



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

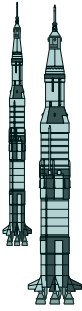
OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 13 2008

RUSSIA THREATENS TO TARGET US MISSILE SHIELD SITES

September 10, 2008 Breitbart.com reported: "Russia could point missiles at strategic US targets in central Europe, including planned American missile shield sites in Poland and the Czech Republic, senior Russian general said Wednesday.

"I can't exclude that if such decisions are taken by our military-political leadership, the missile shield in Poland and the Czech Republic and other such objects could be chosen as designated targets for some of our inter-continental ballistic missiles," General Nikolai Solovtsov said, quoted by Interfax.



Moscow "is obliged to take corresponding measures that prevent under any circumstances the devaluing of Russia's nuclear deterrent. We should be sure that the current and future strategic missile forces... are guaranteed to fulfil the task of strategic deterrence," said Solovtsov, the head of Russia's strategic missile forces.

Solovtsov added that by the end of the year Russia planned to carry out four strategic missile tests, including a test of the new RS-24, capable of carrying a clutch of independently targetable warheads.

The comments came as tensions mounted between Russia and the United States over last month's Russian military surge into Georgia and the fraught question of missile defence.

While the 10 missile interceptors planned for Poland could not themselves undermine Russia's arsenal, Moscow was troubled by a lack of transparency in the project, Solovtsov said. Moscow sees the plans for new US missile defence facilities in central Europe as part of an effort to encircle Russia.

Washington insists the planned facilities are directed against "rogue states" such as Iran and in no way threaten Russia."

RUSSIAN STRATEGIC BOMBERS IN VENEZUELA FOR 'TRAINING'

September 11, 2008 Agence France-Presse reported: "Two Russian Tu-160 strategic bombers were in Venezuela on Wednesday for "training flights," Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez said, adding he would be piloting one of the aircraft.

"I hope that stings, 'pitiyanquis'," he said, using a derogatory term for Venezuelan opponents who have perceived US sympathies.

"What's more, I'm going to take the controls of one of these monsters," boasted the president, a former paratrooper and left-wing politician who has avowed antagonism towards the United States.

"It's been a while since these planes have been around these parts, and Russia decided a couple of years ago to revive its strategic aviation program," Chavez said during the inauguration of a medical center.

The moves came amid soaring tensions between Russia and the United States, including over the presence of US naval vessels sent close to Russian shores to deliver aid to Georgia.

Chavez also said plans for joint Russian-Venezuelan naval exercises in the region in November were currently being worked out, and said his closeness to the Kremlin would result in a cooperation that would "strengthen the country."

His announcement confirmed an Interfax report in Russia citing the Russian defense ministry saying the bombers would be in Venezuela for training flights over "neutral waters."

Russia said Monday it was dispatching a nuclear cruiser and other warships and planes to the Caribbean for the joint exercises with Venezuela -- the first such maneuvers in the US vicinity since the Cold War."..."

IRAN DEMANDS UN RESPONSE TO ISRAELI 'THREATS' TO KIDNAP AHMADINEJAD

September 10, 2008 Haaretz.com reported: "Iran demanded on Tuesday a "resolute and clear response" from the United Nations to what it called dangerous threats against it by Israel, and said Tehran would not hesitate to respond to any attack. A letter from Iran's UN Ambassador Mohammad Khazaei to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described comments by two Israeli ministers as "vicious threats ... in blatant violation of the most fundamental principles of international law."

Israel believes Iran could have a nuclear bomb by 2010, a development it says would threaten its existence.

Khazaei said remarks attributed to Pensioners Affairs Minister Rafi Eitan by German magazine Der Spiegel this week "yet again put on display the aggressive and terrorist nature of the Israeli regime."

Der Spiegel quoted Eitan as saying in an interview that while the era of Israel hunting down former Nazi officials abroad was over, "that's not to say that such operations are a thing of the past."

Asked to explain, he was quoted as saying, "It could very well be that a leader such as Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad suddenly finds himself before the International Criminal Court in The Hague."

Last week, Defense Minister Ehud Barak said in an interview with Al Jazeera television that Israel was serious about using "any option" if

diplomacy did not curb Iran's nuclear program.

