



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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IRAN SLAMS US DEFENSE MISSILE DEPLOYMENT IN GULF

February 3, 2010 The Voice of America News reports: "Iran's parliament speaker Ali Larijani lashed out at U.S. plans to deploy defensive missiles in the Gulf, branding the decision a 'political ploy' aimed at increasing its military strength in the region.

Larijani condemned the deployment during a parliament speech in which he also praised Iran's independent foreign policy set forth by Islamic Republic founder Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Larijani says the U.S. decision to base Patriot missiles in four Gulf states, announced last week, was provocative and a threat to the region:

He says the US is justifying its plan to deploy the missiles by pointing to regional concerns over Iran. Unfortunately, he claims, Obama administration officials don't understand that the U.S. is the cause of the region's problems. The missiles, he complains, will cause concern to the countries where they are based, as well as putting U.S. soldiers at risk.

General David Petraeus, chief of the U.S. Central Command, said in several recent speeches that the U.S. was pursuing a defensive strategy in the Gulf, which included upgrading Patriot missile systems, which can now knock out missiles in flight. Iran possesses missiles with a range of 2012 kilometers that can hit Israel and U.S. bases in the region.

General Petraeus also told a Georgetown University audience 10 days ago that the U.S. now has eight Patriot missile batteries stationed in four Gulf states..."

Arab leaders are privately said to be concerned about the increasing threat from Iran's military arsenal of missiles and the eventual threat of its nuclear potential..."

IRAN SAYS LAUNCHES SATELLITE ROCKET

February 3, 2010 Reuters reported: "Western powers fear Iran is trying to build nuclear bombs and that the long-range ballistic technology used to put satellites into orbit can also be used to launch warheads. Iran says its nuclear program is solely to generate electricity.

President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said the launch was a huge breakthrough which would help break "the global domineering system" -- a reference to Iran's Western foes.

"A launch like that is obviously a provocative act," White House spokesman Bill Burton told reporters. "But the president believes that it is not too late for Iran to do the right thing -- come to the table with the international community and live up to its international obligations."

France, which together with the United States, Britain and Germany is discussing a fourth round of sanctions against Iran, said it would press for strong measures against Tehran at the United Nations, with time running out for a political solution..."

On Tuesday, Ahmadinejad had struck a more conciliatory note, saying Iran was ready to send its enriched uranium abroad in what appeared to be an easing of its position in the dispute.

Speaking at a ceremony unveiling satellite technology, Ahmadinejad said Iran hoped to send astronauts into space soon..."The rocket, propelled by liquid fuel, was a testing device for space systems that normally rises about 100 km (60 miles) above the surface of the earth before returning on a parachute.

In May 2009, a U.S.-Russia assessment estimated Iran was six to eight years away from producing a ballistic missile able to deliver a 1,000 kg nuclear warhead to a range of 2,000 km.

On Monday, a Pentagon report said Iran had expanded its ballistic missile capabilities and posed a significant threat to U.S. and allied forces in the Middle East region..."



BOSOM BOMBERS: WOMEN HAVE EXPLOSIVE BREAST IMPLANTS

February 1, 2010 WorldNetDaily.com reported: "Agents for Britain's MI5 intelligence service have discovered that Muslim doctors trained at some of Britain's leading teaching hospitals have returned to their own countries to fit surgical implants filled with explosives, according to a report from Joseph Farah's G2 Bulletin.

Women suicide bombers recruited by al-Qaida are known to have had the explosives inserted in their breasts under techniques similar to breast enhancing surgery. The lethal explosives -- usually PETN (pentaerythritol Tetrabitate) -- are inserted during the operation inside the plastic shapes. The breast is then sewn up.

Similar surgery has been performed on male suicide bombers. In their cases, the explosives are inserted in the appendix area or buttock.

Both are parts of the body that diabetics use to inject themselves with their prescribed drugs.

The discovery of these methods was made after the London-educated Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab came close to blowing up an airliner on Christmas Day with explosives he had stuffed inside his underpants.

A hand-picked team was appointed by Jonathan Evans, the head of MI5, to investigate the threat. He described it as "one that can circumvent our defense."

