



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JANUARY 25 2014

## **LEW: U.S. TO HIT DEBT CEILING SOONER THAN THOUGHT**

*January 23, 2014* UPI reported: "The U.S. Treasury will likely hit the debt ceiling earlier than first thought, Treasury Secretary Jack Lew said, setting the stage for another fiscal showdown.

"When I previously wrote to you in December, I estimated that Treasury would exhaust extraordinary measures in late February or early March," Lew wrote in a letter to House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, and the other top three congressional leaders.

"Based on our best and most recent information, we believe that Treasury is more likely to exhaust those measures in late February," said the letter... A surge of February spending, mainly for 2013 tax refunds, will leave the Treasury with little room to maneuver after the official debt limit is reached Feb. 7, he said in the letter.

As recently as last week, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said he thought the debt-ceiling fight could be put off until as late as May. But Lew said the government shutdown delayed the start of tax season and will concentrate refund payments, giving the Treasury little room to maneuver to keep financing the government.

"Protecting the full faith and credit of the United States is the responsibility of Congress, because only Congress can extend the nation's borrowing authority," Lew said in the letter.

"No Congress in our history has failed to meet that responsibility," he said. "I respectfully urge Congress to provide certainty and stability to the economy and financial markets by acting to raise the debt limit before Feb. 7, 2014, and certainly before late February."

Boehner spokesman Michael Steel said in a statement Republicans would need concessions from Democrats before they'd agree to raise the borrowing limit.

"The speaker has said that we should not default on our debt, or even get close to it, but a 'clean' debt limit increase simply won't pass in the House," Steel said. "We hope and expect the White House will work with us on a timely, fiscally responsible solution."

President Obama has said he will not negotiate over the debt limit, calling it a congressional responsibility, not a bargaining chip. He maintained that position during October's 16-day government shutdown, which ended when Congress passed a temporary measure to fund the government until Jan. 15 and suspend the debt ceiling until Feb. 7.

Congress resolved the issue of funding the government when it passed an omnibus spending bill last week. But lawmakers left the debt limit untouched. House Republicans say they intend to discuss the debt-limit matter when they gather for their annual planning retreat"..."

## **IRAN'S FM: WE DID NOT AGREE TO DISMANTLE ANYTHING IN NUCLEAR DEAL**

*January 23, 2014* VOAnews.com reported: "Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran did not agree to dismantle anything in the recent nuclear deal with the United States and five other countries. Zarif told CNN television Wednesday that the White House version of the agreement 'overplays Iranian commitments.'

Zarif said Iran is not dismantling any centrifuges or equipment. He says all Iran is doing is not enriching uranium over 5 percent. Anything above that could be used to build a nuclear weapon. Zarif said the White House is trying to portray the deal as a dismantling of Iran's nuclear program. He challenged anyone to find the word 'dismantling' in the text of the treaty..."

## **JAPAN TELLS WORLD TO STAND UP TO CHINA OR FACE CONSEQUENCES**

*January 22, 2014* spacedaily.com reported: "Japan on Wednesday told the world it must stand up to an increasingly assertive China or risk a regional conflict with catastrophic economic consequences.

In a landmark speech to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe issued what amounted to an appeal for international support in a potentially explosive dispute with its superpower neighbour over islands in the East China Sea.

"We must restrain military expansion in Asia ... which otherwise could go unchecked," Abe told the annual meeting of global business and political leaders, which Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is due to attend on Friday.

"If peace and stability were shaken in Asia, the knock-on effect for the entire world would be enormous," Abe added.

"The dividend of growth in Asia must not be wasted on military expansion."

Although Abe did not explicitly mention China, his speech had been flagged up in advance by Japanese officials as an alarm call to an influential audience over what Tokyo sees as bullying by Beijing.

The dispute over the uninhabited but potentially mineral-rich islands is being played out against a backdrop of Japanese fears that China is seeking to exert control over lifeline shipping lanes around its vast coastline and that the United States' commitment to guarantee Japan's security is waning.



Tensions over the islands, which Japan calls Senkaku and China refers to as the Diaoyus, have come perilously close to boiling over into armed clashes on several occasions in recent years. They resurfaced last month when Abe visited the Yasukuni shrine, a memorial to Japan's war dead which is controversial because a handful of convicted war criminals are among those commemorated.

