PROPHETIC TIMES

'OBAMA MUST CHOOSE - ISRAEL OR IRAN'

November 11, 2009 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad called on the US to choose between Israel and Iran on Tuesday night, according to Iranian state media. Speaking in Istanbul at the 25th Session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation (COMCEC) of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Iranian president said that it was up to US President Barack Obama to realize his motto of "change".

The support of both Israel and Iran can't go hand in hand," he was quoted as saying by IRNA. "No change is made unless great choices are made."

"We would welcome the changes, and wait for big and correct decisions to be made... We will clasp any hand that is extended sincerely toward us, but changes should be made in practice."

Addressing the same conference a day earlier, Ahmadinejad said that capitalist excesses caused the global economic meltdown and were un-Islamic, as leaders at a Muslim forum touted their religion's banking system a way to revive battered economies.

He also slammed investments paying interest, deemed usury by Muslims, and said they had contributed to financial and social problems such as homelessness. "Usury, which is entrenched in the capitalist system, is perhaps the main reason why the system has gone bankrupt," Ahmadinejad said. "It is a way of accumulating capital without working. Usury, according to the Koran, is fighting with Allah."

Ahmadinejad did not mention Iran's struggling economy, nor did he refer to its dispute with the West over its nuclear activities."..."

KOREAN NAVAL SHIPS CLASH AT SEA

November 10, 2009 BBC reported: "A South Korean warship has exchanged fire with a North Korean naval vessel, reports from both countries say. Officials in Seoul say the South Korean vessel opened fire when the Northern ship crossed a disputed sea border. The North Korean vessel then fired back.
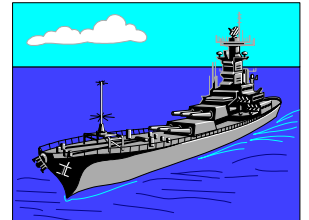
North Korea insists its ship did not cross the border, and has demanded an apology, according to news agency *KCNA*.

The two navies have engaged in deadly exchanges twice along their western sea border in the past decade. The incident comes days before US President Barack Obama visits Asia, with North Korea seeking direct talks on its nuclear programme.

In the North's version of events, a patrol boat was on a mission to confirm 'an unidentified object' on the North's side of the border, and while it was sailing back, South Korean ships chased it and opened fire in a 'grave armed provocation'.

The North Korean vessel 'lost no time to deal a prompt retaliatory blow at the provokers', *KCNA* said. 'Much flurried by this, the group of warships of the South Korean forces hastily took to flight to the waters of their side.'

Seoul's military has also demanded an apology for the incident. South Korean officials said none of their troops had been hurt, while the North's boat had been set ablaze before it sailed away..."

JAPAN TO TELL OBAMA IT WANTS OKINAWA MARINE BASE CLOSED

November 11, 2009 The VOA News reported: "The relocation of a U.S. Marine base on Okinawa is expected to be on the top of the agenda when President Barack Obama visits Tokyo this week. The United States and Japan agreed three years ago to move the base to another part of the island in five years. But the new Japanese administration wants that plan put on hold.

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma sits in a crowded area of the southern Japanese island of Okinawa. Homes and businesses surround the base, which the Marines mostly use for helicopters. The base is home to 2,000 marines and has long been a sore point for Okinawans. Residents who live nearby complain of aircraft noise. Occasional accidents have raised concerns about their safety. In a crowded community, the base is seen as land for new homes and businesses.

In 2006, Japan and the United States agreed to close Futenma and move its facilities to another Marine base with a heliport built on reclaimed land offshore. That agreement also called for 8,000 marines to be moved off Okinawa, to the U.S. territory of Guam. The plan came after 15 years of negotiations but Japan's new government now wants to reconsider it.

Prime Minister Yukio Hatoyama and his Democratic Party of Japan won a historic election in August, in part by calling for a review of that 2006 agreement. Four DPJ members from Okinawa won parliamentary seats with promises of reducing the U.S. troop presence on the island."...

Denny Tamaki is one of Okinawa's parliament ministers. He says they won because voters believed they could achieve what the previous administration could not. That includes resolving the issue of U.S. military bases in Okinawa."..."

