



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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CHINA TO OVERTAKE EU AND US BY 2030, US INTELLIGENCE SAYS

December 12, 2012 Euobserver.com reported: "The era of American and European economic dominance has less than two decades left to run, according to a report by US intelligence services. The study - Global Trends 2030, out on Monday (10 December) - predicts the Chinese economy will overtake the US at some point between 2022 and 2030.

It says the once dominant trio of the US, Europe and Japan will see their share of world trade fall from 56 percent to well below half in 2030. It also notes that China and India are not the only rising Asian countries to tilt the balance of world power from west to east.

 Another group - the so-called Next Eleven, comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Turkey, South Korea and Vietnam - is tipped to overtake the EU-27 in terms of collective GDP by 2030..."

Its section on Europe offers a bleak view of the impact of the sovereign debt crisis. "The eurozone crisis has laid bare the tensions and divisions between member states and, for the first time in decades, raised fundamental questions about Europe's future," it says, adding that the post-crisis Union "would not resemble today's Europe."

Its scenarios for the eurozone include the collapse of the euro and then the EU itself. But it also sees the possibility of EU leaders making a "federalist push" leading to a European "renaissance". Under this model "Europe is well on its way to completing the original concept of a comprehensive economic and monetary union [and] ... will emerge much stronger as a result."

However, while the report states that "more integration probably will be required to overcome the crisis and address structural problems" it admits that domestic political concerns mean that "massive transfer of sovereignty may be a bridge too far" for most countries.

It says this could lead to a multi-speed Europe, with a core group of countries pursuing deeper integration and others choosing either to "opt-out" or adopt a "wait-and-see" policy. Germany is expected to remain Europe's political leader because of its economic growth prospects, but its economic well-being will be put at risk by an aging population."..."



DENMARK: JEWS WARNED NOT TO WEAR RELIGIOUS SYMBOLS

December 13, 2012 YnetNews.com reported: "After facing an onslaught of anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli incidents recently, Israeli officials in Denmark and Spain have decided to call for precautionary measures. Israeli and Jewish officials in Denmark on Wednesday warned Jews to avoid openly wearing religious symbols and dress when moving about Copenhagen amid rising anti-Israeli sentiment.

'We advise Israelis who come to Denmark and want to go to the synagogue to wait to don their skullcaps until they enter the building and not to wear them in the street, irrespective of whether the areas they are visiting are seen as being safe,' Israel's ambassador to Denmark, Arthur Avnon, told AFP.

Avnon added that visitors were also advised not to 'speak Hebrew loudly' or demonstrably wear Star of David jewelry."..."

ISLAMISTS GAINING GROUND IN SYRIA

December 12, 2012 Voice of America News reported: "The small group of Free Syrian Army opposition fighters marched under a hazy sky outside Aleppo, raising their guns in the air, days after the government's Sheik Suleiman base fell into rebel hands.

'We are coming for you,' they chanted in a video posted to the Internet, an apparent warning to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. 'God damn your soul, We are coming for you.'

But the week's major victory at the military base was not led by the Free Syrian Army. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says it was led by Islamist fighters with the al-Nusrah front, giving them access to tanks, missiles and other heavy weaponry.

'We see a shift toward Islamicization of the ideology of the people who are fighting on the ground, which is a concern,' says Mattaz Suheil with the Britain-based Observatory. 'They're more cohesive as a group and that's a problem because it's radicalizing young people who want to be part of a military campaign against the regime, against a minority in Syria and they eventually adopt the more radical view.'

Suheil says the influence of groups like al-Nusrah is having an impact that goes beyond the battlefield.

'We see in Aleppo city now they've installed an Islamic court and a police of vice and virtue which means people, civilians, are being tried for moral crimes.'..."

US BUDGET DEFICIT REACHES \$172B IN NOVEMBER

December 12, 2012 The AP reported: "The U.S. federal government's budget deficit widened in November compared to October, a sign that the nation is on a path to its fifth straight \$1 trillion-plus deficit.

The budget gap rose to \$172 billion in November, up from \$120 billion in October, the Treasury Department said Wednesday. The November deficit was also 25 percent higher than the same month last year. Last month's deficit was pushed higher by a calendar quirk that pulled about \$33 billion in benefits payments into November from December.

