

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift your heads, for your redemption draweth nigh” - Luke 21:28

CYBER WARFARE

IN DIGITAL COMBAT, U.S. FINDS NO EASY DETERRENT

The *New York Times* reports: “On a Monday morning in early January, top Pentagon leaders gathered to simulate how they would respond to a sophisticated cyber attack aimed at paralyzing the nation’s power grids, its communications systems or its financial networks.

The results were dispiriting. The enemy had all the advantages: stealth, anonymity and unpredictability. No one could pinpoint the country from which the attack came, so there was no effective way to deter further damage by threatening retaliation. What’s more, the military commanders noted that they even lacked the legal authority to respond — especially because it was never clear if the attack was an act of vandalism, an attempt at commercial theft or a state-sponsored effort to cripple the United States, perhaps as a prelude to a conventional war.

What some participants in the simulation knew — and others did not — was that a version of their nightmare had just played out in real life, not at the Pentagon where they were meeting, but in the far less formal war rooms at Google Inc. Computers at Google and more than 30 other companies had been penetrated, and Google’s software engineers quickly tracked the source of the attack to seven servers in Taiwan, with footprints back to the Chinese mainland...” (***This know also that in the last days perilous times***

shall come” because *“on the earth distress of nations”* will be the rage of the age coming *“from the kings of the East”* China and other nations united with additional nations in the East – II Timothy 3:1; Luke 21:25; Revelation 16:12; and Revelation 9:14 – 18. See also the next four articles.)

SENIOR GENERAL SAYS U.S. NEEDS TO MOVE FASTER ON CYBER DEFENSE

Voice of America News reports: “In the wake of the cyber attack on the Internet company Google and more than a dozen other firms in December, the top officer responsible for the security of U.S. military computer systems says the United States needs to do more to stay ahead of those who could use malicious software to disable key American military and civilian capabilities.

The commander of U.S. Strategic Command, Air Force General Kevin Chilton says the United States should expect an attack on what he calls ‘critical infrastructure,’ such as the computer systems that are central to the U.S. financial industry and electric power grid. ‘I think we need to move faster, frankly, as a nation. And I’m not pointing fingers at anyone. I’m just saying I think as a nation we need to move faster. It’s a risk that we want to stay ahead of and not play catch-up on,’ he said.

Google says the attack on its network

in December originated in China, and focused on Chinese email accounts on its servers, particularly those owned by political dissidents. General Chilton’s Strategic Command is not responsible for defending American networks in the dot-com domain, like Google, but he says when there are such attacks he asks his staff to ensure military networks do not have the same vulnerabilities.

‘I’m asking the same questions. So, what happened? How did they get in? What was the virus? What was the attack vector? How can we make sure we are not susceptible to that same sort of attack?’ he said.

In addition to defensive measures, General Chilton says U.S. officials need to think a lot more about how to deter cyber attacks. Deterrence involves making it clear to an adversary that the consequences of an attack would outweigh its advantages. The general says the deterrent will differ for different potential attackers.

‘You worry about North Korea doing bad things in the cyber domain, as well as you might worry about China potentially doing it, or some other country. So, you have to consider who it is you’re trying to deter, and what it is they fear and value,’ he said...” (***Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: Beat your plowshares into swords and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.”*** – Joel 3:9, 10.)

U.S. 'TROUBLED' BY CHINA CYBER ATTACKS

BBC News reports: "A senior U.S. official has said the country is 'troubled' by recent cyber attacks, originating from China, that targeted human rights activists.

Internet giant Google has said it may end its operations in China following a spate of attacks on email accounts.

Commerce Secretary Gary Locke said China must ensure a 'secure' commercial environment for Google and other firms.

However, a Google spokesman said that it was still filtering its search results for China.

Nonetheless, the widely-known photograph of a man standing in front of a line of tanks during the 1989 Tiananmen crackdown — a highly sensitive subject in China — was available via google.cn.

'The recent cyber intrusion that Google attributes to China is troubling to the U.S. government and American companies doing business in China,' Mr. Locke said in a statement.

The commerce secretary said the incident should be just as troubling to the Chinese government and added that he had personally raised the issue with Chinese officials.

He said during these discussions he had emphasized the importance that U.S. President Barack Obama placed on 'the full and free flow of information on the internet'.

Google has said that closing its google.cn site could mean it would shut its Chinese offices.

Google said the email accounts of Chinese human rights activists were the primary target of the attack, which occurred in December..."

