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IRAN: WE'LL HIT ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR SITES IF ATTACKED

December 9, 2009 Haaretz reports: "Iran would strike back at Israeli weapons manufacturing sites and nuclear installations if Israel attacks the Islamic Republic's nuclear facilities, Defence Minister Ahmad Vahidi was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

Israel has not ruled out military action if diplomacy fails to resolve an international dispute over Iran's nuclear program, which the West suspects is aimed at making bombs. Iran denies the charge and says it would retaliate if attacked.

'The Islamic Republic of Iran's armed forces are fully prepared,' Vahidi told reporters during a visit to Syria, the semi-official Mehr news agency reported. If attacked by Israel, Iran's first targets would include various weapons manufacturing sites and 'unconventional nuclear centers', Vahidi said.

Iran does not want further escalation in the dispute over its nuclear programs and wants talks with the world powers, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said Wednesday.

'We do not welcome any escalation and are ready to hold further talks with world powers over global issues,' Ahmadinejad said after a cabinet session in Tehran, reiterating previous offers of talks, which, however, did exclude the nuclear issue in the past.'...

Ahmadinejad repeated that Iran was serious about plans announced earlier this month to build 10 more uranium enrichment sites...'...'

FORMER BOE OFFICIAL BUTIER SAYS GREECE MAY BE FIRST EU DEFAULT

December 9, 2009 Bloomberg reported: "Former Bank of England policy maker Willem Buiter said Greece may be the first major country in the European Union to default on its debts since the aftermath of World War II.

"It's five minutes to midnight for Greece," Buiter, who will join Citigroup Inc. as its chief economist next month, said in a Bloomberg Television interview today. "We could see our first EU 15 sovereign default since Germany had it in 1948."

The EU's economic affairs commissioner said late yesterday that officials are ready to help Greece with its budget deficit after concerns about its public finances sparked a rout in Greek government bonds. Fitch Ratings cut its rating on the nation's debt yesterday to BBB+ and two other major ratings companies are threatening to follow.



"Default is not unavoidable," Buiter said. "But unless there are radical fiscal actions, lasting cuts in spending and tax increases of at least 7 percent of GDP, the writing is on the wall" for Greece.

There's "absolutely" no risk Greece will default, Finance Minister George Papaconstantinou said in an interview today with Bloomberg Television. Greek banks are "fundamentally sound" and Greece will not seek an EU aid package, he said.

Greece, the lowest-rated country in the euro region, is struggling to cut a budget deficit of 12.7 percent of gross domestic product.'...'

Buiter, currently a professor of political economy at the London School of Economics, was one of the founding members of the U.K. central bank's rate-setting panel when he joined in June 1997.'...'

EXPERTS SAY IRAN HAS CLEAR PATH TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS

December 12, 2009 Haaretz.com reported: "Last week the Harvard Kennedy School held a simulation game of the Iranian nuclear crisis, and Israel should be very concerned about its course and its outcome. The game made it clear: Iran will not stop on its path to producing nuclear weapons. The United States will not embark on a military action and will find it difficult to enlist support at the United Nations for imposing more severe sanctions, while relations between Israel and the United States will deteriorate.

Prof. Graham Allison, a leading analyst of American security policy for decades, conducted the game, whose participants were representatives from countries and organizations likely to be affected by the real outcome.'...'

The rules of the game permitted the participants to conduct bilateral or multilateral discussions and contacts, to leak information to the media, to make public declarations and to provide one another with intelligence information. True, it was only an exercise, but it tried to simulate reality. It's possible the decision-making process of the participants was biased because of their worldview, because of partial information or the absence of genuine responsibility for the outcome. But the game revealed a dynamic that is reminiscent of the reality familiar to anyone who keeps tabs on the nuclear crisis with Iran and reflects that reality.'...'

POPULATION CONTROL CALLED KEY TO DEAL

December 10, 2009 China Daily reported: "Population and climate change are intertwined but the population issue has remained a blind spot when countries discuss ways to mitigate climate change and slow down global warming, according to Zhao Baige, vice-minister of National Population and Family Planning Commission of China (NPFPC) .

