



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

December 10, 2016

## READY TO STRIKE ISIS HAS FLOODED EUROPE WITH 1,500 HIGHLY-TRAINED TERRORISTS

*December 8, 2016* thesun.co.uk reported: "An estimated 5,000 European ISIS fanatics went to Syria and Iraq and 15 to 20 per cent of them died on the battlefield. Around 30 to 35 per cent have returned with "specific missions", while the other half remained in the battle theatre – which amounted to between 2,000 and 2,500 Europeans.

This means as many as 1,750 may have returned, based on the percentages listed in the report which EU counter-terrorism coordinator Gilles de Kerchove will present to EU interior ministers on Friday.

The report said there were two types of 'foreign terrorist fighters' returning. "There are largely two categories of returnees: those in the majority who will drift back and those who will be sent back on specific missions, which are of most concern."..."

## THE EU NEEDS TO MAKE ITSELF BATTLE-READY

*December 7, 2016* euobserver.com reported: "A week before Christmas, EU heads of state and government are set to discuss security and defence at their regular European Council meeting in Brussels. It may not be a typical pre-holiday topic, but its urgency makes us focus on it even in the time of family gatherings and last-minute Christmas shopping.



After all, this should be a time of peace, which is exactly the objective of the upcoming discussion.

The European Union is by all accounts the strongest global player in the soft power arena. The level of our development aid and the economic ties with the least developed countries set a good example for the rest of the world. Soft power itself, though, cannot solve all the challenges we now face.

If we are to engage in crises and conflicts in our neighbourhood and support the resilience of third countries we must increase our efforts in hard power policies as well. Now is the time to do so and we should not miss the opportunity to move forward.

With this in mind, the Czech Republic believes the EU should – within the framework of the current Treaties – make full use of all relevant provisions and instruments available, maximise the synergies of civilian and military assets and enhance its cooperation with Nato as much as possible.

Today's challenges require us to reinforce our own European strategic autonomy. This highlights an increasing need for the ability to rapidly plan operations and deploy forces, including the so-called EU Battlegroups (EUBGs). Next year will mark the 10th anniversary of their full operational capability. However, since the EUBGs have never been deployed there will be little to celebrate."..."

## IRAN'S ROUHANI: SANCTIONS RENEWAL SHOWS U.S. STILL 'ENEMY'

*December 7, 2016* spacedaily.com reported: "Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Tuesday that Congress's decision to renew US sanctions for 10 years would elicit a 'harsh reaction' and proved the United States was still an enemy.

'America... is our enemy, we have no doubt about this. The Americans want to put as much pressure on us as they can,' Rouhani said in a speech to students at Tehran University.

The Iran Sanctions Act passed the US Senate 99-0 last week, after easily clearing the House of Representatives in November.

President Barack Obama is expected to sign the measure into a law, a White House official said, adding that the administration does not believe the extension violates last year's nuclear deal between major powers and Iran..."

## 'ROOKIE' TRUMP MUST FALL INTO LINE: CHINA MEDIA

*December 6, 2016* spacedaily.com reported: "Donald Trump is a "diplomatic rookie" who must learn not to cross Beijing on issues like trade and Taiwan, Chinese state media said Tuesday, warning America could pay dearly for his naivety.

Trump's protocol-shattering call with Taiwan's president and a subsequent Twitter tirade against Beijing's policies could risk upending the delicate balance between the world's two largest economies, major media outlets said.

"Provoking friction and messing up China-US relations won't help 'make America great again'", said a front-page opinion piece in the overseas edition of Communist Party mouthpiece People's Daily.

The nationalist Global Times newspaper's Chinese edition also ran a page-one story on Trump's "inability to keep his mouth shut", damning his "provocation and falsehoods".

## ISLAMIC STATE URGES SUPPORTERS TO STAGE NEW WAVE OF ATTACKS

*December 5, 2016* Reuters reported: "A newly identified spokesman for Islamic State urged sympathizers around the world to carry out a fresh wave of attacks, singling out Turkish diplomatic, military and financial interests as the Islamists' preferred targets.

Abi al-Hassan al-Muhajer, whose role as the group's mouthpiece was disclosed for the first time on Monday, also told Islamic State fighters to stand their ground in the town of Tal Afar, where they are threatened by Iraqi forces bearing down on the city of Mosul, the group's last major Iraqi stronghold.

In a defiant online message, Muhajer described Islamic State's military losses this year as setbacks and said an array of forces in Iraq and Syria had failed to defeat the jihadists. He said Islamic State supporters would target 'the secular, apostate Turkish government in every security, military, economic and media establishment, including every embassy and consulate, that represents it in all countries of the world.'

