

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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ISRAEL WARNS 'WAR IS NOT OVER'

August 17, 2006 The Toronto Star reported: "An already fragile ceasefire in the Middle East now appears in greater danger of unravelling, threatened by Hezbollah's refusal to disarm and Israeli charges that Iran and Syria are already rearming its enemy. "This war is not over yet," Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni told reporters at the United Nations yesterday.

The Israeli chief of defence staff, Lt. Gen. Dan Halutz, also said Israeli troops would remain in southern Lebanon until a robust multinational force arrived, even if that took months.

The Lebanese cabinet yesterday approved a plan to deploy its army to the south of the country starting today, a key point in the UN-brokered agreement, which ended 34 days of fighting, but there are no plans to use that army to try to disarm Hezbollah.

Officials of the Shiite militia told reporters in Lebanon yesterday that they had no intention of disarming but would melt into the population and not flaunt their weaponry, much as they had before. They also said the Lebanese army had agreed not to diligently search for Hezbollah weapons caches...

The White House said the onus is on the Lebanese government to disarm Hezbollah, acknowledging that could take time. But analysts reluctantly suggested a fresh outbreak of fighting could be at hand.

"If Israel couldn't disarm Hezbollah, I doubt the Lebanese government, even backed by an international force, could do it," said James Phillips, a Middle East analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

"Ultimately, Hezbollah will be disarmed only when it is convinced it will be barred from Lebanese politics unless it disarms. That will take concerted international pressure, especially from the U.S."

In the short term, however, Phillips questioned whether there was actually a ceasefire agreement in place. "It is extremely fragile and likely to be broken time and again," he said."..."

BRITAIN IS POTENTIAL SITE FOR US MISSILE DEFENCE SYSTEM

August 16, 2006 SpaceWar.com reported: "The Pentagon is making inquiries as to whether Britain would allow the United States to set up in the country the European base for its new missile defence system, The Times reported on Wednesday.

American defence planners are inquiring whether the British government would accept the interceptor missiles and radar, designed to knock out any ballistic missiles fired by terrorists or Iran before they reach the United States, the newspaper reported, citing unnamed British officials.

The United States preferred to put its European base in either Poland or the Czech Republic, but has turned to Britain because of increasing opposition to the idea in the two central European countries.

"A few weeks ago it looked like we were out of the woods on this one," an unnamed senior British source was quoted as saying.

"That has changed because Central Europe no longer looks like such an easy option."

The head of the US missile defense agency, General Henry Obering, said Tuesday he expects to make recommendations in a matter of months on where to position interceptor missiles and radar in Europe.

The European site would be the first expansion outside of the United States of an unproven US missile defense system that currently is aimed at thwarting a limited long-range missile attack by North Korea.

Speaking to The Times, Riki Ellison, head of the Missile Defence Advocacy Alliance, a pressure group, said: "The UK has always been the fall-back option and there is some concern about whether Poland and the Czech Republic will turn out to be stable partners in the same way that you guys have been."



GERMANY CALLED TO IMPOSE EMBARGO ON ISRAEL

August 14, 2006 The Middle East Newline reported: "Germany has been pressed to end military sales to Israel. The opposition in Germany's parliament has issued calls for a suspension of arms deliveries to Israel. Opposition parliamentarians maintained that the arms exports were unconstitutional.

The Green Party has urged an embargo until the end of the Israeli war in Lebanon. The party has argued that Berlin was prohibited from supplying weapons to areas in conflict. Parliamentarians in Britain, France and Switzerland have also called for an Israeli embargo.

Germany has been Europe's leading arms supplier to Israel. Industry sources said German exports include the armor, engine,

transmission and gun for Israel's Merkava Mk-4 main battle tank.”...”

