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EGYPTIAN MP: TRUMP'S ELECTION MEANS 'DARK DAYS FOR MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD'

November 10, 2016 Breitbart.com reports: "An Egyptian lawmaker celebrated Donald Trump's victory in Tuesday's U.S. presidential elections as 'a strong message against Islamists.'

Mustafa Juneidi said he was sure Trump was going to win, and said that 'dark days are awaiting the Muslim Brotherhood and their allies.'

He also said that Egypt's relations with the US 'will improve, as Trump already named President [Abdel Fatah] Sisi as a hero and a strong ally who was shunned by the Obama Administration.'

He further said that Trump's victory signals the victory of social media over the mainstream media that was biased in Hillary Clinton's favor. 'Trump's election means that people no longer believe what the media tells them.'..."

POLAND URGES TRUMP TO KEEP US TROOPS ON NATO'S EASTERN FLANK

November 9, 2016 spacedaily.com reported: "Poland's president urged US President-elect Donald Trump to keep Washington's promise to deploy troops on NATO's eastern flank amid tensions with Russia.

"Polish-American relations have become an important pillar of the European and transatlantic stability," Polish President Andrzej Duda said in a letter of congratulations.

"We are particularly pleased that during this year's NATO Summit in Warsaw the US decided to increase its military presence in Poland, thereby strengthening the Alliance's Eastern flank.

"We sincerely hope that your leadership will open new opportunities for our cooperation based on mutual commitment."

Trump, a real estate mogul-cum-reality TV star, sparked ire in July among eastern NATO members ruled by Moscow during the Soviet era when he questioned the alliance's key collective security guarantee.

As part of that commitment, NATO leaders endorsed plans this summer to rotate troops into Poland and the three Baltic states to reassure them they would not be left in the lurch if Russia was tempted to repeat its 2014 Ukraine intervention. The US-led battalion that will begin operations next year in Poland will be stationed near the border with Russia's Kaliningrad exclave."...

Moscow has stepped up its presence in the Baltic Sea area."..."

ERDOGAN REMINDS TURKS OF OLD EMPIRE, WITH HIS EYE ON NEW POWERS

November 9, 2016 Stars & Stripes reported: "President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has started talking about Turkey's borders, hinting they should be shifted outward a bit. In Syria and Iraq, his army is involved in wars over territory once ruled from Istanbul. Maps of a Greater Turkey have circulated.

That has led to speculation that Erdogan, fresh from surviving an attempted coup, wants to crown his 14-year rule in Turkey by annexing chunks of its neighbors. But analysts see a more mundane domestic calculation behind the rhetoric: They say the president is really trying to expand his own powers, not his country's frontiers.

Erdogan still hankers after making his office the focus of all power in Turkey, instead of the largely ceremonial post it was before he took over — and, on paper, still is. But he doesn't have support in parliament to make that constitutional change — and maybe not in the country, either, if it went to a referendum. In both cases, the likeliest bloc of voters to be won over is nationalists who aren't at all averse to talk of Turkey's historic claims on nearby lands, or military attacks on Kurdish groups who live there.

'Erdogan is seeking to expand his support base among nationalists by talking tough over regional matters,' said Nihat Ali Ozcan, an analyst at the Economic Policy Research Foundation in Ankara. It's 'part of his political calculations for a presidential system,' Ozcan said..."

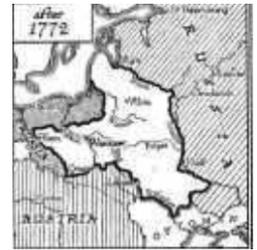
ANXIETY IN MANILA AS DUTERTE BLASTS U.S., EMBRACES CHINA

November 8, 2016 bloomberg.com reported: "During long hours stuck in Manila's choking traffic, taxi driver Maning Yabut constantly hears about the anxieties of Filipinos from all walks of life. These days, the talk is all about whether President Rodrigo Duterte's anti-U.S. outbursts are good for the Philippines.

Particularly concerned, he said, are those with close links to America, such as the call-center workers at the heart of the \$20-billion business-process outsourcing industry. Maning's own sister moved to the U.S. and is now part of the 3.5 million-strong Filipino-American community there.

"I'm baffled by what's happening now in our country," said the 60-year-old cabbie who voted for Duterte but is now experiencing a pang of buyer's remorse. "We've been through a lot with the Americans, and it's not good to break up with them."