The government finished the 2012 budget year with a deficit of \$1.1 trillion. President Barack Obama and Congress are under pressure to curb the deficit as part of a budget deal to prevent tax increases and deep spending cuts from kicking in Jan. 1."..."

NORTH KOREA LAUNCHES LONG-RANGE ROCKET

December 12, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reported: "North Korea launched a long-range rocket on Wednesday, in defiance of UN sanctions threats over what Pyongyang's critics insist is a disguised ballistic missile test.

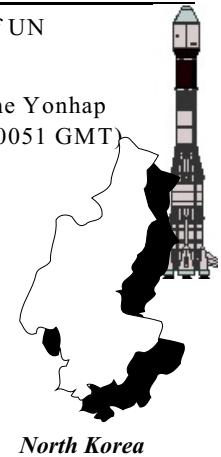
"It (the rocket) has been launched," a South Korean defence ministry spokesman told AFP without elaborating further. The Yonhap news agency, citing a government source, said the rocket had taken off from the Sohae satellite launch centre at 9:51 am (0051 GMT) and was immediately detected by navy vessels deployed by Seoul in the Yellow Sea.

There was no immediate report on the success of the launch, but the Japanese government said the missile had passed its southern island chain of Okinawa around 12 minutes after take-off.

"The missile that North Korea calls a satellite passed over Okinawa around 10:01 (am). We launched no interception," it said. Japan had deployed missile defence systems to intercept and destroy the rocket if it looked set to fall on its territory. The United States had also deployed ships from its Pacific fleet equipped with ballistic missile defences.

Yonhap said the three-stage rocket's first stage had separated as scheduled and splashed down in the sea off South Korea's southwest coast.

In Seoul, President Lee Myung-Bak called an emergency meeting of his National Security Council to discuss the implications of the launch. Japan's government found the launch intolerable, chief government spokesman Osamu Fujimura said."..."



TEHRAN DENIES IRANIAN MISSILE EXPERTS IN NORTH KOREA

December 11, 2012 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran on Tuesday denied a South Korean report that its missile experts were in North Korea offering technical assistance for the planned launch of a long-range rocket. "This issue is utterly not true," Ramin Mehmanparast, foreign ministry spokesman told reporters.

"The claim made regarding missile and nuclear cooperation is baseless propaganda and they are trying to create fear so they can undermine our relations with others," he added. Mehmanparast said that during the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s "there was military cooperation, but after the war we continued our political, economic and humanitarian ties and still have them in these fields."

On Monday, Chosun Ilbo newspaper said a group of Iranian missile experts was in North Korea offering technical assistance for the planned launch of a rocket which Pyongyang terms a peaceful mission aimed at putting a satellite in orbit. The Iranians were invited after North Korea's last rocket launch in April ended in failure, the newspaper said, citing a Seoul government official.

Earlier this month, Japan's Kyodo news agency quoted a Western diplomatic source as saying Iran had stationed defence personnel in North Korea since October to strengthen cooperation in missile and nuclear development. North Korea and Iran are both subject to international sanctions over their nuclear activities and their governments share a deep hostility towards the United States."..."

NETANYAHU ACCUSES HAMAS OF CALLING FOR ISRAEL'S 'DESTRUCTION'

December 10, 2012 VOANews.com reported: "Last month's deadly conflict between Israel and Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip may be over, but the war of words continues.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu blasted the Islamic militant group Hamas, accusing its leader of calling for Israel's destruction at a mass rally Saturday in Gaza. Speaking at the weekly Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Netanyahu said Israel's Palestinian enemies have proven once again that they are not interested in compromise.

He was referring to comments by Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal, who returned to Gaza on Friday after 45 years of exile. At a rally marking the 25th anniversary of the founding of Hamas, Meshaal vowed Hamas would fight until all of Palestine, including the territory of the State of Israel, is liberated from the Jews.

He reiterated this position at speech Sunday in Gaza. There will be 'no concessions on a single inch of Palestine,' he declared. He said armed struggle would continue until the liberation of Jerusalem..."