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NUKE DEAL PROVIDES 'HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY' TO CONFRONT ISRAEL, IRAN FM TELLS HEZBOLLAH TERROR CHIEF

August 13, 2015 Breitbart.com reported: "Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif met Wednesday in Lebanon with Hezbollah terror chief Hassan Nasrallah, in which the two discussed how the nuke deal recently agreed upon between Iran and the United States and world powers creates an opportunity for Tehran's regional allies to 'face threats posed by the Zionist entity,' Hezbollah's Al Manar media outlet reported.

Hezbollah (Party of Allah), which was created by the Iranian regime with the expressed purpose of turning Lebanon into a 'graveyard for Jews,' according to Nasrallah, is classified by the United States as a terrorist organization.

The jihadi group has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of American servicemen over the past few decades, and has in the 21st century established substantial roots throughout Latin America.

'Once more, I call on Muslim countries in the region to respond positively to Iran's invitation to dialogue and cooperation for guaranteeing the interests of regional states and nations,' Zarif said, pointing to 'the Zionist entity, terrorism and extremism' as the foremost threats facing the Middle East, the report added..."

RUSSIA AND NATO 'ACTIVELY PREPARING FOR WAR'

August 12, 2015 telegraph.co.uk reported: "Russia and Nato are actively preparing for war with one another amid the greatest build up of military tension in Europe since the end of the Cold War, a new report says.



Rival exercises by the Russian armed forces and Nato have led to several near-miss incidents that could result in confrontation between the two sides, and leaders need to consider a new arms control treaty to avert the possibility of heightened tensions spilling into war.

The report by the European Leadership Network, a think tank, comes amid the most intense fighting for six months in eastern Ukraine and as Michael Fallon, the defence minister, pledged to expand a British army training mission to Ukraine.

"We do not suggest that the leadership of either side has made a decision to go to war or that a military conflict between the two is inevitable, but that the changed profile of exercises is a fact and it does play a role in sustaining the current climate of tensions in Europe," the authors write. The report outlines how both Nato and Russia have primed their forces to respond to an escalation since the Ukraine crisis erupted in early 2014.

The preparations include major military exercises by both Russia and Nato that appear designed exclusively to respond to one another's capabilities and potential war plans.

"Whilst spokespeople may maintain that these operations are targeted against only hypothetical opponents, the nature and scale of the operations indicate otherwise," the report writers say.

In March 2015, Russia conducted "snap exercises" that saw 80,000 troops engaged in long-range deployments and simulated combat on a scale that made the United States or Nato the only possibly adversary.

Nato's exercise "Allied Shield," in June this year, saw 15,000 allied troops engaged in a series of mock operations including response to a Crimea-style infiltration of irregular forces.

In both cases, the report writers find, the exercises focused on what the two sides perceive to be their most vulnerable areas, with Nato moving to defend the Baltic States and Russia rushing reinforcements to the Arctic, its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad, occupied Crimea, and Sakhalin island in the far east.

Allied Shield also included the first deployment of the Very High Readiness Taskforce, a rapid-reaction unit established at the Nato summit in Wales in 2014 in response to the annexation of Crimea.

The exercise, called 'Noble Jump', deployed 2,100 troops in a simulated a response to 'unattributable infiltration by an ally by irregular or special forces' - essentially the scenario seen in Crimea and Eastern Ukraine since Early 2014.

The report recommends improvements in Nato-Russian communication to avert near misses and suggests working on a new arms treaty to restrict the use of conventional forces in Europe."..."

JORDAN TO ERECT BARRIER ON IRAQ-SYRIA BORDER TO STOP ISLAMIC STATE

August 11, 2015 The Times of Israel reported: "Jordan is digging trenches and raising dirt barriers on its northern and eastern borders with war-ravaged Iraq and Syria to stop fighters from nearby jihadist groups infiltrating into its territory, a top Jordanian general said Tuesday.

The embankments are intended to prevent the entry of Islamic State fighters. Some barriers have already been erected, border guards commander Saber al-Mahayra told government-owned Jordanian daily Al Ra'i.

The measure is part of Amman's multi-pronged approach to combating the ruthless terror group, which seized a downed Jordanian fighter pilot and burned him to death in a cage in January. At the time, King Abdullah II pledged to step up the fight against IS, which released a

gruesome video of the killing that shocked Jordanians.

