



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

July 20, 2019

US bars Turkey from F-35 program over Russian missiles

July 18, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: The White House confirmed Wednesday that Turkey would be excluded from the F-35 stealth fighter jet program after it purchased a Russian missile defense system in defiance of warnings from Western allies.

"Unfortunately, Turkey's decision to purchase Russian S-400 air defense systems renders its continued involvement with the F-35 impossible," White House spokeswoman Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The US-made F-35 Joint Strike Fighter "cannot coexist with a Russian intelligence collection platform that will be used to learn about its advanced capabilities," she added.

Turkey's foreign ministry termed the move "unfair," saying in a statement that "this one-sided step neither complies with the spirit of alliance nor is it based on legitimate reasons."

Grisham said that Washington had made "multiple" offers of its own Patriot missile defense system to Turkey, but Ankara went ahead and acquired the S-400, running counter to a NATO pledge to avoid adopting Russian systems." ..."

US hopes N. Korea talks go ahead despite Pyongyang threat over wargames

July 17, 2019 spacedaily reported: The United States said Tuesday it hoped to hold denuclearization talks with North Korea, despite a warning from Pyongyang that US-South Korean military exercises could affect their planned resumption.

The North had earlier Tuesday hinted that it could even reconsider its moratorium on nuclear testing over next month's drills, which have been held for years but were scaled down to facilitate dialogue with Pyongyang.

It was the first statement from the North on the talks since US President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un agreed to a resumption of dialogue at an impromptu meeting in the Demilitarized Zone in June, following months of deadlock.

Responding to the North's statement, the State Department said it remained upbeat over commitments made by Kim and Trump at a February summit in Vietnam and then during Trump's dramatic walk into North Korea on June 30.

"From our perspective, we would hope that no one would try to block, in their government or our government, the ability for President Trump and Chairman Kim to make progress on the commitments they made to each other in Vietnam," State Department spokeswoman Morgan Ortagus told reporters.

"We look forward, of course, to resuming those negotiations and we hope to talk, always, so we can advance progress on these commitments," Ortagus said.

The joint drills were reduced in scope after Trump's historic first summit with Kim in Singapore last year.

But an unnamed North Korean foreign ministry spokesperson described the drills as "clearly a breach" of a joint statement signed by the leaders in Singapore and hinted that Pyongyang may resume weapons tests in response." ..."

Ebola outbreak in Congo declared a global health emergency

July 17, 2019 Associated Press reported: "The deadly Ebola outbreak in Congo is now an international health emergency, the World Health Organization announced Wednesday after a case was confirmed in a city of 2 million people.

A WHO expert committee declined on three previous occasions to advise the United Nations health agency to make the declaration for this outbreak, even though other experts say it has long met the required conditions. More than 1,600 people have died since August in the second-deadliest Ebola outbreak in history, which is unfolding in a region described as a war zone.

A declaration of a global health emergency often brings greater international attention and aid, along with concerns that nervous governments might overreact with border closures.

The declaration comes days after a single case was confirmed in Goma, a major regional crossroads in northeastern Congo on the Rwandan border, with an international airport. Also, a sick Congolese fish trader traveled to Uganda and back while symptomatic — and later died of Ebola.

While the risk of regional spread remains high, the risk outside the region remains low, WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said after the announcement in Geneva.

The international emergency "should not be used to stigmatize or penalize the very people who are most in need of our help," he said. Tedros insisted that the declaration was not made to raise more money — even though WHO estimated "hundreds of millions" of dollars would be needed to stop the epidemic.

Dr. Joanne Liu, president of Doctors Without Borders, said she hoped the emergency designation would prompt a radical reset of Ebola response efforts.

"The reality check is that a year into the epidemic, it's still not under control, and we are not where we should be," she said. "We cannot keep doing the same thing and expect different results."

Liu said vaccination strategies should be broadened and that more efforts should be made to build trust within communities.



The U.S. Agency for International Development applauded the WHO decision and said USAID officials would "continue to scale up life-saving support" to end the outbreak.

