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VERMONT GOVERNOR SPENDS ENTIRE STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS ON 'FULL-BLOWN HEROIN CRISIS'

January 9, 2014 truthrevolt.org reported: "Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin (D) spent his entire State of the State address talking about the state's growing heroin problem. "You will hear from me on many of these topics next week when I present my budget. Today I will focus exclusively on another matter of great concern to our state's future," Shumlin said. "The crisis I am talking about is the rising tide of drug addiction and drug-related crime spreading across Vermont."

Specifically, Shumlin said: "In every corner of our state, heroin and opiate drug addiction threatens us. It threatens the safety that has always blessed our state. It is a crisis bubbling just beneath the surface that may be invisible to many, but is already highly visible to law enforcement, medical personnel, social service and addiction treatment providers, and too many Vermont families. It requires all of us to take action before the quality of life that we cherish so much is compromised."

Shumlin called the problems facing Vermont a "full-blown heroin crisis." He told stories of young Vermonters becoming addicted to Oxycontin, destroying their lives and altering their "moral compass." He stated, "Heroin is a drug that does not only grip those who are born into poverty....We must address it as a public health crisis, providing treatment and support, rather than simply doling out punishment, claiming victory, and moving on to our next conviction."..."

DISEASE RESISTANCE TO ANTIBIOTICS AT TIPPING POINT, EXPERT WARNS

January 8, 2014 theguardian.com reported: "The director of the Wellcome Trust has warned that resistance of disease to antibiotics has reached a tipping point at which it could creep into the UK almost without notice. Prof Jeremy Farrar said the effects would be gradual and would be seen not just in resistant new infections but in everyday medical practice and the treatment of everything from diabetes to minor wounds at risk of turning septic.

Having worked in Vietnam for the past 18 years Farrar said he had already seen firsthand resistance to drugs in the shape of tuberculosis that had spread from patients' lungs to their brain.

"This is happening now," Farrar told BBC Radio 4's Today programme. "It's been happening for the last decade or so or more and it will continue to happen. What we will see is people actually spending longer in hospital, patients getting sicker and having complications and dying and it will creep up on us almost without us noticing.

"This will not be the sort of contagion-like event of somebody landing from Hong Kong in London with a pneumonia that is emerging that we've all feared. This will creep up on us insidiously, and of course that's in many ways more difficult to cope with."

He said there had been a "golden age" of antibiotics but complacency had set in in the 1970s and 1980s when there could have been more investment and antibiotics could have been used better, for example in combinations, to prevent the development of resistance to them."...

Last year the chief medical officer, Dame Sally Davies, described what she called an "apocalyptic scenario" where people going for simple operations in 20 years' time would die of routine infections "because we have run out of antibiotics".

Farrar said he was not presenting the crisis in apocalyptic terms but recalled the impact of HIV as an example of when a disease emerges that has no antibiotic for it."..."



IRANIAN MP: WE NEED NUCLEAR BOMB 'TO PUT ISRAEL IN ITS PLACE'

January 8, 2014 The Jerusalem Post reports: "Iranian parliament representative Muhammad Nabavian said that Iran needs a nuclear bomb because of Israel.

'We don't aspire to obtain a nuclear bomb, but it is necessary so we can put Israel in its place,' Nabavian said in a speech given on Friday and quoted by MEMRI (the Middle East Media Research Institute). The Iranian Tasnim News Agency website, which first quoted Nabavian, later removed the comment about Iran needing a nuclear bomb, according to the MEMRI report..."

INDIA'S SOVIET-ERA CARRIER ARRIVES SIX YEARS LATE

January 8, 2014 SpaceWar.com reported: "A refurbished former Soviet aircraft carrier arrived Wednesday in India six years late, ending a wrangle that strained ties with the country's top arms supplier Russia.

The Cold War-era ship, which set sail from the Russian city of Severodvinsk in mid-November, was escorted by Indian warships into Indian waters. A naval spokesman said the INS Vikramaditya had arrived at Karwar, its home base in the western state of Karnataka.

Critics have described the Vikramaditya, built as the Admiral Gorshkov and originally commissioned in 1987, as a white elephant because of its higher-than-expected price tag and long delays in arriving.

