



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

August 31, 2019

## **U.S. Warship Sails Near South China Sea Islands Claimed by China**

[August 29, 2019](#) voanews.com reported: “A U.S. Navy destroyer sailed near islands claimed by China in the South China Sea on Wednesday, the U.S. military said, a move likely to anger Beijing at a time of rising tensions between the world’s two largest economies.

The busy waterway is one of a growing number of flashpoints in the U.S.-Chinese relationship, which include an escalating trade war, American sanctions on China’s military and U.S. relations with Taiwan. Reuters reported on Tuesday that China had denied a request for a U.S. Navy warship to visit the Chinese port city of Qingdao.



The U.S. Navy vessel Wayne E. Meyer, an Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer, carried out the operation, traveling within 12 nautical miles (14 miles/22 km) of Fiery Cross and Mischief Reefs, Commander Reann Mommsen, a spokeswoman for the Japan-based U.S. Navy’s Seventh Fleet, said.

The operation was conducted ‘to challenge excessive maritime claims and preserve access to the waterways as governed by international law,’ Mommsen said...”

## **Tokyo: North Korea aims to ‘break through’ Japan’s missile defense zone**

[August 28, 2019](#) spacedaily.com reported: “Japan released more information on the North Korean missile that was launched on Saturday, when Pyongyang tested what it has described as a ‘super large multiple rocket launcher.’

Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya said Tuesday the missile that flew in an easterly direction from North Korea’s coast, facing Japan, was a ‘new model,’ Yomiuri Shimbun reported.

‘There is a possibility [North Korea] is trying to improve the accuracy of missile attacks,’ Iwaya said, adding the North Koreans could be aiming to ‘break through’ Japan’s missile defense zone.

North Korea launched two missiles on Saturday. One projectile flew a distance of about 220 miles, the second launch reached 250 miles. Each missile flew at a ‘lower than normal’ altitude of 62 miles, according to the Yomiuri.

On Tuesday, Iwaya said there is increasing risk North Korea could be improving upon long-range missile technology, applying what the regime has learned from past launches, Kyodo News reported...”

## **Hezbollah No. 2 threatens Israel with ‘surprise’ retaliation in ‘coming days’**

[August 28, 2019](#) timesofisrael.com reported: “The deputy leader of Iran-backed Lebanese terror group Hezbollah on Tuesday night warned that his movement would deliver a ‘surprise’ response in the coming days to a series of alleged Israeli raids.

Tensions between Hezbollah and Israel have skyrocketed since Saturday night, when two of the group’s members were killed in an Israeli strike in Syria, and drones crashed in a Hezbollah stronghold in Beirut, in an incident also blamed on Israel. On Monday, Lebanon claimed Israeli drones attacked a Palestinian base in the country’s east.

Israel took credit for the Syria raid, but has not commented on the other strikes. The model of drone used in the Beirut attack has raised considerable questions about their provenance, with analysts suggesting they could be Iranian...”

## **PM briefs Gantz on security, signaling Israel may strike Syria**

[August 27, 2019](#) Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “In a rare occurrence, the head of the main opposition party in Israel was briefed on recent violence that has Israel and the security establishment on edge.

In the past, such courtesy briefings were a signal that Israel could be contemplating military action.

Benny Gantz, who leads the Blue and White party, received the briefing from security officials on orders from Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the Kan public broadcaster reported. Although he is not officially the opposition leader, Gantz and his party remain the chief rival to Netanyahu and his Likud party in the Sept. 17 elections.

Gantz is a former Israel Defense Forces chief of staff. He and Netanyahu, also the defense minister, generally agree on defense issues...”

## **Russia to resume S-400 delivery to Turkey**

[August 27, 2019](#) Arutz Sheva7 reported: “Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar said on Monday that Russia will resume the delivery of its S-400 missile defense system to Turkey this week, The Associated Press reported.

The first parts of the S-400 air defense system were delivered to Turkey last month. Turkey’s purchase of the advanced Russian system has been a point of contention with the US, which says the S-400 poses a threat to the Lockheed Martin Corp F-35 stealth fighters, which Turkey was also planning to buy.

