



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

June 09, 2018

Europe under pressure as Iran 'nears nuclear red line'

June 7, 2018 SpaceDaily.com reported: "French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian warned Iran on Wednesday that its plan to increase its uranium enrichment capacity took it close to a 'red line', as Europe sought to protect its companies from a nuclear standoff between the US and Tehran.

Iran confirmed Wednesday that it was in 'preparatory works' to restart nuclear activities in the event that a 2015 accord with world powers on limiting its atomic programme falls apart.

In such a scenario, Iran could 'restart its activities without any limits,' Iran's ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency Reza Najafi told reporters on the sidelines of a meeting of the IAEA's board in Vienna..."

Iran officially announces step up in centrifuge production

June 6, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran has notified the international nuclear watchdog that it will expand its capacity for uranium enrichment.

The country's nuclear chief, Ali Akbar Salehi, told the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) today that the Iran Atomic Energy Organization is opening a center for producing new centrifuges for uranium enrichment at the Natanz nuclear site.



Salehi added that the expansion does not violate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or the Iran nuclear deal, signed in 2015 with the world powers that President Donald Trump pulled out of last month.

Under the agreement, Iran can build parts for the centrifuges as long as it does not put them into operation within the first decade of the signing..."

Iran's supreme leader warns Europe of nuclear 'dream'

June 5, 2018 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday warned European leaders against their 'dream' of Tehran continuing to curb its nuclear programme while finding itself under new economic sanctions.

'From some European countries we get the message that they expect the Iranian people to both tolerate the sanctions, deal with the sanctions, and go along with them and give up our nuclear energy activities and continue with the restrictions,' he told an audience in a Tehran suburb.

'I would tell these countries that they should be aware that this is a dream that will never come true.'

Khamenei was speaking nearly a month after President Donald Trump announced the United States was pulling out of the landmark Iran nuclear deal. The remaining partners — Britain, China, France, Germany and Russia — have scrambled to save the 2015 accord as the US readies to reimpose sanctions on Tehran.

'The people of Iran and the government of Iran will never tolerate both suffering from sanctions and nuclear restrictions,' said Khamenei.

'This will never happen,' he said during a ceremony to mark the 29th anniversary of the death of revolutionary leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini..."

Khamenei: 'Tehran will attack tenfold if attacked by enemies'

June 5, 2018 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran's top leader warned today of the country's harsh response if attacked by enemies of Tehran, saying that the country's ballistic missile program was essential for defense purposes despite western demands to curb it, reported Reuters.

'Tehran will attack 10 times more if attacked by enemies... The enemies don't want an independent Iran in the region... We will continue our support to oppressed nations... our enemies have staged economic and psychological warfare against us and new American sanctions are part of it,' Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a speech broadcast live on state TV.

Israeli Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman recently said 'Israel cannot afford to ignore Iran's threats that its leaders promise to destroy Israel..."

Nicaragua's Political Crisis Descends Into 'Dark Days'

June 5, 2018 wsj.com reported: "A surge of violence has snuffed out economic activity and dimmed prospects to peacefully resolve a political crisis here that began as a protest against tax increases and turned into a revolt against Nicaragua's longtime leader Daniel Ortega.

Since mid-April, more than 100 people have been killed in confrontations with police during mass protests and what human-rights groups say are paramilitary gangs aligned with Mr. Ortega's government.

Among them were 15 people killed at a peaceful Mother's Day protest march last month in Managua and 11 people by paramilitary groups and police in the predominantly indigenous city of Masaya this past weekend, including a 15-year-old protester who witnesses say was executed by a policewoman.

On Tuesday, violence flared in the quaint colonial city of Granada, home to hundreds of American retirees.

"We are going through very dark days," said Humberto Belli, a former education minister. "The people are out in the street demanding that Ortega leave, but he has shown an unexpected ability to kill. We see more blood every day—three, four, five people killed on a daily basis. This has no end."

The Organization of American States on Tuesday approved a mildly worded resolution calling for an immediate end of the violence and asking all parties to participate in peaceful dialogue. The resolution, co-sponsored by the U.S. and Nicaragua, was much weaker than declarations made Monday by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who accused Nicaraguan police and armed pro-government groups of killing dozens of protesters.

