

PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

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THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL HAS FOCUSED ITS MILITARY PROCUREMENT ON FIRE POWER

December 21, 2006 The Middle East Newslite reported: "A senior U.S. defense executive said Gulf Arab states have shifted its procurement priorities amid concerns of a regional crisis over the next two years. The executive, Northrop Grumman vice president Joseph Moynihan, said Iran has emerged as a major threat and challenge to the loosely-connected GCC.

"The Gulf states are increasingly purchasing munitions and missiles and purchasing less of their traditional awareness components of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance vehicles," Moynihan, responsible for Middle East and Africa," said.

On Oct. 31, Moynihan told the Arab-U.S. Policymakers Conference in Washington that GCC procurement policy was based on emerging threats to the region. A resident of the United Arab Emirates, the Northrop Grumman executive said he was more worried than ever by the prospect of a major conflict."..."

PERETZ TELLS IDF TO PREVENT ROCKETS, BUT UPHOLD TRUCE

December 21, 2006 Haaretz.com reported: "Defense Minister Amir Peretz on Thursday ordered military and defense establishment officials to take action to prevent Qassam fire without bringing about a collapse of the cease-fire in effect since last month.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip on Wednesday fired six Qassam rockets at Israel, two of which landed in the center of the Western Negev town of Sderot. The first strike on the city, which occurred in the early evening, shattered some windows on a local structure, and several people were treated for shock. Another rocket fired shortly afterward also hit an area in the center of town, sending pieces of shrapnel flying into a bus. Three people were taken to hospital due to ringing in their ears. Islamic Jihad confirmed firing the rocket in a phone call to The Associated Press in Gaza.

Another Qassam fired earlier in the day hit a house in the northern Gaza town of Beit Hanun, wounding five Palestinians. Another rocket landed in a field inside Palestinian territory. The first errant rocket blew through the home's living room and exploded in a bedroom where three children were sleeping, relatives said. Two-year-old Samir al-Masri suffered two broken legs in the attack, said Dr. Said Judeh of Kamal Adwan hospital. The boy's 4-year-old sister and 3-year-old brother were lightly wounded by shrapnel, said their uncle, Jad al-Masri.

Another hit near a western Negev kibbutz, causing no damage or injuries, while the sixth also landed inside Palestinian territory. There was no immediate claim of responsibility. But the militant group Islamic Jihad fired at least six rockets at Israel on Wednesday, saying it was avenging the deaths of two members in an Israeli arrest raid in the West Bank."..."

AHMADINEJAD: ISRAEL, US WILL VANISH

December 20, 2006 YnetNews.com reported: "Ahmadinejad says Israel, US, Britain will vanish – 'this is a divine promise;' Iran demands UN Security Council condemn Israel's nuclear development, place Israel's facilities under inspection. Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad launched another attack of Israel and it's allies the United States and Britain in a speech Wednesday morning.

The Iranian news agency reported that, during his speech in western Iran, the Iranian president said that the US, Britain and Israel are doomed to disappear.

"The aggressive forces will vanish, while the Iranian people will survive – since all who chose God will survive and those who distance themselves from God vanish like Pharaoh," said Ahmadinejad in his speech. "The US, Britain, and the Zionist regime will vanish since they have distanced themselves from God. This is a divine promise," he added.

Ahmadinejad also referred to the international motion towards imposing sanctions on Iran for refusing to put an end to its nuclear program. "They threaten us with punishments. But they must know that nuclear energy is the Iranian people's right, and they will insist on that right," he explained."..."

ISRAEL ADMITS DETERRENCE HAS BEEN HARMED

December 20, 2006 The Middle East Newslite reported: "Israel's intelligence community has determined that the nation's deterrence has been damaged. Officials said the intelligence community has concluded that the military's poor performance in the 2006 war against Lebanon eroded Israeli deterrence. They said the military's failure to defeat Hizbullah has encouraged Iran and Syrian President Bashar Assad to prepare for another conflict with the Jewish state.

"Israel's military deterrence was damaged in the war," Mossad director Meir Dagan said. "As a result, Assad's self-confidence grew. They are prepared to take more risks than in the past."