China and South Korea seized on the visit as fresh evidence of Japan's perceived failure to sincerely repent for its 20th-century record of military aggression, and the visit has also been criticised as unhelpful by Britain and the United States.”...”

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### **US ARMY CONSIDERS REPLACING THOUSANDS OF TROOPS WITH ROBOTS**

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*January 22, 2014* The Telegraph reported: “The US Army is considering replacing thousands of soldiers with robots as it deals with sweeping troop cuts. A senior American officer has said he is considering shrinking the size of the Army’s brigade combat teams by a quarter and replacing the lost troops with robots and remote-controlled vehicles.

The American military is still far from fielding armies of Terminator-type robotic killers though. Ideas under discussion instead include proposals to see manned lorries and transporters replaced by supply trains of robots vehicles. Generals are studying proposals as the US Army is to slim down from 540,000 to about 490,000 soldiers by the end of next year. Some reports suggest it could dip below 450,000 by the end of the decade.”...”

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### **IRAN SENDS FLOTILLA OF WARSHIPS TO ATLANTIC OCEAN**

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*January 21, 2014* The Fars News Agency reported: “The Iranian Navy dispatched its first fleet of warships to the Atlantic Ocean in a ceremony participated by Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari and his deputy Rear Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Moussavi in Southern Iran on Tuesday. The flotilla, which is the first dispatched to the Atlantic, but the 29th one dispatched to the international waters, consists of Khark logistic and helicopter-carrier warship and Sabalan destroyer. The warships should sail 25,000 nautical kilometers in the next three months.

Addressing Iranian commanders, Navy personnel, sailors and crews in a ceremony to bid farewell to the flotilla, Admiral Moussavi said Iran has a message of peace and friendship for the world states and seeks to show its defensive power to the world by sending its fleets of warships to the international waters.”...

Now we intend to enter the Atlantic Ocean and this will be materialized after dispatch of the next flotillas of warships,’ he added...”

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### **NETANYAHU POURS COLD WATER ON INTERIM NUCLEAR AGREEMENT ON ITS FIRST DAY**

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*January 20, 2014* The Jerusalem Post reported: “The Iranian interim agreement that went into effect on Monday does not prevent Iran from implementing its intentions to create nuclear weapons, Prime Minister Netanyahu said in the Knesset. Netanyahu, in a speech welcoming visiting Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper to the Knesset on Monday, said that the international community's goal – one that has not yet been achieved -- must be stopping the Iranians from gaining the capacity to build a nuclear weapon.

The prime minister likened the manufacturing of the fissile material needed to make a bomb to a train that must pass through three stops: the first stop of enriching uranium to 3.5 percent, the second stop of enriching uranium to 20 percent, and the final step of enriching uranium to 90 percent.

“The agreement in Geneva did away with the 20% stop, but left the train on its track and enables Iran to upgrade the locomotive by developing new centrifuges, so that when the day comes it can leap in a very short time to the final stop on an express track without stopping at an intermediary stop,” he said. The final agreement that the world powers negotiates with Iran must take the “Iranian nuclear train off the tracks,” Netanyahu said, adding that Iran must not be allowed to have the capability to manufacture a bomb.

Netanyahu also said that the international community should be demanding of Iran – at a time when it is relieving sanctions and giving Teheran legitimization – that it end its calls for the destruction of Israel...”...”

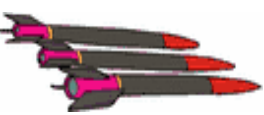
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### **ISRAEL PLANS LASER INTERCEPTOR 'IRON BEAM' FOR SHORT-RANGE ROCKETS**

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*January 19, 2014* The Jerusalem Post reported “Israel plans to deploy a new missile shield known as ‘Iron Beam’ next year which would use a laser to blow up short-range rockets and mortar bombs, a defense industry official said on Sunday. The system is designed to deal with threats that fly on too small a trajectory to be engaged efficiently by Iron Dome, the Israeli interceptor credited with an 80 percent success rate against rockets fired by Palestinian militants.

Both shields are manufactured by state-owned Rafael Advanced Defense Systems Ltd. While Iron Dome launches radar-guided interceptor rockets, Iron Beam's laser will super-heat the warheads of shells with ranges of up to 7 km. Rafael said Iron Dome would be formally unveiled at next month's Singapore Air Show. The Israeli military declined to discuss deployment plans. Iron Dome is complemented by Arrow II, an Israeli interceptor designed to shoot down ballistic missiles at atmospheric heights.”...”



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