

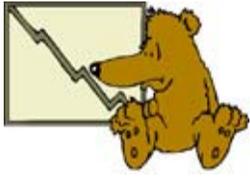


PROPHETIC TIMES

January 9, 2016

Weekly World News Briefs

DOW TUMBLES NEARLY 400 POINTS ON CHINA WORRIES



January 7, 2016 wsj.com reported: “The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell nearly 400 points Thursday as steep falls in Chinese equities spilled over to global markets. Thursday’s selloff came after the People’s Bank of China made its largest downward adjustment to the yuan since August. The country’s stock market fell more than 7% amid concerns about capital flight from the Asian giant, and China’s stock markets stopped trading after only 30 minutes, ending the shortest trading day in their history after the newly installed mechanism to limit volatility was triggered for the second time this week.

The Dow industrials dropped 392.41 points, or 2.3%, to 16514.10. The S&P 500 dropped 2.4%. Both indexes are off to their worst starts ever, with the Dow down 5.2% over the first four trading days of the year and the S&P 500 off 4.9%. The Nasdaq Composite, which declined 3% on Thursday, is having its worst start since 2000, down 6.4%. Traders said while they prepared for a frenzied trading session there was relatively little urgency in the selling.

“U.S. markets are getting wrapped in with global markets, and rightfully so, but so far there isn’t massive panic selling here,” said Jonathan Corpina, senior managing partner at Meridian Equity Partners.

Stock market declines worsened in afternoon trading as investors braced for another potential drop in Chinese stock markets on Friday. Traders said many investors made late-day bets against the S&P 500 in case there is additional turmoil in China on Friday that again spills over to U.S. markets.

Markets around the globe fell on Thursday. Japan’s Nikkei Stock Average, Australia’s S&P/ASX 200 and Hong Kong’s Hang Seng Index each lost more than 2%. The Stoxx Europe 600 fell 2.2% after earlier declining as much as 3.6%.”...

MISSING U.S. MISSILE SHOWS UP IN CUBA



January 7, 2016 WSJ.com reported: “An inert U.S. Hellfire missile sent to Europe for training purposes was wrongly shipped from there to Cuba in 2014, said people familiar with the matter, a loss of sensitive military technology that ranks among the worst-known incidents of its kind. The unintended delivery of the missile to Cuba has confounded investigators and experts who work in a regulatory system designed to prevent precisely such equipment from falling into the wrong hands, said those familiar with the matter.

For more than a year, amid a historic thawing of relations between the U.S. and Cuba, American authorities have tried to get the Cuban government to return the missile, said people familiar with the matter. At the same time, federal investigators have been tracing the paper trail of the wayward Hellfire to determine if its arrival in Cuba was the work of criminals or spies, or the result of a series of blunders, these people said.

Hellfires are air-to-ground missiles, often fired from helicopters. They were first designed as antitank weapons decades ago, but have been modernized to become an important part of the U.S. government’s antiterrorism arsenal, often fired from Predator drones to carry out lethal attacks on targets in countries including Yemen and Pakistan, said people familiar with the technology.

This particular missile didn’t contain explosives, but U.S. officials worry that Cuba could share the sensors and targeting technology inside it with nations like China, North Korea or Russia, these people said. Officials don’t suspect Cuba is likely to try to take apart the missile on its own and try to develop similar weapons technology, these people said. It is unclear whether a U.S. adversary has ever obtained such knowledge of a Hellfire.”...

ISLAMIC COURT SENTENCES NIGERIAN CLERIC TO DEATH FOR INSULTING MOHAMMED

January 7, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: “A sharia court in northern Nigeria has sentenced Muslim cleric Abdul Nyass to death for insulting Mohammed last May. Nyass, who belongs to a Sufi order of Islam, gave a sermon in which he allegedly declared that a 20th Century cleric of his order, Sheikh Ibrahim Niasse, was greater than Mohammed. The sermon coincided with a birthday commemoration for Niasse, who died in 1975.

The response was the usual outraged mob, which rampaged through the district of Kano and burned down Abdul Nyass’ home. Zee News of India reports that when nine of his followers were arrested and put on trial, another outrage mob materialized and set the sharia courtroom on fire. Subsequent ‘legal proceedings’ were held in secrecy for security reasons.

‘The Sharia court found Abdul Nyass guilty of blasphemy against the Prophet, which is punishable with death in accordance with the provisions of the Sharia legal system Kano state operates,’ declared prosecutor Lamido Abba Soron-Dinki...”

ABBAS DENIES CONCERN OF PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY COLLAPSE

January 7, 2016 YnetNews.com reported: “Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas dismissed Wednesday weeks of rumours that the Palestinian Authority could collapse, saying he would ‘never give up’ on it. Abbas, 80, was speaking publicly for the first time since rumours surfaced last

week that he was in poor health, which the PA has categorically denied. He did not discuss the matter and appeared well...

