



POPE FRANCIS GETS INVOLVED IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS

June 5, 2014 VOAnews.com reported: "Israeli President Shimon Peres and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas are expected to meet at the Vatican Sunday for what is being called an 'intense prayer session' with Pope Francis.

The unexpected invitation was extended during the pope's recent visit to the Middle East, where Francis engaged in the kind of photo opportunities that popes usually avoid. He stopped at the barrier erected around the Palestinian territories and at an Israeli memorial for victims of terrorism.

On the plane home, Pope Francis told reporters he is not getting involved in the stalled peace process. Nonetheless, said Daniel Petri at the Catholic University of America in Washington, the invitation is a bold move.

'If something happens, it's tremendous. Pope Francis is the miracle worker of the Middle East,' he said...'

JORDAN CONDEMNS ISRAEL FOR ALLOWING JEWS ON TEMPLE MOUNT

June 4, 2014 Arutz Sheva reported: "The Temple Mount became Jewish again on Tuesday, and Jordan didn't like it. Temple organizations reported Tuesday morning that about 400 Jews had ascended to the Mount in the morning hours, and that police allowed them in without undue delays.

Muslim worshippers, who often harass Jews on the Mount, were not allowed in because police and the Israel Security Agency (Shin Bet) had received intelligence about 'malicious intentions' and Islamist incitement calling on Arabs to riot and prevent the Jews from entering.

Jordan chose to condemn Israel's deployment of large number of troops and police inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque...

The Jordanian Minister of State for Media Affairs, Mohammed Momani, slammed the Israeli act, which he said aimed at granting access to extremist Jews into the holy mosque. Momani warned that such actions would drag the region into a dangerous religious conflict..."



RUSSIA, FRIEND OR FOE FOR NATO?

June 4, 2014 spacedaily.com reported: "Friend or foe? Russian intervention in Ukraine has set off an anguished debate within NATO over how to deal with a newly assertive Moscow ready to defy the West. For some, President Vladimir Putin's annexation of Crimea in March shows Russia has ditched the post-Cold War rulebook, redrawing borders by intimidation and force.

For others, the Ukraine crisis is a one-off in which Russia's legitimate interests must be dealt with to avoid a lasting confrontation which will poison relations and require massive additional defence spending for years.

NATO leaders will meet at a September summit in Britain now dominated by events in Ukraine, with the US-led military alliance reviewing options to reassure its nervous east European members that they will not be abandoned if Russia goes for broke. The alliance's head Anders Fogh Rasmussen says Russia's "illegal aggression" against Ukraine has upended the security environment in Europe, making it more unpredictable and dangerous.

Russia has increased defence spending by 50 percent over the last five years, while the allies have cut theirs by a fifth, Rasmussen said, warning NATO members they will have to pay for measures that must be continued "as long as necessary."

NATO defence ministers agreed Tuesday to a programme intended to bolster security in eastern European member states and increase the alliance's reaction speed. Some NATO members were more than surprised at Russia's ability to mass 40,000 troops on the border with Ukraine very quickly and keep them there, ready for action, for some time. The lesson is clear -- act now or pay a much heavier price later when Russia tests NATO again..."

ISRAEL DENOUNCES US FOR ACCEPTING ABBAS'S HAMAS-BACKED GOVERNMENT

June 3, 2014 The Times of Israel reported: "Jerusalem on Monday night slammed the United States for announcing that it will work with the new Palestinian unity government, sworn in earlier Monday. In strikingly bitter comments, officials said that rather than cooperating with a government backed by a terror group, Washington ought to be urging Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to disband his pact with Hamas and resume peace negotiations with Israel.

'We are deeply disappointed by the comments of the State Department regarding working with the Palestinian unity government. This Palestinian government is a government backed by Hamas, which is a terror organization committed to Israel's destruction,' Israeli government officials said. 'If the US administration wanted to advance peace, it should be calling on Abbas to end his pact with Hamas and return to peace talks with Israel,' they added. 'Instead, it is enabling Abbas to believe that it is acceptable to form a government with a terrorist organization.'

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office and the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem declined to comment on the record. Earlier Monday, Israel's senior ministers decided to boycott the new government, since it is backed by Hamas, designated a terrorist organization by Israel and the US..."

