



# PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

August 19, 2023

## US, South Korea to kick off major joint military exercise next week amid North Korea threats

August 17, 2023 *spacewar.com* reported: “The United States and South Korea will kick off a major joint military exercise next week, both sides announced Monday, amid ongoing regional tensions and provocative rhetoric from North Korea.

The annual Ulchi Freedom Shield exercise will take place from Aug. 21-31 and will include live field maneuvers, computer simulation-based command post exercises and related civil defense drills.

The joint drills come in response to evolving nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, officials said, while drawing on observations of warfare in real-world environments such as Ukraine.

‘Ulchi Freedom Shield 23 is designed to be a tough and realistic exercise to strengthen the combined defense posture and alliance response capabilities based on scenarios that reflect diverse threats within the security environment and lessons learned from recent wars and conflicts,’ U.S. Forces Korea said in a joint press statement with South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff...”

## Quebec Doctor Warns Euthanasia No Longer a ‘Last Resort’

August 17, 2023 *breitbart.com* reported: “Dr. Michel Bureau, head of Quebec’s End of Life Care Commission, told the Canadian Press on Tuesday that Medical Assistance In Dying (MAID) has become so common in the province that he fears suicide is no longer seen as a ‘last resort.’

MAID is Canada’s preferred euphemism for physician-assisted suicide. Canada has one of the most liberal – and arguably most aggressive – euthanasia programs in the world. MAID was supposed to expand to include patients with mental illnesses but no physical ailments this year, but that proved to be a step even euthanasia-happy Canada was reluctant to take, so it has been postponed until at least 2024.



Dr. Michel Bureau

As things stand in Canada, MAID is no longer reserved for people with terminal illnesses or unbearable pain, and there is pressure to begin offering it to minors. Doctors are encouraged to bring up euthanasia as an option before patients ask for it.

Bureau said these measures have produced an environment in which Quebecers no longer view MAID as an ‘exceptional treatment,’ but rather one that has become ‘very frequent.’ In fact, Bureau estimated that seven percent of all deaths in Quebec will be doctor-assisted suicides by the end of 2023...”

## Nasrallah says Israel ‘will cease to exist’ if war erupts, as rhetoric escalates

August 16, 2023 *timesofisrael.com* reported: “Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah on Monday continued his terror organization’s war of words with Israel, warning that if conflict erupts, the Jewish state ‘will cease to exist.’

In a televised speech marking 17 years since the end of the Second Lebanon War, the head of the Iran-backed Shiite terror group claimed that Israel’s military has gradually ‘weakened’ since the ‘defeat’ it allegedly suffered in 2006.

‘After 17 years of attempts, preparation, and development, the Israelis have been unable to restore the image of the Israeli army,’ he said, according to the *Al-Mayadeen* news outlet.

‘The Israeli army today is in its worst shape in history,’ he added, referring to warnings by top IDF officers that military readiness has been hurt by reservist protests against the government’s judicial overhaul...”

## Russia, North Korea Aim for Closer Cooperation

August 16, 2023 *voanews.com* reported: “Russia and North Korea on Tuesday advocated closer collaboration including in the defense sector, the latest show of deepening ties between the countries at odds with the United States.

Moscow and Pyongyang — both increasingly isolated from the West and weighted with sanctions — have drawn closer since the Kremlin deployed troops to Ukraine and commenced large-scale hostilities last year.

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North Korean leader Kim Jong Un ‘stressed the need to further develop tactical and strategic cooperation and interaction between the two countries in the fields of defense and security,’ the country’s defense minister said in a statement carried by the state-run *RIA Novosti* agency.

Russian President Vladimir Putin earlier Tuesday called for deeper ties, in a congratulatory message to Kim marking his country’s National Liberation Day...”

### **Egypt, Jordan voice ‘full support’ for Palestinians, slam Israel**

*August 15, 2023 jpost.com* reported: “Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi and Jordan’s King Abdullah on Monday affirmed their ‘full support’ for Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas and urged Israel to fulfill its obligations in accordance with international law and to honor all agreements signed with the Palestinians.



*Egypt President Sisi and King Abdullah*

Finding a suitable solution to the Palestinian cause and achieving a just and comprehensive peace is a ‘strategic option and a regional and international requirement,’ the three leaders said in a joint communique after the tripartite summit in the Egyptian city of El Alamein.

The summit was held amid ongoing talk about a possible normalization deal between Israel and Saudi Arabia. In their communique, Sisi, Abdullah, and Abbas did not make any direct reference to reports about US efforts to broker a deal between Jerusalem and Riyadh. They stressed their ‘adherence’ to the 2002 Arab Peace Initiative, however, which stipulates that the Arab states would normalize their relations with Israel only after a full Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines and the establishment of an independent and sovereign Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital...”

### **Kim calls for North Korea to boost missile production: KCNA**

*August 15, 2023 spacewar.com* reported: “North Korean leader Kim Jong Un called for a ‘drastic boost’ in missile production during visits to key weapons factories, state media said Monday, as South Korea and the United States prepared for joint drills next week.

The tour of the plants from Friday to Saturday came after Kim called for stepping up war preparations at a key military meeting last week.

Kim’s two-day inspections included visits to factories producing tactical missiles, large-caliber control multiple rocket launcher shells, as well as armoured combat vehicles, the *Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)* reported.

During the tactical missile factory visit, Kim ‘expressed satisfaction’ as the plant had ‘perfected the scientific and technological issues arising in production’ and pushed ahead with the modernization of the weapons.

‘He set forth an important goal to drastically boost the existing missile production capacity’ and underlined the factory’s role in ‘speeding up’ war preparations, *KCNA* said.

Kim stressed the ‘need to ensure boost in the production of shells’ and personally drove a armoured combat vehicle, according to the report...”

### **Poland launches 4,000-member army task force near Belarus border**

*August 14, 2023 spacewar.com* reported: “Poland has inaugurated a permanent military task force of 4,000 soldiers near its border with Russian ally Belarus for the purposes of ‘training and defense,’ the country’s defense minister said Saturday.

Mariusz Blaszczak made the announcement while visiting a temporary camp of Polish soldiers who have been positioned near the Belarus border at Jarylowka in Podlaskie province.

‘There is no doubt the Polish border is under threat,’ Blaszczak told reporters at the camp, according to a translation by the Polish news agency PAP. ‘We are witnessing an ongoing pressure on the Polish border, attempts by migrants to cross the border illegally, encouraged the Belarusian regime... cooperating with the Kremlin... in order to destabilize our country.’

The defense minister said 4,000 Polish Army members will comprise the new permanent task force, code-named ‘Rengaw.’ He insisted its purpose is ‘deterrence’ and is meant to train soldiers in the Podlaskie border region as well as to establish a ‘reserve’ in case the security situation on the border deteriorates...”

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