



## **RUSSIA, INDIA SIGN DEFENSE, ENERGY AGREEMENTS**

*December 24, 2015* voanews.com reported: "Russia and India signed agreements Thursday worth billions of dollars to build new nuclear power generating units in India and to cooperate in building defense and civil capabilities.



Speaking in Moscow after talks with visiting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the signing ceremony, President Vladimir Putin said Russia would help build at least six more power units in India during the next 20 years.

"The agreement has been reached on India providing one more site for construction of Russian-designed power generating units ... in which the most modern and safe technologies were used," he said. The six reactors with 1,200-megawatt capacity each are to be built in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. Those will be in addition to the six Russia is constructing in neighboring Tamil Nadu state.

Putin also spoke about close cooperation with the country in the military and technology spheres, saying they were successfully working to produce Brahmos missiles and planning to jointly build a new Russian-designed jet fighter and transport aircraft.

India has turned to Russia as U.S. firm General Electric and Westinghouse, a U.S.-based unit of Japan's Toshiba, still are only considering an entry into India's nuclear energy sector because of a law that holds reactor suppliers liable in case of an accident.

Modi is campaigning to build a domestic industrial base and reduce the military's dependence on expensive Western imports. He hailed an agreement to build light Russian-designed helicopters in India as the result of a special and privileged strategic partnership between the two countries.

## **WILL THE 'RED-GREEN AXIS' SNUFF FREE SPEECH?**

*December 24, 2015* Breitbart.com reported: "Ten years ago last week, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which is arguably the world's most powerful multinational organization, declared war on freedom of speech. On December 8, 2005, the OIC unveiled a 10-year 'Program of Action' for imposing worldwide what Islamic supremacists call shariah blasphemy restrictions on expression that might 'offend' Muslims.

Shortly after President Obama's inauguration, his administration co-sponsored a resolution in the UN Human Rights Council that basically endorsed the OIC's goal. In due course, what came to be known as UNHRC Resolution 16/18 was adopted with U.S. support.

In July 2011, then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced in Istanbul, Turkey that the United States government would work to curb Muslim-offending expression through 'old-fashion techniques of shaming and peer pressure.' In the aftermath of the murderous jihadist attacks in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012, Mrs. Clinton promised to prosecute a man she knowingly falsely blamed for precipitating those attacks by offending Muslims with a provocative internet video. A few days later, Mr. Obama appeared at the United Nations, declaring, 'The future must not belong to those who slander the Prophet of Islam.'..."

## **PALESTINIANS LIVID AT HEZBOLLAH'S 'IRANIAN' MAP OF PALESTINE**

*December 23, 2015* Breitbart.com reported: "Palestinian social media has been abuzz with references to Hassan Nasrallah's speech in the wake of the elimination of a top Hezbollah operative earlier this week, allegedly by Israel.

The leader of the Lebanese Shi'ite militia came under fire for a background picture he used, which featured a map of Palestine superimposed with the portrait of Samir Kuntar, who was sent back to Lebanon after spending 29 years in Israeli jail for an attack against an Israeli family. Most of the criticism was directed at the use of the colors of the Iranian flags.

For the critics, superimposing the Iranian flag on the map of Palestine reveals Hezbollah's desire to paint the predominantly Sunni territory in Iranian Shi'ite colors..."

## **IRAN WARNS TURKEY: DON'T RENEW TIES WITH ISRAEL**

*December 22, 2015* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran on Monday chimed in on the reports that Israel and Turkey are set to normalize ties, asking the Turkish government to rethink the idea.

Speaking to reporters in Tehran and quoted by the semiofficial Fars news agency, Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari warned Turkey about attempts to resume relations with Israel, claiming that doing so would be against the rights of Palestinian Arabs.

'The Muslim governments should adopt policies which meet their and the Islamic Ummah's interests as well as the rights of the Palestinian nation,' he said.

'The Turkish government shouldn't pursue a different path (in relations) with the Quds occupying regime under such conditions that its relations with the neighboring governments have gone under certain developments,' Jaber Ansari added, according to Fars..."

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## HOME SECRETARY ORDERS INQUIRY INTO SHARIA COURTS

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*December 22, 2015* Breitbart.com reported: "Home Secretary Theresa May has ordered an independent inquiry into Sharia courts in Britain to start in the New Year. Mrs. May ordered the review as concerns grow that Sharia courts are creating a parallel legal system in the country that seriously discriminates against women, The Times reports. She told MPs yesterday that there should only be one system of law in the UK – that created by Parliament.

'We will never countenance allowing an alternative, informal system, informed by religious principles, to operate in competition with it,' she said...."

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## PREPARING FOR THE UNEXPECTED IN SPACE

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*December 21, 2015* SpaceDaily.com reported: "There is a common thread through all of the speculation - informed and otherwise - about future conflicts on the global stage: Expect the unexpected. It's an axiom built upon lessons learned over centuries of conflict, but it leaves an important question: How do you prepare for the unexpected?"

The question was asked and answered by Skot Butler, Intelsat General's Vice President for Satellite Networks and Space Services, who presented at the 17th annual Global MilSatCom symposium in London in November.

The commercial satellite community has been preparing for the unexpected globally for years in partnership with the military. Examples include the Skynet fleet public-private partnership in the UK, the SES-Luxembourg joint venture to build and operate a commercial satellite with military frequencies, and Intelsat's UHF payload for the Australian Defence Force.

Cases are being forged in the U.S., where there is a long history of leasing commercial SATCOM for military and government needs. Conversations are ongoing about the commercialization of WGS flight operations, part or all of the Air Force Satellite Control Network and even the future Wideband space system itself. In the conversations, there are challenges.

Gen. John Hyten, who heads Air Force Space Command, said on December 8 that he is encouraging the use of "resilient capacity" when planning future space architectures. In that, he wants an analysis of how space capabilities operate through an integrated, combined, and joint threat to continue to provide support to the warfighter. That analysis will have to include commercial capability that aligns with DoD needs."..."

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## CHINESE MILITARY CONDUCTS WAR GAMES IN SOUTH CHINA SEA

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*December 18, 2015* SpaceDaily.com reported: "China's military conducted war games in the disputed South China Sea this week, an official newspaper said Friday, as tensions simmer over Beijing's island-building in the region.

China insists it has sovereignty over virtually all of the resource-rich South China Sea, conflicting with the various claims of Vietnam, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Brunei.

Warships, submarines, early warning aircraft and fighter jets were deployed in exercises that occurred over a "range of several thousand kilometres", the People's Liberation Army Daily said.

They were split into red and blue teams that practised deflecting anti-ship missile attacks and scenarios that included one of an accidental strike on a third-party commercial ship, it added.

"Only by experiencing a variety of difficult situations can one not panic in the midst of war and win," the paper quoted Li Xiaoyan, deputy chief of staff of the South China Sea fleet and commander of the red team, as saying.

Last week, the US deployed for the first time a P-8 Poseidon spy plane in Singapore, with local diplomats saying the decision was likely aimed at sending a message to China about Washington's resolve to oppose what they describe as Beijing's aggressive regional policy.

The US is critical of China building artificial islands in the disputed sea, and has flown B-52 bombers and sailed a guided-missile destroyer near some of the constructions in recent months.

Washington angered Beijing in October when a US warship sailed close to artificial islets that China is building out into military bases, in what the US called a "freedom of navigation" exercise. Washington has said China's transformation of the geographical features in the Spratly Islands poses a threat to freedom of navigation in the critical area."

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