



PROPHETIC TIMES

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POLL SAYS 10 PERCENT OF GERMANS WANT A NEW 'FÜHRER'

October 13, 2010 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Ten percent of Germans want a "Führer," and one quarter are strongly xenophobic, according to a poll released on Wednesday, reported German news source The Local. The poll, entitled "The mainstream in the crisis – Right-wing extremist attitudes in Germany," was conducted by the Friedrich Ebert Foundation for Political Education.

Those who wanted a "Führer," said that he should "govern with a strong hand for the good of Germany," and believed that dictatorship is the preferred form of government. More than 30% agreed with the statement "foreigners come to abuse the welfare state," and even more (31.7%) said that when unemployment is high, the government should "send foreigners back home."

Over 58% said "religious practice for Muslims in Germany should be seriously limited."

Older and less-educated Germans were more likely to be intolerant, according to the poll..."..."

DOLLAR FALLS AS 'CURRENCY WAR' CONCERNS LINGER

October 11, 2010 Breitbart.com reported: "The dollar fell against the euro and yen on Monday after the world's top finance officials failed to reach a consensus on measures to head off what some see as a looming "currency war", analysts said.

The euro reached 1.40 dollars, while the US unit hit a fresh 15-year low against the yen amid growing expectation that the Federal Reserve will pump more money to bolster the struggling US economy, they added."..."

The European single currency reached 1.4012 dollars a few days after breaching the 1.40 level for the first time for eight months. In mid-morning trading, the euro stood at 1.3946 dollars, compared with 1.3926 dollars late on Friday in New York.

Against the Japanese currency, the dollar dropped to 81.39 yen -- the lowest point since April 1995 and below the level which triggered Japanese government intervention in the foreign exchange market on September 15.

International Monetary Fund policymakers failed...to reach a consensus...to head off what some see as a looming currency war..."..."

U.S. ALARMED BY HARSH TONE OF CHINA'S MILITARY

October 11, 2010 The International Herald Tribune reported: "Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates met his Chinese counterpart, Liang Guanglie, in Vietnam on Monday for the first time since the two militaries suspended talks with each other last winter, calling for the two countries to prevent "mistrust, miscalculations and mistakes."

His message seemed directed mainly at officers like Lt. Cmdr. Tony Cao of the Chinese Navy. Days before Mr. Gates arrived in Asia, Commander Cao was aboard a frigate in the Yellow Sea, conducting China's first war games with the Australian Navy, exercises to which, he noted pointedly, the Americans were not invited.

Nor are they likely to be, he told Australian journalists in slightly bent English, until "the United States stops selling the weapons to Taiwan and stopping spying us with the air or the surface."

The Pentagon is worried that its increasingly tense relationship with the Chinese military owes itself in part to the rising leaders of Commander Cao's generation, who, much more than the country's military elders, view the United States as the enemy."..."

The stakes have increased as China's armed forces, once a fairly ragtag group, have become more capable and have taken on bigger tasks. The navy, the centerpiece of China's military expansion, has added dozens of surface ships and submarines, and is widely reported to be building its first aircraft carrier."..."

China is also reported to be building an antiship ballistic missile base in southern China's Guangdong Province, with missiles capable of reaching the Philippines and Vietnam. The base is regarded as an effort to enforce China's territorial claims to vast areas of the South China Sea claimed by other nations, and to confront American aircraft carriers that now patrol the area unmolested.

Even improved Chinese forces do not have capacity or, analysts say, the intention, to fight a more able United States military. But their increasing range and ability, and the certainty that they will only become stronger, have prompted China to assert itself regionally and challenge American dominance in the Pacific."..."



NATO TO REACH OUT TO RUSSIA ON MISSILE DEFENCE

October 8, 2010 EU Observer reported: "Instead of criticising a new security treaty between Europe and America, Russia should consider coming under the umbrella of a Nato missile defence shield, the alliance's secretary general, Anders Fogh Rasmussen said Friday (8 October). Nato leaders will decide in November whether they will share the costs of a US-deployed shield in Europe.

The long-debated shield, which has seen Moscow in the past threatening to deploy nuclear missiles at the Polish border in response, would cost €200 million over the coming 10 years for all 28 Nato members.

"That is a lot of defence for a very good price," Nato secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen said during a speech at the German Marshall

Fund in Brussels on Friday. He insisted that the the threat of European countries being hit with a missile is "real". "There is technology available – tested and ready to go – that can defend against a missile attack."