CHINA ACCUSES U.S. OF USING CYBER WARFARE

The Financial Times reports: "China raised the ante in an escalating war of words with the U.S. as the ruling Communist party's mouthpiece accused Washington of employing cyber warfare.

'The U.S. was the first country in the world to introduce the concept of cyber war; it has introduced and developed a new kind of army, a cyber army, and even set up a hacker brigade,' *People's Daily* said in a vitriolic editorial. 'U.S. intelligence agencies can, through technical means, fully monitor, follow and erase online information harmful to the U.S.' national interest. It is really ridiculous that under such circumstances, it demands other countries to allow the free flow of information on the net.'

The editorial, published on *People's Daily's* website under the name Wang Xiaoyang, is the latest shot in an exchange of remarks that were triggered by Google's threat to pull out of China but are escalating into a full-scale dispute over the diverging values of China and the west.

It is also a rare example of Beijing handing back the accusation of cyber warfare to Washington, which regularly lists cyber warfare from China as one of the main security risks on the rise.

People's Daily also accused Washington of stoking unrest in Iran. 'Behind America's so-called internet freedom is naked political scheming,' it said. 'How did the constant chaos after the election in Iran come about? That was a cyber war initiated by the U.S., where on YouTube and Twitter, it spread rumors, created splits, provoked and sowed discord between the supporters of the conservative and the reformist factions, engaged in veiled infiltration and instigation which

led to large-scale bloody conflict in Iran.'

The party newspaper's more aggressive stance came as the White House weighed into the issue on Friday with a spokesman's comment that Barack Obama, U.S. president, was 'troubled' about cyber attacks on Google which the company alleged had come out of China..."

BAIDU HACKED BY 'IRANIAN CYBER ARMY'

BBC News reports: "China's most popular search engine, Baidu, has been targeted by the same hackers that took Twitter offline in December, according to reports.

A group claiming to be the Iranian Cyber Army redirected Baidu users to a site displaying a political message.

The site was down for at least four hours, Chinese media said.

Last year's attack on micro-blogging service Twitter had the same hallmarks, sending users to a page with an Iranian flag and message in Farsi.

'This morning, Baidu's domain name registration in the United States was tampered with, leading to inaccessibility,' Baidu said in a statement.

Visitors to the site were greeted with the message: 'This site has been hacked by Iranian Cyber Army'.

The message was accompanied by a picture of the national flag of Iran.

'In China, Baidu outranks Google as the search engine of choice, receiving millions of visits every day. That makes it an extremely attractive target for cyber criminals,' said Graham Cluley, senior technology consultant at security firm Sophos..." **(Iran is one of the final warriors in upcoming battles – Ezekiel 38:5. In this text, Persia is Iran having changed its name in 1935 — to Iran.)**

NEWS FROM RUSSIA

RUSSIA DIVERSIFIES INTO CANADIAN DOLLARS

The Financial Times reports: "Russia's central bank announced that it had started buying Canadian dollars and

securities in a bid to diversify its foreign exchange reserves.

Analysts said the move could be a sign of increased diversification of emerging market central bank assets away from the dollar and into investments denominated

in other commodity-linked currencies, such as the Australian dollar.

Adam Cole at RBC Capital Markets said if taken in isolation, Russia's announcement that it was buying Canadian dollars was not significant, but if it was

part of a broader trend, then it was an important step.

‘If it is a barometer for the activity of other central banks, then it is structurally positive for the currencies of countries like Canada and Australia that have a commodity bias in their economies,’ he said.

Although not officially confirmed, traders said that other emerging market central banks, including some in Asia which hold large foreign exchange reserves, have also been active in the foreign exchange market in recent weeks, buying both Canadian dollars and Australian dollars.

Alexei Ulyukayev, first deputy chairman of Russia’s central bank, said that it would invest in Canadian dollar-denominated deposits and bonds.

‘The Canadian financial market is not very deep, so we can invest in deposits in significant volumes, while the bond market is limited,’ he said.

Although the central bank did not specify how much of its reserves it was allocating to assets denominated in the Canadian dollar, analysts estimated that the central bank could put up to \$9bn, or 2 percent, of its foreign exchange reserves into the currency.

Russia’s foreign exchange reserves, the world’s third largest, stood at \$439bn at the end of December. These stockpiles have grown by 14 percent since the start of the rally on global asset markets in March as rising commodity prices have boosted mineral-rich Russia’s coffers.

Ahead of the announcement, Russia’s foreign exchange reserves were evenly split between dollars and euros.

