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PM TO CONNECT IRAN NUKES, HOLOCAUST

January 27, 2010 The Jerusalem Post reports: "Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, who wrote in the guest book of the Warsaw Uprising Museum on Tuesday that 'the people of Israel have learned their lesson,' is expected to draw analogies between the Holocaust and Iran's nuclear ambitions when he speaks at Wednesday's International Holocaust Remembrance Day ceremony at Auschwitz.

Iran, according to officials travelling with the prime minister, figured prominently in talks he held with the leaders of Poland, which today is one of Israel's strongest and most important allies in the European Union. Netanyahu was reportedly told that Poland favors the EU leveling sanctions against Iran now, even before the UN Security Council again deals with the issue.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel, meanwhile, said on Tuesday, during a press conference with visiting President Shimon Peres in Berlin, that time and patience were running out on Iran's nuclear program and that February would see new sanctions discussed following France's rise to the presidency of the UN Security Council.

'Iran's time is up. It is now time to discuss widespread international sanctions. We have shown much patience and that patience is up,' Merkel said. The international community's efforts have not brought about change so far and it is now time to discuss tougher sanctions, Merkel added. She said that she hoped the world powers would reach a consensus agreement in February, which she described as a 'decisive' month.

Merkel stressed that the sanctions would be targeted at Iran's leadership and not against its people. Teheran is aware of the threat of sanctions and is troubled by the notion, she said.

Peres, in Berlin to address the Bundestag on Wednesday to commemorate International Holocaust Remembrance Day, said the world had to act with determination, impose heavy sanctions on Iran, and speak in a single and clear voice against the Ahmadinijad regime. The Iranian leadership was a cruel dictatorship that trampled on human rights, killed its own people and sponsored terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hizbullah, he said..."

IRAN TO UNVEIL MISSILES DURING ANNIVERSARY: COMMANDER

January 26, 2010 SpaceWar.com reported: "A top commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Tuesday that the country's armed forces will unveil several missiles and weapons at the 31st anniversary of the Islamic revolution next month. Mehr news agency quoted commander Massud Jazayeri as saying: "Several missile and weapons projects will be unveiled during the 10 days of dawn (February 1 to 11) by armed forces."

Jazayeri's announcement comes less than a week after Tehran said it will reveal three new satellites in February. Communications Minister Reza Taghipour said the three home-built communications satellites were Toloo (Dawn), Ya Mahdi and Mesbah-2. He did not give a specific date for the launching.

Iran had launched its first home-built satellite, the Omid (Hope), last February to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the Islamic revolution. The launch sent alarm bells ringing in the International Community, which voiced concern over Iran's development of technology that could be used for military purposes.

The West suspects Iran of secretly trying to build an atomic bomb and fears the technology used to launch The West suspects Iran of secretly trying to build an atomic bomb and fears the technology used to launch space rockets could be diverted into developing long-range ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons.

But it has aggressively pursued a missile programme and repeatedly threatened to target US bases in the region and to block the strategic Gulf Strait of Hormuz waterway for oil tankers if its nuclear sites are attacked.

Washington and its ally Israel have not ruled out striking Iran's nuclear sites in a bid to stop its galloping atomic drive which they suspect is aimed at making weapons..."

SKINS CELLS TURNED INTO BRAIN CELLS IN STEM CELL BREAKTHROUGH

January 27, 2010 Telegraph.co.uk reported: "Scientists used just three genes to make the identity switch, which was achieved without an in-between stem cell stage. The breakthrough could "revolutionise the future of human stem cell therapy" for the regeneration of brains, said the researchers.

In the past, normal cells have been coaxed into changing function by first turning them into "induced" stem cells. These have similar properties to stem cells taken from embryos, giving them the potential to become any kind of tissue in the body. The new research went a step further by transforming mouse skin cells straight into functional neurons, while by-passing the stem cell process.

Dr Marius Wernig, who co-led the team from Stanford University School of Medicine in California, said: "We actively and directly induced one cell type to become a completely different cell type.

"These are fully functional neurons. They can do all the principal things that neurons in the brain do."



