



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

Weekly Reader of World News

May 30, 2020

## **Navy accuses Russia of third 'unsafe' intercept of U.S. plane in two months**

*May 28, 2020* spacewar.com reported: "The U.S. Navy accused the Russian military of unsafe flying during an interception of a Navy plane over the Mediterranean Sea for the third time in two months.

A P-8A flying in the Eastern Mediterranean over international waters was intercepted by two Russian Su-35 aircraft twice in 65 minutes on Tuesday, the Navy said in a statement.

'The intercept was determined to be unsafe and unprofessional due to the Russian pilots taking close station on each wing of the P-8A simultaneously, restricting the P-8A's ability to safely maneuver,' Navy officials said.

The actions of the Russian pilots were called 'unnecessary' and 'inconsistent with good airmanship and international flight rules.'

The P-8A Poseidon is a maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft carrying anti-ship missiles and other weapons. It is based on the Boeing 737-800ERX passenger plane. The United States accused Russian pilots of similar unsafe maneuvers in two incidents in April..."



*P-8A*

## **U.S. demanding Israel drop claims to areas beyond sovereignty plan**

*May 27, 2020* Arutz Sheva 7 reported "The Trump administration has called for the boundaries set by Israel's sovereignty plan to become Israel's eastern border, with Israel agreeing to give up its demands to apply sovereignty over the remaining parts of Judea and Samaria, according to a report by *Galei Tzahal* Wednesday afternoon.

According to the report, which cited unnamed members of the Israeli coalition government, the Trump administration has pushed for the joint US-Israeli mapping team, which is delineating the boundaries of the areas to be placed under Israeli sovereignty, to define those new boundaries as the borders of the State of Israel.

While the precise boundaries have yet to be finalized by the mapping team, Israel is expected to apply sovereignty over approximately 30% of Judea and Samaria, including the Jordan Valley, Dead Sea coast, and all Israeli towns beyond the pre-1967 Green Line.

The US will, in keeping with the Trump administration's peace plan, recognize Israeli sovereignty in these areas, while requiring Israel not to expand towns or establish new communities outside of the areas delineated for sovereignty for a period of four years, leaving the door open to final status negotiations with the Palestinian Authority..."

## **SpaceX reaches for a new milestone in spaceflight**

*May 26, 2020* spacedaily.com reported: "On May 27, two American astronauts, Robert L. Behnken and Douglas G. Hurley, are planning to launch from the Kennedy Space Center on a mission to the International Space Station. If successful, this will mark the first time in nine years that American astronauts will launch into space from American soil. What's even more remarkable is they will not be launched by NASA but by a private company, SpaceX.

Human spaceflight is incredibly difficult and expensive; the rockets must be reliable and the vehicle must be built with expensive life support systems and a certain level of redundancy. To date, only three countries - Russia, the United States and China - have achieved this feat.

As a space policy expert, I find it hard to overstate the significance for both SpaceX and spaceflight in general. For SpaceX, it's another step on their road to Mars, but more generally, it demonstrates that spaceflight need not be reserved for only the most powerful of states.

In many ways, SpaceX's achievement is due not only to technological advances, but opportunity brought about by disaster. The breakup of the space shuttle Columbia in 2003 led the Bush administration to decide to end the shuttle program by 2010. They directed NASA to develop a replacement, Project Constellation, but due to budget cuts and other problems, NASA failed to make significant progress. As a result, in 2010, the Obama administration directed NASA to refocus its efforts on deep space missions and rely on private companies to provide access to the ISS and low Earth orbit.

Enter SpaceX. Dreaming of colonization of Mars but frustrated with the slow pace at which it was coming, Elon Musk founded SpaceX in 2002. To get to Mars, he decided that spaceflight would first need to be made cheaper. His philosophy was to devise a rocket system that could be used again and again with minimal refurbishment between flights. Over the next decade, SpaceX designed, built and tested its Falcon series of rockets.

It signed contracts with NASA to provide cargo services to the ISS and with other companies and the U.S. military to provide general launch services. Perhaps most importantly, SpaceX has demonstrated that its rockets can be reused, with the core stages flying their way back to Earth to land themselves.” ...”

### **EU urges China to respect Hong Kong autonomy**

*May 26, 2020* spacewar.com reported: “The European Union on Friday urged China to respect Hong Kong’s freedoms after Beijing proposed a new security law following pro-democracy protests in the semi-autonomous territory.

After consulting EU capitals, Brussels’ diplomatic chief Josep Borrell issued a statement calling for ‘the preservation of Hong Kong’s high degree of autonomy’.

Earlier, Premier Li Keqiang had unveiled to China’s National People’s Congress (NPC) a proposed security law that would drastically reduce Hong Kong’s separate legal status.

‘The European Union has a strong stake in the continued stability and prosperity of Hong Kong under the ‘One Country Two Systems’ principle,’ Borrell said.

‘It attaches great importance to the preservation of Hong Kong’s high degree of autonomy, in line with the Basic Law and with international commitments,’ he added...”

### **China deploys two new aircraft carriers to stoke tensions with US after warning of a ‘new cold war’**

*May 25, 2020* the-sun.com reported: “China is reportedly set to deploy its two new aircraft carriers off the coast of Taiwan as it warns the US of a “new cold war”.

The huge carriers, the Liaoning and Shandong, are currently engaged in combat readiness training in the tightly controlled Bohai Bay, in the Yellow Sea before sailing to join an invasion war game near the Pratas islands.

This will be the first time China's new aircraft carriers deploy together for the first time and the move has sparked fears in Taiwan of a possible invasion of its Pratas islands - which could then be used as a staging point for an attack on the mainland. It comes after Beijing threatened to "reunify" Taiwan in response to Donald Trump saying he could "cut off the whole relationship" with China.

Tensions have been growing between the US and China over the origins of Covid-19. The US said on Friday it is set to ban trade with 33 Chinese companies.

But China's foreign minister Wang Yi said yesterday this would risk "a new Cold War" as he rejected Washington's "lies" over its handling of coronavirus while saying Beijing was open to an international effort to find its source. Wang said the United States had been infected by a "political virus" compelling figures there to continually attack China.” ....”

### **Iran’s Khamenei: Israel will not survive**

*May 22, 2020* jpost.com reported: “Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Israel will not survive and will ‘be eliminated’ on Twitter Friday morning.

‘First, I would like to highlight the magnitude of the tragedy of the occupation of Palestine and the formation of the Zionist cancerous tumor in that country,’ Khamenei said. Among crimes against humanity in recent times, there is no crime that equals this crime in terms of scope and gravity’

He continued, saying that ‘the dawn of the Islamic Revolution in #Iran opened up a new chapter in the struggle for #Palestine. The emergence of the #resistance front presented the Zionist regime with increasing problems.’ Khamenei added that ‘God willing, the Zionist regime will encounter even more problems in the future.’

Khamenei said that ‘today, the resistance front is moving with increasing power and hope, while the front of oppression, unbelief and arrogance is growing more hopeless and powerless by the day. Today the ‘invincible’ Zionist army is forced to retreat against resisting people in Lebanon and Gaza.’...”



*Ayatollah Khamenei*

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