Alarmed at the plummeting value of the dollars in its holdings, Russia has been at the vanguard of countries calling for the U.S. authorities to stem the fall of its currency. Last year, along with China, Russia urged the creation of a new supra-national currency to replace the dollar as the world’s reserve currency...’
(America’s financial system may soon collapse. China, from whom we buy billions of dollars worth of products annually, presently holds \$2 trillion of our debt, which they could demand over night. James 5:1 – 4; Revelation 18

vs. 10, 17, 19 describe such an hour during the time of the Great Tribulation – Revelation 7:14.)

RUSSIA RESPONDS TO U.S. MISSILE PLANS FOR POLAND

Reuters reports: “Russia will strengthen its Baltic fleet in response to U.S. plans to deploy Patriot missiles in Poland, Russian state news agency *RIA* reported, citing an unnamed senior navy official.

‘The surface, underwater and aviation elements of the Baltic Fleet will be strengthened,’ *RIA* quoted the unidentified Russian navy official as saying.

The United States is dispatching the missiles to Poland after dropping an earlier plan to deploy interceptor missiles in the NATO nation as part of an anti-missile system in Europe.

‘In connection with the plans to install the Patriots on Polish territory in the next 5 to 7 years, there may be significant changes in the approach to define the tasks and the military potential of the Baltic Fleet,’ *RIA* quoted the same source as saying.

A spokesman for the Russian navy declined to comment.

Warsaw said it would station the Patriot missile battery in the northern city of Morag, near Russia’s Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad.

A high-ranking source in Poland’s Foreign Ministry said Warsaw was not overly concerned about Russia’s reported plan.

‘Let’s stay calm. Such strengthening, even if it becomes true, is no direct threat to Poland,’ the source told *Reuters*.

‘The Russians have known about the Patriots for at least two years. So there is no reason to react to unofficial comments.’

Based in Kaliningrad, Russia’s westernmost territory, and in Kronstadt near St. Petersburg, Russia’s Baltic Fleet includes surface ships, diesel-powered submarines, a military aviation wing, search and rescue vessels and land-based vessels.

The flagship is the destroyer *Nastoychivy*, which entered service in 1993.

Poland and the United States signed a deal in November that paves the way for the deployment of a U.S. Patriot missile battery on the U.S. ally’s territory...’
(President Obama’s nuclear reduction program with Russia will not work. Russia is planning bases, if agreed upon by Venezuela. Patriot missile bases in Morag near Russia’s Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad as mentioned above is predicted in Ezekiel 38 vs. 1, 2, 8, 11. Rosh, or Russia, will battle the English speaking nations and others during World War III under the banner of Tarshish and her young lions” – Ezekiel 38:13.)

RUSSIA, U.S. AT ODDS OVER FUTURE ASTEROID HIT

Voice of America News reports: “The threat of an asteroid crashing into Earth has captivated the imaginations of movie audiences for years. Now, however, Russia is working to develop a very real plan to counter such a threat.

The Russian space agency says it is working to prevent a large asteroid from colliding with Earth. *Voice of Russia* radio reported the agency’s head, Anatoly Perminov, made the announcement.

Without giving many details, Perminov said his agency is working on a way to divert the path of the asteroid, named Apophis, without destroying it.

Voice of Russia says he invited scientists and experts from U.S. Space Agency NASA, the European and Chinese space agencies to join the project.

NASA research scientist Dr. Paul Chodas specializes in the study of near-Earth objects, or asteroids that may one day threaten civilization.

He says that while there are hazardous asteroids in our universe, NASA’s latest calculations put Apophis at having only a one in 250,000 chance of hitting Earth by, or during, the 2030s as Perminov predicted.

He says that with more research, he expects the probability of the collision to drop to zero. However, he says that other asteroids, including those that have not yet been discovered, could pose more of a risk and call for more research.

‘The odds are very small that we will have a huge collision with the Earth, but

it's certainly worth keeping an eye on these objects and ensuring that one is not going to hit any time soon. If one is headed for the Earth, then we feel, if we have enough warning time, we have the technology to divert the object. And that's what this proposal to

develop this technology is all about,' he said..." **(Revelation 6:12 predicts the bombardment of planet earth with a humongous asteroid. It will cause great darkness upon the earth for 120 days according to the late Carl Sagan. In this light, look up Joel**

2:30, 31; Acts 2:19, 20; and Matthew 24:29. Should they attempt to blow an asteroid out of the heavens with nukes, they will not be successful as a number will get through according to the verses mentioned in this report.)

TERROREST THREAT

AL-QAEDA HAS TRAINED FEMALE SUICIDE BOMBERS TO ATTACK WEST, U.S. OFFICIALS WARN

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "Al-Qaeda terror cells have trained a group of female suicide bombers to attack Western targets, U.S. officials have warned.

