



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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THE US 'FISCAL CLIFF' EXPLAINED

November 8, 2012 VOA News reported: "With the U.S. elections over, President Barack Obama and Congress are turning their attention to the political stalemate called the "fiscal cliff." It is a tangle of major spending cuts and tax increases that could stall the national economy unless Democrats and Republicans quickly forge compromises.

The United States faces \$600 billion in automatic tax increases and spending cuts that go into effect January 1, unless the two major political parties can reach an agreement.

The cuts would affect both the military spending favored by Republicans and the social programs supported by Democrats. President Obama's Democratic Party controls the U.S. Senate, while Republicans have a majority in the House of Representatives.

On taxes, a key issue is whether to extend tax-rate reductions that have been in effect for years, but are due to expire at the end of 2012. The reduced tax rates apply to all Americans, whatever their income. Republican lawmakers say they want to continue all of the reduced rates; Obama and leaders of his Democratic Party have been trying to exclude this benefit extension for the country's wealthiest taxpayers - probably everyone whose family income is more than \$250,000 a year.

The law mandating the cuts in 2013 was intended to force lawmakers to compromise on where and how much to reduce spending and raise revenue to reduce the federal budget deficit."..."

IRANIAN JETS FIRED ON US DRONE IN GULF: PENTAGON

November 8, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Two Iranian fighter jets fired on an unarmed US Predator drone in the Gulf last week but the aircraft was not hit, the Pentagon said Thursday, warning that the United States stood ready to protect its forces in the region. The incident occurred on November 1 -- less than a week before America's presidential election -- but the Pentagon kept it quiet until now.

"They intercepted the aircraft and fired multiple rounds," spokesman George Little told a news conference. The SU-25 Frogfoot fighters, much faster than the slow-moving turboprop drone, fired at least twice and made two passes, he said.

It was possible the Iranians intended to warn off the drone but Little said: "Our working assumption is that they fired to take it down."

The confrontation threatened to derail diplomatic efforts to defuse a mounting crisis over Tehran's nuclear program, raising the risk of a potential conflict amid a shadow war of cyberattacks, bombings and assassinations.

Tough new sanctions led by Washington are squeezing Iran's economy while the United States and Israel are accused of staging cyber sabotage on Tehran's uranium enrichment plants.

The US military drone was "never in Iranian air space" and came under fire from Su-25 fighters off the Iranian coast over international waters, Little said.

The robotic Predator aircraft was conducting "routine surveillance" and the United States has told Iran it has no plans to suspend the flights, he said."..."



CHINA SUBMARINES TO SOON CARRY NUKES, DRAFT U.S. REPORT SAYS

November 8, 2012 Reuters reported: "China appears to be within two years of deploying submarine-launched nuclear weapons, adding a new leg to its nuclear arsenal that should lead to arms-reduction talks, a draft report by a congressionally mandated U.S. commission says.

China in the meantime remains "the most threatening" power in cyberspace and presents the largest challenge to U.S. supply chain integrity, the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission said in a draft of its 2012 report to the U.S. Congress. China is alone among the original nuclear weapons states to be expanding its nuclear forces, the report said. The others are the United States, Russia, Britain and France.

Beijing is "on the cusp of attaining a credible nuclear triad of land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and air-dropped nuclear bombs," the report says. China has had a largely symbolic ballistic missile submarine capability for decades but is only now set to establish a "near-continuous at-sea strategic deterrent," the draft said.

Chinese President Hu Jintao has made it a priority to modernize the country's navy. China launched its first aircraft carrier, purchased from Ukraine and then refurbished, in September."..."

TURKEY TO REQUEST NATO MISSILE DEFENSE ALONG SYRIAN BORDER

November 7, 2012 Haaretz reported: "Turkey is to make an imminent official request to NATO to station Patriot missiles along its border with Syria, a senior Turkish foreign ministry official said on Wednesday. NATO-member Turkey has already bolstered its own military

presence along the 910-kilometer (560-mile) border and has been responding in kind to gunfire and mortar shells hitting its territory from fighting between Syrian rebels and Syrian government forces.

