



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## **Bennett: ICC won't prevent us from defending ourselves**

*March 4, 2021* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Former Defense Minister and Yamina chairman MK Naftali Bennett was interviewed last night on the Russian news station *RT* about the decision of the International Criminal Court to open an investigation against Israel for alleged war crimes.

Bennett defended Israel's position and attacked the court's decision. 'This is a perversion of justice and of basic morals. When one side attacks another, the second side has the right of self-defense.'

He noted that the scope of the investigation omitted the murder of three Israeli teenagers, the act which sparked the violence of the summer of 2014, by a single day. 'On June 12, 2014, Hamas kidnapped three young Israeli boys and murdered them. On June 13, Israel began to retaliate. So the ICC decided to start the investigation that very day but 'forgot' to take the same steps the day of the kidnapping. That's sort of like being mugged on the street and having the police break up the fight once the person being mugged starts fighting back.'

'This is a profound distortion of any form of justice. It's a sham, and we're not going to give up or tie our hands while defending ourselves,' he declared..."



*Naftali Bennett*

## **Iran warns against censure at UN nuclear watchdog**

*March 3, 2021* spacewar.com reported: "Iran warned Tuesday against a planned resolution at the UN nuclear watchdog which will condemn its suspension of some nuclear inspections, but stressed it remains committed to diplomacy.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian confirmed Tuesday that France, Britain and Germany will put forward a resolution at this week's meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors.

'I have to give this warning, that actions against our expectations will have adverse effects on diplomatic processes, and can quickly close the windows of opportunity,' Iran's government spokesman Ali Rabiei told reporters..."

## **European lawmakers urge action against Israel's 'de-facto annexation' of West Bank**

*March 2, 2021* ynetnews.com reported: "More than 400 European parliamentarians have urged leaders to use Joe Biden's new presidency as an opportunity to stop what they term Israel's 'de-facto annexation' of the West Bank.

A letter seen by *AFP* was signed by 400 European politicians from across a range of backgrounds who serve in national legislatures and senates or in the European parliament.

Addressed to European foreign ministers and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, the letter argues that 'the Biden administration presents a chance to correct course' in Middle East diplomacy..."

## **Israel in talks with Saudi, UAE, Bahrain for defense alliance against Iran**

*March 2, 2021* jpost.com reported: "Israel, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain have discussed expanding cooperation in facing common enemies, an Israeli official familiar with the matter said Monday.

The matter is being 'informally discussed,' the source said, adding that the countries are US allies. All four believe a nuclear Iran would be a major threat and have been eyeing the Biden administration's plan to rejoin the 2015 nuclear deal with concern.

'There is much to be gained by expanding cooperation,' the source said..."

## **U.S., China lead world as military spending increases globally**

*February 26, 2021* spacewar.com reported: "Global defense spending reached a new high point in 2020, with the United States spending more than any other country and China pulling in second, according to data released by The International Institute for Strategic Studies this week.

The IISS analyzed numbers from the Military Balance Plus database and found that global defense spending increased in 2020 to reach \$1.83 trillion — a 3.9% increase over 2019 figures.

The United States, which spent \$738 billion on defense in 2020, accounted for 40.3% of total global defense spending, the IISS said.

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China's defense spending did not increase as sharply in 2020 as it did in 2019, but the country still spent \$193.3 billion on defense in 2020 — \$12 billion more than the year before..."

## **War in Space – 2021**

*February 26, 2021* spacewar.com reported: "A new arms race is unfolding among spacefaring nations. Space experts have been telling us about contested space for the last several years. The number of active satellites is exploding from about 1,000 a few years ago to an expected 50,000+ within 10 years. The sky is indeed getting very congested. These satellites provide worldwide communications, GPS navigation, weather forecasting and planetary surveillance.

Military organizations rely on many of these satellites in support of modern warfare. The three main contenders in space are the US, China and Russia. It is entirely possible that the ongoing power struggle may ignite a conflict that could cripple the entire space-based infrastructure while reducing the capabilities of warfighter organizations.

There are several ways to disable, destroy or reduce effectiveness of satellites...Lasers can temporarily or permanently disable satellite components. Ground station interference using radio or microwave emissions can jam or hijack transmissions to or from ground controllers.

The concept of war in space is not new. For example, in the 1950s the Soviet threatened to place nuclear weapons in orbit, capable of being launched toward Earth-bound targets. As a result, the US began testing anti-satellite weaponry. Fortunately, orbiting weapons of mass destruction were banned through the UN Outer Space Treaty of 1967.

Consequently, space-based surveillance became a major component of the Cold War that served as an early-warning system for the deployment or launch of ground-based nuclear weapons...

Today, the situation is much more complicated. Low- and High-Earth orbits have become hotbeds of scientific and commercial activity, filled with thousands of satellites from about 60 different nations...

There is a growing chance that crewed military outposts will enter the space arena sometime soon."

## **US drops key obstacle to global digital tax: Treasury**

*February 25, 2021* barrons.com reported: US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told her G20 colleagues Friday that Washington is dropping a push for a controversial provision in a global digital tax, opening the door to a likely agreement.

The US shift -- part of a broader repositioning by President Joe Biden from the "America First" agenda of former President Donald Trump -- prompted immediate praise from Germany and France, which said a deal was now "within reach" following the US pivot.

Yellen announced at the G20 finance ministers meeting that US officials "will engage robustly" in the talks and "is no longer advocating for 'safe harbor' implementation of Pillar 1," a Treasury official told AFP.

The Trump administration had insisted on a so-called safe harbor clause in the OECD tax that effectively would have allowed big tech companies to comply voluntarily, blocking progress on a deal.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development has been working on a multilateral agreement that would include a global minimum corporate tax rate on tech giants.

The aim is to find a common solution to address the policy dilemma of how to tax profits earned in one country by a company headquartered in another that offers more favorable tax treatment.

European officials said the US shift was an important breakthrough.

"This is a giant step forward on our path towards an agreement among the participating states by the summer," German Finance Minister Olaf Scholz said in a statement following virtual talks with his G20 counterparts.

French Economy Minister Bruno Le Maire said a deal should be reached by summer, calling for negotiations to be "concluded without delay."

France in 2019 approved a tax on tech firms like Facebook, Amazon, Apple and Google, which were accused of moving their profits offshore." ..."



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