



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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U.S. PRESSES ISRAEL FOR MIDEAST GOODWILL STEPS

March 25, 2010 Reuters reported: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was poised to end a troubled U.S. visit on Wednesday without settling a dispute with the White House over Jewish housing construction in occupied East Jerusalem.

In a flurry of meetings throughout the day, U.S. and Israeli officials scrambled to put together a package of goodwill gestures that President Barack Obama hoped could persuade Palestinians to return to peace talks. But Israeli sources said Netanyahu could not finalise any confidence-building measures until he presented them to his Cabinet. He leads a coalition government dominated by pro-settler parties, including his own.

Palestinians have demanded a complete settlement freeze in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem, areas Israel captured in a 1967 war. Netanyahu, due to fly home late on Wednesday, has cautioned that accepting their terms for reviving negotiations, in the format of U.S.-mediated, indirect talks, could put peace efforts on hold for another year.



Officials, including U.S. Middle East envoy George Mitchell, held consultations in Netanyahu's Washington hotel even as new settlement expansion plans on disputed land in Jerusalem threatened further strains between Washington and its close ally.

"The president asked the prime minister to take steps to build confidence for proximity talks so that progress can be made towards comprehensive peace," White House spokesman Robert Gibbs told reporters, referring to indirect negotiations."...

In a sign of a deep rift over Israeli settlement policy, the Obama administration withheld from Netanyahu some of the usual trappings during a White House visit on Tuesday. Press coverage of his Oval Office talks with Obama was barred, and the leaders made no public statements afterward..

Citing biblical and historical links, Israel regards all of Jerusalem as its capital, a claim that has not won international recognition."..."

BINYAMIN NETANYAHU HUMILIATED AFTER BARACK OBAMA 'DUMPED HIM FOR DINNER'

March 25, 2010 TimesOnline.co.uk: "For a head of state to visit the White House and not pose for photographers is rare. For a key ally to be left to his own devices while the President withdraws to have dinner in private was, until this week, unheard of. Yet that is how Binyamin Netanyahu was treated by President Obama on Tuesday night, according to Israeli reports on a trip seen in Jerusalem tonight as a disastrous humiliation.

After failing to extract a written promise of concessions on Jewish settlements, Mr Obama walked out of his meeting with Mr Netanyahu but invited him to stay at the White House, consult with advisors and "let me know if there is anything new", a US congressman who spoke to the Prime Minister said today.

"It was awful," the congressman said. One Israeli newspaper called the meeting "a hazing in stages", poisoned by such mistrust that the Israeli delegation eventually left rather than risk being eavesdropped on a White House phone line. Another said that the Prime Minister had received "the treatment reserved for the President of Equatorial Guinea".

Left to talk among themselves, Mr Netanyahu and his aides retreated to the Roosevelt Room. He later spent a further half-hour with Mr Obama and extended his stay for a day of emergency talks aimed at restarting peace negotiations, but left last night with no official statement from either side."...

Sources said that Mr Netanyahu failed to impress Mr Obama with a flow chart purporting to show that he was not be responsible for the timing of announcements of new settlement projects in east Jerusalem."..."

SAUDI: ISRAEL'S ARROGANCE CHALLENGES THE WORLD

March 24, 2010 The Associated Press reported: "Saudi Arabia on Wednesday condemned Israel's "arrogant" policies of building settlements in east Jerusalem, saying they violated the rights of Arabs and Muslims and cast doubt on its seriousness in peace negotiations.

In a strongly worded statement carried by the official news agency, a government official asked the Quartet sponsoring peace talks, consisting the U.S., EU, Russia and the U.N., to take Israel to task for its recent announcements to expand Jewish housing in east Jerusalem.

"Saudi Arabia is looking for explanations from the international Quartet for these arrogant Israeli policies and the insistence on challenging the international community," the official said. "These comments cast doubt on the peace process and the seriousness of the international efforts to relaunch negotiations."

Palestinians want east Jerusalem, annexed by Israel in 1967, as their future capital and see new settlement construction as land grabs. Israel insists the city cannot be divided and says it has the right to build anywhere.

The statement criticized Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for saying during his trip to Washington that settlement construction in Jerusalem would not be halted. He said Israel does not consider Jewish neighborhoods in east Jerusalem to be settlements. About 180,000 Israelis live there.