IRAN TESTED ADVANCED NUCLEAR WARHEAD DESIGN

November 6, 2009 The Guardian.co.uk reports: "The UN's nuclear watchdog has asked Iran to explain evidence suggesting that Iranian scientists have experimented with an advanced nuclear warhead design, the Guardian has learned.

The very existence of the technology, known as a 'two-point implosion' device, is officially secret in both the US and Britain, but according to previously unpublished documentation in a dossier compiled by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Iranian scientists may have tested high-explosive components of the design. The development was today described by nuclear experts as 'breathtaking' and has added urgency to the effort to find a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear crisis.

The sophisticated technology, once mastered, allows for the production of smaller and simpler warheads than older models. It reduces the diameter of a warhead and makes it easier to put a nuclear warhead on a missile.

Documentation referring to experiments testing a two-point detonation design are part of the evidence of nuclear weaponisation gathered by the IAEA and presented to Iran for its response. The dossier, titled 'Possible Military Dimensions of Iran's Nuclear Program', is drawn in part from reports submitted to it by western intelligence agencies.

The agency has in the past treated such reports with skepticism, particularly after the Iraq war. But its director general, Mohamed ElBaradei, has said the evidence of Iranian weaponisation 'appears to have been derived from multiple sources over different periods of time, appears to be generally consistent, and is sufficiently comprehensive and detailed that it needs to be addressed by Iran'.

Extracts from the dossier have been published previously, but it was not previously known that it included documentation on such an advanced warhead. 'It is breathtaking that Iran could be working on this sort of material,' said a European government adviser on nuclear issues..."

ASSAD: IF GOLAN TALKS FAIL, WE'LL TURN TO RESISTANCE

November 9, 2009 YnetNews.com reports: "Syrian President Bashar Assad warned on Monday that if the Golan Heights are not returned peacefully – Syria will turn to resistance. Speaking at an economic forum of the Organization of Islamic Conference in Istanbul, Assad said, 'The failure of negotiations towards the full restoration of rights automatically means resistance is the alternative solution.'

According to Assad, 'Resisting the occupation is a national duty. It is our legitimate and moral obligation to support it, and it is an honor that we take pride in. This does not contradict the constant desire to achieve a just and inclusive peace on the basis of the restoration of the occupied lands, starting with the occupied Syrian Golan.'

The Syrian president also criticized the international community's approach towards Israel: 'The events have proven that censure lacks any real value if it are not accompanied real steps, starting with applying pressure on Israel instead of rewarding it, and ending with supporting the original Arab residents' firm position, who face the Israeli occupation with a number of means.'

He also slammed Israel for the situation at the Temple Mount in Jerusalem: 'We felt this danger 40 years ago, when the Israelis tried to set fire to the al-Aqsa Mosque. Today these attempts are reoccurring in the most determined way, in an attempt to finally remove the mosque. At the same time, steps are being taken to Judaize Jerusalem by expelling Palestinians from their homes and housing settlers in their place."

Assad said the activity in Jerusalem is organized and accompanied by "daily aggression, collective acts of massacre and the destruction of the infrastructure aimed at pushing the Palestinians to complete despair, to have them immigrate out of Palestine..."

SPECIAL REPORT: WELCOME TO THE CLONE FARM

November 13, 2009 Reuters reported: "To the untrained eye, Pollard Farms looks much like any other cattle ranch. Similar looking cows are huddled in similar looking pens. But some of the cattle here don't just resemble each other. They are literally identical -- clear down to their genes.

Of the 400-some cattle in Barry Pollard's herd of mostly Black Angus cattle there are 22 clones, genetic copies of some of the most productive livestock the world has ever known. Pollard, a neurosurgeon and owner of Pollard Farms, says such breeding technology is at the forefront of a new era in animal agriculture. "We're trying to stay on the very top of the heap of quality, genetically, with animals that will gain well and fatten well, produce well and reproduce well," Pollard told a reporter during a recent visit to his farm.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration in 2008 approved the sale of food from clones and their offspring, stating the products are indistinguishable from that of their non-clone counterparts. Japan, the European Union, and others have followed suit.

The moves have stirred controversy about whether tinkering with nature is safe, or even ethical, prompting major food companies to swear off food products from cloned animals. But consumers are likely already eating meat and drinking milk from the offspring of clones, which are technically not clones, without even knowing it."..."