the health care system. Initial doses should be accelerated to mid-September to provide shots for as many as 40 million people, the panel said in a report released yesterday. Members also recommended Obama name a senior member of the White House staff, preferably the homeland security adviser, to take responsibility for decision-making on the pandemic.

'This isn't the flu that we're used to,' said Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. health and human services secretary. 'The 2009 H1N1 virus will cause a more serious threat this fall. We won't know until we're in the middle of the flu season how serious the threat is, but because it's a new strain, it's likely to infect more people than usual.' ..."



PERES: HEZBOLLAH 'HAS 80,000 ROCKETS'

August 24, 2009 SpaceWar.com reported: "Israeli President Shimon Peres claims that Lebanon's Hezbollah now has an arsenal of 80,000 rockets to bombard Israel -- double the previous estimate by Israeli intelligence and almost four times the number the Iranian-backed militants possessed during their 2006 war with the Jewish state.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh has dismissed as "lies" the claim made by Peres in an interview with the Kuwait daily Al-Rai published Sunday. "I don't know how he counted these rockets."

But the Israeli leader's claim has fueled regional fears that a new conflict between Hezbollah and Israel is brewing. There has been no independent confirmation that Hezbollah has that many rockets, although it has hinted at 40,000.

However, the allegation that Hezbollah, armed by Iran and Syria, has been able to amass such a vast inventory of rockets, some of them supposedly capable of hitting Tel Aviv, was seen by the jittery Lebanese as a possible pretext by Israel to justify attacking its tiny Mediterranean neighbor again." ..."

RESEARCHERS GROW EYE CELLS FROM SKIN CELLS

August 26, 2009 Voice of America News reports: "Researchers have succeeded in growing light-sensing eye cells from human skin cells, opening the possibility of restoring sight to patients blinded by certain diseases. Researchers at the University of Wisconsin have grown retinal cells from skin cells, a development that could be used to treat degenerative eye diseases.

A number of genetic disorders involve the degeneration of the retina, the light-sensitive cells at the back of the eye. The disorders cause the cells to die, and vision is gradually lost, resulting in blindness.

The researchers manipulated human skin cells to act like embryonic stem cells, which can be coaxed to grow into any tissue in the body. The development suggests that doctors may someday be able to repair damage to the retina with new cells generated from the patient's own skin.

Lead researcher David Gamm, a professor of ophthalmology and visual sciences at the University of Wisconsin, says his research could benefit people with macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa. In both diseases, the visual field gradually narrows, eventually leading to blindness.

'In particular these diseases are quite devastating to the patients who are affected by them,' he said. 'They rob them of their vision either when they are younger in the case of retinitis pigmentosa or when they are older in the case when they are older in the case of macular degeneration. And there are no cures and very few if any treatments for them. So it is a big need, especially from the macular degeneration standpoint, as the population ages.'

An estimated one million people worldwide are affected by macular degeneration alone.”...”

US TO ABANDON POLISH-CZECH MISSILE SHIELD, LOBBYIST SAYS

August 27, 2009 The EU Observer reported: “The United States has all-but abandoned plans to house anti-missile bases in Poland and the Czech republic, according to a senior White House lobbyist.

Riki Ellison, the chairman of the 10,000 member-strong Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance, said in Polish daily Gazeta Wyborcza on Thursday (26 August) that the US has changed its mind to avoid a rift with Russia and is now looking at Israel, Turkey, the Balkans or ship-borne facilities instead.

“The signals given by generals from the Pentagon are clear: the current US government is looking for different solutions on the question of missile defence than Poland and the Czech republic,” he said. “The new [US] team is paying more attention to Russian arguments,” he added.

“Obama's people believe that many problems in the world can be more easily solved together with Moscow ...it's a question of priorities. For many Democrats, the priority is disarmament and they are capable of sacrificing a lot in order to achieve a new agreement with Russia on the reduction of strategic [nuclear] weapons.”

President Barack Obama ordered a review of the Bush-era missile shield plan shortly after coming into office this year. He unveiled his vision for a nuclear weapons-free world at a major foreign policy speech in Prague in April, while sounding a note of scepticism over the value of the shield.

“As long as the threat from Iran persists, we will go forward with a missile defence system that is cost effective and proven,” he said.”...

Russia said the scheme was aimed at degrading its nuclear capability and could trigger a new Cold War.”...”

IRAN COULD STRIKE 6 NATO STATES

August 26, 2009 MENL reported: “Iran, scoring significant progress in its ballistic missile program, can strike six NATO states, a report said. The Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs asserted that Iran has been successful in advancing a series of missile and space programs. In a report by a leading Israeli missile analyst, the center said Iran has overcome Western and United Nations sanctions as well as technological obstacles and was ready to deploy nuclear warheads on its missile arsenal.

REAL US UNEMPLOYMENT RATE AT 16 PCT: FED OFFICIAL

August 26, 2009 Breitbart.com reported: “The real US unemployment rate is 16 percent if persons who have dropped out of the labor pool and those working less than they would like are counted, a Federal Reserve official said Wednesday.

“If one considers the people who would like a job but have stopped looking -- so-called discouraged workers -- and those who are working fewer hours than they want, the unemployment rate would move from the official 9.4 percent to 16 percent, said Atlanta Fed chief Dennis Lockhart.

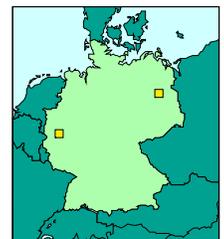
He underscored that he was expressing his own views, which did “do not necessarily reflect those of my colleagues on the Federal Open Market Committee,” the policy-setting body of the central bank. Lockhart pointed out in a speech to a chamber of commerce in Chattanooga, Tennessee that those two categories of people are not taken into account in the Labor Department's monthly report on the unemployment rate. The official July jobless rate was 9.4 percent.”...”

NETANYAHU IN GERMANY: WE MUST STOP EVIL IN DUE TIME

August 28, 2009 Arutz Sheva reported: “Israel National News reports: “Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu received on Thursday in Germany 29 sketches of the Auschwitz death camp and declared, ‘We cannot allow evil to cause massive death. We must stop evil in due time.’

In a clear reference to Iran, he added, ‘There is a connection between despotism and terrorism, between freedom and peace. ... Military barbarism knows no limits. We must prevent the spread of these armies on time so that humanity can be saved.’

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has stated several times that the State of Israel should be ‘wiped out’ and is advancing Iran’s nuclear program, which Israel and much of the Western world fears will enable the Islamic Republic to build a nuclear warhead to be aimed at Israel. Ahmadinejad also is a leader in the movement to deny that the Nazi regime butchered six million Jews.



Germany

In a ceremony at the newsroom of the Berlin newspaper *Bild*, where the Prime Minister received the blueprints to be turned over to the Yad VaShem memorial museum, he added, ‘World leaders must act in time to avoid the fate of the Holocaust victims. We cannot allow those who are looking to cause mass death and threaten the Jewish State.’...”

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