

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

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WHITE HOUSE URGES RESTRAINT ON BOTH SIDES AFTER GAZA SHELLING

November 8, 2006 Haaretz reported: "The White House on Wednesday urged restraint after an Israel Defense Forces strike in Gaza killed 19 Palestinians, and said it hoped for a swift completion of the investigation into the attack.

"We deeply regret the injuries and loss of life in Gaza today. We have seen the Israeli government's apology and hope their investigation will be completed quickly," said Gordon Johndroe, spokesman for the White House National Security Council. "We call on all parties to show restraint so as to avoid any harm to innocent civilians," he said.

The European Union executive on Wednesday called the IDF attack "a profoundly shocking event."

"The killing this morning of so many civilians in Gaza, including many children, is a profoundly shocking event. Israel has a right to defend itself, but not at the price of the lives of the innocent," EU external relations chief Benita Ferrero-Waldner said in a statement.

Syria also condemned the attack, and said the international community and United Nations Security Council had a duty to stop such "massacres" and hold Israel accountable...

In Lebanon, thousands of Palestinian students and children took to the streets of the country's largest refugee camp, waving Palestinian flags and urging Arabs to stand up to Israel. "Oh Arabs where is your pride, they have massacred our people in Gaza," the crowds gathered in the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp chanted as mosques blared Koranic verses.

British Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett said Wednesday that she was "gravely disturbed" by the civilian deaths in Gaza, and extended her condolences to the families of the victims... Beckett also called on Palestinians to end "unacceptable" Qassam fire on Israel and urged both sides "to do their utmost to avoid harming civilians, especially children."...

France and Britain also criticised the continuing rocket attacks by Palestinian militants into Israel."..."

SCIENTISTS TO MIX CELLS OF HUMANS AND COWS

November 7, 2006 The London Daily Telegraph reported: "Two teams of researchers yesterday submitted applications to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority to carry out experiments in which human cells will be fused with rabbit, cow and goat eggs.

They want to create early-stage "chimeric" embryos that would be 99.9 per cent human and 0.1 per cent animal in order to produce embryonic stem cells — the body's basic building blocks that can grow into all other types of cells.

Opponents called the plans "abhorrent" yesterday and claimed that scientists were undermining "the whole distinction between animals and humans".

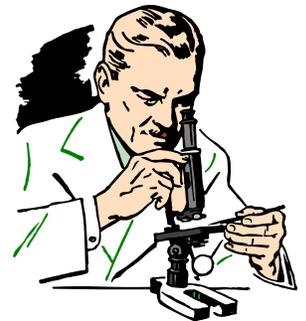
Chinese scientists have previously shown it is possible to harvest stem cells from embryos created by fusing human cells with rabbit or cow eggs... Until now therapeutic cloning has been carried out using human eggs from consenting IVF patients, but these are in short supply. Prof Robin Lovell-Badge, of the National Institute for Medical Research, said: "This is a very rational step: to learn what you can using animal eggs, which are readily obtainable, before moving on to valuable human eggs when or if this becomes necessary."

Dr Stephen Minger's group at King's College, London, want to use the cloned hybrid embryos to create embryonic stem cells carrying the defects responsible for conditions such as spinal muscular dystrophy, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's...

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 1990 makes it illegal to mix human and animal eggs and sperm. But there is an established exception in the so-called "hamster test", by which fertility doctors test the quality of human sperm by fertilising a hamster egg and then destroying it no later than the two-cell stage.

The HFEA is known to have consulted lawyers on whether it has the power to approve yesterday's applications. Their legal advice was that it did fall within their remit because the vast majority of the tissue involved would be human. But opponents will point out that, however small, the quantity of non-human material involved should mean that it falls outside their powers...

Their eventual aim is to develop a way of creating stem cells that could be used to grow new tissue — such as liver, heart and muscle cells — that genetically matches individual patients. This could then be transplanted without the risk of it being rejected by the immune system."..."