Russia has so far been lukewarm about the new missile defence architecture put forward by US President Barack Obama last year”...

Moscow's initial reaction to the missile defense plans developed by former president George W. Bush that would have had seen rapid deployment of missiles in Poland and a radar station in the Czech Republic was much more aggressive as it was seen as a direct threat to Russia.

Mr Rasmussen said that if there is agreement at a Nato summit in Lisbon from 19-20 November to have a Nato missile defence shield, Russia would be invited to co-operate.”...

"Russia has made the proposal of a new security treaty ranging from Vancouver to Vladivostok, but [joining a Nato missile shield] would be an actual security architecture that makes sense to the citizen. It does not give people security to sign a new treaty, but a missile shield would," Mr Rasmussen argued. He was referring to a proposal put forward by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev in 2008 to replace Nato with a new pan-European security architecture ranging from Vancouver (Canada) to Vladivostok (Russia).

However, not all member states seem to be willing to pay for the bill and subscribe to a Nato missile shield.”...The cost of the system still seems to be the main stumbling bloc, despite the US insisting that it will be the American taxpayer taking over the biggest burden...”...



AHMADINEJAD BEARS A MESSAGE FOR ISRAEL

October 14, 2010 Asia Times Online reported: “On the eve of his much-anticipated visit to Lebanon on Wednesday, which is sure to bolster Hezbollah's national standing in fractious Lebanese politics, Iranian President Mahmud Ahmadinejad was busy working the phones to leaders in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Syria. He assured them that Tehran supported "sustainable security" in Lebanon and "the unity" of Lebanon's groups, as well as "strengthening the region's resistance".

Ahmadinejad called in his conversation with Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah for "closer coordination" between the countries to "create regional stability, especially in Lebanon", according to the Iranian press.”...

Assuming Ahmadinejad's trip to Lebanon goes as planned and without any major hitches, it could go a long way in improving Iran's relations with the entire Arab world, which is somewhat weary of Tehran's politics of "sphere of influence" in Iraq and Lebanon, among other countries.

Iran's ambassador to Baghdad made it known in a recent meeting with Iraqi leaders that Tehran preferred the premiership of Nuri al-Maliki, a comment vilified in some Arab papers as tantamount to interference in Iraq's internal affairs. Maliki has been struggling since elections in March to form a government that would give him another term in power.

From Tehran's vantage point, the comment was a reminder of Iran's substantial influence in Iraq's dominant pro-Iran Shi'ite coalition - a fait accompli worthy of consideration by those pundits in the West who depict Iran as a "paper tiger". In contrast, some Arab pundits go to the other extreme and portray Iran as a "regional superpower"...

"The president's intention of the visit to Lebanon is several-fold," said a Tehran University political scientist who specializes in Iran's foreign relations. "First, he wants to make sure that there is no attempt to weaken Hezbollah because of the Hariri investigation." This is a reference to the United Nations-backed international tribunal investigating the assassination of former Lebanese president Rafik Hariri in Beirut in 2005; it is widely expected to implicate Lebanon's Hezbollah. "Second, he [Ahmadinejad] wants to improve trade and economic ties between Iran and Lebanon.”...

"Third, with Hezbollah's substantial arsenal of missiles, grown several-fold since the 2006 war [with Israel], that is a warning that no Israeli politician can afford to ignore. Fourth, the president is trying to improve relations with the Arab world and Lebanon is the gateway," said the political scientist, who added that the timing "is crucial because of both internal Lebanon politics and the waves of anti-Iran initiatives by the US and its allies. ... This visit is intended to elevate Iran's regional status.”...

IRAN ELECTED TO OPEC PRESIDENCY

October 14, 2010 VOA.com reported: “For the first time in 36 years, Iran will assume the rotating presidency of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. It takes effect next year. The appointment was announced Thursday at the start of this week's OPEC meeting in Vienna.

Iran's oil ministry's official website, SHANA, announced that Iranian Oil Minister Masoud Mirkazemi will become the elected president of the 12-member oil cartel. Iran is OPEC's second-largest oil producer and was unanimously elected during the 157th session of OPEC's ministerial meeting.

OPEC, which provides 35 percent of global oil demand, also reached an agreement on its oil production target. The cartel said Thursday it would make "no changes" to its official oil production target of 24.84 million barrels a day. OPEC comprises Algeria, Angola, Ecuador, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE and Venezuela.”

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