A preliminary pact for refurbishing the vessel was signed in 1998 -- two years after the Kremlin mothballed the 44,500-ton carrier. It took

six years for the two sides to reach a final agreement that valued the deal at \$771 million and stipulated delivery in 2008. But the cost of refitting the 284-metre (937-foot) ship ballooned to \$2.3 billion, according to Indian officials. Deadlines were repeatedly extended, creating a bitter wrangle with Russia.

"It came out costlier than we anticipated," said retired rear admiral Raja Menon, chairman of a strategic unit in the government's National Security Council. But Menon told AFP the vessel "signifies a state presence more than any other warship".

Russia accounts for 70 percent of military hardware for India which is currently the world's largest arms importer, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. The Vikramaditya is intended to shore up India's defences as it seeks to counter a military build-up by an assertive China."..."

US ANNOUNCES NEW TROOP DEPLOYMENT TO SOUTH KOREA

January 8, 2014 voanews.com reported: "The Pentagon has announced the deployment of an additional 800 troops to South Korea, along with combat tanks and other military hardware, as Washington seeks to counter any regional threats from North Korea.

Tuesday's deployment announcement came as U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met in Washington with his South Korean counterpart, Yun Byung-se. Kerry used the meeting to assure Yun of Washington's commitment to South Korea's nuclear defense, in his words, "so that we are prepared to face any threat."

"The United States and the Republic of Korea stand very firmly united without an inch of daylight between us - not a sliver of daylight - on the subject of opposition to North Korea's destabilizing nuclear and ballistic missile programs and proliferation activities, and the international community stands with us," said Kerry.

Kerry said Yun and he are "deeply focused on the challenge of North Korea, particularly with events that have taken place in recent weeks" in Pyongyang."..."

LIBYA'S LURCH TOWARD SHARIAH SENDS CHILL THROUGH CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

January 7, 2014 FoxNews.com reported: "Libya's recent edict that its coming constitution will be based on Shariah law has sent a chill through the North African nation's small Christian community.

Libya's Coptic Christians, who number about 300,000, or 5 percent of the population, were allowed to practice their faith under dictator Muammar Qaddafi. But since the strongman was ousted from power, and ultimately killed, Muslim fundamentalists have increasingly filled the power void. Last month, the national assembly voted in favor of making Koranic law, or Shariah, the basis of all legislative decisions, meaning Islam will shape all future banking, criminal and financial cases.

'Islamic law is the source of legislation in Libya,' stated the General National Congress in a statement released shortly after the vote was held. 'All state institutions need to comply with this.'..."

IRAQ VIOLENCE: PM URGES FALLUJAH TO OUST MILITANTS

January 6, 2014 BBC.co.uk reported: "Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has urged residents of the embattled city of Fallujah to force out insurgents linked to al-Qaeda who have taken control there. Mr. Maliki said if the people expelled what he called terrorists, they would be spared military action.

Iraqi forces are preparing to recapture the city, which has been out of government control for days. Hundreds have already fled shelling and air strikes by government forces. Mr. Maliki called on 'the people of Fallujah and its tribes to expel the terrorists' so 'their areas are not subjected to the danger of armed clashes', state television reported.

The former Iraqi national security adviser, Mowaffak al-Rubaie, has told the BBC it was impossible to defend all of Iraq from attacks by the al-Qaeda-linked militants the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant, known as ISIS.

'These guys [the militants], they are highly motivated, they are very well-trained, they can do this because they are brainwashed, their understanding of Islam is highly selective. They are brutal. They are ruthless. They are after anarchy.'..."

SYRIA: 25 LASHES FOR FAILING TO PRAY

January 5, 2014 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Syria is undergoing an accelerated process of Islamization, which is led by extremist Islamist rebel groups that follow sharia courts, and who operate a morality police force that enforces law and order Islam-style.

In Haleb, two men were convicted of failing to take part in the Friday prayers, and were sentenced to 25 lashes each, to be delivered publicly. The two convicted men were brought to the city square, where they were flogged on their bare backs. The crowd that had gathered watched the scene quietly.

This is not the first time that the Ahrar al-Sham Islamist organization carried out flogging sentences in public. The Islamic organizations' religious court has even meted out sentences of capital punishment in the past.

