



PROPHETIC TIMES

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ISRAEL READY TO ACT ON SYRIA WEAPONS

April 18, 2013 BBC News reported: "Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has told the BBC that Israel has a right to prevent weapons from falling into the wrong hands in Syria. He said that if terrorists seized anti-aircraft and chemical weapons they could be game changers in the region."



There have been growing calls for the international community to arm rebels fighting President Bashar al-Assad. But there is increasing concern that Islamist militants could use such weapons to further their own causes.

Israel has said its policy is not to get involved in the Syrian conflict. But in recent months it has retaliated following Syrian firing into Israeli-controlled areas in the Golan Heights. Israel first occupied the Golan Heights in 1967 and later annexed the territory in a move that is not internationally recognised.

Mr. Netanyahu, in an exclusive interview with the BBC's Lyse Doucet, said Israel's concern was which rebels and which weapons? The main arms of concern to us are the arms that are already in Syria - these are anti-aircraft weapons, these are chemical weapons and other very, very dangerous weapons that could be game changers, he said.

They will change the conditions, the balance of power in the Middle East. They could present a terrorist threat on a worldwide scale. It is definitely our interest to defend ourselves, but we also think it is in the interest of other countries."..."

IRAN ABLE TO DESTROY ISRAEL 'ALONE': COMMANDER

April 18, 2013 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Iran's army "alone" is able to destroy Israel, army commander General Ataollah Salehi said on Thursday, responding to boasts by the Jewish state that its military that could attack its archfoe on its own.

"Our message to this illegitimate regime (Israel) is the same, we do not need to utilise all of Iran's military forces," Salehi said on the sidelines of the Islamic republic's annual Army Day. "The army ... alone is able to destroy Israel."

His comments come after Israeli chief of staff Lieutenant General Benny Gantz on Tuesday said the Jewish state's military was capable of attacking Iran on its own without foreign support.

Asked in an interview on public radio if the military could wage attacks on Iran "alone" -- without the support of countries such as the United States -- Gantz replied: "Yes, absolutely."

Israel believes the Islamic republic, which has issued many bellicose statements about the Jewish state, is working to achieve a military nuclear capability and has not ruled out a military strike to prevent this happening.

Iran denies it is developing an atomic bomb and says it needs its nuclear programme of uranium enrichment for peaceful medical and energy purposes. Israel is widely believed to be the Middle East's sole nuclear-armed state, albeit undeclared."..."

ASSAD SAYS WEST WILL PAY FOR BACKING AL QAEDA IN SYRIA

April 17, 2013 Reuters reported: "Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said Western nations will suffer the consequences for what he said was their support for al Qaeda militants in his country's civil war.

'The West has paid heavily for funding al Qaeda in its early stages in Afghanistan. Today it is supporting it in Syria, Libya and other places, and will pay a heavy price later in the heart of Europe and the United States,' he told Syrian television channel al-Ikhbariya, according to extracts published on the Syrian presidency's Facebook page on Wednesday.

Assad was speaking a week after Syria's rebel al-Nusra Front, one of the most effective rebel forces battling his troops, formally pledged allegiance to al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri.

The United States has designated the Nusra Front a terrorist organization and the presence of militant Islamists in Syria's two-year conflict poses a quandary for Western powers who favor Assad's overthrow, but are alarmed at the growing influence of the Islamists in Syria.

'The truth is, what is happening is that we are mainly facing extremist forces,' Assad said in the interview..."

MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD LINKS BOSTON ATTACK TO ANTI-ISLAM CONSPIRACY

April 17, 2013 Israel National News reported: "A leader of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood on Tuesday linked the Boston bombings to an anti-Islam conspiracy.

In a post on his personal Facebook page Muslim Brotherhood Vice President Essam el-Erian suggested the attack was part of a global plot to discredit Islam, citing violence in Mali, Syria, Somalia and other Muslim nations, The Hill reported.

‘Our sympathy with the families of the victims, and the American people do not stop us from reading into the grave incident,’ he wrote, according to an English translation.

