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A trio of hurricanes are churning in the Atlantic basin

September 7, 2017 ABC News reported: “Meet Irma, Jose and Katia — the three hurricanes currently churning in the Atlantic basin. Hurricane Irma — a Category 5 storm — poses the most imminent threat as it bears down on the Caribbean with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph speeds before it is expected to take a turn to the north to threaten the U.S., according to the National Hurricane Center (NHC).”



On Wednesday afternoon, the ‘quickly strengthening’ Hurricane Jose was upgraded to a Category 1 storm. As of 5 p.m., Jose was moving west-northwest at 16 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. The storm could be near a major hurricane by Friday. No coastal watches and warnings are in effect for Jose at this time, according to the NHC.

Hurricane Katia is currently forming in the southwestern Gulf of Mexico, according to the NHC. As of 5 p.m., it was moving southeast at 3 mph and has maximum sustained winds of 75 mph...”

Report: Islamic State Urges Supporters to Poison Grocery Stores, Attack Harvey Shelters

September 7, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: “A pro-Islamic State (ISIS) Telegram channel has urged lone-wolf jihadists in the United States to target relief centers in Houston, Texas, housing people displaced by Hurricane Harvey, according to a report from SITE Intelligence Group.

‘To all the LM’s (lone warriors) in the U.S., pop down to Houston and drop in at any of the relief centers housing displaced people from the Houston floods, make sure to bring lots of supplies/gadgets/toys to see if you can help put any kuffs (disbelievers) out of their misery,’ the message reads, followed by a series of emojis depicting explosions, knives, bombs, guns and medical symbols.

The hurricane, which primarily affected Texas—as well as parts of Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Kentucky—has forced thousands of people to evacuate their homes and take shelter in relief centers. It is estimated to have caused \$180 billion in damage and claimed the lives of at least 60 people.

In the past few days, Islamic State channels have also posted calls for attacks on Europe, Russia, and the United States, on the occasion of the Islamic ‘Sacrifice Feast’ Eid al Adha. Meanwhile, another message urges supporters to use chemical weapons by injecting cyanide into products in Western supermarkets...”

North Korea reportedly moving ICBM towards coast

September 6, 2017 Asia Times Online reported: “North Korea appears to be moving what appears to be an intercontinental ballistic missile towards its west coast, according to an unidentified intelligence source cited by Seoul-based Asia Business Daily.

The rocket, which was detected Monday, is reportedly being moved at night to avoid surveillance.

South Korea’s Defense Ministry couldn’t immediately confirm the Asia Business Daily report.

The unconfirmed move follows Pyongyang’s sixth nuclear test on September 3. North Korea has declared that the device was a hydrogen weapon. Western analysts are still analyzing data from the underground blast to determine if the claim is true...”

Losing Religion: More than Half of Britons Say They Have ‘No Religion’

September 5, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: “For the first time, more than half of Britons describe themselves as having ‘no religion’, with just 15 per cent of respondents considering themselves a member of the Church of England.

From a study conducted in 2016, data from the British Social Attitudes Survey suggests that 53 per cent of the British public describes themselves as having ‘no religion’ – up from 48 per cent in 2015, reports Christian Today.

When the survey began in 1983, the proportion of those who had no religion stood at just 31 per cent.

Anglicans have halved in number since the year 2000 when 30 per cent claimed to align themselves with the nation’s church, and just three per cent of those aged 18-24 described themselves as Anglican, compared to 40 per cent of those aged 75 and over.

In 2015, former Archbishop of Canterbury Lord Carey warned that the Church of England is only ‘one generation away from extinction’...”

Iran: We’ll be so strong, no one will dare attack us

September 4, 2017 The Jerusalem Post reported: “Amid rising tension on Israel’s northern border, Iran’s newly appointed defense minister said Tehran will bolster its support for Hezbollah in an attempt to lessen the group’s dependence on weapons imports from the Shia country.

‘Our aim is to cut reliance on the outside and achieve self-sufficiency in defense industry,’ Brigadier General Amir Hatami said, adding ‘if needed, we will also export defense equipment to other countries in order to guarantee security and stability in the region.’

Israel has in recent years repeatedly hit convoys believed to be transferring advanced weaponry being transferred from Iran via Syria to Hezbollah.

In early July, the head of the IDF Intelligence Directorate Major General Herzi Halevi confirmed reports that Hezbollah has been operating and managing two underground weapons factories set up by the IRGC in response to alleged Israeli strikes against weapons convoys in Syria...”