The women, who may have a 'non Arab' appearance and be travelling on Western passports, have been prepared for their missions by the Yemeni group responsible for the operation to blow up an airliner over the United States on Christmas Day.

Details of the bombers emerged just hours after British spy chiefs raised the UK threat state to 'severe' amid fears that al-Qaeda was planning a wave of attacks against western targets.

Terror experts within the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, a unit of MI5, now believe that an attack against the UK is 'highly likely'.

U.S. law enforcement agents have been told to be on the lookout for female suicide bombers who may attempt to enter the country.

At least two are believed to be connected to al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula which dispatched underwear bomber Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, who tried unsuccessfully to bring down a transatlantic airliner over Detroit.

Richard Clarke, a former chief White House counter terrorism adviser, said: 'They have trained women.

'There are others who are still out there who have been trained and who are clean skins – that means people who we do not have a record of, people who may not look like al-Qaeda terrorists, who may not be Arabs, and may not be men.'

Security sources said that it was 'inevitable' that al-Qaeda would eventually turn to using women with a western appearance to carry out suicide attacks.

Officials said that airliners and all forms of transport could be targeted as well as sports stadiums, ports and power stations.

Although female suicide bombers have been used to carry out attacks by al-Qaeda in Iraq and by Palestinian groups in Israel, none are thought to have been used against European or U.S. targets before..." **(Female suicide bombers may be the most dangerous since they could place bombs in their headdress, or internally where scanning equipment cannot penetrate into body openings. While Proverbs 2 vs. 11-19 speak of prostitutes, it could certainly picture fair haired women with explosives implanted in their body organs. The Taliban and Islamic organizations are choosing women who do not look like Arabs.)**

ATTEMPTED TERROR ATTACK LIKELY, INTELLIGENCE CHIEFS WARN

ABC News reports: "An attempted al-Qaeda attack against the United States is a high possibility in the next 3 to 6 months, the nations' top intelligence chiefs testified.

'An attempted attack, the priority is certain, I would say,' Director of National Intelligence Dennis Blair told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence.

CIA director Leon Panetta and FBI director Robert Mueller both told the committee they agreed with Blair's stark assessment, when asked by committee chairwoman Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif.

Blair and Panetta both said it is becoming more difficult to identify the threat posed by an evolving al-Qaeda, which has become more reliant on its regional terror networks to conduct attacks.

'We have made the complex, multiple-team attacks very difficult for al-Qaeda to pull off,' Blair said. 'As we saw with the recent successful and attempted terrorist attacks, however, identifying individual terrorists, small groups with short histories using simple attack methods is a new degree of difficulty.

'We did not identify [Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab] before he boarded Northwest Flight 253 on Christmas Day. We should have,' he said.

Panetta shared Blair's assessment of the al-Qaeda threat as something that has changed since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, when four coordinated groups of terrorists hijacked separate airliners to crash them in New York and Washington.

'My greatest concern and what keeps me awake at night is that al-Qaeda and its terrorist allies and affiliates could very well attack the United States in our homeland,' the CIA director said. 'The biggest threat I see is not so much that we face another attack similar to 9/11. I think the greater threat is that al-Qaeda is adapting their methods in ways that oftentimes make it difficult to detect.'

Al-Qaeda has found new safe havens and established 'regional nodes in places like Yemen and Somalia, the Maghreb [North Africa] and others,' he said.

Panetta also warned that he is becoming increasingly concerned about threats from 'lone wolf' terrorists who act on their own without any central planning from an established terror network such

as al-Qaeda...” (Americans are being warned that another 9/11/2001 attack or one greater is coming within 3 – 6 months. Such terrorism is predicted in intensity and immensity preceding Christ’s return to earth to set up His eternal kingdom. See Genesis 6:11; Matthew 24:37; Luke 21 vs. 9, 27, 28, 31, and 32. Keep looking up, for Christ is about to appear.)

‘BIN LADEN TAPE’ WARNS OBAMA OF MORE ATTACKS

BBC News reports: “A tape said to be from al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden has warned U.S. President Barack Obama there will be more attacks if the U.S. continues to support Israel.

In the newly released audio tape aired on *al-Jazeera*, Bin Laden says the U.S. will never live in peace until there is ‘peace in Palestine’.

The authenticity of the audio tape has not been verified.

The message claims al-Qaeda was behind the 25 December attempt to blow up a passenger plane bound for the U.S.

A Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, has been charged with attempting to blow up the Delta Airlines plane as it approached Detroit from Amsterdam.

