



# PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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## US AIRS CONFIDENCE IT COULD DOWN NORTH KOREAN MISSILE

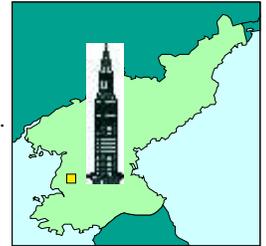
*March 4, 2009* SpaceWar.com reported: "As Washington steps up diplomacy to prevent a North Korean missile launch, the US military is also voicing growing confidence that it can shoot it down if Pyongyang goes ahead."

Stephen Bosworth, the new US administration's envoy on North Korea, was holding talks in China on Wednesday as he consults allies on what could turn into an early foreign crisis for President Barack Obama.

But the US military is taking no chances with North Korea, which has warned it is preparing a "satellite launch". Washington and Seoul say the real purpose is to test a missile which could theoretically reach the US state of Alaska. In unusually blunt remarks, Admiral Timothy Keating, commander of the US Pacific Command based in Hawaii, said that interceptor ships are ready "on a moment's notice."

"Should it look like it's something other than a satellite launch, we will be fully prepared to respond as the president directs," he said in a recent interview with ABC News. "Odds are very high that we'll hit what we're aiming at. That should be a source of great confidence and reassurance for our allies," he said."...

North Korea is preparing its apparent missile test amid a stalemate in a six-nation 2007 deal under which the impoverished state agreed to end its nuclear program in exchange for aid and security promises."..."



North Korea

## N KOREA THREATENS CIVILIAN PLANES

*March 5, 2009* BBC News reported: "North Korea has said it cannot ensure the safety of South Korean civilian flights passing near its airspace over the Sea of Japan (East Sea). The comment comes ahead of a joint South Korean-US military exercise, which Pyongyang says is preparation for an invasion of the communist state."

Washington and Seoul say the annual drill is for purely defence purposes.

Tensions are high in the region amid speculation that the North is planning to test-fire a long-range missile.

In the latest of a series of bellicose statements, a North Korean committee warned that "security cannot be guaranteed for South Korean civil airplanes... in particular while the military exercises are under way". It said no one knows what "military conflicts will be touched off by the reckless war exercises".

The annual US-South Korean drill, which involves tens of thousands of troops, starts on Monday and continues for 12 days.

North Korea opposes the exercise every year, but this event comes at a particularly tense time on the Korean peninsula.

Pyongyang has scrapped a series of peace agreements with Seoul over its decision to link bilateral aid to progress on denuclearisation. The communist state also announced last month that it was preparing to launch a communications satellite. Some suspect this could be a cover for a test of the Taepodong 2 missile, which is capable of reaching as far as Alaska."..."

## IRAN URGES WORLD MUSLIM 'RESISTANCE' AGAINST ISRAEL

*March 4, 2009* Breitbart.com reported: "Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on Wednesday for world Muslims to join the Palestinian "resistance" against Israel as he kicked off a two-day summit in aid of war-torn Gaza."

His statement came as US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton met Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and premier Salam Fayyad in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on her first visit to the region since taking office. She had met Israeli leaders in Jerusalem on Tuesday.

"The only way to save Palestine is resistance," Khamenei said in his address to open the global summit Tehran organised in aid of Gaza and the Palestinians. "Support and help to Palestinians is a mandatory duty of all Muslims. I now tell all Muslim brothers and sisters to join forces and break the immunity of the Zionist criminals," Khamenei said.

He also called for putting Israeli political and military leaders on trial for the December-January assault on Gaza in which 1,300 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, and 13 Israelis were killed. "This is the first step that should be taken," Khamenei said.

Iran does not recognise Israel, and Khamenei has repeatedly rejected a two-state solution to solve the Israel-Palestinian issue. Clinton reiterated support for the two-state answer this week.

Khamenei said any negotiations to solve the issue were fruitless, adding that the United States and Britain committed the "crime of creation and supporting this cancerous tumour (Israel)."

"Even the new president of the United States who came to power with the motto of changing the (George W.) Bush administration's

policies talks about unconditional commitment to secure Israel. This is defending terrorism by a government."...