BRITAIN: MORE TERRORISTS COULD BE PLANNING ATTACKS

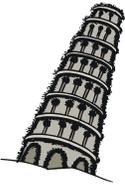
August 13, 2006 The Voice of America News reported: “British officials say terrorists could still be planning to carry out attacks on the country, although authorities believe they have detained the main suspects in a plot to blow up U.S.-bound flights. Home Secretary John Reid told British television (BBC) Sunday the threat of a terrorist attack in Britain is still very substantial.

He says at least four major terrorist plots have been thwarted since the deadly July seventh attacks on the London transit system last year. Twenty-three people are in detention in London, suspected of planning to detonate liquid explosives aboard as many as 10 airliners. London investigators say they arrested the suspects Thursday after a conspirator in Pakistan urged an accomplice in Britain to quickly carry out the plan.

Pakistani officials also have arrested several suspects, including a Briton (Rashid Rauf) allegedly tied to al-Qaida in Afghanistan. British investigators are searching for possible links to last July's suicide bombings, which killed 52 people and wounded hundreds more. Authorities in the United States say they are also looking for possible U.S. ties to the conspiracy.”

ITALY ANNOUNCES ARREST OF 40 PEOPLE LINKED TO ISLAMIC GROUPS

August 12, 2006 The Voice of America News reported: “Italian police have arrested 40 people linked to Islamic groups in nationwide raids as part of a security crackdown. Authorities say 28 of the detainees were charged with violating rules on residence permits and 12 with other minor offenses. But they said none face terrorism charges. Officials say they also issued 114 expulsion orders as part of the same operation. The raids focused on Islamic gathering places, including telephone call centers, Internet cafes and offices for sending cash abroad.



Officers also raided 15 apartments, mostly those of Pakistanis, in cooperation with a Belgian police investigation into suspected financing of terrorist groups. The raids, Thursday and Friday, followed Thursday's arrest in Britain of 24 people suspected in an alleged plot to blow up U.S.-bound airliners over the Atlantic Ocean.”...”

IRAN REPORTS HUGE INCREASE IN ARMS SALES

August 13, 2006 The Middle East Newline reported: “Iran has reported a major increase in arms sales. Officials said the Defense Ministry has garnered new clients for Iranian military systems over the last 18 months. They said the sales included anti-tank missiles, naval boats and other platforms.

On Thursday, Iranian Defense Minister Mostafa Najjar reported a 75 percent increase in defense sales. Najjar, who did not cite a figure, said this was the highest increase ever for Iran's military industry.

In an interview with the official Iranian news agency, Irna, Najjar said Iranian defense exports increased by 17 percent in the year that began in March 2006. The minister said defense sales in 2005 rose by 15 percent. He did not provide any figures.”...”

AHMADINEJAD DEMANDS US CHANGE 'BEHAVIOR'

August 12, 2006 SpaceWar.com reported: “Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad accused the United States of harboring imperial ambitions and demanded the administration change its behavior, in an interview with a US television network. The Americans "want to build an empire," said Ahmadinejad, according to excerpts of the interview published by the CBS network on its website Wednesday.

"And they don't want to live side-by-side in peace with other nations. The American government, sir, it is very clear to me they have to change their behavior and everything will be resolved," said Ahmadinejad.

The interview, which was to be broadcast in full on Sunday on the "60 minutes" program, coincides with rising tensions between Washington and Tehran over Iran's disputed nuclear program and Israel's offensive against Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The hardline Iranian president said the administration of President George W. Bush had adopted a condescending attitude towards Iran over its nuclear program and criticized a UN Security Council resolution requiring Tehran suspend uranium enrichment activities or face the prospect of sanctions.

"Well, please look at the makeup of the American administration, the behavior of the American administration. See how they talk down to my nation. And this recent resolution passed about the nuclear issue, look at the wording."

The July 31 resolution was pushed through after Iran ignored a previous non-binding deadline and failed to respond to an international offer of a package of incentives in exchange for a moratorium on nuclear fuel work. Ahmadinejad said Iran was still reviewing the package of incentives.”...”

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