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Hamas to Israel: 'Annexation is a declaration of war'

June 25, 2020 jpost.com reported: "The armed wing of Hamas warned on Thursday that Israel's plan to extend its sovereignty to parts of the West Bank would be considered a 'declaration of war' on the Palestinians and said Israel would regret its move.

Abu Obeida, spokesman for the Hamas military wing, Ezaddin al-Qassam, said in a statement that the Israeli plan was the 'biggest theft of Palestinian land in decades.'

He said that the 'project of the resistance was to remove the occupation from all the lands of historic Palestine.'

Condemning the Israeli plan as a 'criminal' project, Abu Obeida said: 'We won't talk much and we won't make more statements. We say in words that are limited and clear and which the occupation and those who stand behind it need to understand very well: The resistance considers this decision a declaration of war on our Palestinian people. The resistance, in this war, will be the loyal and trustworthy guard in defending our people and their land and holy shrines.'

Abu Obeida said that his group would make Israel 'regret bitterly' its decision to apply its sovereignty to parts of the West Bank..."

A plague amid a pandemic: East Africa, West Asia combat surging locust outbreak

June 24, 2020 nbcnews.com reported: "When the skies darkened suddenly over Michael Gatiba's 10-acre farm in Nakuru County, Kenya, what came pouring down stunned him: millions of desert locusts.

"It was like a storm," Gatiba, 45, said by telephone. "It was like hail. They covered everywhere. Even there was no sun."

That was three months ago. Although Gatiba said he was lucky that the damage from the insects was minimal, he fears that the outbreak that has plagued swaths of Africa, the Middle East and Asia for the past two years will return to ravage as the pests begin to migrate again in the second half of June. Experts warn that, without continuous aid to mitigate the spread, the devastation could leave millions of people in at least 23 countries hungry by the end of the year.

"There is nothing we can do. They are not here, but they might come," Gatiba said. The loss of his crops could leave him, his wife and their four children struggling. "I'm very worried," he said.

Desert locusts are a migratory pest from the grasshopper family. Even with a lifespan of only three months, they can, under the right conditions, multiply up to twentyfold in just one generation and mature to behave as a coherent unit, forming massive swarms that feast on green vegetation, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization.

A perfect storm of favorable weather, poor monitoring — particularly in conflict zones — and challenges in getting access to resources and regions because of the coronavirus pandemic has sparked the crisis, allowing locusts to reach a scale unseen in decades, experts said.

"Even my grandfather didn't see these things," Gatiba said. "..."

Kim Jong Un Calls Off 'Military Action' Against South Korea

June 24, 2020 voanews.com reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has suspended unspecified military action against South Korea, state media said Wednesday, an apparent reduction in tensions following weeks of threats from Pyongyang.

At a preliminary meeting of the ruling party's central military commission, Kim 'took stock of the prevailing situation and suspended the military action plans against the south,' according to the Korean Central News Agency.

It is not clear exactly what steps Kim suspended and whether that means North Korea will now end its escalating campaign of provocations toward the South. The moves surprised many in Seoul, where officials had been preparing for a possible extended downturn in relations..."

North Korea Threatens 'Sensational Event' to End America

June 23, 2020 Breitbart.com reported: "North Korea routinely threatened nuclear attacks on America for much of the past decade, peaking in intensity around 2016-2017. Pyongyang's communist regime issued many of those threats in the form



of videos simulating nuclear attacks on Washington, DC, and other major American cities. Following its most recent nuclear attack in September 2017, however, the United Nations approved of strict sanctions on North Korea that have crippled its economy and apparently limited its ability to threaten free states.

The belligerent statement out of Moscow follows a turbulent week in which the North Koreans bombed a joint liaison office with the South in Kaesong, built exclusively with South Korean money, and have since refused any talks with the leftist government of President Moon Jae-in. Dictator Kim Jong-un has apparently tasked his sister, Kim Yo-jong, with leading the propaganda charge against the South, as Kim has signed her name on several insulting statements targeting Moon.

Russia's TASS news agency reported the statement out of North Korea's outpost in Moscow on Saturday, stating it was sent to the agency directly from the embassy.

"This year, the U.S. military is deploying all sorts of military maneuvers in South Korea and in the areas adjacent to it," the North Korean embassy in Moscow reportedly stated, without specifying what "maneuvers" it was referring to since Seoul and Washington have paused military activities. It instead highlighted its possession of nuclear weapons "which are capable of mercilessly punishing those who dare to raise their hand at it, in whatever corner of the ... planet he may be."

"A new round of the Korean War will add a particularly sensational event to the history of mankind, which will put an end to another empire, whose name is the United States," the statement reportedly concluded."..."

Pompeo warns Europeans against 'rogue actor' China

June 19, 2020 spacewar.com reported: "US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday warned Europeans they are abandoning democracy if they embrace China, in a scathing denunciation of Beijing two days after he held talks on trans-Pacific friction.

"There's also no way to straddle these alternatives without abandoning who we are. Democracies dependent on authoritarians are not worthy of the name," Pompeo told a forum in Denmark by videoconference.

Pompeo was speaking publicly for the first time since meeting for nearly nine hours Wednesday in Hawaii with a top Chinese official, Yang Jiechi, on the soaring tensions between the United States and China. In his speech, Pompeo indicated that the meeting did little to change his hawkish views on China, which he called a "rogue actor" on the world stage." ..."

US vows to curb China and Russia in space

June 17, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: "The United States wants to prevent China and Russia from taking control of space and will look to allies for help, according to a new "Defense Space Strategy" unveiled by the Pentagon on Wednesday.

The strategy document was the first since President Donald Trump announced the creation of the new Space Force military arm in December.

"China and Russia present the greatest strategic threat due to their development, testing and deployment of counterspace capabilities," it said.

"China and Russia each have weaponized space as a means to reduce US and allied military effectiveness and challenge our freedom of operation in space."...

The strategy stressed that the US would strive to maintain superiority in space, in particular protecting GPS satellites on which the military as well as the emergency services, transport and even financial services depend.

China is investing billions of dollars in space and puts many satellites in orbit. In 2007, Beijing also successfully tested a surface-to-air missile strike against a satellite, according to the Pentagon.

In 2017, Russia launched into orbit what it described as an inspection satellite capable of diagnosing problems with a Russian satellite, Kitay said. But the satellite has not moved since its launch and is a worryingly short distance from an American satellite, he added.

Russia has also planned a test launch of its Angara heavy carrier rocket later this year and is pressing ahead with the development of its new intercontinental ballistic missile, the Sarmat.

In 2018, President Vladimir Putin boasted that the Sarmat was one of the new Russian weapons that could render NATO defenses obsolete." ..."