'I have heard a lot of talk in the past few days about the Authority, the destruction of the Authority, the collapse of the Authority,' Abbas said. 'The Authority is an achievement of ours that we will never give up.' 'Don't dream of its collapsing, don't even dream,' he told a press conference during a lunch during a lunch to mark Christmas, which some Orthodox churches celebrate on Thursday..."

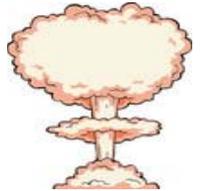
EARTHQUAKES IN OKLAHOMA RAISE FEARS OF A BIG ONE

January 7, 2016 nytimes.com reported: "Oklahoma was rocked Wednesday night by two of the state's largest earthquakes in recent years, further fueling scientists' concern that the continued burial of oil and gas wastes in seismically active areas was courting a much more powerful earthquake. The two quakes, measured at magnitudes 4.7 and 4.8, struck at 11:27 p.m. in rural northern Oklahoma, directly beneath a major oil and gas production area. The second quake, which came about 30 seconds later, was the fourth-largest recorded in the state. There were no reports of injuries or damage, the authorities said Thursday.

The two quakes followed a series of smaller ones last week that peeled brick facades, toppled columns and caused a power failure in Edmond, an upscale Oklahoma City suburb. Some experts said those quakes hinted at the possibility of a larger shock. "I do think there's a really strong chance that Oklahoma will receive some strong shaking," said Daniel McNamara, a research geophysicist at the National Earthquake Information Center in Colorado, who has followed the state's quakes. Referring to the shocks that occurred Wednesday night, he added, "I'm surprised it didn't rupture into a larger event..."

NORTH KOREA SAYS CONDUCTED 'SUCCESSFUL' H-BOMB TEST

January 6, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reported: "North Korea said Wednesday it had carried out a 'successful' hydrogen bomb test, a claim that — if true — massively raises the stakes over the hermit state's banned nuclear programme. International condemnation was swift with neighbours South Korea and Japan decrying a gross violation of UN Security Council resolutions, while the White House said it was still studying the precise nature of the apparent test and vowed to 'respond appropriately'. 'The republic's first hydrogen bomb test has been successfully performed at 10:00 am (0330 GMT),' North Korean state television announced.



'With the perfect success of our historic H-bomb, we have joined the rank of advanced nuclear states,' it said, adding that the test was of a miniaturised device. A hydrogen, or thermonuclear bomb, uses fusion in a chain reaction that results in a far more powerful explosion than the fission blast generated by uranium or plutonium alone..."

SAUDI ARABIA HALTS FLIGHTS AND TRADE WITH IRAN

January 5, 2016 france24.com reported: "Saudi Arabia's breach of ties with Iran will extend to cutting air traffic between the countries, ending commercial relations and barring its citizens from travel to the Islamic Republic, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir said on Monday. Iranian pilgrims will still be welcome to visit Mecca and Medina, Jubeir said in an interview with Reuters news agency, though adding that Iran must behave like "a normal country" instead of "a revolution" and respect international norms before ties could be restored. The Saudi civil aviation authority later confirmed that all flights to and from Iran had been cancelled.

The escalating row between the two regional heavyweights was sparked by Sunni majority Saudi Arabia's decision to execute leading Shiite cleric Nimr al-Nimr, which triggered furious protests in Shiite Iran. Saudi Arabia said it was cutting ties with the Islamic republic on Sunday after its embassy in Tehran was attacked by protesters. Bahrain, a close ally of Saudi Arabia, followed suit on Monday, giving Iranian embassy and consular staff 48 hours to leave the country.

Sudan and the United Arab Emirates later rallied behind oil-rich Saudi Arabia, with Khartoum ejecting Iran's ambassador and Abou Dabi announcing it was downgrading diplomatic ties with Tehran..."

CHRISTIANS IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR ARE FORCED TO HIDE THEIR FAITH, FORMER CIVIL SERVANT ADMITS

January 5, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "Christianity is being 'silenced' throughout the public sector thanks to a 'secularising spirit' which permeates the culture and ensures Christians hide their faith, a former senior civil servant has said.

William Nye spent 20 years in Whitehall where he says Christianity is being 'squeezed out,' but he believes that government ministers aren't even aware of the situation.

The Prime Minister David Cameron used his recent Christmas message to affirm that Britain is still a Christian country, but apparently the civil service hasn't got the memo.

Speaking to The Telegraph, Mr Nye, who held a number of senior Whitehall posts during his time as a civil servant, said that having a Christian faith is viewed within the public service as 'odd or unusual' to an extent that would likely surprise government ministers and the general public alike.

'I think there has been, in the 20 years I was in the public sector, a sort of squeezing out of Christianity from many aspects of the public sector,' he said..."