“It was a wishy-washy resolution, Nicaragua demands more urgent attention from the OAS than it’s gotten,” said Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue, a Washington-based think tank.

The U.S. ambassador to the OAS, Carlos Trujillo, said the OAS declaration marks the beginning of the organization’s engagement with “the grave situation” in Nicaragua. He blasted the government, saying it “has committed grave crimes” against peaceful protesters.

Nicaragua’s government denies links to paramilitary groups and says the unrest is the result of an opposition plot to overthrow it. Police haven’t addressed the alleged police shooting of the teen.

Nicaragua “is committed to stability amidst this wave of criminal violence generated by certain groups of the opposition which conspire from the darkness...to terrorize families,” Luis Alvarado, Nicaragua’s representative to the OAS, said Monday.

Mr. Ortega, a former guerrilla leader who played a central role in the overthrow of the Somoza family dictatorship in 1979, was re-elected by a landslide in 2016 after 16 years out of power. He ran largely unopposed after maneuvering to ban any real contenders.

Until the recent spate of violence, Nicaragua had enjoyed far lower levels of violent crime than its Central American neighbors El Salvador and Honduras. Mr. Ortega also had been able to deliver high economic growth and apparent political stability. Most Nicaraguans appeared content or resigned to the quid pro quo—until now.”

The Latest: Death toll from Guatemala volcano rises to 69

June 4, 2018 apnews.com reported: “The latest on the deadly volcano eruption in Guatemala . Guatemalan authorities have increased the confirmed death toll from the eruption of the Volcano of Fire to 69 as officials suspended the search until dawn on Tuesday.

Fanuel Garcia is the director of Guatemala’s National Institute of Forensic Sciences and he announced the higher death toll late Monday. He said only 17 of the dead have been identified so far.

The burning ash and mud that engulfed villages on the volcano’s flanks Sunday left many victims unrecognizable. They will have to be identified through DNA testing or other means.

A lack of electricity in the most heavily hit zone makes safely searching at night impossible. Guatemala’s disaster agency has raised the death toll from the eruption of the Volcano of Fire to 65.

The agency says in addition that 46 people were injured. Nearly 2,000 people are in shelters and more than 3,200 were evacuated from the areas near the volcano west of Guatemala City.

The volcano erupted Sunday, burying people in ash and searing mud that raced down its flanks. Few of the bodies have yet been identified because the intense heat left them unrecognizable.”...”

Netanyahu heads to Europe seeking about-face on Iran

June 4, 2018 spacedaily.com reported: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu embarks Monday on a three-day European tour in Germany set to be dominated by strategic differences on Iran, as leaders attempt to rescue the nuclear deal after US withdrawal.

With partners in Berlin, Paris and London still reeling from President Donald Trump's decision last month to exit the hard-fought 2015 accord, Netanyahu is expected to seek European cooperation on a still-to-be-determined Plan B.

"The aim to prevent Iran from developing any kind of nuclear capacity was always the foundation of international policy on Iran," Israel's ambassador to Germany, Jeremy Issacharoff, told AFP ahead of the visit.

Issacharoff said that despite "differences of opinion" on how to achieve the aim of hemming in Iran on nuclear matters, "we share the same goal".

Germany, France and Britain are three of the signatories of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) between world powers and Iran, aimed at keeping Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons.

Netanyahu, who has railed against the deal which offers sanctions relief in exchange for strict limits on Iran's nuclear activities, will hold talks with Chancellor Angela Merkel in Berlin in the late afternoon, followed by a joint news conference.

He will continue on to Paris for meetings with French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday and British Prime Minister Theresa May on Wednesday.”...”

Syria’s President Assad ‘to visit North Korea’

June 3, 2018 BBC News reported: “Syrian President Bashar al-Assad plans to make a state visit to North Korea, the North’s state news agency says. It would be the first time North Korean leader Kim Jong-un has hosted a head of state since assuming power in 2011.

He has undertaken a flurry of diplomatic activity recently, meeting China’s president in May, and is expected to attend a summit with Donald Trump this month.

Syria, an ally of the North, has made no comment on the reported plan. The two countries have been accused of co-operating on chemical weapons. But both nations deny the accusations...”

