



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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US READY TO SELL F-35 FIGHTER TO INDIA: PENTAGON

November 2, 2011 SpaceWar.com reported: "The United States would be prepared to sell India the new F-35 fighter jet, the Pentagon said Wednesday, after New Delhi rejected a US offer of older aircraft in a major competition this year.

In a report to Congress on US defense ties with India, the Pentagon said India was a vital partner and that Washington wanted to bolster security cooperation with New Delhi, including joint exercises and high-tech arms sales.

In the first round of a contest for a combat aircraft contract, India in April shortlisted France's Dassault and the European Eurofighter consortium while rejecting the US offer of F-16 and F-18 jets.

"Despite this setback, we believe US aircraft, such as the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF), to be the best in the world," said the Pentagon report, referring to the radar-evading F-35 jet.

"Should India indicate interest in the JSF, the United States would be prepared to provide information on the JSF and its requirements... to support India's future planning," it said.

Mindful of China's rise and growing military reach, President Barack Obama has placed a high priority on deepening ties with India."..."

ISRAEL CONSIDERS PRE-EMPTIVE ATTACK ON IRAN

November 2, 2011 News.Sky.com reported: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is trying to rally support in his cabinet for an attack on Iran, according to government sources.

The country's defence minister Ehud Barak and the foreign minister Avigdor Lieberman are said to be among those backing a pre-emptive strike to neutralise Iran's nuclear ambitions. But a narrow majority of ministers currently oppose the move, which could trigger a wave of regional retaliation.

The debate over possible Israeli military action has reached fever pitch in recent days with newspaper leader columns discussing the benefits and dangers of hitting Iran. Mr Lieberman responded to the reports of a push to gain cabinet approval by saying that "Iran poses the most dangerous threat to world order."

But he said Israel's military options should not be a matter for public discussion.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is due to report on the state of Iran's nuclear capabilities on November 8, and that assessment is likely to influence Israel's decision. Western intelligence officials estimate that Iran is still at least two to three years away from obtaining a nuclear bomb.

Israel has long made it clear that it will not allow Iran to obtain a nuclear capability that could threaten the Jewish State.

Publicly it is pushing for a diplomatic offensive against Iran - including the imposition of sanctions - rather than a military strike. But prime minister Netanyahu has repeatedly warned that all options are on the table.

Israel's former defence minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer told Haraatez newspaper that he feared a "horror scenario" if Israel attacked Iran."..."



AL-QAEDA FLAG FLIES HIGH ON TOP OF BENGHAZI COURTHOUSE

November 1, 2011 YnetNews.com reports: "The black flag of al-Qaeda has been put on top of a courthouse in the Libyan city of Benghazi, further raising concerns that the country could turn into a Muslim extremist entity.

'There is no God but Allah' was written in Arabic on the flag raised above the streets of Benghazi, considered the heart of the Libyan revolutionaries who toppled Muammar Gaddafi's regime.

According to the Daily Telegraph, citing the news site Vice.com, the flag was flying alongside the Libyan national flag but the National Transitional Council denied it was involved.

If that were not enough, Vice.com reported that Islamists were seen driving the streets of Benghazi while waving al-Qaeda flags and shouting, 'Islamiya, Islamiya! No East, nor West'..."

ISRAEL TEST-FIRES MISSILE AS IRAN DEBATE RAGES

November 3, 2011 Reuters reports: "Israel test-fired a missile from a military base on Wednesday, two days after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of the 'direct and heavy threat' posed by Iran's nuclear program.

The noon launch near Tel Aviv, which had not been announced in advance, coincided with a week-long surge of speculation in local media that Netanyahu was working to secure cabinet consensus for an attack on Israel's arch-foe.

Netanyahu's office declined comment on the reports, which were unsourced and unconfirmed, and which some commentators suggested might be disinformation designed to jolt war-wary foreign powers into stepping up sanctions against Tehran.

The Defense Ministry described the launch from Palmachim base as the test of the propulsion system of a missile on which it declined to elaborate.

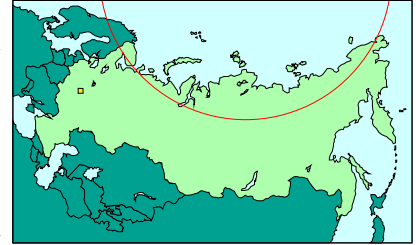
'This is an impressive technological achievement and an important step in Israel's advances in the realms of missiles and space, which has been a long time in the planning,' Defense Minister Ehud Barak said in a statement.

