



HUMAN-PIG HYBRID? SCIENTISTS HOPING TO CREATE PART MAN, PART PIG ORGANS

January 26, 2017 express.co.uk reported: "A HYBRID human-pig embryo has been injected into a sow's womb as scientists push the ethical boundaries of science in the hope that they can create lifesaving donor organs. Scientists from the Salk Institute – a biological research organisation in California – have taken cells from pigs and people to create an embryo that was then inserted into a female pig.

As part of initial experiments, several different types of human cells were inserted into pig embryos in petri dishes to determine which cells were the best match for the pig embryo.

The human cells which worked best with the pigs' were infant ones which have the potential to develop into all adult cell types – known as a pluripotent cell. The cells that survived eventually formed a human/pig embryo, which were then injected into female pigs and allowed to develop for around a month.

Lead author of the research, Izpisua Belmonte, told Futurism: "This is long enough for us to try to understand how the human and pig cells mix together early on without raising ethical concerns about mature chimeric animals."

However, even the strongest surviving cells were relatively weak, but at this stage it is more of a trial and error process, the scientists pointed out."..."

IRAQ'S AL-SADR THREATENS TO 'LIBERATE' JERUSALEM IF TRUMP MOVES EMBASSY

January 25, 2017 timesofisrael.com reported: "Moving the US Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem would be a declaration of war on Islam, influential Iraqi cleric Muqtada al-Sadr said Tuesday.

"Transferring the US Embassy to Jerusalem would be a public and more-explicit-than-ever declaration of war against Islam," he said in a statement.

In a break with previous administrations, new US President Donald Trump has pledged to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and relocate the US Embassy there from Tel Aviv.

Sadr, a firebrand Shiite cleric whose militia once fought US occupation forces in Iraq, called for the "formation of a special division to liberate Jerusalem were the decision to be implemented."

Sadr said the Cairo-based Arab League as well as the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the world's main pan-Islamic body, should take a decisive stand on the issue or dissolve themselves. The Najaf-based cleric also called "for the immediate closure of the US Embassy in Iraq" should Washington go ahead with its promised embassy transfer in Israel..."

CHINA SAYS IT WILL NOT BACK DOWN ON SOUTH CHINA SEA

January 24, 2017 spacewar.com reported: "China warned Washington Tuesday that it would not back down over its claims in the disputed South China Sea, following vows by the Trump administration to defend US and international interests there.

China's artificial islands in the sea, some with the potential for military use, are considered a potential flashpoint and tough comments from White House spokesman Sean Spicer and Trump's nominee for secretary of state have raised the temperature.

"China has indisputable sovereignty over the South China Sea islands and their adjacent waters," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing, adding that the country is "firm in safeguarding our rights and interests".

"The United States is not a party to the South China Sea issue."

Spicer said Monday that the US "is going to make sure we protect our interests" in the sea.

"If those islands are, in fact, in international waters and not part of China proper, yeah, we'll make sure we defend international interests from being taken over by one country," he said.

GERMANS, BELGIANS LAND IN LITHUANIA FOR NATO DEPLOYMENT

January 24, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: "The first group of German and Belgian troops arrived in Lithuania on Tuesday, part of a NATO move to reinforce its eastern flank in a bid to deter a militarily resurgent Russia.

A group of German officers landed in the Baltic state's capital Vilnius to coordinate the deployment of a 1,200-strong battalion that will include forces from several NATO members.

Hours earlier, some 30 Belgian troops arrived at another airport in western Lithuania while a ship carrying logistical equipment docked at the Baltic Sea port of Klaipeda, Lithuania's military spokesman captain Andrius Dilda told AFP.

Last summer, NATO ordered continuous troop rotations on its eastern flank as a tripwire against Russian adventurism in states formerly under Moscow's control.

Apart from the German-led battalion in Lithuania, Canada will lead a multi-national battalion in Latvia, Britain in Estonia and the US in Poland.

Vilnius University analyst Deividas Slekyas said the deployments would force Russia to think twice about any provocations in the region."..."



CHINA SAYS WILL PROTECT SOUTH CHINA SEA SOVEREIGNTY

January 24, 2017 Reuters reported: “China said on Tuesday it had ‘irrefutable’ sovereignty over disputed islands in the South China Sea after the White House vowed to defend ‘international territories’ in the strategic waterway.