IRAN DISPLAYS MASSIVE STRIKE CAPABILITY

November 6, 2006 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Iran has demonstrated its capability to launch a massive missile strike in the Gulf. Western intelligence sources said the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps succeeded in a test that concentrated massive missile and rocket fire in one area. They said the IRGC launched hundreds of missiles and rockets by remote control toward simulated targets

in the Gulf.

"They fired and fired and there were no duds or mishaps," an intelligence source said. "It was a very impressive display of firepower."

On Saturday, Iran announced the testing of anti-tank, anti-helicopter and anti-personnel weapons. Officials said the capability of the anti-helicopter weapons was enhanced by 100 percent in recent years."..."

IRAN'S SOPHISTICATED MISSILES STUN US & ISRAELI MILITARY EXPERTS

November 5, 2006 DEBKAFfile reported: "Our sources reveal that scores of surface missiles – a record for any war games anywhere - were tested simultaneously at a desert testing site some two hours drive from Tehran Thursday, Nov. 2. Precisely planned, the testing went smoothly. Input has not yet come in about the accuracy of their targeting.

A senior American missile expert told DEBKAFfile that the Iranians demonstrated up-to-date missile-launching technology which the West had not known them to possess. They also displayed unfamiliar warheads. But their most startling feat was the successful first test-fire of the long-range Shehab-3 with its cluster of tens of small bomblets, as DEBKAFfile revealed Oct. 31. The entire range bore the imprint of new purchases from China.

This Shehab-3, whose 2,000-km range brings Israel, the Middle East and Europe within reach - may be more than a match for any anti-missile missile system in American, Israeli or European arsenals – depending critically on the point of its fragmentation. Some of its features are still an enigma in the West.

If the Shehab-3's cluster separates close to target, the Israel-US Arrow has a chance to intercept it, but the Americans and Israelis have no defense against the multiple warhead if it separates at a distance.

Another point made by DEBKAFfile's sources is that the spectacular missile show may have been designed for European consumption as much as to impress the US and Israel. Rather than making a secret of the display, General Rahim Safavi, commander of the Revolutionary Guards, which staged the exercise, bragged that Iran had proved its ability to strike targets outside the Middle East. Europe, which Tehran sees as susceptible to such threats, was being warned that it would be first in line for a backlash from a US or Israeli strike against Iran's nuclear facilities.

Iran announced its war game Wednesday night, Nov. 1, in response to the to the US-led naval movements and buildup in the in the Red Sea."..."

REPORT: 6 ARAB COUNTRIES ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR NUCLEAR PROGRAMS

November 4, 2006 Haaretz reported: "Six Arab states have announced plans to embark on programs to develop nuclear energy, according to a report by the Times of London. According to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the countries involved are Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

The report states that the move, which follows the failure by the West to curb Iran's controversial nuclear program, may signal an upcoming rapid spread of nuclear reactors in the Middle East and North Africa.

The six countries have expressed a desire to build civilian nuclear energy programs, which are permitted under international law, the paper said.

But according to the report, the sudden rush to nuclear power has raised suspicions that the real intention is to acquire nuclear technology which could be used for the first Arab atomic bomb."..."

IN FIRST, HAMAS CALLS FOR STRIKES ON U.S. TARGETS

November 9, 2006 The Middle East Newslite reported: "For the first time, Hamas has called on its Muslim allies to attack U.S. targets around the world. The Hamas call came amid an Israeli artillery attack that killed at least 19 people in the northern Gaza Strip. Most of the casualties in the strike on Beit Hanoun were said to be civilians, with at least four members of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade of the Fatah movement.

"America is offering political, financial and logistic cover for the Zionist occupation crimes, and it is responsible for the Beit Hanoun massacre," Hamas said in a statement on Wednesday after the Israeli strike. "Therefore, the people and the nation all over the globe are required to teach the American enemy tough lessons."

It was the first time Hamas called for Muslim strikes on the United States. Over the last few months, Hamas figures warned the United States that its interests in the Middle East would be endangered by support for Israel."..."

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