



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 19 2009

SARKOZY: IRAN WORKING ON NUKES TODAY

September 16, 2009 The Jerusalem Times reported: "After Paris warned that new sanctions against Teheran remained an option despite the likelihood of negotiations with Iran, French President Nicolas Sarkozy maintained that the Islamic republic was still working on a nuclear weapons program.

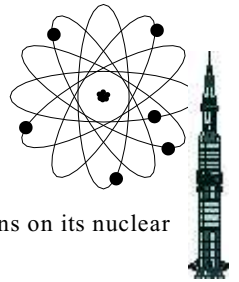
"It is a certainty to all of our secret services. Iran is working today on a nuclear [weapons] program," Sarkozy told lawmakers from his UMP party on Tuesday, according to Press TV. "We cannot let Iran acquire nuclear" weapons because it would also be a threat to Israel, he added.

French Foreign Ministry spokesman Bernard Valero had warned that Iran must make "concrete gestures" at the long-awaited discussions. He said the sanctions option remained on the table in case Teheran makes "an error of choice."...

Earlier, Sarkozy and U.S. President Barack Obama discussed ways to bring Iran "into compliance" with UN resolutions on its nuclear program, Agence France Presse quoted the White House as saying.

"The two leaders discussed the status of diplomatic efforts to bring Iran into compliance with its international obligations on its nuclear program," according to a released after Obama and Sarkozy spoke over the telephone.

Also Tuesday, EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said that talks on Iran's nuclear program would likely be held in Turkey, and full US participation may lead to progress in the negotiations."..."



US FEARS LATIN AMERICAN ARMS RACE

September 14, 2009 SpaceWar.com reported: "The U.S. voiced alarm Monday that Venezuela's weapons purchases may be fueling a Latin American arms race after a deal between Caracas and Moscow to buy tanks and anti-aircraft rockets. In Caracas, President Hugo Chavez said Sunday that Venezuela had obtained a 2.2-billion-dollar credit from Russia for the purchases, a move an analyst says suggests the leader's real fear of conflict over Venezuela's huge oil and gas resources.

"We have concerns in general about Venezuela's stated desire to increase its arms build-up, which we think poses a serious challenge to stability in the Western Hemisphere," US State Department spokesman Ian Kelly told reporters.

What they are looking to purchase and what they are purchasing outpaces all other countries in South America," he said. Chavez said Venezuela is buying 92 Soviet-era T-72 main battle tanks, 300-millimeter Smerch multiple launch rocket systems, and vehicle-mounted Russian Antey 2500 surface-to-air missile systems targeting incoming missiles.

Kelly was responding to questions over reports that Venezuela's anti-US president also wanted Russia's help to pursue a peaceful nuclear program and about possible fears Caracas would import nuclear or other technology from Iran."..."

Chavez has long expressed a desire to improve his nation's military with Moscow's help, and the substantial deal comes amid rising tensions between Caracas and Bogota over Colombia's decision to allow the United States access to several military bases on its territory.

The firebrand leftist has repeatedly criticized the United States, but has insisted that the latest purchase was not directed against any other country. Chavez stressed that his country had the "right to take the minimum necessary steps" to protect its national security and massive oil and gas reserves as "the empire has set its sites on them."

Latin America's loudest US critic often describes the United States as an empire."...In recent years Venezuela has signed over four billion dollars worth of arms contracts with Russia, and last November its navy held joint exercises with Russian warship in the Caribbean, traditional seen as a US domain."

PUTIN WARNS AGAINST IRAN ATTACK

September 11, 2009 The BBC News reported: "Iran's latest proposals on its nuclear ambitions have brought diverging views from the US and Russia. Earlier, a US official told the BBC that Washington was unhappy with the proposals, submitted on Wednesday. correspondents say parties involved are making their positions clear ahead of the UN General Assembly this month.

President Barack Obama has given Tehran until the end of September to respond to his friendlier overtures or face new sanctions. But the US and Israel have never ruled out the option of air strikes on Iran to stop it acquiring an atomic weapon.

In contrast to Washington's negative response on Iran's new proposal, Russia's foreign minister described them as a positive step forward and ruled out sanctions on Iran's oil sector.

Mr Putin, speaking in Moscow, said any attack on Iran would be "very dangerous, unacceptable" and would lead to "an explosion of terrorism". "I doubt very much that such strikes would achieve their stated goal," he added. However, Mr Putin called on Tehran to "show

restraint" in its nuclear programme. "This is a dangerous region and Iran should show responsibility, especially by taking into account Israel's concerns," he said.

The five-page Iranian proposal was submitted to the group of six global powers negotiating over its nuclear enrichment programme - the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, plus Germany. "..."