On Monday, Dagan's testimony to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee marked the first time that a senior Israeli official reported a decline in deterrence. Over the last few months, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and



his aides have asserted that Israel defeated Hizbullah and bolstered deterrence.”...”

JORDAN FEARS VIOLENCE WILL SPREAD FROM GAZA

December 20, 2006 The Middle East Newsline reported: “Jordan has been concerned that the Fatah-Hamas militia war could spread throughout the Middle East.

Government sources said the Hashemite kingdom has been preparing for the prospect that the war in the Gaza Strip would affect countries with large Palestinian populations. Seventy percent of Jordan's population is Palestinian.

"The situation in the Palestinian refugee camps is very tense," a source said. "They, too, have large cadres of Hamas and Fatah people."

The sources said Jordan has relayed messages to both Israel and the Palestinian Authority regarding the danger of the Fatah-Hamas militia war. They said the kingdom has bolstered security around the 11 refugee camps and near the Jordan River.”...”

U.S. QUESTIONS SAUDI NUCLEAR PROGRAM

December 19, 2006 The Middle East Newsline reported: “In the first expression of discontent, the United States has questioned the need for a Saudi Arabian nuclear energy program. In a rare demonstration of displeasure, the Bush administration has raised doubts regarding Saudi Arabia's nuclear program. Officials said the State Department would seek clarification from Riyadh.

"I'd like to know more about it and I think it's something that we should have discussions [about]," U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said in an interview to the Reuters news agency.

On Sunday, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Mohammed Al Sabah said the GCC has sought help from the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Gulf Arab nuclear energy plan. Al Sabah said the two sides have begun cooperation talks in an effort to draft a joint civilian nuclear program.”...”

NETANYAHU: MOSSAD CHIEF'S COMMENTS ON IRAN ARE WARNING, NOT ALL-CLEAR SIGNAL

December 19, 2006 Haaretz.com reported: “Likud Chairman Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that an estimate by the head of Mossad, that Iran would have nuclear weapons within four years, was a warning and not an all-clear signal.

The director of the espionage agency, Meir Dagan, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs Defense Committee on Monday that Iran would be in a position to build a nuclear bomb by 2009 at the earliest.

Netanyahu was speaking at a meeting Tuesday with members of the foreign diplomatic corps, to announce an initiative to try the Iranian regime at the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The former prime minister said that Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad would like to establish a 1,000-year Islamic Reich. In an address to a conference of American Jewish organizations last month, Netanyahu compared the present Iranian regime to 1938 Germany and said that Ahmadinejad was planning "another Holocaust."

Former Netanyahu counsel and ambassador to the United Nations, Dore Gold, and MK Dan Naveh are also taking part in the Likud leader's initiative, and traveled to the United States last week in order to kickstart the proposal. The initiative represents Netanyahu's first advocacy mission before the international community.

According to Netanyahu, who has termed the Iranian nuclear program a "genocidal threat" to Israel, the government of Israel is not giving a firm enough diplomatic response to Iran.”...”



FRENCH FILM RAISE FRESH FEARS OVER AIRPORT SAFETY

December 21, 2006 Reuters reported: “A French television reporter managed to smuggle explosive material and knives onto American and French passenger planes apparently revealing serious flaws in security at French airports.

Appearing in a documentary made for state television due to be aired on Friday, the reporter has raised fresh questions about French air safety after accusations last month that it was too easy to gain access to aircraft at Paris' main airport.

Reporter Laurent Richard, aided by security expert Christophe Naudin, used hidden cameras to show themselves carrying "de-activated" Semtex explosive and a detonator in their hand luggage aboard an Air France flight to Nice.

On another occasion, the pair carried two box cutters aboard a Delta airlines flight from Paris to New York, with security staff not looking at their screens as the weapons passed through the x-ray machines.

Box cutters were used by the hijackers in the September 11, 2001 attacks on U.S. cities.”...”

*Compiled by L. Jim Tuck, Pastor
UCGIA Oakland, San Jose, Stockton, and Santa Rosa
ljt5053@sbeglobal.net*