White House spokesman Sean Spicer in his comments on Monday signaled a sharp departure from years of cautious U.S. handling of China’s assertive pursuit of territorial claims in Asia.

‘The U.S. is going to make sure that we protect our interests there,’ Spicer said when asked if Trump agreed with comments by his secretary of state nominee, Rex Tillerson. On Jan. 11, Tillerson said China should not be allowed access to islands it has built in the contested South China Sea.

‘It’s a question of if those islands are in fact in international waters and not part of China proper, then yeah, we’re going to make sure that we defend international territories from being taken over by one country,’ he said. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular news briefing on Tuesday ‘the United States is not a party to the South China Sea dispute’...”

HAMAS: WE’LL FIGHT EMBASSY MOVE ‘USING ALL MEANS’

January 23, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “ Hamas lawmaker Mushir al-Masri on Sunday declared that his organization will use all means to fight the planned move of the American embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, Kol Yisrael radio reported.

Al-Masri stated, according to the report, that moving the embassy would be a ‘crime’ and ‘crossing a red line’ by the U.S. administration. He added that the proper response to such a move would be for the Palestinian Authority (PA) to disassociate itself from previous agreements with the ‘occupation’, as he put it.

PA chairman Mahmoud Abbas has repeatedly warned against the embassy move in recent weeks, saying the relocation of the embassy would cross a ‘red line’ and warning that the move would be ‘more than a provocation and will harm the entire peace process’....”

TRUMP AIMS FOR ‘UNQUESTIONED’ US MILITARY DOMINANCE

January 22, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: “President Donald Trump will ‘rebuild’ America’s vast military, boost its anti-missile capabilities and prioritize defeating the Islamic State group, according to the first policy statements published on the White House website Friday. Published moments after Trump was inaugurated president, the statements say he will end limits on Pentagon spending agreed by Congress and the Obama administration, and will soon release a new budget proposal outlining his vision for the military.

‘We will provide our military leaders with the means to plan for our future defense needs,’ the White House said.

‘We cannot allow other nations to surpass our military capability.’

The statement said the US will develop a ‘state-of-the-art missile defense system’ to defend against attacks from Iran, North Korea and others. It listed developing cyberwarfare capabilities as a key goal — an issue that gained importance after US intelligence agencies said Russia interfered with the US presidential election, hacking political party computers...”

NETANYAHU WANTS TO DISCUSS IRAN ‘THREAT’ WITH TRUMP

January 22, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: “Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Saturday he planned to discuss soon with US President Donald Trump how to ‘counter the threat’ from Iran.

‘I plan to speak soon with President Trump about how to counter the threat of Iranian regime which calls for Israel’s destruction,’ Netanyahu said in a video message posted on his Facebook page.

Before his inauguration on Friday, Trump had repeatedly denounced the nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers, including the United States, which Israel has also staunchly criticised. On January 16, Trump said in an interview with the Times of London and Bild newspaper of Germany: ‘I’m not happy with the Iran deal, I think it’s one of the worst deals ever made. I think it’s one of the dumbest deals I’ve ever seen, one of the dumbest.’

But he declined to say whether he intended to ‘renegotiate’ the deal, as he asserted regularly during the presidential campaign.

Netanyahu has been an ardent opponent of the 2015 pact signed by Iran, the United States, China, Russia, Britain, France and Germany...”

IRAN PROMISES TO ‘SURPRISE’ TRUMP IF HE CANCELS NUCLEAR DEAL

January 20, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “U.S. president-elect Donald Trump will be ‘surprised’ by Iran if he annuls the nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic, Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said on Thursday, according to the Trend news agency.



‘As I said earlier, Trump will be surprised if he tries to renegotiate the deal,’ Zarif was quoted as having told the Iranian IRNA news agency.



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‘We believe that nuclear deal is an international one and we are not worried about it at all,’ he continued.

‘We are not going to be wary of what Trump does and we will have our options,’ Zarif added, noting that the nuclear deal is an international accord and all parties should comply with it.

During his election campaign Trump publicly spoke out against the Iran deal, calling it “disastrous” and vowing to “rip it up” as president. One of Trump’s foreign policy advisers, Walid Phares, recently indicated that while Trump might not actually rip up the agreement, he would act to change it.”...”

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