Destroy their vehicles, raid them ... in their shelters so they can taste some of your misery and do not talk yourselves into fleeing,' Muhajir said in an audio recording posted online.

He called on supporters of Islamic State to 'redouble your efforts and step up your operations' around the world..."

### **CHINA WARNS TRUMP: IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL MUST STAND**

*December 5, 2016* timesofisrael.com: "Implementation of the Iran nuclear deal should not be 'affected by any changes in the domestic situations' of countries involved, China's foreign minister warned Monday, responding to US president-elect Donald Trump's threats to abandon it.



The agreement, signed in Vienna in July 2015 and in force since January 2016, was the signature diplomatic breakthrough of Barack Obama's second term. It calls on Tehran to curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief from the US and other nations.

Trump has promised to tear up the nuclear deal once in office, calling the agreement under which it was implemented — the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — the 'worst deal ever negotiated.'

The agreement's implementation is the 'joint responsibility and duty of all parties' and 'should not be affected by any changes in the domestic situations of the countries concerned,' Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi told a press conference after meeting his

Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif.

He said, 'What is important is to honor commitments and place emphasis on good faith when it comes to differences or possible differences' over the deal, to which China was one of the signatories..."

### **EXCLUSIVE: TONY BLAIR SEES DANGEROUS TIMES AHEAD FOR WESTERN DEMOCRACIES**

*December 5, 2016* usatoday.com reported: "Former British prime minister Tony Blair warns that political upheaval from Great Britain's Brexit vote in June to the collapse of the Italian government on Sunday signals the most dangerous time for Western democracies in decades.



"It does feel perilous, actually, because I think there are decisions that are being taken of vast moment in circumstances where systems are fragile," he told Capital Download on Monday. "And that is troubling."

It has been a year of unexpected victories by populist and nationalistic forces that are challenging the establishment: passage of the referendum pulling Britain from the European Union, the election of Donald Trump as president in the United States, defeat of a measure in Italy that prompted the prime minister to announce his resignation.

And in the Austrian election Sunday, the candidate representing the party founded by former Nazis lost — but after commanding 46% of the vote.

Blair, who was in Washington to address a conference sponsored by the bipartisan group No Labels, announced last week the launch of a new organization that will try to help build a more muscular policy agenda for centrists and encourage networking among them across Europe, in the United States and elsewhere. Given the rise of extreme voices on the left and right, he said, "I'm not sure we're asking the right questions right now, never mind giving the right answers."

Of particular concern to him is a "longing" for an authoritarian leader.

"It's amazing how many people you will find who will reference a style of leadership of (Russian) President Putin in a positive way," he told USA TODAY's weekly video newsmaker series. "I think people want their country moving and they think that if the present system is not moving it, and not making the changes that they want to see, then maybe someone who just says, 'I don't care what anyone thinks; I'm just going to go for it, and this is what I'm going to do' — that has a certain attraction.

"If the center isn't a place of strength and vitality, and it looks kind of flabby and just managing the status quo, then you're at risk of someone coming along and doing that."

"There is immense amount of anger at established ways of doing things," Blair said. "There is, I think, a whole group of people who feel ignored by those in power, that is for sure true. There is more anger around in politics than for a long time." While issues such as immigration aren't new, there is "much greater skepticism towards globalization and the benefits of it."

What's more, "social media is a revolutionary phenomenon," he went on. "It changes the way politics works. It changes the way the media works. If we're not careful, it locks people into conversations with people who just agree with them, and who then have a general conspiracy-theory view of the rest of the world."

Blair has never met Trump and didn't criticize him.

Asked about whether it was wise for Trump to accept a congratulatory telephone call from the president of Taiwan — the sort of conversation every American president since 1979 deliberately has avoided — Blair demurred. "I'm not going to get into your politics," he began. "To be honest, in the end, I'll tell you what I really think: Let's see how it works out."

"I'm less worried about America than I am about Europe; I'll be very frank with you," he said. "America is such a strong country and you've got so many checks-and-balances and you've got such resilience in your economy and so on; you guys will do fine, I'm sure. In Europe, we have systems that are at a point of fragility that troubles me."

Blair was just 54 years old when he moved out of 10 Downing Street after serving as prime minister from 1997 to 2007. His political appeal for a "new way" was akin to President Bill Clinton's "third way" for Democrats here, and he was a crucial ally for President George W. Bush during the Iraq War"..."

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor  
UCGIA Phoenix, Northern AZ, Show Low & Hawaii  
ljt5053@sbcglobal.net*