"The kingdom strongly condemns the statements by the prime minister of the Israeli occupation in which he denied the rights of Palestinians, Arabs, and Muslims in holy Jerusalem, without the slightest consideration for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, especially in occupied holy Jerusalem, or for the international efforts to relaunch peace process," the statement said.

Netanyahu's comments came during a spat between the U.S. and Israel over its settlement construction as Washington is pressing to restart peace talks."..." (Zechariah 12:3)

GOLD PRICES SINK TO 5-WEEK LOW

March 25, 2010 Bloomberg news reported: "Gold tumbled to the lowest price in more than five weeks as the dollar surged, curbing demand for precious metals as alternative investments. Silver and platinum also declined.

The greenback rose to a 10-month high against the euro... Last year, gold rallied 24 percent as the euro gained 2.4 percent against the dollar.

"You have investors talking about the euro going to parity," said Frank McGhee the head dealer at Integrated Brokerage Services LLC in Chicago. "It's very hard for the metals to hold up in that environment."

Gold futures for April delivery fell \$14.90, or 1.4 percent, to 1088.80 an ounce on the Comex in New York. This year, the euro has dropped against 15 to 16 major currencies as debt concerns escalated.

"This crisis in the Old World shows no signs of letting up," said Jon Nadler an analyst at Kitco Inc. in Montreal. The Portugal downgrade provides a "stark" reminder that the regions' fiscal problems are clearly not confined to just Greece.

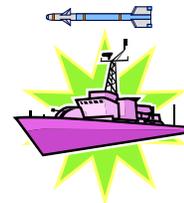
Since the euro's debut in 1999, the 16-nation currency has moved in tandem with gold in seven of 11 years. The euro will fall 25 percent to parity with the dollar, Gary Shilling, and economist and the president of A. Gary Shilling & Co., said today in a Bloomberg Television interview. He said Spain may face the region's next fiscal crisis."..." (Ezekiel 7:19, Revelation 18:10-14)

IRAN ANTI-MISSILE LAUNCH SUCCEEDS

March 24, 2010 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran has successfully launched a new anti-ship missile from its first homemade destroyer, Iranian media report. The state news agency IRNA said the surface-to-surface missile, dubbed Noor, destroyed its target at a distance of about 60 miles.

It was fired from the Jamaran the first indigenously designed and developed guided missile destroyer in the Persian Gulf. The Mowdge-class vessel, inaugurated last month in a southern Iranian port, has a displacement of 1,420 to 1,500 tons -- about the size of a light frigate or corvette."...

The ship can also carry up to 140 personnel and is armed with a variety of anti-ship and surface-to-air missiles. Military experts viewed the missile test as an assessment of the ship's capabilities. A second domestically built frigate, built on the basis of the same model, is said to be in the final stages of its production. Plans also include the development of an upgraded version of the surface-to-surface missile with a range of 180 miles.



Iran, however, tends to announce military advancements without prior notice or confirmation by independent sources.

Much of Iran's naval equipment is old American-made hardware, dating back to even to before the 1979 Islamic revolution. Since then, Tehran has moved to renew its fleet with equipment, including submarines, from Russia."..."

NOW THE POPE IS DIRECTLY IMPLICATED IN COVER-UP OF SEX ABUSE OF 200 DEAF BOYS IN U.S.

March 25, 2010 MailOnline reported: "The Pope has been directly implicated in a sexual abuse cover-up, it has been claimed. A U.S. Roman Catholic archbishop warned a top Vatican office led by future Pope Benedict XVI about a priest who may have molested as many as 200 deaf boys, according to documents obtained by The New York Times. The priest was never defrocked.

The documents were provided by two lawyers who have filed lawsuits alleging the Archdiocese of Milwaukee didn't take sufficient action against the Rev. Lawrence Murphy. The priest, who died in 1998, worked at the former St. John's School for the Deaf in St. Francis from 1950 to 1975.

In 1996, then-Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland sent letters about Murphy to the Vatican office called the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was led from 1981 to 2005 by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future pope. Weakland received no response from Ratzinger, the Times reported.

Eight months later, the second in command at the doctrinal office, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone - now the Vatican's secretary of state - told the Wisconsin bishops to begin secret disciplinary proceedings, according to the documents. But Bertone halted that process after Murphy wrote to Ratzinger saying he already had repented, was ailing and that the case's statute of limitations had run out, the Times reported.

The documents contain no response from Cardinal Ratzinger."..."