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ERDOGAN: SOON EUROPEANS 'WILL NOT WALK SAFELY ON THEIR STREETS'

March 23, 2017 Breitbart.com reported: "Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has warned the European Union (EU) that if the diplomatic spat between Turkey and several European countries continues, Europeans won't be able to walk their own streets safely.

President Erdogan made the comments Wednesday in what is another increase of tensions between Turkey and the EU that began when Germany and the Netherlands banned several Turkish ministers from holding campaign rallies for the upcoming Turkish referendum. Erdogan has threatened Europe before, but this time he threatened the safety of Europeans if the row continues, Die Welt reports.

'If you continue to behave like this, not a single European, not a single Westerner will be able to take a step on the road safely anytime in the world,' Erdogan said at a press conference adding: 'We as Turkey are calling on Europe to respect human rights and democracy.'

Erdogan did not go into specifics of the threat, though many Turks living in countries like Germany and the Netherlands have expressed massive support for him following the failed coup attempt last year..."

LONDON ATTACK: BRITISH-BORN ATTACKER 'KNOWN TO MI5'

March 23, 2017 BBC News reported: "The Westminster attacker was British-born and known to the police and intelligence services, the prime minister has revealed. In a statement to the Commons, Theresa May said he had been investigated some years ago over violent extremism but had been a 'peripheral figure'.

'He was not part of the current intelligence picture,' she said.

Eight arrests have been made following the attack on Wednesday that left four dead. Those that died are PC Keith Palmer, Aysha Frade who worked at a London college, a man in his 50s and the attacker. Seven of the injured are still in hospital in a critical condition. A further 29 had been treated in hospital, Mr Rowley added.

In the attack on Wednesday afternoon, a man drove a car along a pavement on Westminster Bridge knocking down pedestrians, creating panic and leaving dozens injured. He then ran towards Parliament where he stabbed PC Palmer who was unarmed. Armed police then shot dead the attacker in the grounds..."



British Parliament

COALITION GATHERS TO HEAR TRUMP ISLAMIC STATE PLAN

March 22, 2017 SpaceWar.com reported: "Ministers from the 68-nation US-led coalition fighting the Islamic State group meet in Washington Wednesday to hear more about US President Donald Trump's plan to destroy the jihadists' remaining strongholds in Iraq and Syria.

Trump has ordered his generals to craft an accelerated strategy to 'eradicate' the group's so-called caliphate, and allied partners are keen to learn more at the day-long ministerial-level discussion.

The meeting at the State Department also allows Trump's discreet secretary of state, Rex Tillerson, to emerge from the shadows and stamp his authority on the diplomatic side of the joint effort.

But Trump's plan to slash 28 percent from the State Department's budget for diplomacy and foreign aid suggests fewer resources for post-conflict stabilization — a proposal that has raised eyebrows.

European diplomats told AFP they expect Washington to reaffirm its commitment to a longer-term plan to secure the region after a battlefield victory..."

IRAN PREPARED TO RESUME NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

March 22, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: "Iran is prepared to resume its nuclear activities if the United States continues its 'lack of commitment' to the nuclear deal between Iran and the West, the country's Foreign Minister declared on Tuesday.

'If the U.S. creates a situation that continuation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) would damage Tehran's national interest, then Iran is completely ready to come back to the situation it had prior to the JCPOA and even more powerfully than before,' the minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, told reporters, according to the IRNA news agency.

Zarif claimed that over the past few months, 'we have succeeded in making operational the most advanced centrifuges that were just an idea at the time of approving the JCPOA.'

He reiterated, however, that Iran is still committed to the nuclear deal..."

NORTH KOREA NUCLEAR PROGRAMME IN 'NEW PHASE'

March 21, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reports: "North Korea's uranium enrichment facility has doubled in size over the last few years, the UN's atomic watchdog chief has warned, as global tensions grow over Pyongyang's burgeoning nuclear weapons programme.

Yukiya Amano, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) told the Wall Street Journal that the isolated state's nuclear capacities are being ramped up.

'The situation is very bad... It has gone into a new phase,' Amano said, in the report published Monday. 'All of the indications point to the fact that North Korea is making progress, as they declared.'

International alarm over Pyongyang's military ambitions has risen after a series of missile launches and nuclear tests last year, and earlier this month it fired four rockets in what it described as practice for an attack on United States military bases in Japan.

The North, which also tested a powerful new rocket engine at the weekend to coincide with a trip to Asia by US Secretary State Rex Tillerson, has long coveted a missile capable of hitting the US mainland with a nuclear warhead...”

