



PROPHETIC TIMES

WEEKLY WORLD NEWS UPDATE

OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA

DECEMBER 13 2008

IRAN WANTS TO DEVOUR THE ARAB WORLD'

December 11, 2008 The Jerusalem Post reported: "Hoshni Mubarak spoke out against Iran during a meeting with members of the Egyptian ruly party, according to a report in the Kuwaiti newspaper *Al-Jarida* on Thursday, cited by Israel radio. Mubarak accused the Islamic Republic of trying to subsume its Muslim neighbors, telling the forum that "the Persians are trying to devour the Arab states."

Mubarack's comments come after the Egyptian leader recalled the country's diplomatic envoy from the Iranian capital earlier this week following an increase in tension between the two countries.

Recent strain between Cairo and Teheran has grown as several demonstrations in Iran called for the hanging of the Egyptian leader. The Iranian FARS news service reported that participants in recent student demonstrations outside the Egyptian Diplomatic mission in Teheran also chanted "Death to Israel".and "Death to America" and burned an Israeli flag.

On Wednesday the Egyptian ministry was quoted as criticizing some Iranian newspapers that have repeatedly insulted Egyptian policies and leadership recently. Teheran media, for example, broadcast incitement against Cairo's policy allegedly preventing aid from reaching Palestinians in the Gaza Strip."

RUSSIA, ARGENTINA SIGN COOPERATION DEALS

December 11, 2008 Agence France Presse reported: "The presidents of Russia and Argentina Wednesday sealed an array of cooperation deals, including in nuclear energy, and vowed to work together to promote a "multipolar world."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev and visiting Argentinian counterpart Cristina Kirchner held talks in the Kremlin that focused on promoting economic relations beyond trade towards areas like nuclear energy or military cooperation. The two heads of state signed a political cooperation declaration calling for "serious reforms" of the global economy and backing multipolarity in the world.



Russia's nuclear agency Rosatom signed an agreement on "cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy" with Argentina's planning and state investment ministry. Further details were not released.

"We must reformulate the rules in the spheres of economics, finance and security," Kirchner, who is on her first visit to the country, told reporters after the talks.

"Living in the world without rules is bad, but even worse is living in the world where rules exist only for the weak and where the strong constantly break them," she said in a thinly veiled reference to the United States.

Medvedev, who has just returned from his tour of Latin America that included staunch US critics Venezuela and Cuba, struck a similar tone.

"The domination of one state -- the strongest, the largest, the most successful, is certainly inadmissible."

AND NOW FOR A WORLD GOVERNMENT

December 9, 2008 The Financial Times (by Gideon Rachman) reported: "I have never believed that there is a secret United Nations plot to take over the US. I have never seen black helicopters hovering in the sky above Montana. But, for the first time in my life, I think the formation of some sort of world government is plausible.

A "world government" would involve much more than co-operation between nations. It would be an entity with state-like characteristics, backed by a body of laws. The European Union has already set up a continental government for 27 countries, which could be a model. The EU has a supreme court, a currency, thousands of pages of law, a large civil service and the ability to deploy military force. So could the European model go global? There are three reasons for thinking that it might.

First, it is increasingly clear that the most difficult issues facing national governments are international in nature: there is global warming, a global financial crisis and a "global war on terror".

Second, it could be done. The transport and communications revolutions have shrunk the world so that, as Geoffrey Blainey, an eminent Australian historian, has written: "For the first time in human history, world government of some sort is now possible."..."Blainey foresees an attempt to form a world government at some point in the next two centuries..."...

But – the third point – a change in the political atmosphere suggests that "global governance" could come much sooner than that. The financial crisis and climate change are pushing national governments towards global solutions"...

Barack Obama, America's president-in-waiting, does not share the Bush administration's disdain for international agreements and treaties. In his book, *The Audacity of Hope*, he argued that: "When the world's sole superpower willingly restrains its power and abides by internationally agreed-upon standards of conduct, it sends a message that these are rules worth following."..."...

The MGI report argues for the creation of a UN high commissioner for counter-terrorist activity, a legally binding climate-change



agreement negotiated under the auspices of the UN and the creation of a 50,000-strong UN peacekeeping force. Once countries had pledged troops to this reserve army, the UN would have first call upon them.

