



PROPHETIC TIMES

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WHITE HOUSE: 'WE ARE OFFICIALLY PUTTING IRAN ON NOTICE'

February 2, 2017 BBC News reported: "US President Donald Trump's National Security Advisor has accused the Iranian government of 'malign actions' after a missile test. Without elaborating, Michael Flynn told White House reporters: 'As of today, we are officially putting Iran on notice.' Washington earlier declared the test to be 'absolutely unacceptable'.

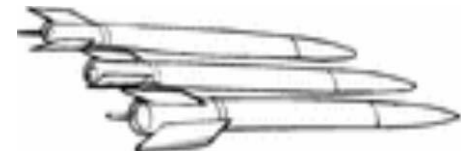
Iran confirmed on Wednesday it had tested a missile over the weekend, but denied violating a UN Security Council resolution.

Mr. Flynn did not provide any further details of what actions the US may be planning in response to the test, which Pentagon officials say failed upon re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

The launch prompted the US to accuse Iran of violating UN resolution 2231, which 'calls upon' Iran not to 'undertake any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons'..."

IRAN TESTED NUCLEAR-CAPABLE CRUISE MISSILE: GERMAN NEWSPAPER

February 2, 2017 reuters.com reported: "Iran has tested a cruise missile called "Sumar" that is capable of carrying nuclear weapons in addition to test-firing a medium-range ballistic missile on Sunday, German newspaper Die Welt reported Thursday, citing unspecified intelligence sources. No comment was immediately available from Germany's BND foreign intelligence agency or from Iranian authorities.



The newspaper said the Sumar cruise missile was built in Iran and traveled around 600 km in its first known successful test. The missile is believed to be capable of carrying nuclear weapons and may have a range of 2,000 to 3,000 km, the paper said, citing intelligence sources.

Cruise missiles are harder to counter than ballistic missiles since they fly at lower altitudes and can evade enemy radar, confounding missile defense missiles and hitting targets deep inside an opponent's territory.

But the biggest advantage from Iran's point of view, a security expert told Die Welt, was that cruise missiles are not mentioned in any United Nations resolutions that ban work on ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons."...

News of Iran's reported cruise missile test came hours after Washington said it was putting Iran "on notice" for its ballistic missile test and signaled that it could impose new sanctions."..."

CHINA STEPS UP OPPOSITION TO US MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM

February 1, 2017 voanews.com reported: "China is stepping up its efforts to stop South Korea from deploying a U.S. missile defense system on its soil, turning up the pressure on the economic front, while warning of the impact on diplomatic relations if the system is put in place this year.



The missile system and China's objections are likely to be a hot topic this week during newly appointed U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis' first trip to Asia.

Although U.S. and South Korean officials have long stressed that the key aim of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense System (THAAD) is to counter North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, Beijing argues that in the long run it could do much more than that..."

CANADIAN SCHOOL BANS ISRAELIS BECAUSE OF 'SETTLEMENTS'

February 1, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "A trade school in Canada which banned Israeli applicants due to Israel's alleged 'illegal settlement activity' rescinded the ban on Tuesday following an intervention by B'nai Brith Canada and members of the Canadian Jewish community.

Stav Daron, an Israeli engineering student and amateur carpenter, had hoped to take a course at the Island School of Building Arts (ISBA), located on Gabriola Island in the province of British Columbia. However, when he tried to confirm his registration in January, he was told via email that, 'Due to the conflict and illegal settlement activity in the region, we are not accepting applications from Israel.'

B'nai Brith Canada noted in a statement on Tuesday that refusing to provide a service on grounds of race, religion, ancestry or place of origin is prohibited by the British Columbia Human Rights Code.

After receiving a legal letter from B'nai Brith, the school apologized for discriminating against Daron, noting that it had 'decided to rescind any restriction placed on accepting students from Israel and apologize for any inconvenience.'..."

EU LEADER IDENTIFIES RUSSIA, CHINA, TRUMP AS THREATS

February 1, 2017 voanews.com reported: "European Union President Donald Tusk says China, Russia and the new U.S. administration of President Donald Trump are among the top external threats facing the bloc.

