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NETANYAHU: IDF REFUSAL WILL BRING ABOUT ISRAEL'S COLLAPSE

November 17, 2009 Haaretz reports: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday warned that Israel Defense Forces soldiers who refused service or orders would contribute to the collapse of the State of Israel.

'The IDF was established on the basis of hierarchy in the ranks,' said Netanyahu. 'If you want to get rid of the IDF, then support refusal ? it will bring about the collapse of the state.'

Israel's security and existence are reliant on the IDF, said Netanyahu, and thus 'there is absolutely no place' in the army for such behavior. 'The IDF is part of our lives and the army relies on the right to give and receive orders,' the prime minister said, adding that the government must take actions against these forms of protest.

The prime minister's remarks came in the wake of a number of incidents involving IDF soldiers protesting their units' task of evacuating unauthorized West Bank outpost, marking a shift in right-wing activity from attacks on Palestinians to protest in army ranks. Lawmakers from Likud and the right-wing National Union, meanwhile, have proposed a bill to prevent the IDF from forcing its soldiers to evacuate West Bank settlements against their will.

Some 15 MKs from both the coalition and the opposition have signed on to the bill, which was drafted by MKs Tzipi Hotovely and Aryeh Eldad.

'The IDF has been turned into a contractor for the demolition and evacuation of Jewish communities,' said Eldad. 'This bill makes it clear that the task of the IDF is to defend the State of Israel, its sovereignty and its citizens, and every law enforcement mission dealt with by the Israel Police.'

On Monday, six soldiers from the Nachshon Battalion hung a sign at their West Bank base proclaiming that their unit would refuse to evacuate settlements..."

OBAMA: 'CONSEQUENCES' LOOM FOR IRAN AFTER NUCLEAR SNUB

November 19, 2009 SpaceWar.com reported: "President Barack Obama Thursday said Washington and its partners were now working on a package of steps to show Iran the consequences of its decision to snub a nuclear deal with the West. Obama significantly upped pressure on Tehran, after it rejected UN-backed efforts to send most of its stocks of low-enriched uranium abroad, escalating a showdown with the West over its nuclear program.

In his first public comment on Iran's announcement on Wednesday, Obama said after talks with South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak that Washington and its partners had now begun discussing "consequences" of Iran's decision.

 "Our expectations are that over the next several weeks we will be developing a package of potential steps that we could take that will indicate our seriousness to Iran," Obama said.

World powers have warned Iran that it could face tough new sanctions if it rejects the deal, amid sharp concern over what the West say is a plan to develop nuclear weapons.

He bemoaned that Tehran had not been able to agree to the proposed deal, saying he believed internal political factors in Tehran may be to blame, but left the door open for an 11th hour change of heart from the Islamic Republic.

The Obama administration was initially optimistic that Iran would accept the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) deal which emerged from talks between Iran and Russia, China, the United States, Britain, France and Germany."...

Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said that Iran had ruled out proposals backed by the major powers for it to ship out more than 70 percent of its uranium stocks before receiving any nuclear fuel in return."..."



HAMAS: TERRORISM TO ELIMINATE ISRAEL IS A 'PRINCIPLE'

November 19, 2009 Israel National News reports: "In an interview published Thursday in the London-based Arabic newspaper Al-Hayat, a Hamas spokesman said that the jihadist movement is loyal to 'Palestinian principles' in its policy of terrorism against the Jews until Israel ceases to exist.

Palestinian Authority Chairman and Fatah leader Mahmoud Abbas claimed earlier this month that Hamas had agreed to the establishment of a Palestinian state within temporary borders. Osama Hamdan, a Hamas spokesman in Lebanon and close associate of powerful Hamas political leader Khaled Mashaal, rejected the idea, however.

Hamas, Hamdan explained, has never agreed and will never agree to any recognition of Israel's legitimacy as a sovereign state. An agreement to temporary borders contradicts this position, as it would constitute acceptance of Jewish sovereignty over the pre-1967 borders of Israel, he added.