PETITION TO ADD MUSLIM AND HINDU HOLIDAYS IN BRITAIN TOPS 100,000

June 2, 2014 Breitbart.com reported: "An official petition to add Muslim and Hindu festivals to British bank (public) holidays has attracted over 100,000 signatures, meaning that it can now be debated at the House of Commons. If the proposal is passed it will put days like Eid on a similar footing to Easter and Christmas. The proposal has proved hugely popular in Britain's multi-cultural communities, far more popular than proposals to mark St George's Day, which is England's patron's saint's day."...

Vinod Papat, chairman of The British Hindu Voice, told the Sunday Express: 'I don't think it is a very good idea. How many festivals are there for other religions. Should they all be marked with a public holiday?'

Suleman Nagdi, of the Federation of Muslim Organisations in Leicester, told the paper: 'Any move to recognise other faiths is a good thing but I do not think there should be a public holiday.'

The petition is likely to add to concerns that traditional British ceremonies are being overshadowed."..."

US ACCEPTS NEW PALESTINIAN UNITY GOVERNMENT, TURNS ASIDE ISRAEL'S OBJECTIONS

June 2, 2014 debkafile.com reported: "State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said Monday night, June 2, that the US intends to work with the new Palestinian government despite Israel's concerns. Psaki also said US Secretary of State John Kerry called Netanyahu to relay the US position, without offering details, after Mahmoud Abbas swore in the new Palestinian government earlier in the afternoon. She said the US will continue to send aid to the Palestinians, but will closely watch what she called the "interim technocratic government."

The EU has said it welcomes unity and would continue funding any government that meets the conditions for aid: recognition of Israel, endorsement of former accords and abstaining from violence. Both major Western powers therefore brushed off Netanyahu's call on the world to shun the new government over its partnership with a terrorist organization."...

US Secretary of State John Kerry stated after his Sunday night phone call to Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen) that the Obama administration would judge the Palestinian unity government by its deeds. Recognition would depend on the new regime recognizing Israel, upholding previously-signed Palestinian international undertakings and abstaining from terrorism and other violence.

Abbas assured the Secretary that the new Palestinian ministers were appointed by him and they would comply his wishes and policies."..."

CHINESE GENERAL SAYS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY HAS 'ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION' PROBLEMS

June 2, 2014 The Wall Street Journal reported: "A Chinese general used a regional security conference this weekend to tell a global audience that U.S. rhetoric about the South China Sea risks provoking Beijing. For the Chinese language audience, the general used language saltier — and perhaps more provocative — words to describe how he feels about U.S. power.

Maj. Gen Zhu Chenghu, a professor at the National Defense University, made the remarks in an interview with Chinese-language Phoenix TV at the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore Saturday. He suggested that if China came to blows with any of its neighbors, the U.S. might not be a reliable ally.

"As U.S. power declines, Washington needs to rely on its allies in order to reach its goal of containing China's development," he told the TV station.

"But whether it will get involved or use military intervention once there is a territorial dispute involving China and its neighbors, that is another issue," he added. He said that this depended on the U.S. ability to project power, citing Ukraine as an example. He said, "we can see from the situation in Ukraine this kind of ED" — which he explained in Chinese was a military abbreviation for something that may have meant "extended deployment" — "has become the male type of ED problem — erectile dysfunction."

Mr. Zhu was one of several Chinese military officials who reacted angrily to remarks of U.S. defense secretary Chuck Hagel, who accused China of taking destabilizing actions in the South China Sea. China's stance on its maritime claims in the South China Sea has led it into disputes with Vietnam and the Philippines."..."



BIDEN, HAGEL OBSESSED WITH CREATING 'NEW WORLD ORDER'

May 30, 2014 WND.com reported: "Vice President Joe Biden and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel have been in the news in recent days for envisioning the creation of a 'new world order.'

The two politicians have a long history of using the phrase to advocate a global rebalancing through shared values, diplomacy and participation in international organizations.

Critics of the Obama administration say major global players — notably Russia and China — are not playing by international rules and may themselves be attempting to create an alternate rebalancing of national alliances at the expense of the West."... Last week, Hagel said during a trip to Poland that 'a new and early 21st century world order [is] being built.'..."

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