PANEL: ELECTRICAL GRID VULNERABLE TO TERRORIST ATTACK

September 17, 2009 USA Today.com reported: "It sounds like a science-fiction disaster: A nuclear weapon is detonated miles above the Earth's atmosphere and knocks out power from New York City to Chicago for weeks, maybe months.

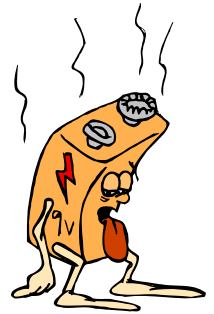
Experts and lawmakers are increasingly warning that terrorists or enemy states could wage that exact type of attack, idling electricity grids and disrupting everything from communications networks to military defenses."...

An expert panel that Congress created to study such an attack says it would halt banking, transportation, food, water and emergency services and "might result in defeat of our military forces."

"The consequences would be catastrophic," said Joseph McClelland, director of the energy commission's Office of Electric Reliability. "It would bring down the whole grid and cost between \$1 trillion and \$2 trillion" to repair, said Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md. Full recovery could take up to 10 years, he said.

The scenario involves a phenomenon called an "electromagnetic pulse," or EMP, which is essentially a huge energy wave strong enough to knock out systems that control electricity flow across the country. A nuclear explosion 25 to 250 miles above the Earth's surface would be high enough that the blast wouldn't damage buildings or spread a lethal radioactive cloud. Even so, at that height, the pulse would fan out hundreds of miles.

The immediate effect would resemble a blackout. Although blackouts can be restored quickly, an EMP could damage or destroy power systems, leaving them inoperable for months or longer."..."



DISMAY IN EUROPE AS OBAMA DITCHES MISSILE DEFENCE

September 17, 2009 TimesOnline.co.uk reported: "President Obama dismayed America's allies in Europe and angered his political opponents at home today when he formally ditched plans to set up a missile defence shield in Poland and the Czech Republic.

The project had been close to the heart of Mr Obama's predecessor, President Bush, who had argued before leaving office in January that it was needed to defend against long-range ballistic missile attacks from rogue states such as Iran and North Korea. But it had hobbled relations with Russia, which considered it both a security threat and an unnecessary political provocation in its own backyard.

At a White House appearance today, Mr Obama confirmed that the defence shield envisaged by the Bush Administration, involving a radar base in the Czech Republic and interceptor rockets sited in Poland, was being abandoned. Instead, after a comprehensive review, he had decided to accept the advice of both the Defence Secretary, Robert Gates, and of the Chiefs of Staff opt for a "smarter, stronger and swifter" system involving both sea-based and land-based mobile interceptors.

Mr Obama said that latest intelligence suggested that threat of long-range missile attacks from Iran had receded, but the threat of short- or medium-range attacks was a real one. He said that the system would be "phased and adaptive" and used proven technologies to create an effective missile defence system."..."

GOLDSTONE FINDINGS WILL PUT NETANYAHU ON DEFENSIVE AT UN

September 18, 2009 Haaretz.com reported: "Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reminisced how, at the start of his tenure as Israel's ambassador to the United Nations in 1984, he met the Lubavitcher rebbe who told him that "you are going to the house of darkness but you must remember that even in the greatest darkness, if you light a small candle, it will shed its light to great distances."

The UN's attitude toward Israel has not become friendlier since, but the plans of the new U.S. administration to rehabilitate its standing no longer enables Israel to simply ignore the international organization. What is certain is that it is very unlikely that when he appears at the General Assembly to give his speech, the Prime Minister will feel any nostalgia for his days at the UN.

At the opening ceremony of the UN General Assembly this week, the Libyan president-elect of the 64th session, Dr. Ali Treki, addressed the assembled nations. He spoke of international terrorism, the economic crisis and poverty, but the only country he chose to criticize of the 192 members of the General Assembly was Israel. Treki declared that the right of the Palestinians to return is a basic right if there is to be peace and security, in addition to the "removal of the illegal and illegitimate settlements."..."

Later in the day, the Goldstone Commission's report on the war in Gaza was published. Prime Minister Netanyahu will have to harness all his public relations skills, for which he was recognized as a rising star during the early days of his political career as an ambassador at the UN, in order to attempt to divert the discussion toward Iran's nuclear program - and mostly on setting a clear timetable for the expected dialog with Fatah on October 1.

The Israeli delegation acknowledges that the atmosphere is harsh. The settlements would have been raised as an issue at every opportunity, and now, with the release of the damning report, the prime minister's message for peace will fall on deaf ears. Government officials who held a series of meetings in the U.S. with members of the administration, Congress, the media and Jewish leaders, found themselves having to respond to the report."..."