



PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

January 6, 2024

China slams 'provocative' US moves in South China Sea as both sides conduct drills

January 4, 2024 [spacewar.com](#) reported: "China on Thursday slammed what it called "provocative" moves by the United States and its ally the Philippines in the South China Sea, as both sides held drills in the disputed waters.

Warships from China and the US conducted rival exercises in the sea this week amid heightened tensions involving US ally the Philippines.

Beijing's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Southern Theater Command Wednesday said a two-day deployment of its navy and air force, scheduled to end today, was carrying out "routine patrols" in the sea.

It did not mention where exactly the patrols took place or give specific details of the goals of the exercises.

They took place as the United States said an aircraft carrier strike group led by the USS Carl Vinson was conducting two days of drills with the Philippine Navy.

Beijing condemned those maneuvers as "provocative military activities" aimed at "flaunting their military might"..."

Turkey arrests 33 alleged Mossad agents, as Israel threatens Hamas abroad

January 2, 2024 [timesofisrael.com](#) reported: "Turkey arrested dozens of individuals suspected of spying for Israel on Tuesday, according to the country's interior minister, with the development coming in the wake of Israeli threats to target Hamas members abroad.

Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) and the counter-terrorism bureau of the Istanbul prosecutor's office detained 33 suspects as part of an operation aimed at disrupting Mossad efforts to target foreign nationals in the country, Ali Yerlikaya posted on his X account.

The suspects were arrested in eight provinces across the country in what Ankara is calling Operation Mole.

Another 13 suspects remain at large, according to Turkish media reports.

According to Yerlikaya, the Mossad intelligence service planned to surveil and 'kidnap' foreigners on Turkish soil..."

EU heading for crisis as situation really bad' in Europe's largest economy

January 2, 2024 [express.co.uk](#) reported: "The European Union's main engine for growth is sputtering and experts are sounding the alarm over the potential downstream effects.

Europe's economic woes are set to worsen as an expert warns that "things are going really bad" for Germany.

With inflation and the energy crisis impacting many countries around the world, Germany looks set to also feel the bite.

The government in Berlin has also had to hold back on some of its spending plans due to the uncertain nature of the global economy.

Last year, Germany's Constitutional Court also rejected the government's reallocation of €60 billion (£52 billion) in COVID-19 loans for climate protection and economic modernization.

As a result, Thomas Gitzel, chief economist at VP Bank, has warned: "Things are going really bad for Germany right now."

"The government must act urgently. But the Constitutional Court's ruling could force austerity measures on the government that could lead to an additional dampening of growth."

Moritz Kraemer, the chief economist at Landesbank Baden-Württemberg, also said in a TV interview recently: "I don't want to argue about whether it's plus 0.2 percent or minus 0.2 percent. The fact is, we are stagnating.

"We are moving in a kind of 'corrugated economy'. It goes up and down a little bit, but actually we are lying flat on the ground."

Germany is to see the least amount of growth out of all Eurozone countries with an expected increase of 0.8 percent, according to European Commission expectations.



OECD economist Isabell Koske told Deutsche Welle that Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the subsequent energy crisis, impacted Germany more than other countries.

She said: "The energy crisis hit Germany more than other countries because industry plays a more important role in this country and dependence on Russian gas was much higher than in other countries..."

Homes, churches, cars: Hezbollah no longer targeting just military

January 1, 2024 ynetnews.com reported: "Hezbollah is intensifying efforts to strike civilians in the Israeli security zone in the Galilee, no longer focusing solely on military targets. This raises concerns in the communities along the confrontation line, which have been facing increasingly frequent shooting incidents targeting civilians in recent weeks.

On Saturday, an anti-tank missile was fired at a civilian jeep near Kfar Szold and missed it by several feet. Last week, Hezbollah terrorists fired an anti-tank missile at an elderly Israeli man who went to pray at the Iqrit Church during Christmas, and throughout the past week, firing squads from Lebanon bombarded homes in Metula, Margalioth and also chicken coops in Moshav Dovev.

'There are too many shooting incidents that are very hard to connect to military matters anymore,' said Giora Zaltz, head of the Upper Galilee Regional Council, clearly indicating that his communities have been the focus of Hezbollah fire in recent weeks.

He believes that 'the military tries to portray the conflict here as solely between military forces and Hezbollah, but it's obvious that the organization no longer selects their targets as they did initially. Anti-tank squads are lying in wait, ready to shoot at whatever they aim for. The shooting at chicken farmers collecting eggs in Margalioth and Dovev is a classic example of this.'

Since the outbreak of the war, northern roads visible from Lebanon have been closed to military traffic, and last week they were even shut to civilian traffic for two days..."

Defense establishment fears Hezbollah may attempt to invade from Jordan

January 1, 2024 newsreal.com reported: "The IDF is fundamentally changing its operational preparedness on the Jordanian border in light of an uptick in weapons smuggling from the kingdom and the fear of Iranian-backed terror attacks that may occur along it during 2024, *Israel Hayom* reported on Monday.

According to the report, the scenario of reference for which the IDF Central Command is preparing is an attempt by Hezbollah, or other pro-Iranian militias, to infiltrate the Jordanian border into nearby Israeli communities. Israel's eastern border with Jordan is 309 KM (192 miles) long, and it is Israel's longest border with any of her neighbors.

In the past two years, there has been a dramatic spike in arms smuggling from Jordan into Judea and Samaria, and the IDF estimates that Iran is behind the parcels. Over 1,000 weapons of different varieties were caught along the border.

Among other things, the smugglers bring in air-soft M16 assault rifles, which have their parts switched out in Israel to allow them to fire actual bullets. In one instance, an Iranian-made claymore mine was caught. The IDF knows that only some of the smuggling attempts are caught..."

North Korean leader: Mobilize powerful means to destroy the US and South Korea

January 1, 2024 jpost.com reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told the country's military commanders that the most powerful means must be mobilized to destroy the United States and South Korea if they choose military confrontation, *Reuters* reported on Sunday night, citing North Korea's state news agency.



Kim said the danger of an armed confrontation on the Korean peninsula is fast becoming a reality because of hostile maneuvers by the enemies including the United States, requiring the country to 'sharpen the sword' to protect itself.

'If they choose military confrontation and set the fire, we must mobilize all the most powerful means ... to deal a crushing blow and completely destroy them,' KCNA state news agency quoted Kim as saying.

Kim made the comments as he hosted senior military leaders on Sunday at the ruling Workers' Party (WPK) headquarters to congratulate them on the accomplishments made in 2023, the state news agency said.

North Korea in 2023 tested its largest ballistic missiles and launched its first military reconnaissance satellite, which Kim has called major advances in modernizing the country's military..."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck

UCG Minister

<ljt5053@sbcglobal.net>