



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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SIX WORLD POWERS EXPECTED TO MEET THURSDAY ON IRAN

May 10, 2007 Voice of America News reported: "Officials from six world powers are expected to meet Thursday for talks on persuading Iran to halt its sensitive nuclear work. The meeting in Berlin will involve senior diplomats from Germany and the five permanent United Nations Security Council members -- the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China.

The U.S. State Department has said the meeting will not include talks on another Security Council resolution against Iran. Tehran has until May 23 to comply with the latest resolution. The Security Council has already imposed sanctions on Iran because of its refusal to stop uranium enrichment, a process that can be used to make nuclear weapons.

On Wednesday, the United States warned that Iran may be considering leaving the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

U.S. special representative Christopher Ford told a 130-nation nuclear conference in Vienna there are signs Iran may withdraw from the treaty as North Korea did several years ago. Ford, the chief U.S. delegate at the conference, said the U.S. is very concerned by Iran's alleged violations of the treaty."..."

IRANIAN CLERIC THREATENS TEL AVIV

May 10, 2007 YnetNews.com reported: "An Iranian cleric said his country would fire "tens of thousands" of missiles at Israel in response to an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear program. During his televised sermon, broadcast last Friday, Sayyid Yahyah Ja'fari directly responded to comments attributed to Prime Minister Ehud Olmert by Germany's Focus magazine.

In April, the German publication had initially reported that Olmert said Iran's nuclear program could be set back 10 years by firing a thousand cruise missiles a day for 10 days. The Prime Minister's Office denied the report, and Focus subsequently reedited its story, removing the quotes.

In a speech broadcast on Iran's Kerman TV, and translated by MEMRI, Ja'fari declared during his sermon, "Several days ago, the stupid Israeli prime minister said: 'We can attack the Iranian nuclear industry with 10,000 cruise missiles, and delay it for another 10 years.' Our response is that if he is planning to fire 10,000 missiles, we will fire tens of thousands of missiles on Tel Aviv and Israel."

The crowd responded with chants of "Allah Akbar" (God is greatest). The cleric added that Israel would be also targeted by Iran if the US attacked. "If it (the US) acts stupidly and invades an Islamic country -- especially a country like Iran -- it should bear in mind that Israel will come under a very severe attack," Ja'fari said.

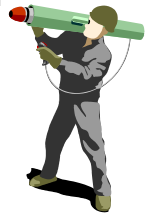
"According to our officials and political analysts, this (a US strike on Iran) will not happen -- I only said it for the sake of argument -- because some of the American officials have a little sense, and they realize that their interests throughout the world would be in danger, and that the plundering Israel would also be attacked severely by us," he added.

Ja'fari also lashed out at the international community, saying it "remains silent. It has never done anything... if some Zionist goes to hell, then all the Western, American, and European media, as well as the Security Council, the UN and everyone else, go into action. However, if 100 Palestinians unjustly die a martyr's death on a single day -- they don't care about it."..."

SUDAN EMPLOYS CHINESE, RUSSIAN ARMS

May 9, 2007 The Middle East Newslines reported: "Despite international sanctions, China, Russia and Arab states continue to supply weapons to Sudan. The London-based Amnesty International said the Sudanese military was acquiring and deploying weapons supplied by a range of Arab and other states. In a report released on Tuesday, Amnesty said the arms were being employed against civilians in the war-torn province of Darfour.

"Arms supplied to Sudan from China and Russia have been used for violations of the Security Council's own mandatory arms embargo," the 24-page report said. In 2005, the United Nations imposed an arms embargo on Sudan. China and Russia are permanent members of the UN Security Council."..."



U.S. QUIETLY SEES C. ASIA AS IRAN OPTION

May 9, 2007 The Middle East Newslines reported: "The United States was believed to have sought allies in Central Asia to prepare a military option against Iran. Diplomatic sources said the U.S. military has been bolstering its presence in the former Soviet republic of Kyrgyzstan in what could mark preparations for air strikes against Iran. The sources said the U.S. Air Force has been particularly active in the Kyrgyz base of Manas near Bishkek.

"The use of Kyrgyzstan makes sense as Iraq, Turkey and the Gulf Arab states are no longer options in any strike against Iran," a diplomatic source said. "This doesn't mean that this will take place -- only that Kyrgyzstan is an option."

[On Tuesday, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice reiterated that the Bush administration has not ruled out force against Iran. Ms. Rice told the Dubai-based Al Arabiya satellite channel that President George Bush "will not abandon the military option and I believe that we do not want him to do so."]"..."

