



RUSSIAN FIGHTER JETS 'BREACH JAPAN AIRSPACE'

February 7, 2013 BBC News reported: "Two Russian fighter jets have violated Japanese airspace, prompting Tokyo to scramble its own aircraft, reports say. Japan lodged a protest after the planes were detected off the northern island of Hokkaido for just over a minute.

The incident happened after Japanese PM Shinzo Abe said he was seeking a solution to a territorial dispute with Russia over a Pacific island chain. Russia's military denied the incursion, saying the jets were making routine flights near the disputed islands.

Mr. Abe was speaking on the anniversary of an 1855 treaty which Japan says supports its claims to the islands. The four islands - which Russia calls the Southern Kurils and Japan calls the Northern Territories - are the subject of a 60-year-old dispute. Because of the dispute, the two nations have not yet signed a peace treaty to end World War II..."

U.S. SOY SUPPLY AT 48-YEAR LOW AS BRAZIL SHIPS HELD: COMMODITIES

February 7, 2013 Bloomberg.com reported: "Dry weather and shipping delays in South America are boosting demand for soybeans from the U.S., the world's largest grower and exporter, and producing the tightest inventories in almost five decades.

Stockpiles will shrink to a nine-year low of 130 million bushels on Aug. 31, before the next U.S. harvest, according to the average of 31 analyst estimates in a Bloomberg survey. Reserves will total 4.2 percent of demand, the lowest since 1965, U.S. Department of Agriculture data show. The USDA will update its estimates tomorrow..."

IRAN'S AHMADINEJAD SEEKS STRATEGIC AXIS WITH EGYPT

February 6, 2013 Reuters reported: "President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, on the first visit to Cairo by an Iranian leader in more than three decades, called for a strategic alliance with Egypt and said he had offered the cash-strapped Arab state a loan, but drew a cool response.

Ahmadinejad said outside forces were trying to prevent a rapprochement between the Middle East's two most populous nations, at odds since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and Egypt's signing of a peace treaty with Israel in the same year.

"We must all understand that the only option is to set up this alliance because it is in the interests of the Egyptian and Iranian peoples and other nations of the region," the official MENA news agency quoted him in remarks to Egyptian journalists published on Wednesday.

The two countries have not restored diplomatic ties since Egypt overthrew its long term leader Hosni Mubarak in 2011, but its first Islamist president, Mohamed Mursi, gave Ahmadinejad a red-carpet welcome on Tuesday to a summit of Islamic nations.

"There are those striving to prevent these two great countries from coming together despite the fact that the region's problems require this meeting, especially the Palestinian question," Ahmadinejad said.

Egypt's foreign minister played down the significance of the visit, telling Reuters the Iranian leader, one of several heads of state to get the red-carpet treatment, was in Cairo chiefly for the Islamic summit beginning on Wednesday, "so it's just a normal procedure. That's all."

He had earlier reassured Gulf Arab countries that Egypt would not sacrifice their security..."



AHMADINEJAD: IRAN ALREADY A NUCLEAR STATE

February 6, 2013 Haaretz reported: "Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad says that while Iran is already a nuclear state, it has no intention of attacking Israel. Ahmadinejad was interviewed on the eve of his visit to Cairo, where he will attend the 12th Islamic Summit Conference due to open there on Wednesday. Before his trip, he gave a long interview to the editor-in-chief of the Egyptian newspaper Al-Ahram. Although Al-Ahram ran the entire interview only in its print edition, excerpts appear on Egyptian websites.

Ahmadinejad said the world must now treat Iran as a nuclear country. 'They want Iran to go back to what it was in the past, but they won't succeed. They assume we'll give in to pressure; such thoughts are misguided. We're already an industrial and nuclear country, a country that has conquered space. For years we have been thinking about sending a human being into space, and we will do that, with Allah's help. We must ensure development and growth and bring them to pass, and the world must acknowledge our progress,' he said, adding that the best solution was cooperation with Iran.

Mentioning the possibility of an Israeli attack on Iran, Ahmadinejad said that while it might be easy to launch missiles or attack using fighter jets, Iran's response and defense capability were important in this context. He reiterated that the Zionists were trying to take over the foci of power and wealth throughout the world. 'They want to attack Iran, but we're not preparing any attack against them because the purpose of our program is defense.'..."