The voice recording says that the message is from ‘Osama to Obama’.

Directly addressing Americans, it says:

‘It is unfair you enjoy a safe life while our brothers in Gaza suffer greatly... Our attacks will continue as long as you support Israel.’

It goes on: ‘America will never dream of security unless we will have it in reality in Palestine.’

The Washington-based IntelCenter, which monitors terror group communications, said the message was a possible indicator of an attack within the next 12 months...” (Since the message supposedly is from Osama to Obama, isn’t it time that our president call these murderous thugs Islamic terrorists, instead of calling their deadly deeds man-made disasters, even when one of their fanatics killed 15 of our American Military men? The military leaders reported a number of lies to our people, saying it happened because of a depressed man rather than one who’s calling card stated: ‘Hasan a Soldier of Allah’, as well as being reported as running into the Ft. Hood Army Base firing two pistols crying “allahu akbar”, meaning Allah is the greatest.)

AL-QAEDA IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA URGES JIHAD

BBC News reports: “A Yemen-based offshoot of al-Qaeda has called on Muslims in the region to wage holy war against the U.S. and its allies.

A purported audio statement by Said

al-Shihri, deputy leader of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, warned ‘American and Crusader interests are everywhere’.

‘Attack them and eliminate as many enemies as you can,’ Mr. Shihri urged.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) has said it was behind a failed bomb attack on a U.S. passenger jet as it flew into Detroit on Christmas Day.

A Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, has been charged with attempting to blow up the Northwest Airlines Airbus A330.

He has allegedly said AQAP operatives trained him in Yemen, equipped him with a powerful explosive device and told him what to do.

In an audio message posted on a jihadist website, Mr. Shihri praised the ‘glorious invasion’ by Mr. Abdulmutallab and said it had been carried out in coordination with al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

‘We repeat what our Sheikh Osama said, that America will not dream of security until we live in security in Palestine,’ he said, referring to a purported audio statement issued by the Saudi militant leader...” (Their religion is not one of love and peace as cowardly leaders proclaim. Instead, hatred and murder reigns. How different is Christ and Christianity? Please see Luke 6:27, 28; I John 2:9-11, 3:10, 14, 15, and especially verse 16, plus 4:7, 8, and 12.)

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

‘WHAT HAPPENED IN HAITI WILL HAPPEN IN ISRAEL’

Haaretz reports: “An earthquake of the same magnitude as the one that struck in Haiti or stronger is certain to strike Israel, Avi Shapira, chairman of the National Earthquake Preparedness Committee, said.

‘I just returned from Haiti,’ Shapira

told a special Knesset committee that gathered in the wake of the Haiti disaster to discuss Israel’s readiness to deal with earthquakes. ‘What happened there will also happen here.’

Shapira warned that hospitals are not prepared for such a disaster and that, according to his estimates, most buildings constructed before 1980 would not withstand a quake.

Previous estimates held that 40 to 50 percent of residential buildings in Israel were not constructed in accordance with guidelines meant to prevent damage in case of an earthquake. However, Shapira said the actual number is closer to 20 percent.

‘The situation is not optimal,’ Shapira told the committee comprising members of the Foreign Affairs and Defense and Interior and Environment committees,

adding that Israel is waking up to the threat of earthquakes.

Shapira also told the committee that while it is impossible to know when an earthquake would strike, Israel must take precautions to minimize potential damage.

Israel has been struck by minor quakes and tremors in recent years that have caused no casualties. The last major earthquake to strike the area was in 1927. It had a magnitude of more than 6 and killed 500 people...” (When Christ died for our sins at Calvary there was a gigantic earthquake – Matthew 27:51-54. When He rose from the dead, a horrible quake shook the earth – Matthew 28:2. Thus when He returns to set up His kingdom, the greatest earthquake ever to occur in all of history will happen in Jerusalem – Zechariah 14:4; Revelation 16 vs. 18 and 19:14, and 16.)

ABBAS: PALESTINIANS WILL ACCEPT ONLY JERUSALEM AS OUR CAPITAL

Haaretz reports: “Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas declared that Palestinians would not accept any alternative to Jerusalem as the capital of a future state, despite other proposals.

Abbas told Russian television that Jerusalem should not be divided and that there should be free passage for people of various faiths. The Palestinian leader added it must be made clear what belongs to the Palestinians and what belongs to Israel.

Abbas said that he could only recognize Israel as a Jewish state in the framework of a conclusive peace agreement that leads to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Abbas also said that he could not agree to resume the stalled peace negotiations with Israel as long as construction in West Bank settlements and East Jerusalem continue. The peace process would collapse after the first meeting of such negotiations, said Abbas.

