



MILLIONS MORE AT RISK IN EBOLA OUTBREAK, BRITISH STUDY FINDS

September 10, 2014 The Telegraph reported: "The deadliest Ebola outbreak in history could spread to a further 15 countries in West and Central Africa, putting up to 70 million people at risk of infection, a ground-breaking study has found.

Research by the University of Oxford compared historic outbreaks to the virus' possible transmission in bats and chimpanzees to predict how the disease could spread through its vast animal reservoir. It is the first time scientists have attempted to explain how the virus, which is contracted through contact with infected bodily fluids, has travelled westward across Africa.



The resulting map shows how the populations of the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Ghana and a dozen more countries could be hit by the outbreak, which has already killed nearly 2,300 people in 2014.

Several species of bat are suspected of carrying the virus through the jungles of West and Central Africa without showing symptoms, passing the disease onto other animals which are eaten by some communities as "bush meat".

Researchers said transmission to the human population was not "inevitable", but that environmental factors in many more countries than previously considered made it possible for further Ebola outbreak outbreaks.

According to the Oxford study, Cote D'Ivoire, Gabon, Angola, Tanzania, Togo, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Madagascar and Malawi could also join those countries already affected."..."

RUSSIA WARNS U.S. AGAINST STRIKES ON ISLAMIC STATE IN SYRIA

September 11, 2014 BBC News reported: "Russia has warned that US air strikes against militants in Syria would be a 'gross violation' of international law. A Russian foreign ministry spokesman said any such action, without the backing of the UN, would be 'an act of aggression'.

It comes as US Secretary of State John Kerry meets Arab leaders in Saudi Arabia to try to build a coalition against Islamic State (IS) militants. President Obama has threatened action against IS in Syria as well as Iraq. IS controls large parts of Syria and Iraq after a rapid military advance..."

RUSSIA TO BOOST NUCLEAR, SPACE DEFENCE FORCES AGAINST US

September 10, 2014 spacedaily.com reported: "Russia will respond to the United States' "prompt global strike" programme designed to take out targets within an hour by upgrading its nuclear and space defence forces, its deputy prime minister said Wednesday.

"Our response to the prompt global strike strategy is upgrading our strategic nuclear forces and resources -- the strategic rocket forces and the naval ones -- and also developing air and space defence resources according to the plans we have finalised," Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin, who oversees defence, was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

He spoke after President Vladimir Putin held a government meeting on Russia's defence spending at which he accused Western countries of provoking the Ukraine crisis in order to "revive NATO."

Using Cold War rhetoric, Putin complained of "new threats appearing" including the buildup of NATO forces in eastern Europe, the development of the US missile shield in Europe and Alaska and the development of the 'Prompt Global Strike' programme.

"The theory of the so-called global disarming strike is also being worked on," Putin said.

The Pentagon's Prompt Global Strike programme is developing conventional weapons that could take out targets anywhere on the planet within an hour's notice."..."

NATO MEMBER TURKEY OPENLY AIDING ISIS

September 10, 2014 WND.com reported: "As the North Atlantic Treaty Organization considers what action to take against ISIS, concern is mounting about the response of Turkey, a NATO member that continues to allow its borders to be crossed by Islamic fighters and launders money to finance jihad.

Informed sources tell WND that Turkey continues to keep open its borders to allow jihadists seeking to join ISIS, or Islamic State, to cross into Syria. Many of the fighters are from Europe and the United States.

Turkey has been a major gathering point for fighters throughout the world to obtain training and logistical support to join various jihadist groups and the Syrian opposition fighting Shiite-Alawite Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Now, many fighters from various Sunni jihadist groups have sworn allegiance to ISIS, although some openly oppose the group. The opposition, however, now appears to be waning because of ISIS' spectacular gains in recent months and its declaration of a Sunni caliphate ruled by Islamic law.

In addition, the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Turkey remains an even greater conduit of money laundering to ISIS than Qatar..."