His remarks came in a letter to 27 EU leaders ahead of a summit Friday in Malta.

'Particularly the change in Washington puts the European Union in a difficult situation; with the new administration seeming to put into question the last 70 years of American foreign policy,' Tusk said.

Trump has insisted on policies that put the U.S. first, and has questioned whether NATO members are contributing their fair share to the alliance.

Tusk laid out a defense of the EU, saying it has never faces more dangerous challenges and that Europe needs 'courage, determination and political solidarity.' ...”

US, S. KOREA TO 'STRENGTHEN' DEFENSES AGAINST N. KOREA

January 30, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: “U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korea's Acting President Hwang Kyo-Ahn vowed Sunday to "strengthen" their joint defense capabilities against the belligerent North, the White House said.

"President Trump reiterated our ironclad commitment to defend the ROK, including through the provision of extended deterrence, using the full range of military capabilities," the White House said in a statement, using an acronym for the South's formal name.

"The two leaders agreed to take steps to strengthen joint defense capabilities to defend against the North Korean threat."

Pentagon chief James Mattis is due to travel to South Korea on Wednesday and Japan on Friday on his first trip as defense secretary.

The trip comes amid worries in the two long-standing American allies about the direction of US policy in their region under President Donald Trump.

During his campaign, Trump threatened to withdraw US forces from the two countries if they did not step up their financial support for their defense.

But the White House insisted that the trip "reflects the close friendship between our two countries and demonstrates the importance of the US-ROK alliance."

Seoul and Washington agreed last year to install the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the South after a string of North Korean nuclear and missile tests -- prompting strong objections from China, which fears it will undermine its own ballistic capabilities.”...

IRAN WARNS US AGAINST CREATING TENSIONS OVER MISSILES

January 31, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: “Iran on Tuesday warned the United States against fueling tensions over its ballistic missile tests as the UN Security Council prepared for urgent talks on the issue at Washington's request.



The row comes against a backdrop of already-strained relations over US President Donald Trump's travel ban on citizens from Iran and six other Muslim-majority countries.

The European Union, which helped broker a landmark nuclear deal between major powers and Iran, appealed to Tehran to refrain from activities such as the missile tests "which deepen mistrust".

But the diplomatic push by the West quickly ran into trouble as Russia said a missile test would not breach a UN resolution on Iran's nuclear programme.

Moscow, which is fighting alongside Tehran's forces in Syria, said the demand for emergency talks at the Security Council was aimed at "heating up the situation".

Diplomats said the Security Council talks on Iran would be held on Tuesday after a meeting on Syria.

Trump has sharply criticised the nuclear deal that led to a lifting of international sanctions against Iran, which used the occasion of a visit by France's foreign minister to express its discontent with Washington.

"We hope that Iran's defence programme is not used by the new US administration... as a pretext to create new tensions," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said at a news conference with Jean-Marc Ayrault. Tehran has neither confirmed nor denied firing any missiles at the weekend.”...

GLOBAL ALARM OVER UKRAINE FIGHTING AS DEATH TOLL HITS 19

February 1, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: “The death toll from the latest escalation in fighting in Ukraine rose to 19 on Wednesday as international alarm rang out over the spike in bloodshed in the European Union's back yard. Government forces and Russian-backed separatists exchanged mortar and rocket fire for a fourth day around the flashpoint eastern town of Avdiivka just north of the rebels' de facto capital Donetsk.

The Ukrainian military said three of its soldiers had died overnight while the rebels said four civilians had been killed.

Hundreds of mourners laid flowers on Kiev's Independence (Maidan) Square as Ukrainian servicemen carried the coffins of comrades killed in the latest surge of fighting. The clashes in Avdiivka have left more than 20,000 people without heat or water in freezing winter weather with no signs of relief in sight.

The fighting comes at a potential watershed moment for Ukraine as fears mount in Kiev that staunch US support could be set to wane with President Donald Trump looking to mend ties with Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin.

An emergency UN Security Council meeting on Tuesday called for an immediate end to fighting in a near three-year conflict that has plunged Moscow's relations with the West to a post-Cold War low.”...

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