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MINISTER: ABBAS 'NO. 1 ENEMY OF ISRAEL,' WORSE THAN ARAFAT

December 1, 2016 timesofisrael.com reported: "Energy Minister Yuval Steinitz (Likud) declared Thursday that Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas is Israel's top enemy, saying the Palestinian leader has consistently refused to recognize the Jews' right to self-determination and was unwilling to view major cities, such as Tel Aviv and Haifa, as Israel's territory.

In an interview with Israel Radio, Steinitz responded to comments Abbas made in a key speech Wednesday, during which the Palestinian leader doubled down on his refusal to recognize Israel as a Jewish state and threatened to back away from recognizing the State of Israel altogether.

During his major policy address at the Seventh Fatah Congress in Ramallah, Abbas stressed he 'will not recognize a Jewish state,' and said Palestinian recognition of Israel 'will not last forever' if Israel does not recognize a Palestinian state.

'It is another sad joke,' Steinitz told the radio station, adding that Abbas recognizes the de facto existence of Israel, but not its right to exist.

'Abbas is talking about stopping his recognition of Israel, but first he should start recognizing Israel. Abbas has never recognized Israel's right to exist. To this very day he rejects Israel's right to exist,' the minister said..."

RUSSIAN, USA AND CHINA ARE PREPPING FOR ALL-OUT SPACE WAR

November 30, 2016 dailystar.co.uk reported: "As countries seek to maintain control in outer-space, competition between nations will give rise to apocalyptic cosmic attacks, according to security officials. Nightmare scenarios might leave vast swathes of the planet in the dark as intergalactic weapons knock out satellites and launch cyber attacks.



General John Hyten, head of US Strategic Command, told CNN: "As humans go out there, there has always been conflict. Conflict in the Wild West as we move in the West ... conflict twice in Europe for its horrible world wars. So, every time humans actually physically move into that, there's conflict, and in that case, we'll have to be prepared for that."

Nations in conflict might start to make plans to knock out an enemy's space infrastructure such as satellites or space shuttles.

Attacks on satellites could have devastating consequences such as blacking out televisions, mobile networks and even the internet.

Everything from GPS, stock markets, bank transactions, traffic lights and railway switchboards could freeze causing utter chaos.

Planes could drop out of the sky as they become unsure of their position and without data to steer them around storms. World leaders might not be able to communicate, and suspicion and hostility would cause panic..."

U.S., FRANCE TO SIGN MILITARY SPACE COOPERATION AGREEMENT

November 30, 2016 SpaceDaily.com reports: "US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter said that the United States and France will finalize arrangements to deepen bilateral military space cooperation and defense cooperation more broadly.



The United States and France will finalize arrangements to deepen bilateral military space cooperation and defense cooperation more broadly, US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter said ahead of a meeting with French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in Washington, DC.

'Today we'll discuss expanding our partnership in two critical domains: cyber and space, and sign an arrangement for military space cooperation,' Carter told reporters on Monday.

'Most importantly, we'll sign a joint statement of intent that provides a framework for enhancing our defense cooperation more broadly.'..."

CARDINAL ZEN SAYS VATICAN DEAL WITH CHINA WOULD 'BETRAY JESUS CHRIST'

November 29, 2016 Breitbart.com reported: "China's most outspoken Catholic Cardinal has sharply criticized a potential Vatican deal with China's Communist Party that would cede some Church decision-making to the atheist government.

'You cannot go into negotiations with the mentality 'we want to sign an agreement at any cost', then you are surrendering yourself, you are betraying yourself, you are betraying Jesus Christ,' said Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium, the former Bishop of Hong Kong and China's highest ranking Catholic cleric.

Early on in the Francis pontificate, the Vatican showed signs of openness to work toward a diplomatic rapprochement with the Chinese government, something Cardinal Zen has resolutely opposed. Last year, Zen told the Italian daily Corriere della Sera Vatican that the Vatican was being naïve in its dialogue with Beijing.

'Italians in the Roman Curia don't know the Chinese dictatorship,' he said, 'because they have never experienced a Communist regime.'

Those in Rome who are anxious to succeed at all costs are moving toward a compromise that is really an 'unconditional surrender,' Zen lamented..."

TURKEY'S ERDOGAN URGES ALL MUSLIMS TO PROTECT JERUSALEM

November 29, 2016 voanews.com reported: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has urged Muslims to defend the Palestinian cause, striking a tough stance on Israel despite improved ties between the two nations.

The president of majority Muslim Turkey said Tuesday 'it is the common duty of all Muslims to embrace the Palestinian cause and protect Jerusalem' and that safeguarding the Al-Aqsa Mosque should not be left to children armed with nothing but stones. Located in the Old City of Jerusalem, the hilltop compound is sacred to Muslims and Jews.

