



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

January 1, 2022

## **Abbas said to warn Gantz changes on Temple Mt. could lead to 'unstoppable' violence**

*December 30, 2021* timesofisrael.com reported: "Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas reportedly warned Defense Minister Benny Gantz that while he was committed to stopping violence in the West Bank, he was concerned that changes to the religious status quo on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem could lead to an 'unstoppable' escalation, Hebrew media reported Wednesday.

Abbas was hosted by Gantz on Tuesday at his home, the first time the Palestinian leader has held talks with a senior Israeli official in Israel since 2010. The meeting was Gantz and Abbas's second since the new Israeli government was formed in June, with the first taking place in Ramallah. According to the Defense Ministry, it lasted two and a half hours; part of it was between Abbas and Gantz alone.

Reporting details from the conversation on Wednesday, both *Channel 12* and *13* quoted Abbas as telling Gantz that he would not support a return to violence in the West Bank 'even if a gun was held to my head.'

However, Abbas told Gantz he was concerned about violence erupting in Jerusalem, particularly surrounding the Temple Mount. Abbas told Gantz that if there was a change to religious elements on the holy site it would lead to an 'unstoppable' escalation, *Channel 13* reported..."

## **Iran announces new space launch amid nuclear talks**

*December 30, 2021* spacewar.com reported: "Iran announced Thursday it had carried out a new space launch, in a move likely to irk Western powers amid tough talks on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.

'The Simorgh satellite launcher carried three research cargos into space,' defence ministry spokesman Ahmad Hosseini said, quoted by state television.

'The research goals foreseen for this launch have been achieved,' Hosseini added, without elaborating on the nature of the research.

In February, Iran announced a successful test of its most powerful solid fuel satellite launcher to date, the Zoljanah, boasting that it can put a 220-kilogramme (1,100-pound) payload into orbit.

The United States voiced concern about that launch, saying the test could boost Iran's ballistic missile technology at a moment when the two nations are inching back to diplomacy..."

## **China warns US will 'face unbearable price' on Taiwan**

*December 30, 2021* sinodailey.com reported: "China's foreign minister said Thursday the United States will 'face an unbearable price' over its actions towards the self-ruled island of Taiwan, in Beijing's latest threat over the flashpoint island.

Tensions between China and the US have soared in recent years over issues including human rights, trade and technological competition, with Taiwan emerging as a major flashpoint.

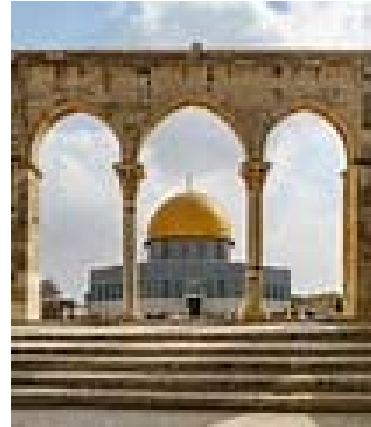
China claims the democratic island of Taiwan as its own territory, and has vowed to seize it one day by force if necessary.

Although most countries have chosen to formally recognise Beijing over Taipei, many have retained strong unofficial links with the latter, which China bristles at.

In an interview with state broadcaster *CCTV* and official news agency *Xinhua* broadcast Thursday, Foreign Minister Wang Yi warned that Washington's interference could lead to a dangerous situation..."

## **Russia Says It's 'Not Bluffing' and Warns of Large-Scale Conflict in Europe**

*December 29, 2021* pjmedia.com reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin's government says he's 'not bluffing' when he issued demands that he knows can't be accepted by NATO — unless they're willing to surrender.



---

The demands are simple: NATO must erase the previous 25 years and pull back to its 1997 borders. That includes kicking out Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary, who joined the alliance in 1999; Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia (2004); Albania and Croatia (2009); Montenegro (2017); and North Macedonia (2020).

Currently, Ukraine is begging to join the alliance to maintain its independence. But Putin has made it crystal clear that any attempt by NATO to court Ukraine for membership would start a general conflict — and perhaps a world war...”

### **Turkey urges Russia to drop ‘one-sided’ NATO demands**

*December 29, 2021* spacewar.com reported: “Turkey urged Russia on Monday to drop ‘one-sided’ demands and adopt a more constructive approach in its standoff with Western powers and NATO over Ukraine.

NATO member Turkey has irritated Moscow by supplying combat drones to Ukraine that Russia fears could be used by Kiev in its conflict with separatists in two eastern regions.

But Turkey has also upset Washington and NATO by acquiring an advanced missile defence system from Russia that resulted in sanctions from the United States.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu urged Moscow and the Western defence alliance to air their differences in direct negotiations proposed by NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg.

Russia wants NATO to provide Moscow with a binding security guarantee and withdraw its forces to positions they held before a wave of eastward expansion that began after the Soviet Union’s collapse...”

### **Iran is ‘playing with fire,’ says US special envoy as nuclear talks restart**

*December 28, 2021* timesofisrael.com reported: “US special envoy on Iran Rob Malley says that Tehran is ‘playing with fire’ in the region and that reviving the 2015 nuclear agreement is far from a done deal.

‘We’ve seen Iran’s nuclear program expand, and we’ve seen Tehran become more belligerent, more bellicose in its regional activities,’ Malley told the New Yorker of Iran’s activities this year. ‘They are miscalculating and playing with fire.’

On Monday, world leaders and Iran resumed talks aimed at reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. The latest round of talks in Vienna, the eighth, reconvened after a more than five-month gap prompted by the arrival of a new hardline government in Iran. Malley is the senior American delegate to the talks, but the US is only participating indirectly in the negotiations, at Iran’s behest...”



### **Iran fires missiles during drills in warning to Israel**

*December 27, 2021* spacewar.com reported: “Iran fired multiple ballistic missiles Friday at the close of five days of military drills that generals said were a warning to arch-enemy Israel.

‘These exercises were designed to respond to threats made in recent days by the Zionist regime,’ armed forces chief of staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri told state television.

‘Sixteen missiles aimed and annihilated the chosen target. In this exercise, part of the hundreds of Iranian missiles capable of destroying a country that dared to attack Iran were deployed,’ he added.

In a statement issued in London, the British Foreign Office condemned Iran’s use of ballistic missiles, saying it was a ‘threat to regional and international security’...”

### **IRGC leader warns Israel: We will cut off their hands if they make a wrong move**

*December 25, 2021* Aruta Sheva 7 reported: “War games conducted this week by Iran in the Gulf were intended to send a warning to Israel, the country’s top military commanders said on Friday, *Reuters* reports.

The Revolutionary Guards’ war games included firing ballistic and cruise missiles.

‘These exercises had a very clear message: a serious, real ... warning to threats by the Zionist regime’s authorities to beware of their mistakes,’ Guards chief General Hossein Salami was quoted as having said on state TV.

‘We will cut off their hands if they make a wrong move... The distance between actual operations and military exercises is only a change in the angles of launching the missiles,’ he threatened...”