Washington reacted to Turkey’s purchase of the S-400 by removing the country off its F-35 fighter jet program.

Akar said on Monday that Russia would begin transporting parts of the system’s second battery to Turkey on Tuesday...”

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### **Japan says North Korea developing warheads to penetrate missile defenses**

*August 26, 2019* reuters.com reported: Pyongyang appears to be developing warheads to penetrate a ballistic missile shield defending Japan, the country's defense chief said on Tuesday, pointing to the irregular trajectories of the latest missiles launched by North Korea.

Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya told a news conference Japan believes the rockets were a new short-range ballistic missile, according to a ministry spokesman who confirmed his comments carried by domestic media.

Recent short-range missile tests by Pyongyang have stoked alarm in neighboring Japan even as U.S. President Donald Trump has dismissed the launches as unimportant.

The United Nations Security Council discussed North Korea's actions behind closed-doors on Tuesday at the request of Germany, France and Britain. The three countries condemned Pyongyang's "repeated provocative launches" as violations of Security Council resolutions."..."

### **Putin vows 'symmetric response' to U.S. missile test**

*August 26, 2019* spacedaily.com reports: "Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday he has ordered the military to prepare a 'symmetric response' after Washington tested a formerly banned missile.

Putin said he had ordered an analysis of 'the level of threat for our country created by the actions of the US and to take comprehensive measures to prepare a symmetric response'.

The US Department of Defense said Monday it had tested a type of ground-launched missile that was banned under the 1987 INF agreement, which limited the use of nuclear and conventional medium-range weapons.

Moscow and Washington ripped up the pact early this month after several months of accusing one another of breaching its conditions.

Russia and China have both warned that Sunday's launch of the nuclear-capable Tomahawk cruise missile with a MK-41 launcher had heightened military tensions and risked sparking a new arms race..."

### **Head of Iran's Quds Force threatens Israel**

*August 26, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Qassem Soleimani, head of the Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard, threatened Israel on Sunday after the Jewish state thwarted a planned Iranian drone attack.

'These insane operations will surely be the last steps of the Zionist regime,' he wrote on Twitter.

Israeli aircraft struck Iranian military targets in the village of Aqraba, southeast of Damascus, where the drone operation was centered.

At least five people were killed, including Hezbollah terrorists and at least one Iranian official, the London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor group..."

### **Israel thwarted Iranian armed drone attack**

*August 25, 2019* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "IDF fighter jets recently targeted a number of terror targets in Aqraba, Syria, southeast of Damascus.

The IDF has confirmed multiple strikes against Iranian targets outside Damascus following Intelligence that Iran was planning to launch armed drones at northern Israel.

The strike targeted Iranian Quds Force operatives and Shiite militias which were preparing to advance attack plans targeting sites in Israel from within Syria over the last few days.

The thwarted attack included plans to launch a number of armed drones intended to be used to strike Israeli sites.

'The IDF is prepared to continue defending the State of Israel against any attempts to harm it and holds Iran and the Syrian regime directly responsible for the thwarted attack,' an IDF statement said..."

### **China threatens sanctions on U.S. firms linked to Taiwan warplanes sale**

*August 23, 2019* sinodaily.com reported: "China on Wednesday blasted a huge planned US arms shipment to self-ruled Taiwan and threatened to sanction firms involved in the sale of F-16 fighter jets.

The US State Department on Tuesday approved the transfer of 66 Lockheed Martin-built F-16 fighter jets to Taiwan in a US\$8 billion deal, following another huge military hardware sale agreed just last month.

The deals come as ties between Washington and Beijing are already strained by a punitive multi-billion dollar trade war.

"China will take all necessary measures to safeguard our interests including imposing sanctions on the US companies participating in this arms sale to Taiwan," foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a news briefing.

The sale "is a serious interference in our internal affairs and undermines our sovereignty and security interests", he said.

China views Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day seize it, by force if necessary.

It bristles at any countries that might lend Taiwan diplomatic support or legitimacy..."

