



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 18 2011

SARKOZY WARNS OF SOARING COMMODITY PRICES

June 14, 2011 Breitbart.com reported: "French President Nicolas Sarkozy called Tuesday for tighter controls on the speculators he blames for soaring food and energy prices threatening global growth. Saying the world had "worked extremely hard" to revive growth in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, Sarkozy said "one of the main threats to growth is the rising cost of commodities."

The president has said he plans to use France's chairmanship of the Group of 20 top economies to push for regulations to curb speculative trade in the commodities markets but this has met strong resistance from suppliers such as Brazil and Argentina who have benefited from high prices. Sarkozy, speaking at the invitation of European Commission president Jose-Manuel Barroso, said "the G20 nations are the first concerned by this issue and it is up to them to install conditions for sustainable growth."...

Speaking ahead of a meeting next week of G20 farm ministers, Sarkozy won support from Barroso, who said the issue was vital as the commodities markets expanded and price volatility increased with the involvement of new investors. Sarkozy said deregulation in the financial and banking sectors had brought the world to the edge of an abyss."..."

IRAN 'SPEEDS UP MISSILE DEVELOPMENT'

June 14, 2011 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran has accelerated efforts to develop a long-range ballistic missile, despite tough international sanctions imposed a year ago, the Israeli newspaper Haaretz has reported, citing an unpublished report by U.N. experts. At the same time, The Jerusalem Post quoted another U.N. report as saying Iran conducted unannounced test-firings of two of its most advanced missiles, the Shihab-3b and the Sejil-1, in February.

These accounts coincide with a third U.N. report, by the International Atomic Energy Agency, dated May 24 that indicated the Iranians may be close to producing a nuclear warhead that could be carried by their intermediate-range ballistic weapons. IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said in the nine-page report his information was Iran has tested and manufactured the shaped explosives used with enriched uranium to create the critical mass that generates a nuclear explosion.

He also cited information that Iran had redesigned the nose cone of the Shehab-3 so it could carry a nuclear warhead rather than one containing conventional high explosives."..."

The Americans claimed ECL was linked to Iran's Shahid Hemmat Industrial group, "which is Iran's primary developer of liquid propellant ballistic missiles, and Heavy Metal Industries, a front company for the tactical missile developer Ya Mahdi Industries."...

The liquid-fuel, single-stage Shehab-3 medium-range ballistic missile has a reported range of 1,200 miles, capable of hitting the Arab states of the Persian Gulf and Israel. More advanced variants, the Shehab-4 and Shehab-5 are intended as intercontinental ballistic missiles with anticipated ranges of up to 3,125 miles."..."



AHMADINEJAD JOINS CHINA, RUSSIA LEADERS AT SUMMIT

June 15, 2011 AFP reported: "Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on Wednesday joined the Chinese and Russian leaders in a rare encounter at a summit in Kazakhstan, where he launched a new attack on the "slavers and colonisers" of the West.

Host Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev urged the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a security group regarded as a NATO rival founded in 2001, to take a more active role in ensuring regional security. But most attention was focused on Ahmadinejad, who was absent from last year's SCO meeting in Tashkent after the UN Security Council agreed sanctions against Iran and was making a rare appearance at a big international meeting.

In a characteristically firebrand speech peppered with rhetorical questions, he launched a new call for a wholesale shake-up of the world order, which he said was "managed and run by slavers and colonizers of the past."

"I believe together we can reform the way the world is managed. We can restore the tranquillity of the world," he said. Turning to his audience of ex-Soviet and Asian leaders he asked: "Have any of us used an atomic bomb against the defenceless citizens of any other country?"

Returning to his past claims that a conspiracy could have been behind the September 11 attacks on the United States, Ahmadinejad added... Tehran used to rely on Moscow as a dependable ally in its standoff over the nuclear programme..."..."

MIDDLE EAST CHRISTIANS FACING 'EXTREMIST ATROCITIES'

June 15, 2011 BBC News reported: "The Archbishop of Canterbury has warned that there are extreme forces at work that have turned the Arab Spring into a 'very anxious time' for Christians. Dr Rowan Williams told the BBC that the vacuum left by the end of autocratic regimes was being filled by extremists. He claimed there had been more killings of Christians and burnings of churches in Egypt than

people were aware of.