JAPAN PREPARING 'WORST CASE SCENARIO' FOR NORTH KOREA NUKE TEST

February 5, 2013 Voice of America News reported: "Japan's government is indicating it is preparing for all contingencies that would result from North Korea conducting a third nuclear test. Japan's top government spokesman has told VOA the international community is making full preparations for another threatened North Korean nuclear test.

South Korea has warned the North it faces 'grave consequences' if it goes ahead with another nuclear test. Seoul has not explained what measures it might take, but some observers say South Korea may punish the North with some kind of military action.

In a VOA interview, Japan's chief Cabinet secretary, Yoshihide Suga, was asked how Japan views the possibility of rising tensions on the Korean peninsula flaring into open conflict. Suga said the government's job is to always protect its people's lives and assets, and Japan is doing its best in that regard. He said Tokyo 'will deal with the worst case scenario the Japanese people might face.'

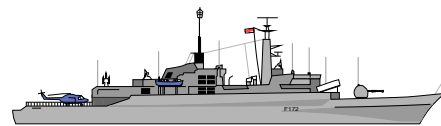
He did not elaborate..."

CHINA FRIGATE LOCKED RADAR ON JAPAN NAVY: MINISTER

February 5, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "A Chinese military frigate locked weapons-targeting radar on a Japanese navy vessel, Tokyo's defence minister said Tuesday, in an apparent upping of the stakes in a bitter territorial row. The move, described by the minister and a Japanese analyst as "dangerous", marks the first time the two nation's navies have locked horns in a dispute that has some commentators warning about a possible armed conflict.

"On January 30, something like fire-control radar was directed at a Japan Self-Defense Maritime escort ship in the East China Sea," Itsunori Onodera told reporters in Tokyo.

Onodera said a Japanese military helicopter was also locked with a similar radar on January 19. He did not specify whether the helicopter was airborne or on the deck of a ship at the time. Officials said on both occasions the targeting had lasted "minutes".



"Directing such radar is very abnormal," he said. "We recognise it could create a very dangerous situation if a single misstep occurred.

"We will seek the Chinese side's self-restraint from taking such dangerous action."

The move is a ratcheting-up of an already tense situation in the East China Sea, where Asia's two largest economies are at loggerheads over the sovereignty of an uninhabited island chain..."

TEHRAN HITS SAUDI ARABIA WITH VEILED THREAT

February 3, 2013 World Net Daily reported: "Iran has watched as Saudi Arabia has incited Sunnis to create instability in neighboring Iraq and Riyadh has launched concerted efforts to overthrow the Iranian-backed Shi'ite Alawite regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, according to report from Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin.

Now the chairman of the Iranian joint chiefs of staff, Brig. Gen. Hasan Firouzabadi, says he wants to avoid a sectarian war between Sunnis and Shi'a, but he also issued a veiled threat against Riyadh. He accused the Saudi kingdom of using jihadists to undermine Shi'ites in the region, given increasingly unsettling events in Iraq and in Syria. Firouzabadi has spoken out given the growing concern that the rising Sunni turmoil in Iraq poses a security threat to Iran.

For some time, however, that has been the strategy of Saudi Arabia, which has decided to undertake an independent course of action from the restraint urged by the United States out of concern that Iran is spreading its influence in the Gulf Arab countries which are controlled by monarchies..."

IRAN: ISRAEL WILL REGRET SYRIA ATTACK

February 4, 2013 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Israel will regret its latest 'aggression against Syria', a top Iranian official visiting Damascus told reporters on Monday.

'Just like it regretted all its wars... the Zionist entity will regret its aggression against Syria,' said National Security Council head Said Jalili, a day after Israel implicitly confirmed it staged an air strike near Damascus last week. Any actions Iran decides to attempt against Israel are more likely to be carried out indirectly, through terrorists, than through direct military action.

Iran is intensifying a campaign to destabilize the Middle East by smuggling anti-aircraft weapons to militant allies through its international paramilitary force, according to Leon Panetta, the outgoing US defense secretary. Panetta told The Wall Street Journal Saturday that

Tehran's export of so-called 'manpads' -- anti-aircraft missiles that can be carried by a single person -- represents a dangerous escalation..."

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