Khamenei also came down hard on the United Nations, saying it covered the "illegitimate acts of bullying powers and saving Palestine will not be achieved by begging to the United Nations."..."

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## **RUSSIAN SCHOLAR SAYS US WILL COLLAPSE NEXT YEAR**

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*March 4, 2009* Breitbart.com reported: "If you're inclined to believe Igor Panarin, and the Kremlin wouldn't mind if you did, then President Barack Obama will order martial law this year, the U.S. will split into six rump-states before 2011, and Russia and China will become the backbones of a new world order.

Panarin might be easy to ignore but for the fact that he is a dean at the Foreign Ministry's school for future diplomats and a regular on Russia's state-guided TV channels. And his predictions fit into the anti-American story line of the Kremlin leadership.

There is a high probability that the collapse of the United States will occur by 2010," Panarin told dozens of students, professors and diplomats Tuesday at the Diplomatic Academy lecture the ministry pointedly invited the AP and other foreign media to attend.

The prediction from Panarin, a former spokesman for Russia's Federal Space Agency and reportedly an ex-KGB analyst, meshes with the negative view of the U.S. that has been flowing from the Kremlin in recent years, in particular from Vladimir Putin. Putin, the former president who is now prime minister, has likened the United States to Nazi Germany's Third Reich and blames Washington for the global financial crisis that has pounded the Russian economy.

Panarin didn't give many specifics on what underlies his analysis, mostly citing newspapers, magazines and other open sources. He also noted he had been predicting the demise of the world's wealthiest country for more than a decade now. But he said the recent economic turmoil in the U.S. and other "social and cultural phenomena" led him to nail down a specific timeframe for "The End"—when the United States will break up into six autonomous regions and Alaska will revert to Russian control.



Panarin argued that Americans are in moral decline, saying their great psychological stress is evident from school shootings, the size of the prison population and the number of gay men.

Turning to economic woes, he cited the slide in major stock indexes, the decline in U.S. gross domestic product and Washington's bailout of banking giant Citigroup as evidence that American dominance of global markets has collapsed. "I was there recently and things are far from good," he said. "What's happened is the collapse of the American dream."

Panarin insisted he didn't wish for a U.S. collapse, but he predicted Russia and China would emerge from the economic turmoil stronger and said the two nations should work together, even to create a new currency to replace the U.S. dollar.

Asked for comment on how the Foreign Ministry views Panarin's theories, a spokesman said all questions had to be submitted in writing and no answers were likely before Wednesday.

It wasn't clear how persuasive the 20-minute lecture was. One instructor asked Panarin whether his predictions more accurately describe Russia, which is undergoing its worst economic crisis in a decade as well as a demographic collapse that has led some scholars to predict the country's demise. Panarin dismissed that idea: "The collapse of Russia will not occur."..."

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## **CHINA BOOSTS MILITARY SPENDING**

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*March 4, 2009* VOAnews.com reported: "China says it is increasing defense spending, this year, to raise the salaries of the world's largest standing army. The announcement, came at a news conference to preview the annual legislative session, which begins Thursday.

Li Zhaoxing is the spokesman for China's parliament, the National People's Congress, not the spokesman for the Ministry of Defense. But, in what has become a tradition in recent years, the NPC spokesman announced China's proposed military budget. Li says the defense budget is included in the draft national budget that is submitted to the legislature for examination and approval. Li says China's military spending in 2009 will increase nearly 15 percent, to \$70 billion.

The spokesman describes the increase as "modest" and said the double-digit growth will not pose a threat to any other country. He says much of the extra money will go to salaries for China's more than two-million troops and be spent on raising capabilities in what he described as "non-warfare military operations."

Li also said the additional spending is needed to maintain China's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

China has maintained its threat to use military force against Taiwan, if Taipei declares formal independence. Beijing considers the separately-governed island a renegade province.

The spokesman says China's military expenditures are no secret. He says, since 2007, China has submitted annual military expense reports to the United Nations. Li says there is no such thing as "hidden military expenditure" in China.

The United States, Japan and other countries have long expressed concern about China's military build-up."..."

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