‘This series of events began with the sending of French battalions to Mali in a war against organizations that are said to belong to Al-Qaeda. Bombings intensified in Syria in a suspicious manner that deviated from the path of the great Syrian revolution, and smear campaigns began,’ he continued. ‘Violent explosions returned, rearing their ugly heads again in Iraq, targeting peaceful movements aiming for needed reform. After a reasonable calm in Somalia, the capital Mogadishu shook again, leading to lowered confidence in the new president and government.

‘A question that forces itself: Who disturbed democratic transformations, despite the difficult transition from despotism, corruption, poverty, hatred, and intolerance to freedom, justice tolerance, development, human dignity, and social justice?’

The Freedom and Justice Party officially condemned the Boston attacks, saying they ‘categorically’ rejected the ‘intolerable’ attack, claiming it violated the principles of Islamic Sharia law...”

U.S. MILITARY TO STEP UP PRESENCE IN JORDAN IN LIGHT OF SYRIA CIVIL WAR

April 17, 2013 CNN.com reported: “In a critical indication of growing U.S. military involvement in the civil war in Syria, CNN has learned Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel is ordering the deployment of up to 200 troops to Jordan, according to two Defense Department officials.

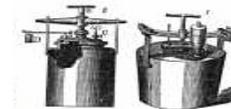
The troops, which will come from the headquarters of the 1st Armored Division at Fort Bliss, Texas, "creates an additional capability" beyond what has been there, one official said.

The group will give the United States the ability to "potentially form a joint task force for military operations, if ordered," he said.

The new deployment will include communications and intelligence specialists who will assist the Jordanians and "be ready for military action" if President Barack Obama were to order it, the official said.”...”

PRESSURE COOKER BOMB INSTRUCTIONS IN AL-QAEDA MAGAZINE

April 16, 2013 USA Today reported: “Instructions to make bombs out of pressure cookers similar to those believed the source of two explosions in Boston on Monday were published two years ago in Inspire, an online magazine tied to al-Qaeda and the late U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, an analysis of the magazine shows.



The article, ‘How to Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom,’ by ‘the AQ Chef’ instructed would-be bombers to glue shrapnel to the inside of a pressure cooker and then ‘fill in the cooker with the inflammable material.’

Would-be bombers, the article said, should use gloves to prevent their fingerprints from being found on the bomb fragments and to ‘put you [sic] faith in Allah and pray for the success of your operation.’...”

GANTZ: ISRAEL CAN ACT ALONE AGAINST IRAN NUKES

April 16, 2013 Israel National News reported: “IDF Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Benny Gantz said in an interview broadcast Tuesday on Voice of Israel public radio that the IDF has the ability to act on its own against the Iranian nuclear program.

In response to a question, Lt. Gen. Gantz said that there are ongoing deliberations between the political echelon and the military echelon, and that it would not be accurate to call these discussions ‘arguments.’

When asked if the IDF has the capability to take action on its own against the Iranian nuclear program, he replied ‘absolutely, yes.’...”

H7N9 BIRD FLU POISED TO SPREAD

April 15, 2013 Nature.com reported: “The H7N9 avian flu virus greatly expanded its geographical range over the weekend, with two new human cases reported in Beijing in the north of China, and another two in Henan province in the centre. Up until now, the virus had been restricted to Shanghai and neighbouring regions on the Eastern seaboard. Experts worry that this new development may be the start of an expansion that may see H7N9 quickly fan out across large areas of China, and beyond.

There is still no evidence of any sustained human-to-human spread of the H7N9 virus. But the World Health Organisation confirmed on Saturday that Chinese authorities are investigating two suspicious clusters of human cases. Though these can arise by infection from a common source, they can also signal that limited human-to-human transmission has occurred....

Experts say the surge in human cases is troubling, with 63 infections and 14 deaths reported as of Monday, up from 24 cases barely a week ago. China reported its first cases of H7N9 on 31 March; in just two weeks the number of H7N9 cases has exceeded the 45 H5N1 cases China has reported over the decade since that virus began causing outbreaks.”...”