



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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PUTIN PROPOSES US-RUSSIAN BASE TO OVERCOME MISSILE CRISIS

June 8, 2007 Agence France-Presse reported: "Russian President Vladimir Putin called for a joint Russian-US base to detect missile attacks in a startling proposal to overcome a crisis between the two countries. Putin offered President George W. Bush the joint use of a Russian radar base in Azerbaijan as an alternative to plans for a US missile shield in central Europe.



Russia has angrily opposed the planned US shield in Poland and the Czech Republic and Putin had threatened to return to the Cold War policy of aiming Russian missiles at European targets, if it was deployed. Putin said a joint base would "remove the need, would allow us to not change our policy on non-targeting of our missiles."

Putin and Bush met Thursday on the sidelines of the Group of Eight summit in Heiligendamm, Germany in a bid to rescue relations which were at a post-Cold War low amid their missile defence wrangling.

Bush found the Russian offer "interesting" and proposed experts from the two countries examine it, his national security advisor, Stephen Hadley, said later. Bush himself told journalists that the two leaders would pursue their "strategic dialogue" at talks at the Bush family home in the United States in early July.

Putin said he had spoken on Wednesday to the president of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, who had agreed that the Gabalin base rented by Russia could also be jointly used by the United States."..."

STUDENTS TAKE TV FIGHT TO VENEZUELA CONGRESS

June 7, 2007 Reuters reported: "Students took their 11-day-old protest over President Hugo Chavez's shutdown of the last nationwide opposition television station to Venezuela's Congress on Thursday, in a rare appearance by the opposition in the legislature.

Addressing the 167-member body, where there have been no opposition lawmakers since 2005, student leader Douglas Barrios said daily demonstrations against the closure of RCTV would continue. "Today our classes are in the street," he said in remarks that were broadcast nationally.

At one point, Barrios took off his T-shirt in the signature red of Chavez, saying Venezuelans could refuse to wear the government uniform - a reference to the opposition's charge that Chavez intimidates people into displaying support for him.

The closing has become the rallying cry for a nascent pro-democracy student movement that critics of the president hope can help fill a void left by a weak opposition in the polarized OPEC nation.

Congress, which has granted Chavez the power to rule by decree, organized a debate over the station's closure between pro- and anti-government students and the government required all Venezuelan television and radio to broadcast the session.

The anti-Chavez students -- part of a mainly middle-class movement that has at times drawn tens of thousands onto the streets -- walked out after the first pro-government speech, complaining the event was politicized."..."

GCC MULLS JOINT AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM

June 6, 2007 The Middle East Newline reported: "The Gulf Cooperation has been examining a regional air and missile defense system.

Officials said the six GCC militaries were studying the feasibility of an air and missile defense network that would protect against Iran's medium- and intermediate-range missiles. They said the proposed system was discussed by GCC air force commanders during their meeting in Oman on Tuesday.

Royal Air Force of Oman commander Maj. Gen. Yahya Bin Rashid said the development of a regional air defense system marked a GCC priority. Bin Rashid said details of the proposed air defense system and a distribution of assets were being reviewed during the meeting of the air force chiefs.

In 2000, the GCC launched the Belt of Cooperation project, designed to provide air alert and communications. The project, led by the U.S. Raytheon and Sweden's Ericsson, has completed the first stage of development."..."

US-RUSSIA WAR OF WORDS HIJACKING G8 'CLIMATE' SUMMIT

June 6, 2007 The EU Observer reported: "US president George Bush has set the scene for a showdown with Russia's Putin at the G8 summit in Germany today (6 June), with a speech in Prague on Tuesday saying Moscow has "derailed" democracy and reviling the repression of the old Soviet Union.

"In Russia, reforms that were once promised to empower citizens have been derailed, with troubling implications for democratic development," Mr Bush said at a meeting with dissidents from around the world in the Czernin Palace in the Czech capital.