HOSPITAL SETS PATIENT RECORD AS VIRUS SPREADS

September 8, 2014 cincinnati.com reported: "Medical officials admitted a record number of children to a local hospital over the weekend because of what they believe to be a rare respiratory virus spreading throughout the country.

Although there's been no confirmed cases of the enterovirus at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, officials admitted 540 patients Friday, said Dr. Derek Wheeler, associate chief of staff at the hospital. The previous record was around 515, Wheeler said.

Some reports out of Missouri and Colorado suggest the virus, with symptoms similar to the common cold, brought sicker patients to hospitals, Wheeler said. "We're just seeing the (increased) volumes, we haven't seen (patients) sicker than usual yet," he said.

Hospitals from other states have placed restrictions on visitations, but Wheeler said there are no plans to do that in Cincinnati. The virus is similar to what doctors treat during cold and flu season. That means nothing really changes if a child comes down with the rare virus, he said.

"The bottom line is this is a virus you wouldn't treat with antibiotics, so other than the (high-level of) interest, there's no reason we would need to know it's an enterovirus," Wheeler said. This particular type of enterovirus — EV-D68 — is uncommon, but not new. It was first identified in the 1960s."..."



NATO PUSHES INITIATIVES IN FACE OF RUSSIAN AGGRESSION

September 8, 2014 SpaceDaily.com reported: "NATO leaders are aiming to strengthen alliance capabilities amid Russian aggression in the Ukraine and growing threats elsewhere that threaten Europe.

First, leaders of the 28 member countries meeting in Wales last week resolved to maintain a continuous air, land, and sea presence in Eastern Europe -- including the Baltics -- on a rotational basis given Russian machinations in the region. They also agreed to create a rapid response force.

"This spearhead will include several thousand land troops ready to deploy within a few days with air, sea and Special Forces support," said NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen. The force plan includes a command-and-control presence, reception facilities and pre-positioned equipment.

"This is a demonstration of our solidarity and resolve," Fogh Rasmussen said. "In these turbulent times, NATO must be prepared to undertake the full range of missions and to defend allies against the full range of threats."

The demonstration of resolve comes amid months of tension in Europe over Russia's annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and action by pro-Russian insurrectionists -- reportedly with active Russian involvement -- to take other parts of the Ukraine, which was once part of the Soviet empire.

The belligerence from Russian President Vladimir Putin in response to European and American protests -- and actions such as sanctions against Russia -- has done nothing to dampen fears of a return to Cold War footing, not to mention fears for the future of territorial integrity in Baltic countries.

Canada, Germany, Portugal, Britain and others perform rotational air patrols in the region as a message to Moscow.

NATO leaders also agreed to put their money where their mouth is by reversing years of declining defense spending by member states. NATO said the allies will focus their military budgets over the next 10 years to meet the "existing NATO guideline of spending 2 percent of gross domestic product on defense and with a view to meeting NATO capability priorities."..."

KISSINGER: IRAN IS A BIGGER THREAT THAN ISLAMIC STATE

September 8, 2014 Haaretz reported: "Former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger called Iran...a 'bigger problem' than the Islamic State group, formerly known as ISIS, and said that the threat posed by the militants is 'more manageable' than a confrontation with Iran.

In an interview with National Public Radio, the former top diplomat said that 'ISIS is a group of adventurers with a very aggressive ideology. But they have to conquer more and more territory before they can become a strategic, permanent reality.'

Iran, on the hand, has the opportunity to 'reconstruct the ancient Persian Empire, this time under the Shia label — in the rebuilding of the Middle East that will inevitably have to take place when the new international borders [are] drawn.' That, said Kissinger, 'gives Iran a very powerful level from a strategic point of view.'

The strategy to defeat Islamic State, Kissinger said, should involve 'superior air power, and then, if we can enlist other countries, or other more local groups to do the ground fighting, we might actually destroy them.'..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, and Santa Rosa
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*