



PROPHETIC TIMES

Weekly World News Briefs

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February 11, 2017

DEFIANT IRAN TEST-FIRES ANOTHER MISSILE DAYS AFTER US WARNING

February 9, 2017 timesofisrael.com reported: "Iran reportedly test-fired another missile on Wednesday, just days after a series of warnings from the Trump administration that it was 'on notice' for previous ballistic missile tests and that a military response to such actions was under consideration.

According to a Fox News report, a US official said the test on Wednesday was of a short-range surface-to-air missile, called Mersad, which impacted 56 kilometers (35 miles) away. The test came on the same day US officials told Reuters that the White House was considering a proposal that could lead to naming Iran's most powerful military and political institution, the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps, as a terrorist organization.

The proposal is reportedly one of many being weighed as part of an overall Iran policy review, amid a tougher line on Tehran since the Trump administration came into office..."

IRON DOME INTERCEPTS THREE ROCKETS FROM SINAI HEADED FOR EILAT

February 9, 2017 timesofisrael.com reported: "The Iron Dome missile defense system intercepted three rockets headed for the southern city of Eilat late Wednesday night, while a fourth fell in an open area, the army said. This fourth rocket was not shot down by the missile defense battery as it was headed towards an open field, a military spokesperson said.

There were no injuries or damage reported from the rocket salvo. However, city officials said that five people were treated for anxiety attacks related to the incident. One of them was taken to the hospital, the Magen David Adom ambulance service told Israel Radio.

The rockets were fired from the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, according to the Israel Defense Forces. There were no immediate claims of responsibility, but the Islamic State affiliate Ansar Bait al-Maqdis — formerly known as Wilayat Sinai — has been waging a bloody battle with Egyptian forces in the peninsula..."



Sinai Peninsula

POLAND WANTS US OR EUROPEAN NUCLEAR UMBRELLA: KACZYNSKI

February 9, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: "The powerful head of Poland's ruling party wants his country to be "included" in the US nuclear defence system, according to an interview published Wednesday. Jaroslaw Kaczynski told the Gazeta Polska daily that Warsaw "should work for the inclusion of Poland in the American nuclear defence system", which "would be the optimal solution".

But Kaczynski also called for Europe to become a "nuclear superpower", in a separate interview published Tuesday by Germany's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung daily, as Chancellor Angela Merkel visited Warsaw.

Under NATO's Article 5 collective defence agreement, the US nuclear umbrella already protects NATO allies including Poland as well as Japan, South Korea and Australia..."

Kaczynski told Germany's FAZ he "would welcome" a European nuclear umbrella. "Europe would become a superpower. One or two nuclear submarines would not be enough," Kaczynski told the FAZ, referring to Britain's ageing fleet of nuclear-armed submarines..."

'PREPARE FOR WAR!'

February 8, 2017 thesun.co.uk reported: "VLADIMIR Putin has ordered his army and air force to prepare for a 'time of war' during a check of the country's armed forces. Russia's defence ministry confirmed the measures during a "snap check" that included its massive S-300 and S-400 missile defence systems. Minister Sergey Shoigu said: "As part of a snap combat readiness check of the Aerospace Force, units of the Aerospace Force's antiaircraft missile and radio-technical troops have arrived at the designated areas," TASS reported.

"Upon their arrival at the new positions, the crews of radar stations, S-300 and S-400 antiaircraft missile systems carried out maintenance work on their military hardware and went on combat alert.

"As the combat crews of radar stations and antiaircraft missile systems detect unidentified aerial targets, air defense patrol fighter jets will be scrambled to classify them or notionally destroy them."

The warning is a likely a response to the massive NATO operations currently underway in eastern Europe. Germany and NATO this week underscored their commitment to beefing up the defence of eastern Europe's border with Russia as the first of four new battalions under the North Atlantic alliance's banner arrived in Lithuania. In moves agreed last year under former President Barack Obama, NATO is expanding its presence in the region to levels unprecedented since the Cold War, prompted by Russia's annexation of Crimea and accusations that it is supporting a separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine..."

FRANCE: ANTI-CHRISTIAN ATTACKS RISE 245 PERCENT

February 8, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "While racist, anti-Muslim, and anti-Semitic attacks have seen a huge fall since 2008, those on Christian places of worship more than doubled in this period of time, France's interior ministry reported last week. Having documented a record number of anti-Semitic and anti-Muslim attacks in 2015, the French government spent €100 million on a huge anti-populist campaign to reduce Islamophobia, racism, and anti-Semitism.

Subsequently, racist, anti-Semitic, and anti-Muslim attacks fell sharply in 2016 with the former seeing a decline of 58.5 per cent and the latter a drop of 57.6 per cent. These attacks are defined as being fires, violence, degradation, and threats — comments, inscriptions, insulting letters. In this year, attacks on Christian places of worship have increased by 17.4 per cent in 2016 compared to 2015. Racist attacks, meanwhile, dropped by 23.7 per cent (608 versus 797)..."