JAPAN CONSIDERS AMENDING PACIFIST CONSTITUTION

April 30, 2007 VOA News reported: "After years of talking about it, Japan's governing party has moved ahead this month with plans to revise the country's constitution. The changes would expand the role of Japan's military - a significant break from its post-World War II pacifist era. And as Catherine Makino reports from Tokyo, that is giving rise to fear that Japan could return to its militarist past.

Since Japan's pacifist constitution was imposed by U.S. occupiers after the country's defeat in World War II, the Japanese have held Article Nine sacrosanct. In it, Japan forever renounced war and the threat of force as a means to settle international disputes. It limits Japan's military to a purely self-defensive role and bans any offensive capabilities. Article Nine was meant to show Japan was breaking with its imperialist era when it brutally invaded and conquered swaths of East Asia in the early 20th Century.

But a new generation of leaders, led by Shinzo Abe - the first prime minister born after the Second World War - backs sweeping reform of the constitution and specifically Article Nine. Proponents of the changes, such as Osamu Nishi, professor of constitutional law at Komazawa University in Tokyo, say Japan needs to be able to project force commensurate with its economic power. "Japan is not the same country as it was 60 years ago," he said. "It has become a big country with a responsibility to keep world peace."

Opponents of revision say it would bring a return to militarism and "a dark period of history." They argue that the pacifist clause has kept the country out of war and allowed Japan to prosper.

The Self-Defense Force has expanded over the years, and now has 240,000 members. Although Japanese soldiers have not been sent into combat, Tokyo dispatched about 600 non-combat soldiers to Iraq to work on reconstruction projects in southern Iraq since 2004. But the deployment was unpopular at home and the ground troops were withdrawn.

Nishi says such work does not mean Japan would be returning to militarism. "Of course, in order not to return to militarism of the past, it is necessary for the civilian [sic] and government to control the military forces," Nishi says.

But behind the general talk of the need for Japan to play a larger role in the world is another argument: that Japan must compete more strongly with major neighboring powers such as China.

Law professor, Pema Gyalpo, of Toin University in Yokohama is a constitutional advisor to the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. He says a change in the military's role is necessary to meet any threat caused by China's growing military might. "Because in recent years it has been very obvious that China is increasing their military budget by double digits, and this is very great concern for the Japanese," Gyalpo says."..."

APPEASING THE MUSLIM WORLD

May 1, 2007 Shannara Johnson reported: "On April 12, the UK Daily Mail reported that British schools have started to drop teaching about the Holocaust from their curriculum in order not to offend Muslims, many of whom deny it ever happened. "There is also resistance to tackling the 11th-century Crusades," continues the article, "where Christians fought Muslim armies for control of Jerusalem --because lessons often contradict what is taught in local mosques."



Falsifying or omitting parts of history just to appease a religious minority? What might seem bizarre to Americans is meanwhile common practice in European countries, especially Great Britain, whose 1.6 million Muslims represent the largest minority religion.

Aside from respect for other cultures and religions--a much-touted virtue in Europe --we assume that a major reason is fear of the more fundamentalist adherents of Islam, who have a tendency for violent retribution to make their displeasure known.

Sweden, for example, which has some of the most liberal asylum laws in Europe, is staggering under the weight of its huge Muslim population. In Malmö, the commercial center of southern Sweden, Muslim immigrants make up more than one quarter of residents--and will likely be in the majority by 2010.

In the last ten years, crime in Sweden has skyrocketed--especially rapes have nearly doubled, many of them assaults by Muslims on Swedish women. In neighboring Denmark, an Islamic mufti sparked a political outcry in 2004 after publicly declaring that women who don't wear a headscarf are "asking for rape."

However, in Eurozone land, where religious discrimination is a felony punishable by jail time, those notions were quickly swept under the carpet by authorities. Anna Gustafsson, head of the Domestic Violence Unit at Malmö police, asserted the higher rape rate was actually a good sign, due to a higher incidence of reporting, not to an increase in crime itself. The Swedes aren't buying it. A 2004 poll found that 75% of them think "many people in their country dislike Muslims," more than in any other European nation surveyed.



Of course governments will never admit to being afraid, so "multiculturalism" and "political correctness" are the catchwords of the day. And appeasing Muslims is no small feat: the strict Sharia law of Islam affects every aspect of daily life."..."

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