This is the fifth such declaration in history. Previous emergencies were declared for the devastating 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa that killed more than 11,000 people, the emergence of Zika in the Americas, the swine flu pandemic and polio." ..."

Erdogan: S-400s will be fully deployed in April 2020

July 16, 2019 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Monday that the Russian S-400 missile defense system, parts of which have been delivered to Turkey over the past four days, would be fully deployed in April 2020, Reuters reports.

Speaking at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport on the third anniversary of 2016's attempted coup, Erdogan said eight planes had already brought parts of the Russian system and more were coming, as he had repeatedly promised.

'With God's permission, they will have been installed in their sites by April 2020,' he told the crowd.

'The S-400s are the strongest defense system against those who want to attack our country. God willing, we are doing this as a joint investment with Russia, and will continue to do so,' he added..."

Iran says may 'reverse' nuclear program to pre-deal status

July 16, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Iran's atomic energy agency said Monday it could reverse its nuclear programme to its status before curbs were imposed under a landmark 2015 agreement with world powers.

'If the Europeans and the Americans don't want to carry out their duties... we will decrease our commitments and... reverse the conditions to four years ago,' agency spokesman Behrouz Kamalvandi said, quoted by IRNA state news agency.

'These actions are not out of obstinacy. It is to give diplomacy a chance so that the other side come to their senses and carry out their duties,' he added.

The deal promised economic benefits and sanctions relief to Iran, but US President Donald Trump withdrew from the accord in May 2018 and reimposed tough punitive measures against the Islamic republic.

Angered that its beleaguered economy is not receiving sanctions relief it believes it was promised under the deal, Iran has intensified sensitive uranium enrichment work..."

Report of US nukes in Belgium stirs controversy

July 16, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "Belgian opposition politicians on Tuesday demanded answers from the government after a document published online inadvertently drew attention to US nuclear weapons deployed in the country.

A draft report for the NATO parliamentary assembly's defence and security committee seen by AFP gave details of six air bases in Europe and Turkey where it said the US stores 150 nuclear weapons, specifically B-61 gravity bombs.

The news comes amid fears of a new nuclear arms race in Europe, as a landmark Cold War treaty between Moscow and Washington is on the brink of collapse.

Green lawmaker Samuel Cogolati said the report confirmed the "open secret" that US nuclear weapons were stationed at the Kleine-Brogel air base in northern Belgium.

"We demand a fully transparent debate -- we must stop this lying and put an end to this hypocrisy," he told AFP.

A section of the draft report by Canadian senator Joseph Day, refers to a total of "approximately 150 nuclear weapons" stored at Kleine-Brogel, Buechel in Germany, Aviano and Ghedi-Torre in Italy, Volkel in the Netherlands and Incirlik in Turkey.

The report, titled "A New Era for Nuclear Deterrence? Modernisation, Arms Control, and Allied Nuclear Forces" was written in April and then amended last week to remove the detailed references to the air bases.

The information appears to come from an annual paper on US nuclear forces in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, which gives details of the reported locations of all American nuclear warheads." ..."

Number of Christians in Britain in 'dramatic decline'

July 15, 2019 christiantoday.com reported: "The number of people in Britain identifying as Christian is in 'dramatic decline', according to the latest figures from the British Social Attitudes Survey.

The proportion identifying as Christian stands at 38%, down from half in 2008 and nearly two-thirds in 1983. It is the first time that the figure has fallen below 40%. At the same time, there has been a continued rise in the percentage of Brits identifying as Muslim, from 1% in 1983 to 3% in 2008 and 6% in 2018.

There has also been a substantial increase in those who do not identify with any religion, up from 31% in 1983 to over half of those polled in 2018 (52%).

The survey of 3,879 people revealed that people were more likely to 'feel positive' towards Christians (51%) than towards Muslims (30%). Only 4% said they had negative perceptions of Christians, compared with 17% for Muslims. But nearly two thirds of those surveyed (63%) agreed that religions brought more conflict than peace..."

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