



EXPERIMENT BRINGS HUMAN CLONING ONE STEP CLOSER

May 16, 2013 The Wall Street Journal reported: "Scientists have used cloning technology to transform human skin cells into embryonic stem cells, an experiment that may revive the controversy over human cloning.

The researchers stopped well short of creating a human clone. But they showed, for the first time, that it is possible to create cloned embryonic stem cells that are genetically identical to the person from whom they are derived. These stem cells could go on to differentiate into heart, nerve, muscle, bone and all the other tissue types that make up a human body.

Since the birth of Dolly the sheep in 1996, researchers have cloned about 20 species, including rabbits, goats, cows and cats. Yet they have been unable to create biologically identical copies of any monkey or primate, including humans, possibly because their reproductive biology is more complicated.

But the refinements described Wednesday in the latest experiment suggest that 'it's a matter of time before they produce a cloned monkey,' said Jose Cibelli, a cloning expert at Michigan State University, who wasn't involved in the study.'..."



CHINESE GENERAL SAYS OKINAWA NOT JAPAN'S

May 15, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "A senior Chinese military officer has said the Ryukyu Islands -- which include Okinawa and its US military bases -- "do not belong to Japan", as a territorial row mounts between the Asian powers.

The comments by People's Liberation Army Major General Luo Yuan were published by the China News Service website Tuesday, after the country's leading newspaper last week carried a call to review Tokyo's sovereignty over the chain.

Luo emphasised that the islands were historically in a vassal relationship with imperial Chinese dynasties. Those ties did not necessarily mean they were part of China, he said, adding: "But we can be certain of one point. The Ryukyus don't belong to Japan."

"(If) the Ryukyus don't belong to you," he said, referring to Tokyo, "how can you talk about the Diaoyus?"

China and Japan have been in a long-running dispute over islands in the East China Sea that Tokyo administers as the Senkakus, but Beijing claims as the Diaoyus.

The row intensified last year after Japan purchased islands in the chain it did not already own, sparking outrage in China, with anti-Japanese demonstrations taking place in Chinese cities.

Chinese vessels regularly enter waters around the islands and Japan has scrambled jets to ward off Chinese flights in the area, stoking fears of armed conflict.'..."

'HAMAS, FATAH TO FORM UNITY GOV'T WITHIN 3 MONTHS'

May 15, 2013 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Fatah and Hamas agreed on Tuesday to form a unity government within three months, a senior Hamas official told Palestinian news agency Ma'an. Moussa Abu Marzouq, deputy chairman of the Hamas Political Bureau, told Ma'an that Hamas and Fatah held positive talks in Cairo and that the parties agreed to a timeline to implement reconciliation by July. Marzouq said that no names were discussed for the new government in the Tuesday talks.

Last year, Hamas and Fatah reached an agreement in Doha, Qatar, to form a unity government that would pave the way for new presidential and parliamentary elections. The agreement stipulates that Abbas would serve as prime minister in addition to his job as PA president.

Amal Hamad, a member of the Fatah Central Committee from Gaza, said on Monday that Hamas was not serious about achieving reconciliation with Fatah. 'Hamas is interested in maintaining its Islamic emirate in the Gaza Strip,' she charged...'..."

REPORT: SYRIA ALREADY HAS ADVANCED RUSSIAN MISSILES

May 15, 2013 Israel National News reported: "Advanced Russian missile launchers that Israel was trying to prevent from falling into Syrian hands have already been transferred to President Bashar al-Assad's regime, the London-based Arabic-language Al-Quds Al-Arabi newspaper reported Tuesday.

The report was published as Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took off to Russia to convince President Vladimir Putin not to sell advanced Russian missile launchers to Syria.

According to the Al-Quds Al-Arabi report, 200 launchers for advanced anti-aircraft S-300 missiles are already in Syrian hands, and Syrian experts have been fully trained to use the launchers and no longer need Russian supervision.

