



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LOOKS TO GAINS IN EGYPT PROTEST

February 3, 2011 The Associated Press reported: "Egypt's wave of protests has brought the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood within sight of a long-sought dream: Not outright power, as some fear, but a recognized and open role in the politics of this top U.S. ally.

Vice President Omar Suleiman on Thursday said he had invited the Brotherhood into negotiations over Egypt's future and the transition to democracy _ a stunning concession to a group that the regime considers its worst enemy and has cracked down on ferociously in the past years.

The Brotherhood has rushed to take a stronger role in the unprecedented protests that erupted 10 days ago, led by more secular young activists demanding the ouster of President Hosni Mubarak. The Brotherhood's strength was on display in the pitched battles in Wednesday and Thursday against government supporters who attacked the protesters' camp in Cairo's central Tahrir Square.

Brothers _ distinguishable by their close-cropped beards _ dominated the front lines, often lining up to pray for "victory or martyrdom," before throwing themselves into the fray, hurling stones, sticks and firebombs at the attackers while shouting "God is great."



Egypt

The potential of the Brotherhood gaining greater power has clearly weighed on the United States as it presses Mubarak to bow out. U.S. officials have said they want the transition to democracy to be stable to prevent any group from imposing its ideology.

Israel has been more alarmist in fears of an Islamic militant takeover, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has warned that any government that emerges from Egypt's turmoil must preserve the 1979 peace deal between the two countries.

And Egypt's government has been happy to fuel those worries, long warning the U.S. and Egyptians themselves that the Brotherhood aims to take over the country and lead it into Islamic radicalism. Mubarak, in an interview with ABC News, blamed the Brotherhood for the past two days of clashes."..."

IRANIAN SPEAKER TERMS REVOLUTIONS IN TUNISIA, EGYPT ISLAMIC AWAKENING

February 3, 2011 The Fars News Agency reports: "Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani underlined on Thursday that people's uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt are the result of 'the Islamic awakening' in the Middle-Eastern countries.

Addressing a group of military commanders in the Northern city of Babolsar, Mazandaran province, Larijani described Tunisia and Egypt uprising as 'the Islamic awakening'.

He said the Western media are trying to attribute the uprising of Egyptian people to Marxist trends but the people of world are aware that Middle East is chanting slogans of 'Hijab, combating oppression and US'.

Larijani derided the US officials for their ambivalent approach pretending to be impartial about Egypt uprising whereas they want to manage the situation.

'I'd like to ask the US government whether or not they wanted to build a 'democracy tower' in Iraq? Have you forgotten that you are bogged down in Afghanistan quagmire?'

Referring to the recent remarks of an American top official calling for democracy in Egypt, Larijani said that the Egyptian people do not want camel democracy..."

WIKILEAKS: US AND CHINA IN MILITARY STANDOFF OVER SPACE MISSILES

February 2, 2011 telegraph.co.uk reported: "The two nuclear superpowers both shot down their own satellites using sophisticated missiles in separate show of strength, the files suggest. The American Government was so incensed by Chinese actions in space that it privately warned Beijing it would face military action if it did not desist.

The Chinese carried out further tests as recently as last year, however, leading to further protests from Hillary Clinton, the US Secretary of State, secret documents show. Beijing justified its actions by accusing the Americans of developing an "offensive" laser weapon system that would have the capability of destroying missiles before they left enemy territory.

The disclosures are contained in the latest documents obtained by the Wikileaks website, which have been released to The Telegraph. They detail the private fears of both superpowers as they sought mastery of the new military frontier."

EGYPT UNREST: TENSE STAND-OFF IN CAIRO'S TAHRIR SQUARE

February 2, 2011 BBC News reports: "There is a tense stand-off in the Egyptian capital's main square, after fights broke out between supporters and opponents of beleaguered President Hosni Mubarak. Thousands of the president's supporters had surged into Cairo's Tahrir Square, dismantling barricades set up by anti-Mubarak groups.

It followed a call by the army for protesters to return home after nine days of anti-government demonstrations. Mr. Mubarak has pledged he will not stand for re-election in September. On Tuesday, hundreds of thousands had protested across the country against Mr. Mubarak, the

culmination of more than a week of demonstrations that have left about 300 people dead according to UN estimates.

