



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly World News Briefs

February 1, 2020

## Coronavirus spreads for first time in U.S., CDC says

*January 30, 2020* nbcnews.com reported: "The husband of one of the patients in the U.S. with coronavirus has also been diagnosed with the illness — the first evidence that the new virus has spread person-to-person in this country, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Thursday.

"We understand that this may be concerning, but based on what we know now, our assessment remains that the immediate risk to the American public is low," Dr. Robert Redfield, director of the CDC, said during a call with reporters.

The couple lives in Chicago. The wife had been caring for her father in Wuhan, China, earlier this month. Wuhan continues to be the epicenter of the outbreak that's now sickened upward of 8,000 people. At least 170 people have died, all in China. The woman's husband had not traveled to China.

Six people have now been diagnosed with the new coronavirus in the U.S., two each in Illinois and California, and one each in Arizona and Washington state. Infectious disease experts said that news of the spread in the U.S. was not unexpected.

"This is nothing to be either surprised or concerned about," said Dr. Tom Frieden, former CDC director and current president of Resolve to Save Lives, a global public health initiative. But, he told NBC News, "we do need to continue to look intensively to understand both how it is spreading in China and what can be done to reduce the spread."...

## After Trump deal unveiled, Jordan warns of 'new reality' on Temple Mount

*January 29, 2020* timesofisrael.com reported: "The Jordanian Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry warned on Wednesday against a 'new reality' being applied to the Temple Mount, a site revered by both Jews and Muslims.

The ministry said that it publicized the statement in light of Israeli authorities entering the central parts of the Temple Mount and taking action to halt its operations at the site. But it was notably issued less than a day after the US administration unveiled its plan to resolve to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

'The Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry cautions against the imposition of a 'new reality' at the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque,' the ministry, which largely manages the administration of the Temple Mount — known by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif — said in a statement posted on its Facebook page, referring to the Arabic name for the site.

'Non-Muslims have no right in the Al-Aqsa Mosque,' it added..."

## US Space Force seeks civilians to join staff

*January 29, 2020* spacedaily.com reported: "The U.S. Space Force, the new branch of the Armed Forces established Dec. 20, has begun advertising to fill civilian staff positions in its initial headquarters, called the Office of the Chief of Space Operations. Advertisements for the first 35 positions were posted last week, with a second wave of positions to follow soon.

'The law passed by Congress and signed by the President directed immediate establishment of the U.S. Space Force and authorized a modest initial staff,' said Gen. Jay Raymond, chief of space operations and senior member of the Space Force.

'As a result, we are moving quickly to hire individuals with the expertise, passion and vision to build the sixth branch of the Armed Forces as a lean, agile and focused military service.'

Individuals eligible for the advertised positions include current or former federal employees in competitive or excepted services, and individuals with specific category qualifications such as career transition, individuals with disabilities, military spouses and veterans..."

## Russia invites NATO members to take part in war games

*January 27, 2020* spacedaily.com reported: "Russia's defence minister said Friday it is sending out invitations to NATO states to take part in annual Moscow-led military drills called the 'International Army Games.'

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu has invited 'troops from 90 countries including NATO members,' the ministry said on its website.

The games include events such as tank biathlon, where tank crews practice shooting, as well as an obstacle course. This year's games will focus on 'security as a whole, medical care and logistics,' and should be visually entertaining, Shoigu said.

Around 6,000 troops were expected to take part in the event that runs from late August to early September, the ministry said..."



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## Iran may be pushing Islamic Jihad to challenge 'Deal of Century'

*January 27, 2020* jpost.com reported: "Iran is concerned about US President Donald Trump's push for his 'Deal of the Century' and his invitations to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Blue and White Party leader Benny Gantz. Iranian regime media has reported on the potential 'deal' and Palestinian attempts to prevent it.

On the face of it, Iran's media has reported the 'deal' in a relatively neutral manner. *Mehr News* notes that Netanyahu says this deal is a historic opportunity and that Trump has asserted that it will benefit Palestinians.

Iran's *IRNA* news agency says that Jordan is maneuvering to accept the deal as well, portraying the Jordanian government as abandoning the wishes of Palestinians and its own people. However, the report notes that local media see the deal as a disgraceful plan that involves the annexation of Jerusalem and settlements 'to the Zionist regime' and the complete 'destruction of the right of return of refugees.'

Evidence for Iran's real intentions comes from *Tasnim* news media, which reports in detail on Palestinian Islamic Jihad's plans to disrupt the process. The report notes that PIJ, which fought a brief conflict with Israel in November, has called for an uprising, or intifada..."

## EU calls Iran nuclear talks next month in bid to save deal

*January 27, 2020* spacedaily.com reported: "Brussels made a bid to buy more time to save the Iran nuclear deal Friday, calling a meeting for next month after Britain, France and Germany launched a dispute process.

The European capitals triggered the complaint mechanism last week after Tehran took a series of steps away from its commitments, in protest at the US pulling out of the accord in 2018. This could have shortened the deal's lifespan but Josep Borrell, the EU's diplomatic chief, who is tasked with convening meetings under the dispute mechanism, has called new talks. Borrell said he had consulted the countries still in the deal — which also include Russia and China — and that all are determined to save the accord..."

## China scrambles to contain 'strengthening' virus

*January 26, 2020* reuters.com reported: "The ability of the new coronavirus to spread is strengthening and infections could continue to rise, China's National Health Commission said on Sunday, with more than 2,000 people in China infected and 56 killed by the disease.

Health authorities around the world are racing to prevent a pandemic after a handful of cases of infection were reported outside China, including in Thailand, Australia, the United States and France.

The mayor of Wuhan, the epicenter of the outbreak, said he expected another 1,000 new patients in the city, which was stepping up construction of special hospitals.

The newly identified coronavirus has created alarm because much about it is still unknown, such as how dangerous it is and how easily it spreads between people. It can cause pneumonia, which has been deadly in some cases. China's National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei said the incubation period for the virus can range from one to 14 days, during which infection can occur, which was not the case with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

SARS was a coronavirus that originated in China and killed nearly 800 people globally in 2002 and 2003.

"According to recent clinical information, the virus' ability to spread seems to be getting somewhat stronger," Ma told reporters.

The Lunar New Year holiday, traditionally celebrated by hundreds of millions of Chinese travelling around the country and abroad to see family, began on Friday but has been severely disrupted by the outbreak.

Ma said China would intensify its containment efforts, which have so far included transportation and travel curbs and the cancellation of big events. The country may extend the week-long Lunar New Year holiday, state broadcaster CCTV reported, citing a meeting hosted by Chinese premier Li Keqiang.

The virus, believed to have originated late last year in a seafood market in Wuhan that was illegally selling wildlife, has spread to cities including Beijing and Shanghai. Hong Kong has six confirmed cases.

The World Health Organization this week stopped short of calling the outbreak a global health emergency, but some health experts question whether China can contain the epidemic.

Chinese President Xi Jinping described the situation as "grave" on Saturday. China confirmed 2,051 cases of infection as of 7 p.m. (1100 GMT) on Jan. 26, while the death toll from the virus remained at 56, state broadcaster CCTV reported.

Health officials in Orange County, California, reported that a third case had been registered in the U.S. in a traveler from Wuhan, who was in isolation and in good condition. On Saturday, Canada declared a first "presumptive" confirmed case in a resident who had returned from Wuhan. Australia confirmed its first four cases. No fatalities have been reported outside China." ..."



*Health Hazard*