



PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

December 16, 2023

North Korea: We're Prepared to Nuke America if It Makes a 'Wrong Decision'

December 21, 2023 breitbart.com reported: "Communist dictator of North Korea Kim Jong-un declared through state media on Wednesday that the launch of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) was necessary to 'clearly show what action the DPRK [North Korea] has been prepared and what option the DPRK would take when Washington makes a wrong decision against it.'

Kim's remarks were paraphrased in an article by the *Korean Central News Agency (KCNA)*, the flagship propaganda outlet of the North Korean regime. News outlets and media not controlled by the state are illegal in North Korea.



*Kim Jong-un
North Korea*

In the article, *KCNA* confirmed that the launch of a long-range missile into the East Sea (or Sea of Japan) on Monday was an ICBM test, naming the missile in question as the 'Hwasong-18,' North Korea's latest publicly known model. Pyongyang debuted the Hwasong-18 in July and claimed that it could accurately hit a target anywhere in the continental United States with a nuclear payload.

North Korea launched the ICBM on the same day that it boasted of a visit by Deputy Foreign Minister Pak Myong Ho to Beijing, where Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi allegedly greeted him warmly and vowed that the Chinese Communist Party would continue to back the neighboring rogue regime..."

Putin Ratchets Up Military Pressure on Ukraine as He Expects Western Support for Kyiv to Dwindle

December 21, 2023 voanews.com reported: "After blunting Ukraine's counteroffensive from the summer, Russia is building up its resources for a new stage of the war over the winter, which could involve trying to extend its gains in the east and deal significant blows to the country's vital infrastructure.

Russian President Vladimir Putin seems to be hoping that relentless military pressure, combined with changing Western political dynamics and a global focus on the Israeli-Hamas war, will drain support for Ukraine in the nearly 2-year-old war and force Kyiv to yield to Moscow's demands.

'As far as the Russian leadership is concerned, the confrontation with the West has reached a turning point: The Ukrainian counteroffensive has failed, Russia is more confident than ever, and the cracks in Western solidarity are spreading,' said Tatiana Stanovaya, senior fellow with Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, in a recent analysis.

An aid package for Ukraine has stalled in the U.S. Congress as Republicans insist on linking any more money to U.S.-Mexico border security changes opposed by Democrats. The European Union last week failed to agree on a \$54 billion package in financial help that Ukraine desperately needs.

Amid these signs of fraying Western support, Russia has ramped up its pressure on Ukrainian forces on several parts of the more than 1,000-kilometer (620-mile) front line..."

UK and Italy send warships to join Red Sea coalition

December 20, 2023 spacewar.com reported: "A British Royal Navy destroyer has joined a new international maritime protection force to protect shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, the government in London said Monday. HMS Diamond is part of the Operation Prosperity Guardian task force seeking to deter attacks from Iran-backed Yemeni rebels on commercial vessels in the busy Bab al-Mandeb strait.

The United States announced the 10-nation coalition on Monday, promising a multinational response to the Huthi drone and missile strikes disrupting shipping.

'These illegal attacks are an unacceptable threat to the global economy, undermining regional security and are threatening to drive up fuel prices,' said UK Defence Secretary Grant Shapps.

'This is an international problem that requires an international solution. That is why HMS Diamond has joined Operation Prosperity Guardian.'

'This new task force will protect shipping and vital trade routes in the Red Sea, where large amounts of goods and oil transit through to Europe and on to the UK.'

Shapps sent HMS Diamond to the region last month to join the frigate HMS Lancaster, three mine hunters and a Royal Fleet Auxiliary support ship as part of the UK's longstanding maritime presence in the Gulf..."

North Korea's Kim warns Washington as biggest ICBM launched

December 19, 2023 spacewar.com reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has vowed to accelerate his country's nuclear build-up and warned Washington against making a 'wrong decision' after overseeing the launch of the country's most powerful ballistic missile, state media said Tuesday.

Monday's test launch of the solid-fuel Hwasong-18 came a day after the nuclear-powered submarine USS Missouri made port in Busan and followed a US-South Korea warning that a nuclear attack by Pyongyang would mean 'the end of the Kim regime'. The two allies along with Japan on Tuesday activated a system to share real-time data on North Korean launches, part of their tightening security cooperation in response to Pyongyang's growing nuclear threats.

Kim said the launch of the missile capable of reaching US shores was 'a clear signal to hostile forces' and showed the country's options should Washington make 'a wrong decision against it', the *Korean Central News Agency* said.

'A drill of launching (the) ICBM Hwasongpho-18 was staged as an important military action to clearly show the DPRK's nuclear strategic forces' overwhelming counteraction will and matchless strength to the enemies,' *KCNA* said of the Monday launch..."

Nearly half of British Jews considered leaving UK due to antisemitism - poll

December 19, 2023 jpost.com reported: "Nearly half of British Jews have considered leaving the UK since October 7 due to antisemitism, according to polling data collected by the Campaign Against Antisemitism. Four out of five Jews surveyed identified as Zionists.

The polling was conducted from November 12-17 among 3,744 respondents. Based on the CAA survey data, 69% of UK Jews agree (40% of them strongly) that they were less likely than they were before the October 7 massacre to show visible signs of their Jewishness, such as wearing a Star of David or kippah. Another 15% disagreed, and the rest did not say. Also, since the Hamas massacre in southern Israel, almost half (48%) of respondents, including 17% who strongly agreed, affirmed that they had considered leaving the UK due to antisemitism. Just over a third (34%) disagreed..."

Hamas leaders hold secret meeting in Turkey

December 18, 2023 jpost.com reported: "Senior Hamas officials held a secret meeting last week in Turkey, Israel's national broadcaster KAN revealed on Sunday night. At the head of the meeting were Deputy Chairman of the Political Bureau of Hamas Saleh al-Arouri, who attended from his residence in Beirut, and former Hamas chief Khaled Mashal, who lives in the Qatari capital, Doha. Several other senior Hamas officials attended, according to KAN.

Turkey was deliberately chosen as the site of the meeting, as it was deemed safe enough for the leaders to meet there. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has continually used anti-Israel rhetoric since the start of the Israel-Hamas War, declaring Israel guilty of war crimes. The meeting was held to coordinate Hamas's next steps in the current conflict with Israel, which began on October 7 after hundreds of Hamas terrorists broke through the border and went on a murderous rampage..."

Germany Will Deploy Troops for First Time Since World War II

December 18, 2023 newsweek.com reported: "A new agreement between Germany and Lithuania will lead to German troops' first permanent foreign deployment since World War II. The announcement was made Monday in Lithuania, where Defense Minister Arvydas Anusauskas met with his German counterpart, Boris Pistorius, to outline a multiyear "Roadmap Action Plan" involving approximately 4,800 permanently stationed German soldiers. Both officials called the move a historical moment not just for their nations but for NATO as well.



German troops, including those with families, will be stationed in the Lithuanian cities of Kaunas and Vilnius beginning in 2024, with most troops deployed in 2025 and 2026 and full-operation capability expected by 2027. The agreement was originally announced in June, but no timeline was presented at that time.

"The German commitment of permanently stationing a brigade in Lithuania is a historical step for both Germany and Lithuania," Anusauskas said Monday, according to a press release. "We are turning over to a page of even deeper strategic partnership..."