“If Israel says in the meeting that it will not accept the 1967 borders and that it is not prepared to discuss Jerusalem and the refugee situation, what is there to talk about?” Abbas said in the interview.

“If I enter negotiations with them and the building in East Jerusalem continues, Israel will be saying that Jerusalem is theirs. So why would I agree to negotiate while building in East Jerusalem

continues?”

Israel has already turned down two initiatives formulated by the Palestinians, Egypt and Jordan to re-launch talks, Abbas said. Those proposals would have Israel agree to freeze all settlement building for at least a short period and recognize international resolutions. Also, the negotiations would be renewed from the point where they left off during the Ehud Olmert administration...” (930 times our God states that Jerusalem belongs to the Jews, period. Sad that Barak Obama has promised Jerusalem to the Arabs. What audacity and rebellious unbelief. A divided Jerusalem brings World War III into existence – Joel 3:2.)

U.S. OFFICIAL: HEZBOLLAH ARMS FLOW MAY SIGNAL PLANS FOR WAR WITH ISRAEL

Haaretz reports: “The U.S. is concerned that the continued flow of arms to the Hezbollah militant organization could prompt a war between Israel and Lebanon, State Department official Jeff Feltman said in remarks published by the London-based *Al-Hayat* daily.

Feltman, who serves as Assistant Secretary of U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, told the daily that the U.S. had no evidence of any Israeli plan to attack its northern neighbor.

Nevertheless, Feltman said he was growing increasingly worried by reports describing the quantity and types of weapons being smuggled to the terrorist organization in clear violation of United Nations Resolution 1701, which put an end to the 2006 war.

The UN resolution clearly demanded a weapons-free south Lebanon, said Feltman, but the world had yet to see that put into play.

With regard to the possibility of a future peace deal between Lebanon and Israel, Feltman said that he believed Lebanon preferred to see a Palestinian-Israeli agreement reached first.

When asked about negotiations between Syria and Israel, Feltman said U.S. special Mideast envoy George Mitchell had passed on to Jerusalem a message from Damascus on the matter, but that progress was slow...” (In the final days preceding Christ’s return Israel will

be hated by many of the nations of the world – Matthew 24:9; John 16:2; and Revelation 12:13. During the 7 year period of tribulation upon earth, Revelation 6 – 18 will become the ‘Time of Jacob’s Trouble’ – Jeremiah 30:7 and Jacob is today’s Israel – II Kings 17:34. This battle with Hezbollah could be a war fought before Armageddon – Revelation 16:16, instigated by Iran who sponsors Hezbollah and Hamas. It’s Ahmadinejad’s attempt to blot Israel’s existence and identity from off the map – Psalm 83:4. See also the next two articles.)

IDF ARRESTS TWO SUSPECTS PLOTTING TO ATTACK ISRAEL FOR HAMAS

Haaretz reports: “Israeli security forces arrested two Hamas militants suspected of plotting attacks against civilian targets across Israel, it was revealed following the lifting of a gag order.

East Jerusalem residents Merad Namar and Merad Camal were detained in a raid at the Be’er Sheva Central Bus Station. The suspects, who both carry Israeli identification cards, were allegedly recruited by Hamas while residing respectively in Jordan and Dubai. Throughout the past few months, Namar and Camal allegedly held additional meetings with foreign agents in Saudi-Arabia, Jordan and Turkey.

Israeli intelligence collected information on the suspects upon their return to Israel, and learned of a number of targets apparently plotted for attack.

During a search of their belongings, police found a portable memory card with detailed plans for terror attacks in central Israeli targets including the bus stations in Be’er Sheva and Jerusalem, the Malkha Mall in Jerusalem, the hotel district along the Tel Aviv promenade and the Israel Defense Forces base in Tel Hashomer.

The suspects were allegedly supposed to receive explosives and other weapons from Hamas, to stash in a cave in the Sataf Forest near Jerusalem...”

SYRIA VOWS TO RESPOND TO ANY ISRAELI ‘AGGRESSION’

Haaretz reports: “Syrian President Bashar Assad vowed to stand by Lebanon’s side against any Israeli ‘aggression,’ in an escalating war of words

between Damascus and Jerusalem.

Assad's remarks to Lebanon Parliament Speaker Nabieh Beri were the latest in a renewed round of threats and counter-threats...

Earlier Syrian Minister of Information Mohsen Bilal told a seminar near the

Israeli border that Syria would 'stand in the face of Israeli ambitions.'