North Korea Claims 'Perfect' Hydrogen Bomb Test

September 3, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "South Korean officials have confirmed a blast at a nuclear testing site in North Korea that the nation appears to be claiming was a test of a hydrogen bomb. Shortly before the blast, state media published photos of dictator Kim Jong-un reportedly leading the testing.

'Respected Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un guided the work for nuclear weaponization on the spot,' Rodong Sinmun, North Korea's state newspaper, reported Sunday.

The newspaper claims 'all components of the H-bomb were homemade and all the processes ranging from the production of weapons-grade nuclear materials to precision processing of components and their assembling were put on the Juche basis, thus enabling the country to produce powerful nuclear weapons as many as it wants.' ..."



North Korean Nuclear Test Draws U.S. Warning of 'Massive Military Response'

September 2, 2017 nytimes.com reported: "North Korea's detonation of a sixth nuclear bomb on Sunday prompted the Trump administration to warn that even the threat to use such a weapon against the United States and its allies "will be met with a massive military response.'"

The test — and President Trump's response — immediately raised new questions about the president's North Korea strategy and opened a new rift with a major American ally, South Korea, which Mr. Trump criticized for its "talk of appeasement" with the North.

The underground blast was by far North Korea's most powerful ever. Though it was far from clear that the North had set off a hydrogen bomb, as it claimed, the explosion caused tremors that were felt in South Korea and China. Experts estimated that the blast was four to sixteen times more powerful than any the North had set off before, with far more destructive power than the bombs dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki during World War II.

Yet after a day of meetings in the Situation Room involving Mr. Trump and his advisers, two phone calls between the president and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, and even demands from some liberal Democrats to cut off North Korea's energy supplies, Mr. Trump's aides conceded that they faced a familiar conundrum.

While the Pentagon has worked up a series of military options for targeted strikes at North Korea's nuclear and missile sites, Mr. Trump was told that there is no assurance that the United States could destroy them all in a lightning strike, according to officials with knowledge of the exchange. Cyberstrikes, which President Barack Obama ordered against the North's missile program, have also been judged ineffective.

Mr. Trump hinted at one extreme option: In a Twitter post just before he met his generals, he said that "the United States is considering, in addition to other options, stopping all trade with any country doing business with North Korea.'"

Taken literally, such a policy would be tantamount to demanding a stoppage of any Chinese oil to North Korea, essentially an attempt to freeze out the country this winter and bring whatever industry it has to a halt.

The Chinese would almost certainly balk; they have never been willing to take steps that might lead to the collapse of the North Korean regime, no matter how dangerous its behavior, for fear that South Korean and American troops would occupy the country and move directly to the Chinese border.

Beyond that, the economic disruption of ending all trade with China would be so huge inside the United States that Mr. Trump's aides declined on Sunday to discuss the implications.

After meeting with Mr. Trump, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis emerged to warn North Korea that "any threat to the United States or its territory, including Guam or our allies, will be met with a massive military response.'"

But Mr. Mattis, in a terse statement delivered on the White House driveway with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Joseph F. Dunford Jr., also offered a word of reassurance to the North's reclusive leader, Kim Jong-un.

"We are not looking to the total annihilation of a country, namely North Korea," he said. "But as I said, we have many options to do so.'"

The statement echoed past comments by the defense secretary as well as a warning issued by President George W. Bush after North Korea's first atomic test, in 2006. In that statement, Mr. Bush also said North Korea would be held responsible if it ever exported any of its nuclear weapons technology to other nations or to terrorists.' ..."

More than 1,000 dead in floods disaster in Sierra Leone

September 1, 2017 ChristianToday.com reports: "While Americans are rightly concerned about flooding in and around Houston, more than 1,000 people have died in the West African country of Sierra Leone, Christian Aid reports today.

The charity is appealing for funds to help the stricken survivors after torrential rains set off floods and mudslides in Freetown on 14 August. This was followed by a massive fire.

One ministry has set up a cooking and distribution site to feed destitute victims who have lost everything in the ongoing crisis, but it urgently needs to do more.

'After the landslide, we went in to console relatives left behind,' said Rev Claudius Deah, head of Mission Bethel Ministries International in Monrovia, Liberia. 'We started feeding people and conducting trauma counseling, and our members in West Africa collected clothing for distribution.' ..."

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