These are the kind of ideas that get people reaching for their rifles in America's talk-radio heartland. Aware of the political sensitivity of its ideas, the MGI report opts for soothing language. It emphasises the need for American leadership and uses the term, "responsible sovereignty" – when calling for international co-operation – rather than the more radical-sounding phrase favoured in Europe, "shared sovereignty". It also talks about "global governance" rather than world government.

But some European thinkers think that they recognise what is going on. Jacques Attali, an adviser to President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, argues that: "Global governance is just a euphemism for global government." As far as he is concerned, some form of global government cannot come too soon. Mr Attali believes that the "core of the international financial crisis is that we have global financial markets and no global rule of law"..."

IRAQ PROPOSES EU-STYLE TRADING BLOC FOR MIDDLE EAST

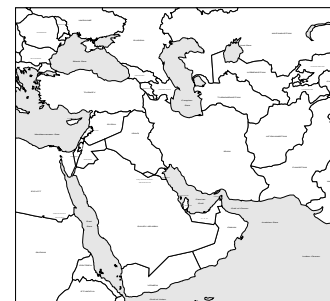
December 9, 2008 The London Daily reported: "Unveiling the plan at a conference in Washington, government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said Iraq was now ready to play a more assertive regional role.

"It is a time now for Iraq as well as its partners to think of a new era on the role of Iraq in the region after five hard years," Mr Dabbagh said in an address to the United States Institute of Peace. The plan signals that Iraq wants to put itself on a more equal footing with its neighbours, who until recently viewed it as a failed state.

Violence in Iraq is at a five-year low after war and a bitter insurgency that killed tens of thousands and forced many more to flee their homes."...He proposed creating an "Regional Economic Partnership" which envisioned Iraq at the heart of a trading, security and energy bloc that would include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria and Turkey and later perhaps Gulf states.

Mr Dabbagh said informal discussions had been held with Kuwait, Syria and Turkey but did not report their reactions. "The new Iraq could convert the region into the EU model. Iraq is going to play a major stabilizing factor," he said.

He said barriers to trade and the free movement of goods and people would be lifted; water resources and electricity shared; security integrated; agreements reached on shared oil fields and joint infrastructure projects launched. But audience members greeted the plan with scepticism..."



ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE SHAPE EU SECURITY STRATEGY

December 10, 2008 The EU Observer reported: "Climate change and energy security, as well as cyber-crime and piracy are new threats identified in the renewed European security strategy to be adopted at the EU summit on 11-12 December, according to a draft seen by EU Observer. The bloc's security strategy update, *Providing security in a changing world*, an 18 page-long document, sets out the old and new threats the EU is facing and the plans to reinforce capabilities and administrative structures in response.

Part of the priorities set out by the French EU presidency to enhance the European security and defence policy (ESDP), the strategy has a certain sense of urgency compared to the 2003 version, *A secure Europe in a better world*.

"Five years ago, the European security strategy (ESS) set out a vision of how the EU would be a force for the fairer, safer and more united world. We have come a long way towards that. But the world around us is changing fast, with evolving threats and shifting powers. To build a secure Europe in a better world, we must do more to shape events. And we must do it now," the document says.

Along with the old threats – proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, organised crime and regional conflicts - the security update also includes new threats, such as climate change, energy security, cyber-crime and piracy.

"Natural disasters, environmental degradation and competition for resources exacerbate conflict, especially in situations of poverty and population growth, with humanitarian, health, political and security consequences, including greater migration. Climate change can also lead to disputes over trade routes, maritime zones and resources previously inaccessible,"...in the Arctic."..."

IRAN TO REACH NUKE WEAPONS CAPABILITY IN 2009

December 9, 2008 The Middle East Newsline reported: "Iran was expected to reach nuclear weapons capability in 2009. The Institute for Science and International Security said Iran was moving steadily toward nuclear weapons capability. In a report, the institute said Teheran would reach this goal in 2009.

"Although some media reports in November 2008 concluded prematurely that Iran has reached a nuclear weapons capability, Iran is moving steadily toward this capability and is expected to reach that milestone during 2009 under a wide variety of scenarios," the report said."..."