Speaking just kilometers from the Golan Heights — a strategically important plateau at the intersection of Israel, Syria and Lebanon seized by Israel in the 1967 Six-Day War — Bilal said the contentious

area was at 'the core' of Syria's interests and vowed it would return to Syria.

The Golan Heights 'will not remain under occupation,' he said.

Bilal reiterated Syria's position that peace could be achieved only with the return of all territories Israel captured in 1967..."

RUMBLINGS FROM IRAN

SUPREME LEADER CLAIMS IRAN REMAINS UNITED AGAINST 'OUTSIDE' THREAT

Voice of America News reports: "Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned the opposition to distance itself from the Islamic Republic's Western enemies..."

Amid growing signs of a rift within his regime, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei insisted that 'arrogant and unjust' foreign powers will not succeed in shaking the unity of the Islamic Republic.

The ayatollah spoke to a gathering of officials who are organizing festivities for the anniversary of the revolution.

In the past, the opposition has used such occasions to revive their protests.

Government officials have portrayed the huge opposition protests that erupted after the June election as a foreign-backed bid to undermine the clerical leadership.

Many Iran analysts argue that the country's top leaders, in the face of popular opposition and discontent, are increasingly at odds with each other.

Iran analyst Gary Sick says that discord among Iran's leaders is nothing new, but that he thinks it has gotten worse in the wake of Iran's disputed June presidential election:

'There have always been rivalries and disputes within the top leadership of the Islamic Republic,' he said. 'That is not anything new. It's been going on for some time, since the [1979 Islamic] revolution. But I do believe that those rifts and differences have become deeper and far more public today than I have ever seen them in the last 31 years of the revolution.'...'
(Iran will eventually be destroyed by Yahweh God when she along with Russia and an Arab federation march

unitedly against Israel. Then God in Ezekiel 39 vs. 1 and 2 destroys five sixths of the invading armies within Russia's alliance. The devastation is so great that it takes seven months just to bury the fallen troops of Israel's enemies including Iran.)

IRAN'S SUPREME LEADER WARNS THAT THE WEST CAN'T SAVE ISRAEL

Haaretz reports: "Iran's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said that Western support of Israel was ineffective, telling a top Palestinian militant leader that its obliteration was imminent according to the will of God.

'Today Palestine is the symbol of life, determination, faithfulness, diligence, and dignity,' Ayatollah Khamenei told Ramadan Abdullah, the secretary general of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad Movement.

He praised the Palestinian resistance movement and declared that it had proven itself stronger despite the military superiority of the Israel Defense Forces.

In his comments, Khamenei joined a long list of top Iranian officials, especially President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad who have said on several occasions in the past that Israel should be destroyed.

Last year Ahmadinejad said that Israel was 'dying' and that people in the Middle East would destroy it if given the chance and stressed that opposition to Israel is a fundamental principle in Shi'ite Muslim Iran.

'They should know that regional nations hate this fake and criminal regime and if the smallest and briefest chance is given to regional nations they will destroy [it],' said Ahmadinejad, who often rails against Israel and the United States.

A 2005 statement by Ahmadinejad

saying that 'Israel should be wiped off the map' outraged the international community..." (The Supreme Leader of Iran, Ali Khamenei boasts about what his god will do, but the Judeo-Christian God, Yahweh, will come to the aid of Israel and all Ahmadinejad's boasting will become nonsensical prattle. Our God says "...I will give them [Israel] an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off.")

IRAN ATOMIC CHIEF: 10 ENRICHMENT PLANTS PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR

Haaretz reports: "Iran plans to build 10 new uranium enrichment facilities during the next Iranian year; its atomic energy chief was quoted as saying, in comments likely to further raise tension with the West.

The statement by Ali Akbar Salehi came after President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad earlier in the day instructed Iran's Atomic Energy Organization to start work on producing higher-grade nuclear fuel for a Tehran reactor.

Iran's announcement raised the stakes in its dispute with the West, but Ahmadinejad said talks were still possible on a nuclear swap offer by world powers designed to allay fears the Islamic Republic is making an atomic bomb.

Salehi, who heads the Atomic Energy Organization, also said Iran would start producing uranium enriched to a level of 20 percent in the presence of inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

He said Iran will formally inform the Vienna-based United Nations agency about the move in a letter, Iran's Arabic-language television station *al Alam* reported. He earlier said production would take place at Iran's Natanz site.

