



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

December 5, 2020

Secular Democrats urge Biden to pounce on U.S. Christianity

December 3, 2020 World Net Daily reported: “A Democratic political action committee representing ‘secular values’ issued a sweeping agenda for Joe Biden to reverse many of President Trump’s advances for religious liberty and ‘restore a vision of constitutional secularism.’

The Secular Democrats of America PAC and Reps. Jamie Raskin, D-Md., and Jared Huffman, D-Calif. – members of the Congressional Freethought Caucus – were behind the 28-page document, which was issued Monday.

It would ban religious organizations from participating in government programs, support governors who want to close down churches amid the COVID pandemic, require new disclosures from churches, overturn religious-rights precedents such as the Hobby Lobby case, prevent mention of creationism in education and work for a ‘deradicalization’ of ‘white Christian nationalism.’

The document declares the ‘rise of white Christian nationalism is a national security threat.’...”

Iran parliament’s bid to end nuclear inspections hits opposition

December 2, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: “The Iranian parliament’s backing on Tuesday of a plan to end nuclear inspections after the assassination of the country’s top nuclear scientist has met immediate opposition from the government.

Deputies supported a draft bill ‘for the lifting of sanctions and protection of the Iranian people’s interests’, saying they wanted to achieve the objectives of ‘martyred’ scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

Fakhrizadeh was assassinated on a major road outside Tehran on Friday in a bomb and gun attack that the Islamic republic has blamed on its arch foe Israel.

‘The government has explicitly announced that it does not agree with (this) plan’ which it considers ‘neither necessary nor useful’, foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh told a news conference Tuesday.

The draft bill calls on the government to end UN inspections of Iran’s nuclear facilities and to ‘produce and store 120 kilogrammes per year of uranium enriched to 20 percent’.

Such steps would run counter to commitments made by Iran as part of a landmark nuclear deal agreed with world powers in 2015...”

Moderna to Seek Quick Approval of Coronavirus Vaccine in US, Europe

December 1, 2020 voanews.com reported: “Drugmaker Moderna said Monday it is seeking emergency authorization in the United States and Europe to distribute its coronavirus vaccine after tests showed it is 94% effective.

The U.S. biotechnology company’s request could mean that health workers will be able to inoculate patients against the virus as soon as mid-December with either of two coronavirus preventatives — Moderna’s or another equally successful test drug produced by the corporate tandem of Pfizer-BioNTech — if the companies win approval from drug regulators.

Moderna said it conducted a 30,000-person clinical trial, and its results were on a par with the best pediatric vaccines.

The drugmaker said...the 196 volunteers who contracted COVID-19, 185 had received a placebo versus 11 who received the vaccine. Moderna reported 30 severe cases, all in the placebo group, including one COVID-19-related death...”

Israeli embassies on high alert after Iran vows retaliation for scientist’s killing

December 1, 2020 World Net Daily reported: “Threats and wariness were the watchwords in the Middle East over the weekend in the aftermath of the assassination of Iran’s top nuclear scientist.

Mohsen Fakhrizadeh was killed Friday near Tehran. Iran has blamed Israel for his death. Israel has made no claim of responsibility.

Israel put its embassies on high alert, according to *Reuters*, which cited *Israeli N12* news. The Israeli Foreign Ministry said it had no comment on security issues. Iranian officials seethed with talk of revenge...”



China and Russia encircling divided Western allies

December 1, 2020 euobserver.com reported: “China and Russia are posing an increasing threat to Western allies, as NATO tries to heal internal splits with the US and Turkey.

That was the picture painted by NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg and the US ambassador to NATO, Kay Bailey Hutchison, in Brussels on Monday (30 November).

‘China is investing massively in new weapons. It is coming closer to us, from the Arctic to Africa,’ Stoltenberg told press ahead of a NATO foreign ministers’ meeting on Tuesday.

‘It does not respect fundamental human rights and tries to intimidate other countries,’ he added.

At the same time, Russia ‘is deploying more forces in our neighborhood, from the High North to Syria and Libya’ and ‘as a result of the crises in Belarus and Nagorno-Karabakh [a region in Azerbaijan],’ he also said.

‘We’re seeing both China and Russia making a lot more forays through ships, submarines, as well as overflying boundaries,’ in the Arctic, Hutchison told press in a separate briefing the same day.

The Chinese military was also ‘very active in space’, she said...”

U.S., Australia agree to partner on hypersonic missile development

December 1, 2020 spacedaily.com reported: “The United States and Australia, in an agreement announced Monday by the U.S. Defense Department, will soon start speeding the development and testing of hypersonic weapons, officials of both governments said.

The process of certifying the missiles capable of flying five times the speed of sound, or up to 6,000 mph, has been accelerated by a regional arms race involving China and Russia, each working on hypersonic missile programs...”

The interest in air-launched missiles comes after defense strategists warned that a planned 10-year schedule of development is inadequate against potential threats. Tests will begin within months, U.S. and Australian officials said...”

Iran Newspaper: Avenge Scientist Assassination by Striking Haifa, Killing Many Israelis

November 30, 2020 Breitbart.com reported: “An opinion piece published by an Iranian newspaper on Sunday called for Iran to attack the northern Israeli port city of Haifa as retaliation for the assassination of nuclear weapons mastermind Mohsen Fakhrizadeh, saying such an assault should also incur ‘heavy human casualties.’

Writing in the *Kayhan* newspaper, Iranian analyst Sadollah Zarei argued Iran’s previous responses to alleged Israeli airstrikes that killed Revolutionary Guard forces in Syria didn’t succeed in deterring Israel.

Targeting Haifa and killing a large number of Israelis ‘will definitely lead to deterrence, because the United States and the Israeli regime and its agents are by no means ready to take part in a war and a military confrontation,’ Zarei wrote, according to *AP*.

He added any strike should be bigger than Iran’s ballistic missile attack against American troops in Iraq in retaliation for the U.S. drone strike that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, head of Iran’s elite Quds Force, in January...”

China to build lunar research station prototype: scientist

November 30, 2020 moondaily.com reported: “China plans to build a prototype for a lunar scientific research station in the fourth phase of the country’s lunar exploration program, said Wu Weiren, chief designer of the program.

The prototype, which will consist of multiple detectors operating in lunar orbit and on the lunar surface, will be capable of conducting scientific and technological research on the moon, as well as technical verification of lunar resource exploration and utilization, said Wu at the Wenchang International Aviation and Aerospace Forum, which concluded Wednesday in Wenchang City, south China’s island province of Hainan.

With the planned prototype, Chinese scientists will seek cooperation with their international counterparts to build an international lunar scientific research station, said Wu, also an academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering.

On Tuesday, China launched the Chang’e-5 spacecraft to collect and return samples from the moon, the country’s first attempt to retrieve samples from an extraterrestrial body. It marked the end of the third phase of China’s lunar exploration program...”



Mohsen Fakhrizadeh

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