



PROPHETIC TIMES

January, 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

August 27, 2022

Experts: Military Facilities Targeted by US in Syria Were Vital for Iran

August 25, 2022 *voanews.com* reported: "Targets in Syria hit by U.S. airstrikes earlier this week were critical facilities for Iranian-linked groups operating in the country, experts said. The U.S. military said late Tuesday it carried out strikes in eastern Syria against 'infrastructure facilities used by groups linked to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps [IRGC].' 'Today's strikes were necessary to protect and defend U.S. personnel. The United States took proportionate, deliberate action intended to limit the risk of escalation and minimize the risk of casualties,' U.S. Central Command Communication Director Colonel Joe Buccino said in a statement Tuesday.

The U.S. official added that the airstrikes in the province of Deir el-Zour were carried out to protect U.S. forces from attacks, including one on August 15 in eastern Syria, which the U.S. said involved a drone that targeted a compound run by U.S. troops and U.S.-backed Syrian opposition fighters.

The military has not said whether the strikes resulted in any casualties. Iran on Wednesday denied having any links to those targeted in the U.S. airstrikes in Syria..."

More 'Unsafe' Encounters Between Australian and Chinese Forces Near Disputed South China Sea Region

August 25, 2022 *voanews.com* reported: "Australia's new Air Force Chief has said surveillance missions would continue in the South China Sea despite a 'recent spate of unsafe incidences' in the contested region.

In May, a Royal Australian Air Force surveillance plane was intercepted by a Chinese fighter jet in international air space claimed by Beijing in the South China Sea region.

At the time, officials in Canberra accused Beijing, Australia's biggest trading partner, of intimidation. Since then, bilateral ties have been strained in recent years over various geo-political, diplomatic and trade disputes.

And there have been other as-yet unspecified encounters with Chinese forces, according to Air Marshal Robert Chipman, who became the new chief of the Australian air force in July 2022..."

Report: Russia to use Iran to bypass sanctions and sell oil if nuclear deal clinched

August 24, 2022 *times of israel.com* reported: "If a nuclear deal is signed between Iran and Western powers, Russia is hoping to use a newly de-sanctioned Tehran to bypass sanctions on its own oil exports, Western diplomats said.

Both countries' oil exports are under heavy sanctions: Iran due to its nuclear program and Russia over its invasion of Ukraine. But if Iran is able to agree with world powers on a return to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, its ability to sell oil would open up.

The diplomats told Politico on Tuesday that in such an eventuality, Russia and Iran are expected to enact a 'swap' mechanism, whereby Tehran would buy Russian oil for internal use while exporting its own oil to clients on Russia's behalf, providing Moscow with much-needed relief from biting sanctions.

'Iran is a good partner in this endeavor,' one diplomat said. 'Russia has a difficulty and Iran has a capability.'..."

Nasrallah: Israel's threats are worthless

August 23, 2022 *Arutz Sheva* 7 reported: "Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on Monday evening dismissed remarks by Defense Minister Benny Gantz, who said that an attack on the Karish oil rig could lead to war.



Israeli Defense Minister
Benny Gantz

In a speech marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Hezbollah and 16 years since the Second Lebanon War, Nasrallah said that 'the Israeli threats regarding drawing (the maritime border) are worthless. Our decision and direction are clear and we are waiting for the coming days.'

The Hezbollah leader indicated he would not say anything else about the US-mediated maritime border talks with Israel as there was no need to do so.



Hezbollah Leader
Hassan Nasrallah

'We are all waiting and those who have been waiting for more than ten years can wait a few more days,' he added..."

In U.S., Poor Life Ratings Reach Record High

August 22, 2022 **gallup.com** reported: “The percentage of Americans who evaluate their lives poorly enough to be considered "suffering" on Gallup's Life Evaluation Index was 5.6% in July, the highest since the index's inception in 2008. This exceeds the previous high of 4.8% measured in April and is statistically higher than all prior estimates in the COVID-19 era. Across extensive measurement since January 2008, the suffering percentage has reached 4.5% or higher on a handful of occasions.



The most recent results, obtained July 26 to Aug. 2, 2022, are based on web surveys of 3,649 U.S. adults as a part of the Gallup Panel, a probability-based, non-opt-in panel of about 115,000 adults across all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

For its Life Evaluation Index, Gallup classifies Americans as "thriving," "struggling" or "suffering," according to how they rate their current and future lives on a ladder scale with steps numbered from 0 to 10, based on the Cantril Self-Anchoring Striving Scale. Those who rate both their current and future lives a 4 or lower are classified as suffering. Those who rate their current life a 7 or higher and their anticipated life in five years an 8 or higher are classified as thriving.

The percentage of U.S. adults estimated to be thriving has steadily declined since it reached a record high of 59.2% in June 2021.” ...”

West urges ‘restraint’ at Ukraine nuclear plant; As Putin allows inspectors

August 22, 2022 **spacewar.com** reported: “The leaders of Britain, France, Germany and the United States on Sunday urged military restraint around the Moscow-occupied Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant in Ukraine, as they vowed to maintain their backing for Kyiv in the war. In a phone call, the four leaders also called for a ‘quick visit’ to the nuclear site by independent inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said German Chancellor Olaf Scholz’s spokesman.

A flare-up in fighting around the Russian-controlled nuclear power station — with both sides blaming each other for attacks — has raised the spectre of a disaster worse than in Chernobyl. On Friday, the French presidency said Russian President Vladimir Putin has agreed that IAEA inspectors can travel to the nuclear plant for an inspection...”

Japan mulls long-range missile upgrades due to China threat

August 22, 2022 **spacewar.com** reported: “Japan is considering the deployment of more than 1,000 long-range cruise missiles to increase its ability to counter growing regional threats from China, local newspaper *Yomiuri Shimbun* reported on Sunday.

The country plans to upgrade its existing surface-to-ship missiles to extend their range from 100 kilometres (62 miles) to about 1,000 kilometers (620 miles), which would be enough to reach Chinese coastal areas as well as North Korea, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed sources.

Upgrades would also need to be made to allow Japan’s existing ships and aircraft to be able to fire the new missiles, which could hit land-based targets, the newspaper reported. The missiles would be deployed in and around the southwestern Kyushu region and on the small islands that dot Japan’s southwestern waters near Taiwan, *Yomiuri* reported...”

Russia sends 3 hypersonic missile-equipped jets to Kaliningrad exclave

August 19, 2022 **jpost.com** reported: “Three fighter jets equipped with hypersonic missiles have been moved by the Russian military to the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad as part of ‘strategic deterrence measures,’ Russian state media reported on Thursday. The Russian Defense Ministry told *TASS* that the aircraft would be on ‘round-the-clock combat duty.’

‘Today, August 18, 2022, as part of the implementation of additional strategic deterrence measures, three MiG-31 aircraft with Kinzhal hypersonic missiles were relocated to the Chkalovsk airfield in the Kaliningrad region,’ the Russian Defense Ministry said, according to *RIA*.

Tensions have risen over the Kaliningrad region, which is geographically separate from Russia, and neighboring Lithuania. The exclave relies on railways and roads through Lithuania for many goods, and sanctions on the isolated coastal territory have been leveled since Russia invaded Ukraine. Kaliningrad has largely been relegated to maritime traffic for its goods...”

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck
UCG Minister
<ljt5053@sbcglobal.net>