"America can maintain a friendship and push a nation toward democracy at the same time. We're also applying that lesson to our relationships with Russia and China," he added, in one of the few direct references to Vladimir Putin's country during the address.

But the speech was full of thinly-veiled allusions to other contemporary Russian issues, such as the Kremlin's threat to point nuclear missiles at Europe or its argument that western talk of values is an attempt to undermine its re-emergence as a petro-based superpower.

"Democracies address problems through the political process, instead of blaming outside scapegoats," Mr Bush said. "Some say that ending tyranny means 'imposing our values'...That is refuted by the fact that every time people are given a choice, they choose freedom."

The US president also voiced ongoing support for colour revolutions - peaceful victories by democratic forces in post-Soviet states. "Freedom can be resisted and freedom can be delayed, but freedom cannot be denied," he said. "We saw it when Ukrainians in orange scarves demanded that their ballots be counted."..."

U.S. DECIDES AGAINST IRAN STRIKE

June 6, 2007 The Middle East Newslite reported: "The Bush administration has decided not to strike Iran's nuclear facilities.

Administration sources said President George Bush has decided that barring a "catastrophic development," the United States would not attack Iran. The sources said the administration has been relaying the decision to U.S. allies in the Middle East.

"The United States has decided that Iran's cooperation was needed for a withdrawal from Iraq," an administration source said. "There won't be a situation where there will be cooperation and then war with Iran."

The sources said the administration plans to discuss its decision with Israel during their annual strategic dialogue, which takes place on Wednesday in Washington. The Israeli delegation would be headed by Transportation Minister Shaul Mofaz, a former defense minister and military chief of staff. Mofaz was scheduled to meet Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and other senior administration officials."..."

AHMADINEJAD TO UN: SANCTIONS ARE LIKE PLAYING WITH LION'S TAIL

June 5, 2007 Haaretz.com reported: "Iran's president told the UN Security Council on Tuesday not to continue along the path of imposing sanctions on Tehran over its nuclear program, saying it was like "playing with a lion's tail".

The Security Council has slapped two rounds of sanctions on Iran since December for its failure to stop atomic work which the West believes is aimed at building a nuclear warhead. World powers have warned Iran could now face another resolution.

"We believe that they (the Security Council) should avoid illegal measures and defend the rights of nations," President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told a news conference with visiting foreign journalists.

"They observed that previous sanctions had no effect on Iran's nuclear activities and we have told them not to enter this path. They cannot harm our nation," he said.

"They should be aware that Iran is a big country. Some say Iran is like a lion sitting calmly in the corner. We advise them not to play with a lion's tail."

Iranian officials have regularly dismissed the impact of sanctions, which have included targeting a major Iranian state bank. Although sanctions are narrowly focused, economists say they are still deterring both foreign and local investors."..."



IRAN PRESIDENT SEES "COUNTDOWN" TO ISRAEL'S END

June 4, 2007 Reuters reported: "Iran's president said on Sunday the Lebanese and the Palestinians had pressed a "countdown button" to bring an end to Israel. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, who triggered outrage in the West two years ago when he said Israel should be "wiped off the map", has often referred to the destruction of the Jewish state but says Iran is not a threat.

"With God's help, the countdown button for the destruction of the Zionist regime has been pushed by the hands of the children of Lebanon and Palestine," Ahmadinejad said in a speech.

"By God's will, we will witness the destruction of this regime in the near future," he said. He did not elaborate.

Iran often praises the Palestinians for what it says is their resistance against Israeli occupation. Tehran also described the war last summer between Hezbollah in Lebanon and Israel as a victory for the Iranian-backed group.

"If you make a mistake and create another war against the oppressed Lebanese nation, this time the angry ocean of the nations of the region will remove your rotten ... roots from the region," the president said in another speech on Sunday night.

Ahmadinejad's speeches were made ahead of Monday's anniversary of the death in 1989 of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic, whose words Ahmadinejad echoed when he called for Israel to be "wiped off the map"."..."

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