



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## BRITAIN HAS WORLD'S TOP ECONOMY

*January 6, 2017* thetimes.co.uk reported: "Britain ended last year as the strongest of the world's advanced economies with growth accelerating in the six months after the Brexit vote, it was revealed yesterday.

Business activity hit a 17-month high last month, meaning that the economy grew by 2.2 per cent last year — more than the six other leading nations, including the US, Germany and Japan.

Far from slowing after the referendum in June, as predicted by the Treasury and Bank of England, growth appeared to have improved. GDP grew at 0.3 per cent and 0.6 per cent in the first two quarters of last year, compared with 0.6 per cent and an estimated 0.5 per cent in the final period."..."

## US SENDS SPECIAL FORCES TO RUSSIAN BORDER AS NATO POISED TO STRIKE BACK AGAINST PUTIN'S 'AGGRESSION'

*January 4, 2017* thesun.co.uk reported: "President Obama has deployed US special forces troops along Lithuania's border with "aggressive" Russia.

Tensions between Washington and the Kremlin have reached Cold War levels amid reports Vladimir Putin is deploying nuke-ready missiles in the Russian province of Kaliningrad – which borders Poland, Belarus and Lithuania. And Lithuanian Defence Ministry spokeswoman Asta Galdikaite confirmed America has offered additional military support following Russia's annexation of Crimea.

She said: "The United States was the first to offer additional safety assurance measures to the Baltic countries following the deterioration of the security situation in the region after the annexation of the Crimea."

She added: "US Special Operations Forces presence in Lithuania is one of the deterrents" against military threats by Putin's aggressive regime, reports the Express.

US military chief General Raymond T Thomas told the New York Times that America has a "persistent" presence in the Baltic states bordering Russia. He added that many former Eastern Bloc countries are "scared to death" of Russia and the vulnerable states are "desperate" for America's leadership.



*2Baltics*

The US and its Nato allies will send battalions of up to 1,200 to each of the three Baltic states – Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia – and Poland by spring this year, reports the New York Times.

Lithuania's foreign minister Linas Linkevicius confirmed Russia's military activity in Kaliningrad is terrifying the region. He said: "Iskander missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads have been deployed. There are S-400 missiles and modernised jets."..."

## FATAH THREATENS 'BLOODSHED' IF TRUMP MOVES EMBASSY

*January 4, 2017* Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Following the lead of Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas, the Fatah leadership has announced their intention to start a new intifada if US President-elect Donald Trump follows through on his promise to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

According to MEMRI, Fatah Central Committee member Sultan Abu al-Einein said on Alghad TV, 'I believe that any American act of stupidity will ignite the Palestinian territories... We must prepare for a confrontation with the new US administration, which has clearly and audaciously declared that Israel and its settlements are legitimate and legal.'

He also blamed his threat on Israeli 'arrogance' and 'settlement activity,' claiming both Israel and the US would 'bear responsibility for the return of the bloodshed in the Palestinian territories.'..."

## SOUTH KOREA VOWS U.S. MISSILE SYSTEM AS OPPOSITION LAWMAKERS HEAD TO CHINA

*January 4, 2017* SpaceDaily.com reported: "South Korea is committed to deploying an advanced US missile defense system this year despite opposition from China, a minister said Wednesday, even as opposition lawmakers headed to Beijing with a different message.

Seoul and Washington agreed to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the South after a string of North Korean nuclear and missile tests — prompting strong objections from China.

'THAAD deployment is part of our efforts to bolster defense against threats from North Korea,' Defence Minister Han Min-Koo said in a report to the country's acting president.

'This is not a subject for political considerations,' he told Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-Ahn, who took over the executive powers of scandal-hit President Park Geun-Hye after she was impeached last month..."

## CHRISTIAN WOMAN IN CHINA SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR HOLDING BIBLE STUDY

*January 3, 2017* ChristianToday.com reported: "A Christian woman in China has been sentenced to three years in prison for holding a Bible study after being accused of 'gathering a crowd to disturb public order'.

China Aid reported that Ma Huichao was sentenced on Friday at a court in the western Xinjiang region of the country. She had been taken into police custody along with four other Christians when officials claimed that their Bible study met without government approval, and stood trial in mid-November.

China Aid added that Ma's lawyer, Li Donyong was disallowed to plead innocent on her behalf, and Ma received a three-year prison sentence beginning on 30 December..."