‘Concerning this topic (Patriot missiles), an imminent official request is to be made,’ the official told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The official said there was a potential missile threat to Turkey from Syria and that Turkey had a right to take steps to counter such a threat. He gave no further details.

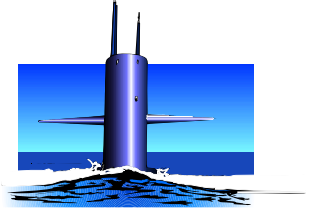
‘The deployment of this type of missiles as a step to counter threats is routine under NATO regulations,’ the official said, adding that they had been deployed in Turkey during the second Gulf War...”

RUSSIAN NUCLEAR SUB SPOTTED NEAR US EAST COAST

November 6, 2012 Israel National News reports: “A Russian nuclear-powered attack submarine sailed within 200 miles of the U.S. East Coast, defense officials told the Washington Free Beacon. The report follows by three months a similar revelation by the newspaper that a Russian nuclear sub patrolled the Gulf of Mexico undetected for more than a month.

The submarine off the East Coast was identified as a Russian Sierra-2 class submarine and was the first time that class of Russian submarine had been detected near a U.S. coast, said officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

‘One defense official said the submarine was believed to have been conducting anti-submarine warfare efforts against U.S. ballistic and cruise missile submarines based at Kings Bay, Georgia,’ The Free Beacon reported. ‘A second official said the submarine did not sail close to Kings Bay and also did not threaten a U.S. aircraft carrier strike group that was conducting exercises in the eastern Atlantic.’



The Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base is the home port for two guided missile submarines and six nuclear missile submarines. The Washington newspaper also reported that a Russian electronic intelligence-gathering vessel was granted safe harbor at a Florida port during the Sandy Superstorm, within listening range of Kings Bay.

The Russian attack submarine off the East Coast is equipped with anti-submarine warfare missiles and torpedoes. It was detected by U.S. Navy underwater sonar sensors and now is believed to have sailed several hundred miles from the coast.

Media reports from Russia the past year have indicated that Moscow is trying to flex its power on the oceans, particularly on the North Sea route...”

NETANYAHU: I WILL ATTACK IRAN ALONE IF NECESSARY

November 6, 2012 Israel National News reports: “Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu promised on Monday that by the time his next term as Prime Minister is over, Iran will not have a nuclear weapons program. Speaking to Channel 2, Netanyahu said that if it is necessary, he will lead an independent Israeli attack against Iran, even without the support of the United States.

‘When former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared the establishment of the State of Israel, was it with the consent of the Americans? When former Prime Minister Menachem Begin bombed the Iraqi nuclear reactor, was that with the consent of the Americans?’ asked Netanyahu.

‘If there someone here who, as Prime Minister of Israel, cannot act on things that are fundamental to the State, to its future and to its security and depends only on approval of others, he does not deserve to lead,’ said Netanyahu. ‘When we didn’t have a state, when we didn’t have an army, and when someone threatened to destroy us and then actually annihilated us, we went and pleaded with others,’ he said. ‘Today we don’t plead, we prepare.’...”

RUSSIA’S DEFENSE SPENDING SURGES AS U.S. CUTS

November 5, 2012 WND.com reported: “Moscow is to increase its annual defense spending by 59 percent by 2015 as it attempts to modernize its military – while the United States looks to ways to downside in the face of major spending cuts, according to a report from Joseph Farah’s G2 Bulletin.

Increased spending reflects the latest in Russia’s military doctrine that is meant to address its security strategy and what it defines as threats to the homeland. Among the five points outlined by then-Russian President Dmitriy Medvedev – called the Medvedev Doctrine – Russian defense doctrine calls for protecting its citizens ‘wherever they may be.’

‘Our foreign policy decisions will be based on this need,’ Medvedev said. ‘We will also protect the interests of our business community abroad. It should be clear to all that we will respond to any aggressive act committed against us.’

One element in redefining its regional and global outlook is Russia’s new doctrine in not accepting the monopoly the United States has over the global system. This also includes not accepting the Western alliance of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to barge in on its regional area of influence...””

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