While polls show Duterte remains wildly popular in the Philippines, concerns are growing about the potential costs of breaking up with the Philippines' second-biggest trading partner and most important military ally. Duterte has pivoted to publicly embrace Beijing, a move that has puzzled many in a population that trusts the U.S. far more than China.



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Duterte's rhetoric -- such as telling President Barack Obama to go to hell and publicly declaring a new alignment with China and Russia -- is already starting to take a toll. Global funds have pulled more than \$600 million from Philippine stocks since inflows peaked in August, and the peso has fallen 3.5 percent since Duterte took office in June.

The American Chamber of Commerce and other business groups in Manila have warned that Duterte's comments are creating unease."...

Since Duterte began lashing out at the U.S. after Washington criticized the mounting death toll in his highly-publicized war on drugs, which has left as many as 2,300 dead since he took office, there is particular concern that his anti-American rhetoric could hamper investments in the business-process outsourcing industry. U.S. companies account for more than 70 percent of revenue in an industry that employs 1.2 million people."..."

ISIS CYBER RECRUITING, FINANCING HITS NEW LEVELS

November 8, 2016 The Jerusalem Post reported: "The Islamic State is considered a pioneer among terrorist organizations regarding innovation in the cyber world, including making leaps forward in sophisticated recruiting and fundraising schemes, according to an advance copy of IDC's International Institute for Counter-Terrorism 2016 cyber trends report obtained exclusively by The Jerusalem Post.



'Unlike in the past when the processes of mobilization, manpower recruitment and training mainly took place in the physical realm, today the Internet has become a central and anonymous arena in which these activities take place,' the report says, adding that a deeper 'technological focus' gave ISIS and others 'a free hand to recruit using an anonymous connection between the recruit and the terrorist organization through the Internet, irrespective of their physical location or standing.'



Internet-based manpower recruitment was crucial in light of the need to import foreign fighters to Syria, Iraq and other countries, says the report, and that ISIS disseminated messages on a range of Internet platforms both directly and via secondary agents to maximize its recruitment potential.

Most impressively, 'terrorist organizations have recently been investing efforts in adjusting the recruitment content for a specific target audience (narrow casting), such as speakers of various languages or certain professionals. For example, a campaign for the recruitment of children that includes computer games and comics, [and] campaigns for the recruitment of hackers, Web designers and developers for this specific population.'

But ISIS has gone even further in this kind of tailored campaigning, reminiscent of the current US election campaign in which both parties tailor their pitches to local state specific issues, using recognizable local terminology..."

ISRAEL ASKS FRANCE TO CANCEL PEACE PARLEY, CALLS FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH ABBAS

November 7, 2016 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's envoys on Monday rejected a French call that it attend an international peace conference on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that will likely be held in December in Paris.

Only direct talks between Israel and the Palestinians will lead to a final agreement for a two-state solution, Netanyahu's envoys, attorney Yitzhak Molcho and acting National Security Council head Yaakov Nagel said.

They conveyed this message in a meeting with France's envoy for the initiative Pierre Vimont, who met with them in Jerusalem during his visit to Israel and the Palestinian territories to secure support for the conference. This initiative only distances rather than advances peace, they told Vimont.

Israel will not attend any conference that is convened without its consent and which touts an approach to the resolution of the conflict which it opposes, the envoys said in their conversation with Vimont.

Such a conference only allows for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to avoid engaging in direct talks without pre-conditions, they added.

'Israel expects France not to advance an initiative or a process that is against the official stance of the state of Israel,' the envoys said..."

ASSAD: THE WEST IS GROWING WEAKER

November 7, 2016 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad on Sunday claimed Western powers are 'becoming much weaker' in Syria.

'In the past if I said anything, people would say the Syrian president is disconnected from reality. Now it's different. The West is becoming much weaker,' he said in an interview published in the British Sunday Times and quoted by AFP.

'They don't have a leg to stand on explaining to people what's going on,' continued Assad. 'ISIS (the Islamic State group) was smuggling oil and using Iraqi oilfields under American satellites and drones to make money, and the West was not saying anything.'

'Whereas here the Russians interfered and ISIS started to shrink in every sense of the word.'

Assad acknowledged the key role played by Russian airstrikes, saying, 'What made the difference, of course, was firepower. They have firepower we don't have.'

He added, 'At the end we were fighting an unlimited reserve of terrorists coming to Syria and we struggled, so Russian firepower and Iranian support has compensated.'

However, he also said of the Russians, 'They never try to interfere because they don't want anything from us. They don't ask us to be a puppet president.'..."