## **ISLAMIC STATE PLANNING CHEMICAL ATTACK ON UK, GOV DEFENCE CHIEF SAYS**

*January 3, 2017* Breitbart.com reported: "Islamic State terrorists are plotting 'mass casualty' chemical attacks in the UK, the government minister responsible for Britain's national security has warned.

Ben Wallace, the minister of state for security, said that while no specific chemical plot has been identified, the terror group had the ambition and means to carry out such attacks.

Speaking to The Sunday Times, he said: "The ambition of IS [Islamic State] or Daesh is definitely mass-casualty attacks. They want to harm as many people as possible and terrorise as many people as possible.

"They have no moral objection to using chemical weapons against populations, and if they could, they would in this country. The casualty figures that could be involved would be everybody's worst fear.

"We have certainly seen reports of them using it in Syria and Iraq [and] we have certainly seen aspirations for it in Europe.'

As proof of Islamic State's chemical attack ambitions, Wallace pointed to the arrest in February of an Islamic State cell in Morocco: "Moroccan authorities dismantled a cell involving chemical weapons..."

## **U.S. CONDEMNS PYONGYANG MISSILE PLAN, WARNS AGAINST 'PROVOCATIVE' ACTIONS**

*January 3, 2017* SpaceDaily.com reports: "The United States on Sunday sharply condemned a North Korean plan to test-fire an intercontinental ballistic missile and warned Pyongyang against 'provocative actions.'

The toughly worded US statement called on 'all states' to show the North that any unlawful actions would have 'consequences.'

It was issued by the Pentagon at a sensitive time — just weeks before President Barack Obama is due to hand power over to his successor, Donald Trump.

The statement came hours after Kim Jong-un, the North Korean leader, said his country was close to testing such a missile, which would be capable of reaching American shores.

"We are in the final stages of test-launching the intercontinental ballistic missile,' Kim said in a televised New Year's speech, pointing to a string of nuclear and missile tests last year. He said Pyongyang was now a 'military power of the East that cannot be touched by even the strongest enemy.'..."

## **KIM: NORTH KOREA IN 'FINAL STAGES' OF DEVELOPING ICBM**

*January 2, 2017* voanews.com reported: "North Korea's leader says his country is in the final stages of developing an intercontinental ballistic missile. Kim Jong Un made his remarks Sunday in a televised New Year's speech.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Anna Richey-Allen on Sunday called on North Korea 'to refrain from provocative actions and inflammatory rhetoric that threaten international peace and stability.' She also called on 'All states to use every available channel and means of influence to make clear to the DPRK and its enablers that launches using ballistic missile technology are unacceptable, and take steps to show there are consequences to the DPRK's unlawful conduct.'

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests in 2016 undeterred by international rebukes and increased sanctions..."

## **TURKEY NIGHTCLUB ATTACK: IS SAYS IT CARRIED OUT SHOOTING**

*January 2, 2017* bbc.com reported: "So-called Islamic State says it was behind the New Year attack on a Turkish nightclub that killed 39 people. The group said in a statement it was carried out by 'a heroic soldier'.

At least 600 revellers were celebrating in the early hours of Sunday at Istanbul's Reina nightclub when the gunman began firing indiscriminately. The gunman is still believed to be at large and a manhunt is under way. Police say they have made eight arrests so far.

IS has been blamed for recent attacks in Turkey, which is taking military action against the group in neighbouring Syria. The militant group has already been linked to at least two attacks in Turkey last year. The IS statement accused Turkey of shedding the blood of Muslims through 'its air strikes and mortar attacks' in Syria..."

## **McCAIN CALLS FOR PERMANENT US TROOPS IN BALTICS**

*December 29, 2016* spacedaily.com reported: "Republican Senator John McCain on Thursday called for US troops to be permanently stationed in the Baltic states as a deterrent against Russia amid regional concerns over President-elect Donald Trump's pro-Moscow rhetoric.

"I think that permanency is important, that there will always be some American troops here," McCain told reporters in Lithuania, an EU and NATO member bordering Russia's highly militarised Kaliningrad exclave.

"Maintaining that presence is necessary to make sure that our friends here understand the United States is always with them," he added, wrapping up a three-day tour of the Baltics with fellow Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and Democrat Amy Klobuchar.

Mentioning Trump's pick for Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, McCain expressed concern over his "relationship with (Russian president) Vladimir Putin" but said he will be given an "opportunity to make his case about why he is qualified".

McCain and Graham also called for increased sanctions against Russia over its cyber-meddling in the US election."..."