Speaking at a parliamentary symposium on Jerusalem in Istanbul, the Turkish leader also criticized an Israeli proposal to make mosques reduce the volume of loudspeakers issuing the call to prayer..."

STRONGMEN PUTIN AND DUTERTE LOOK TO STRENGTHEN MILITARY TIES

November 28, 2016 yahoo.com reported: "Russia and the Philippines have agreed to closer ties when it comes to defense, according to Russian news outlet RT. The Kremlin-funded T.V. network said a decree signed by Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev now appears on a Russian government website, stating the following:

"To accept the proposal of the Russian Ministry of Defense, together with the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to negotiate an agreement between the Russian Ministry of Defense and the Department of National Defense of the Philippines on defense co-operation," reads the passage that was translated to English by RT on Friday...

And in a new RT interview published Monday, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte, said while the Philippines was not ready for a military alliance with anyone, there was a desire on his part to work more closely with Moscow and Beijing.

"I am ready to cooperate with my new friends – China and Russia – to make this world more peaceful," said Duterte. The Philippines president said a recent decision by the United States to stop an arms deal with his country meant he would now turn to Russia."..."

QATARI MINISTER: GAZA RISKS BECOMING EASY LAUNCHPAD FOR ISLAMIC STATE

November 27, 2016 voanews.com reported: "Palestinian infighting and years of an Israeli blockade could turn the impoverished Gaza Strip into an easy 'launching pad' for Islamic State recruiters, Qatar's foreign minister says. The small gas-rich Gulf state is a major backer of Hamas, the armed movement which has maintained its control over the coastal enclave for almost a decade despite conflicts with Israel and a rift with Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas.

Foreign minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani said in an interview in Doha on Saturday that a blockade imposed on Gaza's borders by Israel and Egypt had turned the territory into an 'open-air prison.'

'If we will leave them as they are, people from Daesh can recruit them easily. They can start operations from there easily,' he told Reuters, using an Arabic acronym for the group.

'It (Gaza) can transform also as a launching pad for extremism and for terrorism ... That's why we need to put an end to this,' he said..."

MAKE EUROPE GREAT AGAIN

November 21, 2016 german-foreign-policy.com reported: "Foreign policy experts are calling for the EU's concerted effort in opposition to a future USA governed by Donald Trump. According to the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), a unified European stance is necessary to increase "leverage" over Washington. If the US President-elect ignores Europe's interests, Europe should consider going its own way in global policies, writes a German author in the leading US foreign policy periodical. It may be necessary "to consider whether to develop a European nuclear umbrella."



These demands began to be heard after liberal Western media and members of the foreign policy establishment had declared Merkel the new "leader of the free world," and characterized outgoing US President Barack Obama's visit to Germany as "passing the baton" to Berlin. The Federal Republic of Germany is setting out to take on "America's status as torchbearer of liberal democracy."

"It is befitting for Merkel to speak in the name of what we have been calling the West, for the past seven decades," according to the business press. Journalists describe the predominant attitude in Berlin already as being "the guardians of the international post-war order."

Already in the morning of November 9, when Donald Trump's election victory was announced, the Head Editor of "Zeit Magazine," Christoph Amend, twittered Chancellor Angela Merkel's revaluation to "Leader of the Free World." By November 11, the publicist Timothy Garton Ash expressed his agreement with this assessment in the British Guardian, noting that this designation is usually reserved for the president of the United States, but now it belongs to the German Chancellor.

[1] On November 12, the New York Times ran the headline, "Angela Merkel May Be the Liberal West's Last Defender."

[2] The revaluation of the German chancellor is usually based on the fact that already November 9, Merkel had conditionally offered Trump a continuation of cooperation - only on the basis of "common values." This statement has provoked astonishment around the world.

[3] Foreign policy circles note that it is customary for Washington to place its cooperation with Latin American countries on the "conditions," that "values" be respected. So far, however, no head of the German government has dared to put conditions on its cooperation with Washington. The German Chancellor is now openly defying the USA, according to these foreign policy circles.

Merkel's willingness to enter confrontation with Trump is being widely praised among the liberal establishment on both shores of the Atlantic; while outgoing US President Barack Obama's visit to Berlin is now being interpreted as a "passing of the baton" to the new "leader of the liberal West." "There are "other liberal leaders in Europe," says Daniel Hamilton, executive director of the Center for Transatlantic Relations at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, but Merkel is "the most prominent."

[4] London's Financial Times alleges that Germany sees itself as "the guardian of the postwar international order" so disdained by Mr. Trump. The German capital has also showed a "resolve" to refuse to pay fealty to the future president, if necessary. "It falls to Ms Merkel to speak for what during the past seven decades we have known as the west," the journal writes.

[5] The Guardian notes that, Germany may struggle to assume "America's status as the torchbearer for liberal democracy."..."

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