Israel Radio's military affairs correspondent, who is regularly briefed by top officials on Defense matters, said a 'ballistic missile' had been launched. The term generally applies to long-range missiles for delivering warheads..."

RUSSIA: REBUILDING AN EMPIRE WHILE IT CAN

November 1, 2011 Stratfor reported: "U.S.-Russian relations seem to have been relatively quiet recently, as there are numerous contradictory views in Washington about the true nature of Russia's current foreign policy. Doubts remain about the sincerity of the U.S. State Department's so-called "reset" of relations with Russia — the term used in 2009 when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton handed a reset button to her Russian counterpart as a symbol of a freeze on escalating tensions between Moscow and Washington. The concern is whether the "reset" is truly a shift in relations between the two former adversaries or simply a respite before relations deteriorate again. The reset actually had little to do with the United States wanting Russia as a friend and ally. Rather, Washington wanted to create room to handle other situations — mainly Afghanistan and Iran — and ask Russia for help. (Russia is aiding in moving supplies into Afghanistan and withholding critical support from Iran.) Meanwhile, Russia also wanted more room to set up a system that would help it create a new version of its old empire.

Russia's ultimate plan is to re-establish control over much of its former territories. This inevitably will lead Moscow and Washington back into a confrontation, negating any so-called reset, as Russian power throughout Eurasia is a direct threat to the U.S. ability to maintain its global influence. This is how Russia has acted throughout history in order to survive. The Soviet Union did not act differently from most of the Russian empires before it, and Russia today is following the same behavioral pattern.



Russia's defining geographic characteristic is its indefensibility, which means its main strategy is to secure itself. Unlike most powerful countries, Russia's core region, Muscovy, has no barriers to protect it and thus has been invaded several times. Because of this, throughout history Russia has expanded its geographic barriers in order to establish a redoubt and create strategic depth between the Russian core and the myriad enemies surrounding it. This means expanding to the natural barriers of the Carpathian Mountains (across Ukraine and Moldova), the Caucasus Mountains (particularly to the Lesser Caucasus, past Georgia and into Armenia) and the Tian Shan on the far side of Central Asia. The one geographic hole is the North European Plain, where Russia historically has claimed as much territory as possible (such as the Baltics, Belarus, Poland and even parts of Germany). In short, for Russia to be secure it must create some kind of empire.

There are two problems with creating an empire: the people and the economy. Because they absorb so many lands, Russian empires have faced difficulties providing for vast numbers of people and suppressing those who did not conform (especially those who were not ethnic Russians). This leads to an inherently weak economy that can never overcome the infrastructural challenges of providing for the population of a vast empire. However, this has never stopped Russia from being a major force for long periods of time, despite its economic drawbacks, because Russia often emphasizes its strong military and security apparatus more than (and sometimes at the expense of) economic development.

Russian power must be measured in terms of the strength of the state and its ability to rule the people. This is not the same as the Russian government's popularity (though former president and current Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's popularity is undeniable); it is the ability of the Russian leadership, whether czar, Communist Party or prime minister, to maintain a tight grip on society and security."..."

GREECE EXIT FROM EURO POSES EU LEGAL, POLITICAL HEADACHE

November 3, 2011 AFP reported: "The prospects of Greece abandoning the euro sent EU legal experts scrambling for the law books Thursday as it became clear that European Union rules provide for exit from the entire 27-nation bloc -- but not from the eurozone.

Analysts warned that a walkout by a country seen as Europe's ancient cradle of democracy would spell political disaster.

"On balance, I think Greece is likely to be outside the eurozone within 12 months but I don't believe it will be forced out of the EU. It would be playing with fire," Simon Tilford, chief economist at London's Centre for European Reform, told AFP.

Fears of the EU losing a member emerged as Brussels experts confirmed that the bloc's rule book, the Lisbon Treaty, omits to provide for a member of the 17-nation eurozone to opt out of the 12-year-old single currency.

"The treaty doesn't foresee an exit from the eurozone without exiting the EU," said European Commission spokeswoman Karolina Kottova.

A European Central Bank report, penned as economic strains grew in late 2009, concluded that "exit from European Monetary Union, without a parallel withdrawal from the EU, would be legally inconceivable."..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Santa Rosa, and Stockton
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*