



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

April 02, 2016

ISLAMIC STATE THREAT RAISES STAKES FOR US NUCLEAR SUMMIT

March 31, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reported: "The specter of the Islamic State group obtaining a 'dirty bomb' will loom over a top-level nuclear security summit hosted by President Barack Obama in Washington on Thursday and Friday.

Obama welcomes several leaders from countries as diverse as China and Nigeria, as well as representatives from nearly 50 other nations, for the summit aimed at elevating the problem of shaky safeguards from the desks of technocrats to the highest corridors of power.

The meeting comes just days after 32 people were killed and 340 were injured in bombings at Brussels airport and the Belgian capital's metro.

The attacks featured conventional explosives, but two of the suicide bombers — Ibrahim and Khalid El Bakraoui — have been linked to possible efforts by the Islamic State (IS) group to secure fissile material."..."

US TO STATION ARMORED BRIGADE IN EASTERN EUROPE FROM 2017: PENTAGON

March 30, 2016 spacedaily.com reported: "The United States will step up its troop presence in eastern Europe in response to "an aggressive Russia," with continuous rotations of an additional armored brigade beginning in early 2017, the US military said Wednesday.



The rotations will bring the US Army's presence in Europe to three fully manned combat brigades, the US European Command said. A brigade comprises about 4,200 troops.



"This Army implementation plan continues to demonstrate our strong and balanced approach to reassuring our NATO Allies and partners in the wake of an aggressive Russia in Eastern Europe and elsewhere," General Philip Breedlove, the top US commander in Europe, said in a statement.

"Our allies and partners will see more capability. They will see a more frequent presence of an armored brigade with more modernized equipment in their countries," he added. Defense Secretary Ash Carter last month unveiled the Pentagon's proposed budget for next year, which includes \$3.4 billion -- quadruple last year's amount -- for operations in Europe.

The cash will fund the so-called European Reassurance Initiative that aims to deter Russia from carrying out additional land grabs after its 2014 annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. "These efforts demonstrate strong alliances and partnerships backed by demonstrated capability, capacity and readiness to deter aggression," Pentagon spokeswoman Laura Seal said. "We have been clear that we will defend our interests, our allies, and the principles of international order in Europe."..."

FRENCH SOCIALIST MINISTER WARNS: 'THERE ARE 100 MORE MOLENBEEKS IN FRANCE'

March 30, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "France has 'at least a hundred neighbourhoods' like the Brussels jihadi hotspot of Molenbeek, a French minister has warned. But while his socialist colleagues have lined up to condemn his statement, National Front politicians have warned that that figure is likely to be an underestimate.

'We know that there are today around a hundred neighbourhoods in France which have potential similarities to what has happened in Molenbeek,' Patrick Kanner, France's minister for Cities, Youth and Sports told French radio on Sunday, Europe 1 has reported.

Asked to explain his statement, he added: 'Molenbeek has a huge concentration of poverty and unemployment and is a highly communitarian area. It's run on a mafia system with an underground economy. It's a place where public services have virtually disappeared, where elected officials have given up.'

These characteristics, he said, could be seen in some French communities also, allowing Salafist Islam potentially to take hold. But he said that the French government, unlike the Belgian government, was working to reverse the trend.

"We have a monitoring unit to ensure local associations are not under the control of Salafist influences. They are in the priority areas of the city, mostly." He added: "When a prime minister evokes the notion of territorial, social and ethnic apartheid [within France – as Prime Minister Valls did after the Charlie Hebdo massacre], we must recognise that the Republic was not living up to its responsibility in these areas."

His words were immediately criticised by fellow Socialist parliamentarians, Le Point has reported, including Jean-Christophe Cambadélis, First Secretary of the French Socialist Party who conceded there were "pockets", "buildings" and "streets" with "problems" like those in Molenbeek, but "not whole districts."

"I don't support this sort of talk," he insisted on France 5, calling on his colleagues "not to dissolve national harmony".

"Our strategy vis-à-vis terrorism should not be to isolate Muslims, but to isolate terrorists," he said..."

JAPAN'S PM DEFENDS NEW SECURITY LAWS AS PROTESTERS DENOUNCE THEM

March 30, 2016 spacedaily.com reported: "Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that new security laws that took effect Tuesday will strengthen Tokyo's ability to defend itself amid increasing threats as opponents took to the streets to say they risk hurling the country into war.

Legislators in September passed the bills into law, a shift that could see Japanese troops fight abroad for the first time since the end of World War II. The approval was a milestone in Japan, where a constitution imposed by the United States after Japan's defeat renounces its sovereign right to wage war. That clause, known as Article 9, is unchanged, but staunch nationalist Abe wants to revise the constitution to throw off what he and many

conservatives see as outdated foreign-imposed constraints that hinder Japan from playing a more robust role in regional and global affairs.