Top surgeons who work in the National Health Service confirmed the feasibility of the explosive implants.

In a report to Evans, one said:

"Properly inserted the implant would be virtually impossible to detect by the usual airport scanning machines. You would need to subject a suspect to a sophisticated X-ray. Given that the explosive would be inserted in a sealed plastic sachet, and would be a small amount, would make it all the more impossible to spot it with the usual body scanner."

Explosive experts at Britain's Porton Down biological and chemical warfare research center told MI5 that a sachet containing as little as five ounces of PETN when activated would blow "a considerable hole" in an airline's skin which would guarantee it would crash."..."

'ISRAEL WANTS SYRIA PEACE, BUT WILL NOT BE THREATENED'

February 2, 2010 Haaretz.com reported: "Israel wants to start talks that would culminate with a permanent peace agreement with Syria, a top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said On Thursday, adding, however, that Jerusalem would continue to react against any threats to its safety."...Shortly after the PM's message, Defense Minister Ehud Barak relayed a message to Syria from the Labor party headquarters in an attempt to calm tensions between the two countries."...

Earlier this week, (Ehud) Barak said that the stalled peace process with Syria could bode ill for the future of the Middle East. Speaking to the Israel Defense Forces top brass, Barak said: "Just like the familiar reality in the Middle East, we will immediately sit down [with Syria] after such a war and negotiate on the exact same issues we have been discussing with them for the past 15 years."

The source said that Israel was operating on several levels to make sure that misunderstandings between the two countries do not deteriorate into diplomatic tension. The comments by Netanyahu's top aide came after Army Radio reported earlier Thursday that FM Lieberman warned Syrian President Bashar Assad that if his country entered a conflict with Israel, it would not only lose, but his regime would also disintegrate.

"Assad should know that if he attacks, he will not only lose the war. Neither he nor his family will remain in power," Lieberman told the audience during a business conference at Bar-Ilan University. Following the incident, the Prime Minister's Bureau said that Netanyahu requested cabinet secretary Zvi Hauser to phone all the ministers and request that they refrain from commenting on Syria in the media.

The foreign minister's remarks come after Assad on Wednesday told Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos that Israel was pushing the Middle East toward a new war.

"Our message should be that if Assad's father lost a war but remained in power, the son should know that an attack would cost him his regime," Lieberman continued. "This is the message that must be conveyed to the Syrian leader by Israel."

Lieberman said that Assad's comments "crossed a line" by directly threatening Israel and implying that any future conflict between Israel and Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah would draw Syria into war.

"Whoever thinks territorial concessions will disconnect Syria from the axis of evil is mistaken," Lieberman said. "Syria must be made to understand that it has to relinquish its demand for the Golan Heights."

Lieberman's comments drew harsh criticism on Thursday from a range of Knesset members, some of whom urged Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to rein him in or dismiss him."..."

VENEZUELA OPPOSITION DECRIES APPOINTMENT OF CUBAN

February 4, 2010 Reuters reported: "President Hugo Chavez's naming of a heavyweight Cuban official to help fix Venezuela's electricity crisis has fired up his opponents at a politically volatile time for the South American nation. Power rationing since late 2009 has emerged as a major problem for the OPEC member nation of nearly 29 million people, threatening its ability to pull out of recession and weighing on Chavez's popularity ahead of a September legislative poll.

After days of protests last week in which two students died, thousands of government and opposition supporters again rallied on Thursday, the 18th anniversary of a failed coup by Chavez that launched his political career.

"Keep trying to topple our revolutionary government with your white hands," Chavez said in reference to students who paint their hands white in marches against the government. "If you challenge us with ars, we are ready with Bolivar's sword," he said, wearing an army uniform and brandishing South American independence fighter Simon Bolivar's sword at a rally in a military base. Some of his supporters waved a Cuban flag.



The controversial Venezuelan leader said this week that Cuban Vice-President Ramiro Valdes, who has been a close ally of Fidel Castro dating back to his 1959 revolution, would head a committee to tackle Venezuela's power shortages."..."