The Hamas plan is based on obtaining a Palestinian state by force of arms, Hamdan said, 'not by way of agreements, a path that has failed.' In fact, the Hamas spokesman told Al-Hayat that negotiations between his movement and Abbas' Fatah group reached an impasse

over acceptance of the Quartet's call for an end to Arab 'resistance' operations; i.e., terrorism. The Quartet - the European Union, the United States, the United Nations and Russia - is involved in pushing for negotiations between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

Hamdan emphasized further that, in fact, it is Hamas that is remaining loyal to 'basic Palestinian principles' in fighting against any agreements with Israel..."

GORDON BROWN ABANDONS TONY BLAIR TO SNATCH EU SECOND PRIZE

November 20, 2009 TimesOnline.com reported: "A Belgian federalist and a former chairwoman of Hertfordshire Health Authority were ushered into Europe's two grandest jobs last night as it stumbled on to the world stage. The European Union's 27 leaders balked at the chance to have Tony Blair as their president, preferring not to be overshadowed. In a stitch-up between the two big blocs of the EU, the Centre Right fell in behind Herman Van Rompuy, the Belgian Prime Minister, to take that job.

The centre-left Socialist leaders backed Baroness Ashton of Upholland, Britain's Trade Commissioner, to be the first High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy, as well as vice-president for external affairs. The deal went through swiftly at a dinner of EU heads and the expected marathon session never materialised. The deadlock was broken when Gordon Brown abandoned his support for Mr Blair at a meeting of Socialist leaders before the summit.

Lady Ashton was so unprepared for her "promotion" that she had no speech prepared when she held a press conference with Mr Van Rompuy. She was telephoned to see if she would accept the job once Mr Brown switched his allegiance to the only other Briton with a chance of capturing one of the prized jobs.

She has been a commissioner for 13 months, since Lord Mandelson was brought back to the Cabinet. She has been Leader of the House of Lords but has no experience as a foreign minister and has never been elected. Mr Brown said the appointment showed Britain was "at the heart of the future of Europe" and was leading the way in extending women's representation."..."

UN CLIMATE CHIEF SEEKS \$10 BLN RICH-NATIONS PLEDGE

November 19, 2009 Reuters reported: "The U.N. environmental chief called on rich nations on Thursday to pledge \$10 billion a year for three years at next month's Copenhagen summit to help poor states begin to tackle the impact of climate change. Yvo de Boer, head of the U.N. Climate Change Secretariat, told a news conference that was a short-term figure and that in 10 or 20 years hundreds of billions of dollars would be needed annually to cope with global warming.

The Dec. 7-18 meeting in Copenhagen had long been billed as the time when a new treaty to cap greenhouse gas emissions would be signed, but the United Nations has admitted that a legally binding deal will not come until later. The slippage has been partly blamed on delays in the United States in pushing new climate change legislation through Congress, a move now anticipated early next year.

De Boer listed the \$10-billion-a-year pledge as one of his three goals for the summit, along with the submission of emission targets for 2020 by rich countries and of planned actions by developing countries. He said Copenhagen must clarify how short- and long-term finance was going to be provided to help developing countries mitigate the effects of climate change and adapt to it."..."

GEITHNER WARNS OTHER COUNTRIES NOT TO RELY ON US CONSUMERS AS ENGINE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

November 17, 2009 Voice of America reported: "U.S. Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner says the global economy is moving towards recovery, but cautioned other countries that they cannot rely on U.S. domestic consumer demand to be the engine of world economic growth, as it has been in the past. Geithner spoke to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the role of the Group of 20 nations.

Treasury Secretary Geithner said that at the start of this year, the world faced the very real possibility of a great depression and financial collapse. But he said the Obama administration had worked closely with its G-20 partners to adopt a forceful response, which he says has put out the fire. Geithner said the world is now moving to a period of recovery, but called for more balanced global demand to give the world economy a more solid foundation.

"As the United States saves more as a country, future growth will depend more on domestic growth outside of the United States," said Timothy Geithner."..."



ISRAEL URGED TO MULL THREATS FROM EGYPT, TURKEY

November 18, 2009 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Israel has been urged to prepare for ballistic missile threats from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey. A senior defense executive warned that Israel's military and Defense Ministry might not have been allowed to prepare its missile defense umbrella to prepare for threats from Middle East states that have not directly threatened Israel. The executive, who works closely with the Defense Ministry, said the threat could come from Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, which have been developing or procuring medium- and intermediate-range missiles."..."

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