Up to 2,000 anti-Mubarak demonstrators saw out a cold night in Tahrir Square, the epicentre of the protests, saying the president's pledge was insufficient and chanting: 'We will not leave!'. They want to see him deposed and punished.

But on Wednesday, thousands took to Cairo's streets to support him.

'You guys have made your point clear, let the man (Mubarak) take care of you until his time is up. Mubarak wants stability and we want stability as well,' said Mohamed Shafik.

'Let Egyptians go home and look after their families,' the 51-year-old pharmacist told Reuters news agency. Television footage showed opposing groups facing off and chanting slogans at each other in Tahrir Square, and as scuffles broke out, troops intervened to prevent a major escalation. Clashes between the rival groups were also reported in Egypt's second city, Alexandria..."

AL QAEDA ACTIVELY SEEKING "DIRTY" BOMBS

February 2, 2011 SpaceWar.com reports: "Al-Qaeda is attempting to procure nuclear material and recruit rogue scientists in order to build a radioactive 'dirty bomb,' leaked documents published in Wednesday's Telegraph newspaper revealed.

The cables, released by the Wikileaks website, showed that security chiefs told a NATO meeting in January 2009 that Al-Qaeda was planning a programme of 'dirty radioactive improvised explosive devices (IEDs).'

The makeshift nuclear bombs, which could be used against soldiers fighting in Afghanistan, would contaminate the surrounding area for years to come.

The leaked documents also revealed that Al-Qaeda papers found in 2007 convinced security officials that 'greater advances' had been made in bio-terrorism than was previously feared. US security personnel were warned in 2008 that terrorists had 'the technical competence to manufacture an explosive device beyond a mere dirty bomb.'

Also laid bare in the diplomatic cables are the attempts made to smuggle volatile materials as rogue organisations seek to get their hands on weapons-grade fuel. The memos detailed how a freight train on the Kazakhstan-Russia border was found to be carrying weapons-grade material while a "small-time" dealer in Lisbon tried to sell radioactive plates stolen from Chernobyl.

In a separate leaked memo, which documented a January 2010 meeting between Janet Napolitano, US Secretary of Homeland Security, and European ministers, the German interior minister revealed his concerns over aircraft security. According to the cable, Thomas de Maiziere expressed his fear that terrorists could use "children's articles to introduce bombs into airplanes."

JORDAN PROTESTS: KING ABDULLAH NAMES MAROUF BAKHIT PM

February 1, 2011 The BBC News reported: "King Abdullah of Jordan has dismissed his cabinet and appointed a new prime minister amid large street protests. New PM Marouf Bakhit has been charged with carrying out "true political reforms", but the Islamist opposition rejected the appointment. The protesters had demanded action on unemployment and rising prices and the right to elect the prime minister.

They blamed former PM Samir Rifai for the country's economic problems and had called on him to stand down. The palace said the king had accepted Mr Rifai's resignation earlier on Tuesday.

The move is being seen as an attempt to head off further trouble from angry Jordanians, in the wake of the unrest in Tunisia and Egypt.

Mr Bakhit, a retired army major-general, served as Jordan's prime minister from 2005 until his resignation in 2007."...Before then he served as the kingdom's national security adviser and its ambassador to Israel."...

The country's powerful Islamist opposition movement, the Islamic Action Front (IAF), said it did not welcome Mr Bakhit's appointment."..."

DEMOCRATS WARN OF US SHUTDOWN OVER DEBT

February 3, 2011 Breitbart.com reported: "Senate Democrats warned Thursday of dire economic consequences if Congress fails to raise the US debt ceiling, saying it could prompt a shutdown of the federal government.

"It's playing with fire," said US Senator Chuck Schumer said of the legislative standoff.

If a shutdown were to occur, "citizens couldn't get their checks, veterans couldn't get their benefits, military payments would stop," the veteran New York lawmaker said.

Congress early in 2010 raised the US debt ceiling to nearly \$14.3 trillion -- very near the current US debt of some \$13.9 trillion dollars. The government will run out of money in about two months' time, according to the US Treasury Department, unless Congress votes to raise the federal debt ceiling.

But while Democrats, along with most Republicans, agree on the need to avoid having the United States default on its debt, which likely would likely trigger a massive economic meltdown, some conservatives remain firmly against increasing ceiling."..."