In the laboratory dish, the cells were seen to signal and make connections with other nerve cells. Such functions are critical to future treatments for Parkinson's disease and other brain disorders. The change happened within one week with an efficiency of almost 20 per cent. The scientists, whose research is published in the journal Nature, now hope to duplicate the feat with human cells."..."

GLOBAL: EARTHQUAKES - THE DECADE'S DEADLIEST KILLER

January 28, 2010 Reuters reported: "Earthquakes killed more people in the last 10 years than any other natural hazard, said new figures released by the Belgium-based Centre for Research on Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) a few weeks after the recent quake in Haiti, in which more than 112,000 people are known to have died so far.

Almost 60 percent of the people killed by natural disasters between 2000 and 2009 perished in earthquakes, followed by 22 percent in storms, and 11 percent as a result of extreme temperatures.

On the other hand, floods affected 44 percent of the two billion people struck by disasters, and droughts affected 30 percent, while earthquakes affected only four percent. Femke Vos, a CRED researcher, pointed out that because earthquakes were sudden and had an immediate impact, they claimed more lives than other slower-onset natural hazards, such as flooding and droughts, where people had time to prepare or adapt.

"The area over which earthquakes leave their footprint is also comparatively small in relation to, say, floods or cyclones, which destroy vast areas but cause fewer direct deaths," said CRED director Debarati Guha-Sapir.

CRED figures for earthquake casualties included the Indian Ocean tsunami caused by an undersea quake in 2004, which left 226,408 dead and has been billed as the deadliest disaster of the 2000 decade.

Eight of the world's 10 most populous cities lie on tectonic fault-lines: Japan's capital, Tokyo; Mexico's capital, Mexico City; New York in the US, Shanghai in China, Jakarta in Indonesia, and three cities in India - Mumbai, Kolkata, and the capital, Delhi."

Since 1900, four of every five deaths caused by earthquakes have occurred in developing countries," according to the website of GeoHazards International, a US-based NGO working to improve earthquake safety.

"In the year 1950, two of every three people living in earthquake-threatened cities lived in developing countries; by 2000, that number had increased to nine of every ten."..."

WAR WITH LEBANON IMMINENT

January 25, 2010 Arutz Sheva reported: "Lebanon is tittering between political bombast and trembling fear. While Hizbullah deputy-head Naim Kasseem threatens Israel with missile attacks, the Beirut politicians including Prime Minister Saad Hariri, hear with trepidation Israeli threats to "destroy the infrastructures" of Lebanon, and not only Hizbullah sites, in the next round of fighting. Israeli Minister Yossi Peled cautioned that the next round after the summer war of 2006 is most likely in the offing during 2010.

It is not Israel which is the cause of the persistent slide toward warfare, for she would be content with a quiet border. It is Lebanon, most specifically 'Hizbullah-bulling' Lebanon that is committed to jihad and a changed status quo. The situation offers no escape from a military confrontation.

A network of global Islamic terrorism stretches across countries and continents with the goal of establishing universal Muslim rule in the world. This is defined as the restoration of the early caliphate, the victory of believers over infidels, the triumph of justice against oppression – based on the nullification of all religions other than Islam.

The leading forces in this massive campaign include the Wahhabi kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Muslim Brotherhood centered in Egypt, Al-Qaeda of Osama bin-Laden, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Intersecting alliances link them and local Middle Eastern proxies, like Hizbullah and Hamas, together.

A most central ambition of these forces is to undermine and destroy domestic regimes that are deemed religiously unworthy of political legitimacy. It was the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979 against the Shah's monarchy that serves as the modern model for boundless combat within any country, until Islamic victory is consummated. The assassination of Anwar Sadat by the Jihad Organization in 1981 removed an Egyptian president, though failed to oust a heretical regime from power. Islamic warfare against 'virtual' Muslims, who are deprecated as apostates or non-believers, seeks to deny power to such odious deviants.

This outlook illuminates the many internal Muslim war theatres today. The ongoing Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan against the Karazai government has not ceased since 2001. In Iraq, the post-2003 governments have been confounded by Islamic terrorism, both Shiite and Sunni, in a relentless effort by the rebels to prevent the consolidation of a regime, that disavows Islamic fundamentalism and, no less grievously, is politically linked to America."..."



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