Life was unsustainable for Christians in northern Iraq, and tensions in Syria were nearing breaking point, he added.

The Middle East is the birthplace of Christianity and home to some of the world's most ancient Christian denominations. There is no agreed figure for the number of Christians in the region, though some experts believe there are as many as 10 million.

In an interview with BBC Radio 4's The World at One, Dr Williams said he was 'guardedly optimistic' that the political upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa would bring greater democracy to the region.

'In the long term, of course, a real participatory democracy in the region is bound to be in the interests of minorities...' he said. But in the short term, he warned, people were using the chaos it had brought to attack Christian minorities.

'There is no doubt at all that it is a very anxious time for Christian communities. There have been extremist atrocities already, especially in Egypt,' he said."....He suggested outside elements had entered Egypt from "more traditional sites of extremism", such as Saudi Arabia and northern Sudan, and did not rule out activity by al-Qaeda."..."

US DEFENCE CHIEF: EUROPE MAY NO LONGER BE WORTH DEFENDING

June 10, 2011 The EU Observer reported: "Under pressure to cut its military spending, the US is losing patience with Europe's unwillingness to pay for its own defence, outgoing US defence minister Robert Gates said Friday (10 June) in an unusually 'blunt' speech in Brussels, casting doubt over the very survival of Nato."...

Looking first at Afghanistan, he noted that the operation got bogged down in national caveats which hampered the range of actions European soldiers were allowed to do - a hint at Germany's restrictions on its troops to use lethal force, which meant that they could not be deployed in combat against the Taliban.

As for troop withdrawal, with the Netherlands suddenly pulling out after a government was forced to resign last year over the Afghan war, Gates said: "We cannot afford to have some troop-contributing nations to pull out their forces on their own timeline in a way that undermines the mission and increases risks to other allies. The way ahead in Afghanistan is 'in together, out together'."

Nato's flagship mission in Afghanistan has also "exposed significant shortcomings" in the military alliance - both concerning capabilities and "political will."

"Despite more than 2 million troops in uniform - not counting the US military - Nato has struggled, at times desperately, to sustain a deployment of 25,000 to 40,000 troops, not just in boots on the ground, but in crucial support assets such as helicopters, transport aircraft, maintenance, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, and much more," Gates said.

When it comes to the more recent mission in Libya, similar shortcomings made it "painfully clear"...(this is) a mission in Europe's neighbourhood deemed to be in Europe's vital interest."....

"The mightiest military alliance in history is only 11 weeks into an operation against a poorly armed regime in a sparsely populated country - yet many allies are beginning to run short of munitions, requiring the US, once more, to make up the difference."...

"Indeed, if current trends in the decline of European defense capabilities are not halted and reversed, future US political leaders - those for whom the Cold War was not the formative experience that it was for me - may not consider the return on America's investment in Nato worth the cost," he warned."..."

JORDAN'S ABDULLAH: ISRAEL IS NOT INTERESTED IN PEACE

June 16, 2011 Haaretz reported: "Jordanian King Abdullah expressed alarm over Israel's prevailing political opinions in an interview with the Washington Post Thursday, saying that the Israeli public is not interested in a return to 1967 borders, with its leadership no longer working toward a two state solution or peace.

The Jordanian king noted a marked shift toward the right in Israel in recent years, quoting statistics stating that 85 percent of Israelis are not interested in a return to 1967 borders. Abdullah told the Post that he believes this to be testimony that the Israeli public is 'beginning to believe the rhetoric of their leaders,' with popular opinion gravitating toward the right and what he called the 'hard right'.

'I'm not convinced that they (Israel) are interested in a two-state solution,' Abdullah said, adding 'they're not interested in peace with the Arabs, because unless they do the two-state solution, that can't happen.'

Abdullah lamented the current Palestinian-Israeli stalemate, saying that he is the most pessimistic he has ever been in 11 years. '2011 will be, I think, a very bad year for peace,' he said, adding that 'invariably when there's a status quo, usually what shakes everybody up is some sort of military confrontation, at which point we all come running and screaming to pick up the pieces. Nobody wins in a war.'

When asked about Netanyahu's recent trip to United States following U.S. President Barack Obama's Middle East policy speech, Abdullah said he did not believe the visit was successful.

"[Netanyahu] basically came to say, 'It's my way or the highway,'" the Jordanian monarch said."..."



Jordan