TELL AMERICA WHAT'S IN THE IRAN DEAL

February 7, 2017 nypost.com reported: "On Jan. 30, 2017, Iran tested a new ballistic missile, seemingly the long-range Khorramshahr. In response, the White House announced sanctions against 25 Iranian individuals and companies. It's a small reaction to an extraordinary provocation that rips away the curtain obscuring America's foreign-policy decisions, past and present."...

In negotiating the secret Iran deal, President Barack Obama took the position that it wasn't a treaty and therefore didn't require Senate ratification under the Constitution. Had it been a treaty, Obama would've needed two-thirds of the upper chamber's votes — which he wouldn't have gotten."...

But what was in the treaty? Ah, that was the great thing. No one knew. And now the Iranians are telling us that Obama secretly promised them they could build ballistic missiles capable of a 2,000-mile flight.

Why that number? Because the Iranians insisted they wanted to be able to strike every part of Israel, and the European members of the six-party Iran talks — Germany, France and Britain — didn't mind so long as Iran couldn't build longer-range missiles that could reach them. No skin off their noses if Israel were destroyed.

Now here's where it gets interesting. The administration thought the Iranian missile launched last month was a medium-range Shahab missile (postmarked Israel-only). It seems to have taken that from a speech by Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan last September.

The problem is, that's not what Dehghan said, according to the Middle East Media Research Institute. The Iranians have been phasing out the Shahab missile, and what he was referring to were long-range missiles such as the Khorramshahr, which he said would be operational by March 2017, along with similar long-range surface-to-surface missiles.

The new missiles have a range of 2,500 to 5,000 miles and could easily reach all of Europe. Add a range of another 500 miles and that includes Boston. At the same time that we gave Iran the green light for its nuclear program, we gave it the means to attack us. Lest any doubt remain, we watered down a UN Security Council resolution that might have gotten in the way."..."

WHAT IF THE INTERNET STOPPED FOR A DAY

February 7, 2017 bbc.com reported: "For many people, going without the internet even for a few hours is unthinkable. But if it did stop working, the impact might not be what you'd expect.

Jeff Hancock likes to give his Stanford University students weekend assignments that let them experience concepts discussed in class for themselves. Before 2008, he would sometimes challenge his students to stay off the internet for 48 hours and then discuss how it affected them. But when Hancock returned to work in 2009, after a year-long sabbatical, things had changed.

"When I tried to introduce the task, there was a class revolt," says Hancock, who studies the psychological and social processes involved in online communication. "The students emphatically said the assignment was impossible and unfair."

They argued that going offline even for a weekend would prevent them from completing work in other classes, ruin their social lives, and make their friends and family worry that something terrible had happened to them. Hancock had to concede and cancelled the activity — and he's never attempted it again. "That was 2009, and now with mobile as present as it is, I don't even know what students would do if I asked them to do that," he says. "They'd probably report me to the university president."

But with our always-connected lifestyles, the question is now more relevant than ever: what would happen if the internet stopped for a day? It turns out the impact might not be quite what you'd expect.

In 1995, fewer than 1% of the world's population was online. The internet was a curiosity, used mostly by people in the West. Fast-forward 20 years and today more than 3.5bn people have an internet connection — nearly half of all humans on the planet — and the number is growing at a rate of around 10 people a second.

According to the Pew Research Centre, a fifth of all Americans say they use the internet "almost constantly" and 73% say they use it at least daily. Figures in the UK are similar: a 2016 survey found that nearly 90% of adults said they had used the internet in the previous three months. For many, it is now virtually impossible to imagine life without the internet."..."

IRANIAN OFFICIAL THREATENS TEL AVIV

February 6, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "A senior Iranian official threatened that his country would immediately strike Israel if the United States 'makes a mistake', i24news reported Sunday. Mojtaba Zonour, a senior member of Iran's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission and a former Revolutionary Guards official, made the comments on Saturday, and reportedly said that 'only 7 minutes is needed for the Iranian missile to hit Tel Aviv.'

Zonour also said a United States base in Bahrain would be 'razed to the ground' in the event of an attack. The threats came after President Donald Trump's administration imposed new sanctions on 25 individuals and companies connected to Iran's ballistic missile program and those providing support to the Revolutionary Guard Corps' Qods Force.

The sanctions came in response to a ballistic missile test conducted by Iran last week, in violation of UN Resolution 2231, which bars Iran from conducting ballistic missile tests for eight years and which went into effect after the nuclear deal between Iran and the six world powers was signed..."..."

IDF HITS HAMAS AFTER PROJECTILE FIRED AT ISRAEL

February 6, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "The IDF opened fire on a Hamas position in the northern Gaza Strip Monday morning in retaliation for an attack by the terror group earlier today. An army spokesperson said that an IDF tank unit had opened fire on the Hamas position shortly after a 'projectile' launched from the Gaza Strip struck the western Negev Monday morning.

'Initial inquiry suggests a projectile launched from the Gaza Strip landed in an open area,' an army statement said..."

