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Kissinger: 'Temptation to Deal' with North Korea 'with a Pre-emptive Attack is Strong'

February 1, 2018 pjmedia.com reported: "While he said he agrees with the aggressive statements President Trump has fired at North Korea, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger warned Congress last week against potential military intervention near Russian and Chinese borders without the world's support.



The Trump administration has signaled that North Korea would be crossing a red line if it developed nuclear capability for its intercontinental ballistic missile program. Yet some policy officials and military experts claim that North Korea has already crossed that line, or is at least very close to attaching nuclear warheads to its missiles.

Kissinger offered his thoughts on the impending "fork in the road," in which the administration may consider pre-emptive military action or increasingly tighter sanctions against the regime.

"We will hit that fork in the road, and the temptation to deal with it with a pre-emptive attack is strong, and the argument is rational, but I have seen no public statement by any leading official," Nixon's secretary of State told members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. "But in any event, my own thinking, I would be very concerned by any unilateral American war at the borders of China and Russia, in which we are not supported by a significant part of the world, or at least of the Asian world."

The current North Korean trajectory, Kissinger continued, could lead to nuclear proliferation throughout Asia, as he believes South Korea will not accept being the only Korea without nuclear capability. Japan will follow suit, he said. "..."

France Facing Violent 'New Form of anti-Semitism,' PM Says After Jewish Boy Attacked

February 1, 2018 Haaretz reported: "France is facing a 'new form of anti-Semitism' marked by violence, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said Wednesday, deploring an assault this week in a Paris suburb on an 8-year-old boy wearing a Jewish skullcap. President Emmanuel Macron has denounced the attack Monday in Sarcelles, a northern suburb with a large Jewish population, as 'heinous.'

French media have described the attackers as teenagers who ran away after tripping and kicking the boy to the ground. Police were investigating but there have been no arrests.

Speaking before lawmakers, Philippe noted the emergence of a new kind of anti-Semitism in France, which has the largest Jewish population in Western Europe. To fight something, one must have 'the courage to put a name on it ... to acknowledge that, yes, there is a new form of anti-Semitism, violent and brutal, emerging more and more openly in our land,' Philippe said. "..."

An annual national count of racist, anti-Semitic, anti-Muslim and anti-Christian acts — mainly threats — dipped in 2017 compared to the year before. However, the count, released Wednesday by the Interior Ministry, shows that violent racist acts in France increased overall, and notably anti-Semitic acts went up 20 percent, from 77 in 2016 to 97 last year. "..."

Jihad decree triggers demands for holy war on Kashmir

January 31, 2018 atimes.com reported: "Branded a 'sponsor of terrorism' by the Trump administration for failing to act against extremism, Pakistan has sought to polish its image by decreeing that only the state has the right to issue a jihad (holy war).

But now some Islamist politicians want the government to use its new powers to settle the most prickly issue in Pakistan's fragile relationship with India: its historic claims over the contested territory of Kashmir.

The order was included in a fatwa (decree) against terrorism, entitled Paigham-e-Pakistan ('Pakistan's message'), which the government announced on January 16 at a ceremony headed by President Mamnoon Hussain and addressed by many Islamic scholars.

Its two most significant features are the declaration that only the state can announce a jihad, and a decree that any move to impose Sharia law needs to conform with legal statutes. The fatwa seeks to address challenges in Pakistani society created by terrorism, sectarianism and religious extremism. But quite unexpectedly, the decree has prompted calls by prominent Islamist parties for the government to formally launch a jihad in Indian-held Kashmir, as well as in Afghanistan.

Government sources close to the drafting of Paigham-e-Pakistan have confirmed that Islamist leaders are agitated over the decree and are keen to capitalize on the state's capitulation to a Tehrik Labbaik Ya Rasool Allah (TLY)-led protest rally in Islamabad in November. "..."

Dangerously Low on Water, Cape Town Now Faces 'Day Zero'

January 30, 2018 nytimes.com reported: "It sounds like a Hollywood blockbuster. "Day Zero" is coming to Cape Town this April. Everyone, be warned.

The government cautions that the Day Zero threat will surpass anything a major city has faced since World War II or the Sept. 11 attacks. Talks are underway with South Africa's police because "normal policing will be entirely inadequate." Residents, their nerves increasingly frayed, speak in whispers of impending chaos.

The reason for the alarm is simple: The city's water supply is dangerously close to running dry. If water levels keep falling, Cape Town will declare Day Zero in less than three months. Taps in homes and businesses will be turned off until the rains come. The city's four million residents will have to line up for water rations at 200 collection points. The city is bracing for the impact on public health and social order.