NORTH KOREA TO TILLERSON: WE ARE READY FOR ‘ANY WAR THE U.S. WOULD LIKE’

March 21, 2017 breitbart.com reported: “North Korea’s foreign ministry warned Monday that its government is prepared to go to war with the United States, following remarks from Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in which he said the Trump administration was prepared for a military engagement with the communist dictatorship should they strike U.S. allies.

‘The U.S. should face up to the situation of the world with its eyes wide open. The DPRK has the will and capability to fully respond to any war the U.S. would like to ignite,’ the state-run Korean Central News Agency quoted a foreign ministry spokesman as saying, according to the South Korean newswire service Yonhap.

‘If the businessmen-turned-U.S.-authorities thought that they would frighten the DPRK, they would soon know that their method would not work on the latter,’ the spokesman continued. ‘The world will soon witness what eventful significance the great victory won by the DPRK in the recent ground jet test of Korean-style high-thrust engine will carry.’...”

ISRAEL'S DAVID'S SLING MISSILE SYSTEM TO BE OPERATIONAL IN WEEKS

March 21, 2017 spacedaily.com reported: “David's Sling, Israel's developing mid-tier missile defense system, is set to become operational within weeks, according to local media reports.

Once operational, the system will be used to supplement Israel's existing Iron Dome and Arrow missile defense systems. The new platform specializes in intercepting tactical ballistic missiles, medium to long-range rockets, and cruise missiles.

The Iron Dome was built to engage short-range rockets, and the Arrow was designed to intercept ballistic missiles outside Earth's atmosphere. Israeli defense officials say the addition of David's Sling fills critical gaps for the country's defenses.

"One of the threats against us is heavy rockets, not Katyushas or Grads, which can travel 25 miles, but things that can travel several hundred kilometers," Israeli missile engineer Uzi Rubin told Times of Israel. "There are also things like air-to-ground weapons, which act like missiles -- the David's Sling needs to intercept those too."

Operational capability for David's Sling comes as tensions mount between Israel and its neighbor states, including Syria. According to the Jerusalem Post, the Arrow system was used to intercept a ballistic missile fired toward Israel by the Syrian army.”...”

‘IF LEBANESE ROCKETS STRIKE ISRAEL, IT’S A DECLARATION OF WAR’

March 20, 2017 Arutz Sheva 7 reported: “Education Minister Naftali Bennett, who also serves as chairman of the Jewish Home party and as a member of the security cabinet, spoke on Monday about the security and national situation in Israel, as well as about Israel’s attack on a Syrian weapons target.

‘The Israeli government’s policy is very consistent,’ Bennett said. We will work to prevent Hezbollah from gaining strength in Lebanon. On our northern border, there is an attempt to threaten Israel strategically and Hezbollah currently has over 100,000 rockets and is working to improve their aim.’

‘We are doing all we can to prevent Hezbollah from succeeding, and we will continue to do so.

‘In the past, our policy was to fight with Hezbollah, but not to touch sovereign Lebanon. That’s what we did in the Second Lebanon War, when I commanded a group of soldiers. Our orders were to harm Hezbollah and only Hezbollah, and to cause no harm to any Lebanese government buildings.

‘But I no longer accept this differentiation.

‘The new policy must be that Lebanon is Hezbollah and Hezbollah is Lebanon. I have been pushing for this policy change for over two years, for the simple reason that all of Hezbollah’s infrastructure is intertwined with that of Lebanon.

‘Hezbollah is part of the government, they chose the president, and all of Lebanon’s leaders say that Hezbollah is part of their national security. We can’t keep looking for a needle in the haystack of Lebanon. Every Lebanese citizen needs to know that if rockets are fired on us from Lebanon, we will see it as the Lebanese government’s declaration of war, and we will act accordingly.’...”

U.S., CHINA TO COOPERATE ON ‘DANGEROUS’ NORTH KOREA SITUATION

March 19, 2017 SpaceDaily.com reported: “The US and China pledged on Saturday to work together in addressing the threat posed by North Korea’s nuclear programme, as US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson warned regional tensions had reached a ‘dangerous level.’



The language from Tillerson and his Chinese counterpart after talks in Beijing was notably conciliatory after a run-up in which US President Donald Trump accused China of doing nothing to control its rogue neighbour while Beijing blamed Washington for fuelling hostilities.

‘I think we share a common view and a sense that tensions in the peninsula are quite high right now and that things have reached a rather dangerous level,’ Tillerson said after talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

‘We will work together to see if we cannot bring the government in Pyongyang to a place where they want to make a different course, make a course correction, and move away from the development of nuclear weapons.’...”