Abdullah said Jordan's response 'will be harsh because this terrorist organization is not only fighting us, but also fighting Islam and its pure values.' Soon after the king made his remarks, Jordanian warplanes launched dozens of strikes against Islamic State positions..."

CHINA RATTLES MARKETS WITH YUAN DEVALUATION



August 11, 2015 bloomberg.com reported: "China devalued the yuan in a move that rippled through global markets, as policy makers stepped up efforts to support exporters and boost the role of market pricing in Asia's largest economy.

The central bank cut its daily reference rate by 1.9 percent, triggering the yuan's biggest one-day drop since China ended a dual-currency system in January 1994. The People's Bank of China called the change a one-time adjustment and said its fixing will become more aligned with supply and demand.



The announcement suggests policy makers are now placing a greater emphasis on efforts to combat the deepest economic slowdown since 1990 and reduce the government's grip on the financial system. Authorities had been propping up the yuan to deter capital outflows, protect foreign-currency borrowers and make a case for official reserve status at the International Monetary Fund.

"The one-off devaluation of the fix and allowing more market-based determination takes us into a new currency regime," said Khoon Goh, a Singapore-based strategist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. "It looks like this is the end of the fixing as we know it."

The yuan dropped 1.8 percent to close at 6.3231 per dollar in Shanghai. It slid 2.6 percent to 6.3790 in Hong Kong's offshore trading, the biggest discount to the onshore spot rate since 2011. The central bank allows the Shanghai rate to diverge a maximum 2 percent from its daily fixing, which was set at 6.2298.

China's devaluation jolted global markets, with the currencies of South Korea, Australia and Singapore falling at least 1 percent amid bets other countries will seek weaker exchange rates to keep exports competitive. Shares of Chinese airlines sank on concern dollar debt costs will rise, while commodities retreated amid speculation yuan weakness will erode the buying power of Chinese consumers. U.S. Treasuries gained on growing demand for dollar assets."..."

TO READY FOR THE FINAL REDEMPTION, ISRAELIS TAKE RED HEIFERS BY THE HORNS

August 10, 2015 The Times of Israel reported: "White button-down shirts aren't something that you normally see at Israeli dairy and beef farms. But for the past few years, a number of rabbis have rolled up their tzitzit and stepped into rubber boots in a quest to create the ideal farm for a small herd of holy red heifers, called in Hebrew parah adumah.

Red heifers were slaughtered as sacrifices in the Temple and the ashes were used in purification rituals, especially for people who had become impure through contact with dead bodies.

The Temple Institute is a 28-year-old organization that has built more than 70 artifacts that can be used when a Third Temple is built. Its latest project is to import frozen embryos from Red Angus cattle in the United States to create a herd of kosher red heifers in Israel.

'People have this understanding that the red heifer is something otherworldly or it is really rare,' explained Rabbi Chaim Richman, the international director and co-founder of the Temple Institute. 'But really there are hundreds or even thousands of red-colored cattle of different species that would qualify.'

What has made a modern-day red heifer an impossibility thus far lies in this description in the Book of Numbers, Chapter 19: 'This is the ordinance of the law which the Lord hath commanded, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, that they bring thee a red heifer without spot, wherein is no blemish, and upon which never came yoke.'..."

IRANIAN AYATOLLAH CALLS FOR MUSLIM WORLD TO UNITE AND 'EXPEL' JEWS FROM THE REGION

August 10, 2015 Breitbart.com reports: "Iran's Friday Prayers Leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Emami Kashani, a radical Shiite cleric whose position grants him enormous influence in Tehran and who is appointed directly by Iran's Supreme Leader, called on Friday for the Muslim nations of the world to 'unite and expel the Zionists from this region.'

The prayer leader, who often leads chants of 'Death to America' and 'Death to Israel,' took the time to thank Iran's negotiators for reaching an agreement he believed was favorable to the regime in Tehran, Iran's state-run IRIB news service reported.

Kashani told worshippers that Israel will only be satisfied with their position in the world 'when all nations have perished and they alone remain in this world.' This is why Israel has 'no qualms whatsoever about spilling innocent blood,' the Ayatollah said.

'This regime [Israel] is amongst the vilest, inhuman and bloodthirsty regimes in the world, and Muslim nations must unite and expel the Zionists from this region if they want to live in peace and security,' Kashani added.

By calling for the expulsion of 'Zionists,' Kashani specifically singles out the Jews of Israel, and not its Arab population..."

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