"These dangerous threats of resorting to criminal acts ... require a resolute and clear response on the part of the United Nations, particularly the Security Council," Khazaei said."..."

U.S., CHINA LAYING PLANS IN CASE NORTH KOREA COLLAPSES

September 11, 2008 Fox News reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Il is more impaired from the stroke he apparently suffered last month than reports from the region suggest, and the United States and China are holding talks about what to do if the government in Pyongyang collapses.

A senior Bush administration official says that although Kim may not be close to death, the U.S. does not accept reports from South Korea that he's on his way to a rapid recovery. The official told FOX News the United States is naturally engaging the Chinese about what to do if there is ensuing instability in North Korea.

There is no logical successor to Kim. He has not been grooming one of his sons to replace him, as Kim's father, Kim Il Sung, groomed him.

The official said there are no signs of instability in North Korea now, but the likelihood of a smooth transition of power in that country is not high. The source said the Chinese are reluctant to admit the discussions publicly, because of their close relationship with North Korea.

The official said Kim obviously is physically impaired or he'd have taken part in this week celebration marking the nation's 60th anniversary. The ceremony contained some production elements to obscure the fact that Kim wasn't there.

Media reports Thursday said Kim's condition has improved but that he could have partial paralysis on one side.

With that degree of physical impairment, doctors say, there is often some mental impairment. And if he were incapacitated, it could have serious implications for international negotiation on the country's nuclear disarmament."..."

The official called the talks with the Chinese about as sensitive as they come. He said it would be irresponsible, given North Korea's nuclear weapons, not to be holding them."

VENEZUELA'S CHAVEZ SAYS US AMBASSADOR MUST LEAVE

September 11, 2008 Associated Press reported: "President Hugo Chavez said the U.S. ambassador has 72 hours to leave Venezuela and that he's recalling his ambassador from Washington. Chavez said Thursday night that he is asking U.S. Ambassador Patrick Duddy to leave, in part, to show solidarity with Bolivian President Evo Morales, who expelled Washington's envoy in La Paz.

"They're trying to do here what they were doing in Bolivia," Chavez said. "That's enough ... from you, Yankees," he said, using an expletive. The socialist leader said Venezuela's ambassador to Washington, Bernardo Alvarez, would return to the U.S. "when there's a new government in the United States."

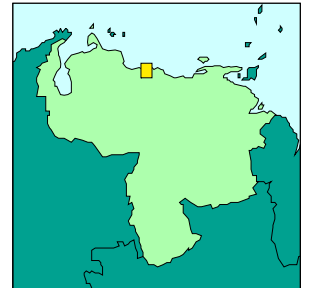
The move by Chavez brings relations with Washington to a new low and raises questions about whether the diplomatic clash could eventually hurt trade. Venezuela is a major oil supplier to the United States, which is the country's No. 1 client.

Chavez announced the decision during a televised speech, hours after saying his government had detained a group of alleged conspirators in a plot to overthrow him.

Chavez accused the group of current and former military officers of trying to assassinate him with backing from the United States. He didn't offer evidence. U.S. officials have repeatedly denied Chavez's accusations that Washington has backed plots against him."..."

Chavez warned last month that Duddy could soon be "packing his bags" after the diplomat lamented that U.S. and Venezuelan officials have not been cooperating in the war on drugs.

Duddy has said that deteriorating diplomatic relations between Caracas and Washington were giving drug smugglers the upper hand."



Venezuela

POLAND SETS OUT PLAN TO JOIN EURO BY 2011

September 11, 2008 The EU Observer reported: "Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk has confirmed he is planning to lead his country into the eurozone by 2011, with a view to follow Slovakia as the second and largest central European country to join the single currency bloc. He admitted that meeting entry criteria will be "difficult," however.

Speaking at the launch of an economic forum in a Polish resort of Krynica on Wednesday (10 September), Mr Tusk said: "Today I can confirm that our goal [for switching to the euro] is 2011. It is a tough task, but we believe it is possible," the PAP agency reported.

Up to now, Warsaw has avoided the question of a concrete timetable for entry into the monetary union, which Poland is obliged to do when ready under its EU accession treaty, just as with all the other new member countries."..."