"Dealing with climate change is not simply an issue of CO2 emission reduction but a comprehensive challenge involving political, economic, social, cultural and ecological issues, and the population concern fits right into the picture," said Zhao, who is a member of the Chinese government delegation.

Many studies link population growth with emissions and the effect of climate change.

"Calculations of the contribution of population growth to emissions growth globally produce a consistent finding that most of past population growth has been responsible for between 40 per cent and 60 percent of emissions growth," so stated by the 2009 State of World Population, released earlier by the UN Population Fund.

Although China's family planning policy has received criticism over the past three decades, Zhao said that China's population program has made a great historic contribution to the well-being of society.

As a result of the family planning policy, China has seen 400 million fewer births, which has resulted in 18 million fewer tons of CO2 emissions a year, Zhao said.

The UN report projected that if the global population would remain 8 billion by the year 2050 instead of a little more than 9 billion according to medium-growth scenario, "it might result in 1 billion to 2 billion fewer tons of carbon emissions"..."

THE REAL INCONVENIENT TRUTH

December 8, 2009 The Financial Post reported: "The "inconvenient truth" overhanging the UN's Copenhagen conference is not that the climate is warming or cooling, but that humans are overpopulating the world. A planetary law, such as China's one-child policy, is the only way to reverse the disastrous global birthrate currently, which is one million births every four days.

The world's other species, vegetation, resources, oceans, arable land, water supplies and atmosphere are being destroyed and pushed out of existence as a result of humanity's soaring reproduction rate.

Ironically, China, despite its dirty coal plants, is the world's leader in terms of fashioning policy to combat environmental degradation, thanks to its one-child-only edict.

The intelligence behind this is the following:

- If only one child per female was born as of now, the world's population would drop from its current 6.5 billion to 5.5 billion by 2050, according to a study done for scientific academy Vienna Institute of Demography.

- By 2075, there would be 3.43 billion humans on the planet. This would have immediate positive effects on the world's forests, other species, the oceans, atmospheric quality and living standards.

- Doing nothing, by contrast, will result in an unsustainable population of nine billion by 2050.

Humans are the only rational animals but have yet to prove it. Medical and other scientific advances have benefited by delivering lower infant mortality rates as well as longevity. Both are welcome, but humankind has not yet recalibrated its behavior to account for the fact that the world can only accommodate so many people, especially if billions get indoor plumbing and cars.

The fix is simple. It's dramatic. And yet the world's leaders don't even have this on their agenda in Copenhagen. Instead there will be photo ops, posturing, optics, blah-blah-blah about climate science and climate fraud, announcements of giant wind farms, then cap-and-trade subsidies. None will work unless a China one-child policy is imposed."..."



EUROPE'S BUSINESS LEADERS SAY 'NO WAY' TO 30% CARBON CUT

December 9, 2009 The EU Observer reported: "Some of the largest corporations in Europe have warned EU leaders against agreeing to an increase of the bloc's commitment to greenhouse gas reductions from 20 percent to 30 percent.

In an open letter addressed to Swedish Prime Minister Frederik Reinfeldt ahead of this week's European Council meeting (10-11 December), Business Europe - the lobby representing many of Europe's major industries and employers - said that offers on the table from other powers are not sufficient to warrant making the jump.

"The EU must not increase in any way its current unilateral 20 percent carbon reduction requirement," the group said in the letter, issued on Tuesday (8 December). The EU has promised to increase its 20 percent commitment if other powers make similarly ambitious proposals.

The employers' federation said that this has not been achieved, pointing out the paucity of Washington's offer in particular.

"The US Congress proposal to reduce US emissions by 17 percent by 2020 compared to their 2005 levels only represents a three percent reduction from 1990 green gas emissions. Therefore, it cannot be considered an 'equivalent' effort justifying an EU move to a 30 percent reduction."

Business Europe said that further emissions reductions should be achieved via free trade and greater use of carbon offsets, the widely criticised method of "reductions" whereby others, usually in the third world, are paid to make CO2 cuts on behalf of rich donors which continue to pollute as before."..."

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