"The security environment surrounding our country is becoming more severe," Abe told a nationally televised news conference, citing threats including from nearby North Korea, which this year has carried out fresh nuclear and ballistic rocket launches.

"No country in the world can protect itself alone," he added. As Abe spoke at his official office, an AFP journalist estimated that about 2,000 people rallied outside parliament nearby in a show of opposition to the laws that opponents fear could fundamentally reshape the proudly pacifist nation."..."

UN ATOMIC CHIEF WARNS ON 'NUCLEAR TERRORISM'

March 28, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reported: "The world needs to do more to prevent 'nuclear terrorism', the head of the UN atomic watchdog has warned ahead of an important summit and in the wake of the Brussels terror attacks.

'Terrorism is spreading and the possibility of using nuclear material cannot be excluded,' International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) chief Yukiya Amano told AFP in an interview late Thursday.

'Member states need to have sustained interest in strengthening nuclear security,' he said. 'The countries which do not recognise the danger of nuclear terrorism is the biggest problem.'

Amano's comments came before a summit of around 50 leaders in Washington on March 31-April 1 on ensuring that nuclear material in the world's roughly 1,000 atomic facilities are secured..."

ISRAEL WARNS ALL CITIZENS TO LEAVE TURKEY

March 28, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "In accordance with the National Security Council Counter-Terrorism Bureau (NSCCTB)'s security assessment, Israel is increasing its security warning for citizens traveling to Turkey. The warning was at level 3 (basic concrete threat) and will now be set at level 2 (high concrete threat). In practical terms, this means that the Counterterrorism Office advises the Israeli public to avoid visiting the country and suggests that citizens currently in Turkey leave as soon as possible.

A statement noted that last Saturday's deadly attack in central Istanbul, 'underscores the threat by ISIS against tourist targets throughout Turkey and proves high capabilities of carrying out further attacks. Terrorist infrastructures in Turkey continue to advance additional attacks against tourist targets – including Israeli tourists – throughout the country..."

TOP JIHADIST CLAIMS BRUSSELS, PARIS ARE TERROR REHEARSALS FOR "BIG" ATTACK INSIDE U.S.

March 27, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "The deadly terrorist attacks in Brussels last week and in Paris last November are dress rehearsals for a coming 'big' attack inside the United States, a leading Islamic State-allied militant claimed in an exclusive interview.

Abu al-Ayna al-Ansari, a Salafist movement senior official in the Gaza Strip, made the claim in a pre-recorded, hour-long interview to air in full on Sunday on 'Aaron Klein Investigative Radio,' the popular weekend talk radio program broadcast on New York's AM 970 The Answer and NewsTalk 990 AM in Philadelphia. Klein doubles as Breitbart's senior investigative reporter and Jerusalem bureau chief. Klein asked Ansari whether IS maintains cells inside the U.S. and if the terrorist group is 'planning anything in America.'

Ansari responded:

Aaron, the battle with America is a very long one, a very tough one, a very hard one. America has a black record with the mujahedeen, and this black record will not be purified but with blood, and lots of blood. Only blood will cleanse what America did to the mujahedeen. And I can confirm that our leadership made it very clear that what happened in Paris, what happened in Brussels was only a small rehearsal before the big thing that will happen in America..."

NORTH KOREA NUKE-CAPABLE MISSILES 'CAN REACH U.S. MAINLAND'

March 27, 2016 WND.com reported: "With the world focused on a major terrorist attack in Belgium and the intensifying presidential race, a renowned expert on the Far East says North Korean missile tests and their detention of an American college student ought to be very concerning to the Obama administration and other world leaders.



In recent days, North Korea test-fired numerous ballistic missiles in a manner designed to menace its neighbors and also sentenced University of Virginia student Otto Warmbier to 15 years of hard labor for tearing down a poster of the late Kim Jong-Il inside a North Korean hotel. The missile tests followed a statement from dictator Kim Jong-Un that he wanted the military to have nuclear weapons ready for use 'at any time.'

Columnist and author Gordon Chang has studied China and North Korea up close for years and is author of 'Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes on the World.' He says the communist regime has reasons for doing what it's doing.

'North Korea will continue to test short and intermediate-range missiles,' Chang told WND and Radio America. 'They want to show their customers that these things work. Also, they want to rattle the international community.'

But he said the U.S. had better be paying attention, too.

'What we're concerned about, however, is their testing of long-range missiles,' Chang said. 'They do have two launchers that can reach 48 states. Therefore, we've got to be concerned because, eventually, if not now, they'll be able to put nuclear warheads on those missiles and, therefore, threaten America.'..."

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