The report, cited by JNS, was attributed to a Syrian military official. Israel fears that Syrian possession of the S-300 system, which is able to intercept drones and cruise missiles, will make future aerial offensives by the Jewish state more difficult, in addition to the possibility of Russian weaponry being obtained by the Hizbullah terror group..."

TERRORIST SUPER-AXIS TO STRIKE WITHIN U.S.

May 14, 2013 WND.com reported: "Iran has given the go-ahead to operatives of three terrorist groups that have infiltrated the United States to carry out missions, including what is expected to be a Mumbai-style attack on a hotel where innocent bystanders would be killed, WND has learned.

A full report with many details of the missions has been passed on to U.S. officials. Three targets have been chosen within America for imminent attack, and the terror teams have now cut communications with the operational center in Iran, a sign that they are moving ahead with the attacks, according to a high-level intelligence officer within the Islamic regime.

If only one of the attacks occurs, the regime will consider the operation a success, the source said. Tehran believes, he said, an attack would not be traced back to Iran due to the nationalities of the operators..."

PUTIN WARNS AGAINST MOVES THAT COULD 'SHAKE' SYRIA

May 14, 2013 Israel National News reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday warned against any moves that would further destabilize the situation in Syria, speaking after talks with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

'In this crucial period it is especially important to avoid any moves that can shake the situation,' Putin was quoted as saying by news agencies, days after Israeli forces launched air strikes against regime targets in Syria.

Netanyahu had been expected to warn Putin against delivering advanced S-300 missiles to Syria which would severely complicate any future air attacks against the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Netanyahu in his public comments did not indicate whether he succeeded in convincing Putin to halt arms supplies to Syria or whether the two leaders reached any firm agreements.

Speaking to reporters, Netanyahu stressed that his country's task was to 'defend its citizens.'..."

U.S. CARRIER JOINS SOUTH KOREA DRILL DESPITE NORTH ANGER

May 13, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "South Korea and a US strike force led by the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Nimitz kicked off Monday a joint naval drill slammed by North Korea as a 'wanton' provocation and rehearsal for war.

The two-day exercise began with the departure of the 97,000-tonne Nimitz, one of the world's largest warships, from the southern South Korean port of Busan where it had been docked over the weekend, the US navy said in a statement.

'The operations include integrated flight operations, air defense events, surface warfare training events, precision ship maneuvers, and liaison officer exchanges,' it said. A number of other naval ships including guided-missile cruisers and a guided-missile destroyer will also take part in the drill designed to 'reinforce regional security and stability', it added.

The exercise comes as the Korean peninsula is only just emerging from a period of highly elevated military tensions triggered by North Korea's nuclear test in February. Angered by UN sanctions imposed after the test and by a series of large South Korean-US military drills,

Pyongyang spent much of March and April issuing dire warnings including threats of nuclear strikes against Seoul and Washington. The North called the latest exercise with the Nimitz 'a grave military provocation' that would trigger a fresh cycle of escalating tensions..."



WHO SAYS NEW CARONAVIRUS MAY BE PASSED PERSON TO PERSON

May 12, 2013 BBC News reported: "The World Health Organization says it appears likely that the novel coronavirus (NCoV) can be passed between people in close contact.

This comes after the French health ministry confirmed a second man had contracted the virus in a possible case of human-to-human transmission. Two more people in Saudi Arabia are also reported to have died from the virus, according to health officials.

NCoV is known to cause pneumonia and sometimes kidney failure. World Health Organization (WHO) officials have expressed concern over the clusters of cases of the new coronavirus strain and the potential for it to spread. Since 2012, there have been 33 confirmed cases across Europe and the Middle East, with 18 deaths, according to a recent WHO update.

Cases have been detected in Saudi Arabia and Jordan and have spread to Germany, the UK and France.

'Of most concern... is the fact that the different clusters seen in multiple countries increasingly support the hypothesis that when there is close contact this novel coronavirus can transmit from person to person,' the World Health Organization said on Sunday..."

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