

PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

July 17, 2021

Chinese Spy Ship Expected to Monitor Australia-US War Games

July 15, 2021 voanews.com reported: "Australian authorities are tracking a Chinese surveillance ship that is expected to monitor large-scale military exercises involving the United States off the coast of Queensland. Australia said Wednesday it 'fully expected a ship of this class to arrive in our region' during military exercises with the United States. Officials have said they 'had planned for its presence.'



The auxiliary general intelligence Chinese ship is expected to monitor the Talisman Sabre 2021 war games that officially began Wednesday. They are designed to strengthen a decades-old military alliance and boost combat readiness. The drills include 'amphibious landings, ground force maneuver, urban operations, air combat and maritime operations.'

It is the largest bilateral training exercise between Australia and the U.S...."

Germany becomes latest NATO member to establish military space command

July 15, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "During the Cold War, the US tested a slew of anti-satellite weapons, including detonating a nuclear weapon in space, which damaged a Soviet satellite. However, only recently has Washington worried that space was becoming militarized – now that other nations are developing similar capabilities.

On Tuesday, Germany became the latest NATO power to inaugurate a separate space command, following the United States' delimitation of space as a warfighting domain in need of a separate branch of the armed forces dedicated to preserving US supremacy in it..."

China becoming 'evil empire," warns US ex-VP Pence

July 15, 2021 sinodaily.com reported: "Former US vice president Mike Pence warned Wednesday that China was on its way to becoming an 'evil empire' posing a greater threat to America than the Cold War-era Soviet Union.

Former president Donald Trump's deputy, believed to be mulling his own 2024 White House bid, also urged current occupant Joe Biden to confront China more forcefully on multiple fronts including the origin of the coronavirus and the Asian giant's 'neocolonialism.'

'The Chinese Communist Party is the greatest threat to our prosperity, security and values on the face of the Earth,' Pence said during a speech at the Heritage Foundation think tank.

'China may not yet be an evil empire, but it's working hard every day to become one,' he added..."

US will not impose deadline on talks with Iran

July 14, 2021 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "US State Department spokesman Ned Price said on Monday that the United States will not impose a deadline on a seventh round of talks with Iran to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

He noted that Tehran can determine when talks will resume.

'We're not imposing a deadline on these talks, but ... we are conscious that as time proceeds Iran's nuclear advances will have a bearing on our view of ultimately returning to the JCPOA,' Price said, using the formal name of the accord, according to *Reuters*..."

French President Sets Stricter Health Rules; Cannes Festival Unaffected by New Orders

July 13, 2021 variety.com reported: French president Emmanuel Macron has announced new health rules to contain the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19. The country is currently hosting the Cannes Film Festival with several thousands of guests from all around the world.

The key measure announced by Macron will make the EU Digital Covid Certificate — commonly called "health pass" — mandatory in all cultural venues, including cinemas, theaters and concert halls starting on July 21. Starting in August, the health pass will be mandatory in cafes, shops, restaurants, as well as trains and planes, among other places.

The pass launched on July 1 and is meant to facilitate travel within Europe and ease the pressure for multiple tests by allowing people to receive a QR code once they get tested or vaccinated and use it as official proof. So far, the certificate was only required at festivals and any events gathering more than 5,000 people, such as Cannes. The festival made it mandatory for all guests to show the health pass upon entering the Palais..." ..."

Iranian commander urged escalation against US at Iraq meeting

July 13, 2021 jpost.com reported: "A senior Iranian Revolutionary Guard commander urged Iraqi Shi'ite militias to step up attacks on US targets during a meeting in Baghdad last week, three militia sources and two Iraqi security sources familiar with the gathering said.

American forces in Iraq and Syria were attacked several times following the visit by an Iranian delegation led by Revolutionary Guards intelligence chief Hossein Taeb, which came after deadly US air strikes against Iran-backed militias at the Syrian-Iraqi border on June 27.

While encouraging retaliation, the Iranians advised the Iraqis not to go too far to avoid a big escalation, three militia sources briefed on the meeting said. The Iranians did, however, advise them to widen their attacks by retaliating against US forces in Syria, according to one of the three militia sources, a senior local militia commander briefed on the meeting..."

3,000-year-old inscription bearing name of biblical judge found in Israel

July 13, 2021 jpost.com reported: "An inscription dating back to some 3,100 years ago bearing the name of a biblical judge was uncovered in the excavations at Khirbat er-Ra 'i, near Kiryat Gat in the Southern District of Israel, the Israel Antiquities Authority announced on Monday.

The inscription features the name 'Jerubbaal' as well as dates from around 1,100 BCE.

'The name Jerubbaal is familiar from biblical tradition in the Book of Judges as an alternative name for the judge Gideon ben Yoash,' according to Prof. Yosef Garfinkel and archeologist Sa'ar Ganor from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

'Gideon is first mentioned as combatting idolatry by breaking the altar to Baal and cutting down the Asherah pole,' they explained. 'In biblical tradition, he is then remembered as triumphing over the Midianites, who used to cross over the Jordan to plunder agricultural crops. According to the Bible, Gideon organized a small army of 300 soldiers and attacked the Midianites by night near Ma'ayan Harod.'..."

U.S. Air Force detonates hypersonic missile warhead in test

July 8, 2021 spacewar.com reported: "The U.S. Air Force successfully detonated a hypersonic missile warhead for the first time this week, Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., announced. The prototype warhead, designed for the in-development Air Launched Rapid Response Weapon — a hypersonic missile — was detonated for the first time in a ground test on Wednesday, The Drive reported. The AGM-183A missile, the official name of the Air Launched Rapid Response Weapon, is designed to deliver a nuclear warhead at up to five times the speed of sound..."

Taliban says it controls most of Afghanistan, reassures Russia

July 9, 2021 Reuters reported: "A Taliban delegation in Moscow said on Friday that the group controlled over 85% of territory in Afghanistan and reassured Russia it would not allow the country to be used as a platform to attack others.



Foreign forces, including the United States, are withdrawing after almost 20 years of fighting, a move that has emboldened Taliban insurgents to try to gain fresh territory in Afghanistan.

That has prompted hundreds of Afghan security personnel and refugees to flee across the border into neighboring Tajikistan and raised fears in Moscow and other capitals that Islamist extremists could infiltrate Central Asia, a region Russia views as its backyard. At a news conference in Moscow on Friday, three Taliban officials sought to signal that they did not pose a threat to the wider region however..."

Iran has declared war on the US in Iraq through its proxies

July 8, 2021 jpost.com reported: "Daily rocket and drone attacks on the US in Iraq are no longer just the harassment that began in May 2019. The targeted attacks are increasing and they also involve more sophisticated drones than in the past. While there have been no American deaths from these attacks since the spring of 2020, the overall picture is of a rising conflict in which Iran has declared war on the US in Iraq.

The latest attack was on the US embassy in Baghdad on Thursday morning. This follows daily attacks against US forces in Erbil, Al-Asad base and the targeting of US forces in Syria since July 4.

Iran has done this before, using pro-Iranian groups in Iraq to wage an insurgency against the US after the US-led 2003 invasion of Iraq. In a twist of irony, Washington had gone into Iraq to remove Saddam Hussein. Saddam was a vicious opponent of Iran, who also genocided Iraqis, targeting Kurds and Shi'ites..."