“When Day Zero comes, they’ll have to call in the army,” said Phaldie Ranqueste, who was filling his white S.U.V. with big containers of water at a natural spring where people waited in a long, anxious line.

It wasn’t supposed to turn out this way for Cape Town. This city is known for its strong environmental policies, including its careful management of water in an increasingly dry corner of the world.

But after a three-year drought, considered the worst in over a century, South African officials say Cape Town is now at serious risk of becoming one of the few major cities in the world to lose piped water to homes and most businesses.

Hospitals, schools and other vital institutions will still get water, officials say, but the scale of the shut-off will be severe.

Cape Town’s problems embody one of the big dangers of climate change: the growing risk of powerful, recurrent droughts. In Africa, a continent particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, those problems serve as a potent warning to other governments, which typically don’t have this city’s resources and have done little to adapt.”...”



Hezbollah official warns terror group can destroy Israeli army

January 29, 2018 Jpost.com reported: “Hezbollah has called an article written by IDF Spokesman Brig.-Gen. Ronen Manelis and published on Lebanese opposition websites ‘provocative words published by a coward.’

‘The article is nonsense and a provocation that is published by someone who is a coward,’ Hajj Muhammad Raad, the head of Hezbollah’s ‘Loyalty to Resistance’ Lebanese Parliamentary bloc, wrote on the Ahewar website.

‘Israel should not act foolishly and complicate itself in a war that will be destructive for it. Hezbollah is stronger today and has capabilities that can destroy the Israeli Army. Israel today has become a regional and international isolationist, and the media spins that come out of it are meant to cover up its distress, because it wants to present itself as strong,’ he continued.

On Sunday, an article written by Manelis appeared on several Arab-language media outlets, including being published on the Hezbollah-friendly al-Masdar website and broadcast on the Voice of Beirut radio station.

‘The authority of the Zionist entity, whatever it tries, will not be able to persuade the Arab-Muslim peoples to give up the idea of ??resisting the Zionist occupation,’ Raad wrote Monday. ‘The day will come when Hezbollah’s flag will be raised over the honorable city of Jerusalem and the Palestinians will regain their occupied land.’...”

New ISIS Video Sings to U.S. Jihadists: ‘It is Now Time to Rise, Slit Their Throats, Watch Them Die’

January 29, 2018 PJ Media reported: “The Islamic State issued a new video today calling on ‘brothers in Europe, America, Russia, Australia and elsewhere’ to ‘kill them all’ as ‘it is now time to rise.’

The English-language nasheed, inspirational songs frequently released by terror groups, shows scenes of Western terrorists’ handiwork — including the March 2017 Westminster Bridge attack and the ISIS pledge video recorded by Berlin Christmas market terrorist Anis Amri — mingled with ISIS battlefield scenes and beheadings in Syria.

The video from ISIS’ official Al-Hayat Media Center was distributed widely on YouTube and social media platforms Twitter and Facebook, along with being posted on file-sharing sites.

‘Your brothers in your lands have absolved themselves of blame, so leap onto their tracks and take an example from their actions and know that jannah [paradise] is beneath the shadows of swords,’ a narrator says before the nasheed starts.

‘Go answer the call, don’t spare none, kill them all, it is now time to rise, slit their throats, watch them die,’ goes the nasheed. ‘The Islamic State stands, and it stands and demands, that you worship the one, whom besides there is none.’...”

Kissinger: Nuclear North Korea ‘immediate challenge’ of our time

January 26, 2018 SpaceDaily.com reported: “North Korea poses the most immediate threat to global security, former US secretary of state Henry Kissinger told Congress Thursday, stressing that denuclearization of the regime must be a ‘fundamental’ American foreign policy goal. Kissinger also pointed to Iran as a primary challenge, and said that opposing the Islamic republic’s ‘hegemonic expansion’ and pursuit of nuclear weapons should remain high Washington priorities.

Kissinger, who at age 94 continues to advise on foreign policy matters, joined two other foreign policy heavyweights — former secretary of state George Shultz, 97, and ex-deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage, 72 — in testifying before a Senate panel about global security challenges. The elder statesmen presented a picture of mounting international threats, including nuclear proliferation, Chinese authoritarianism, and Russia’s interference in US elections and its interventions in Eastern Europe.

‘The most immediate challenge to international security is posed by the evolution of the North Korea nuclear program,’ Kissinger told the Senate Armed Services Committee, describing an ‘unprecedented’ scenario. North Korea, like Iran, has advanced its nuclear capability at the very time an international effort sought to prevent a ‘radical regime’ from developing such capacity.

‘For the second time in a decade, an outcome that was widely considered unacceptable is now on the verge of becoming irreversible,’ he said...”

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