But Salehi also suggested production would be halted if Iran received fuel enriched to 20 percent from abroad. Iran has expressed readiness to exchange its low-enriched uranium for higher-grade fuel, but wants amendments to the UN-drafted plan.

‘Iran would halt its enrichment process for the Tehran research reactor any time it receives the necessary fuel for it,’ Salehi said...” **(God help and bless America and Israel if the Iranian Hitler ever is victorious in creating a nuclear weapon which he will allow Hezbollah and Hamas to have and use against America, Israel, and the European Union.)**

IRAN: U.S. IS FIGHTING A ‘PSYCHOLOGICAL WAR’ IN THE GULF

Haaretz reports: “Iran accused the United States of launching a ‘psychological

war’ in the Gulf region by presenting Tehran as a threat to Gulf Arab states to convince them they needed U.S. protection.

U.S. officials said the United States had expanded land-and-sea-based missile defense systems in and around the Gulf — a waterway crucial for global oil supplies — to counter what it sees as Iran’s growing missile threat.

The U.S. deployments include expanded land-based Patriot defensive missile installations in Kuwait, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.

‘They don’t want to see good and growing relations between Iran and its neighbors in the Persian Gulf and thus started a psychological war,’ Major General Hassan Firouzabadi, the chief of staff of Iran’s armed forces, was quoted as saying on semi-official news agency *ILNA*.

Iran’s top military official also played

down the threat to the Islamic republic from Patriot missiles. ‘It is not new for us... we were informed when they were installed, including about their exact locations... Patriot missiles could be easily deactivated by using simple tactics.’

A foreign ministry official said earlier Washington was trying to stoke ‘Iran phobia’ in the Middle East and said Tehran enjoyed friendly ties with neighboring states...” **(The Gulf Nations mentioned in this report mistrust of Iran’s leaders, and rightfully so. They have all pleaded with America to help them arm themselves against Iran. If the question arises as to how Islamic brothers can kill one another in the name of their god Allah, Iraq’s Sunni and Shia’s who have slaughtered 85,000 of their own brothers within the Islamic faith proves the facts as to what could occur in the Gulf Nations.)**

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

CORD BLOOD STEM CELL TRANSPLANT HOPES LIFTED

BBC News reports: “A technique which may eventually remove the need for matched bone marrow transplants has been used in humans for the first time.

It is hoped that ‘master cells’ taken from umbilical cords could be used on any patient without rejection.

The latest advance, published in the journal *Nature Medicine*, greatly multiplies the tiny number of cells from the cord ready for a transplant.

UK charity Leukemia Research said this could be the ‘holy grail’ for doctors.

The current system of bone marrow transplantation helps patients who have diseases, such as leukemia, which affect the stem cells in their bone marrow where new blood cells are grown.

Their own bone marrow cells are killed off by aggressive treatment and cells from a matched donor are introduced in their place.

However, a matching donor cannot always be found, despite extensive donor registries held by organizations such as the Anthony Nolan Bone Marrow Trust and, even with a carefully matched donor,

there is still a risk that the patient’s body will reject the new cells.

Cells extracted from umbilical cords could overcome these problems — they do not have the characteristics which would normally trigger immune rejection, so it is likely that cells from a single baby’s cord could be used in any patient, without the need for matching.

However, there is one big disadvantage — there are not enough cells in a single cord to meet the needs of an adult patient.

Scientists have been looking for ways to either combine the cells from more than one baby, or to ‘expand’ the cell numbers in the laboratory...” **(Peace and health will be present for 1,000 years during Christ’s millennial reign upon earth – Isaiah 9:6, 7; Isaiah 35:5, 6. See the next report also.)**

PIG LUNGS IN HUMAN TRANSPLANTS MOVE STEP CLOSER

The London Daily Telegraph reports: “The use of pig lungs in transplants into humans has moved a step closer with a medical breakthrough.

Scientists in Melbourne, Australia, used a ventilator and pump to keep the

animal lungs alive and ‘breathing’ while human blood flowed in them.

Experts estimated the work could lead to the first animal-human transplants within five years.

Dr. Glenn Westall, who helped conduct the experiment, said: ‘The blood went into the lungs without oxygen and came out with oxygen, which is the exact function of the lungs.

‘It showed that these lungs were working perfectly well and doing as we were expecting them to do.

‘This is a significant advance compared to experiments that have been performed over the past 20 years.’

The breakthrough came after scientists were able to remove a section of pig DNA, which had made the pig organs incompatible with human blood.

Previous attempts to combine unmodified pig lungs and human blood ended abruptly two years ago when blood clots began forming almost immediately, causing the organs to become so blocked no blood could pass through.

Human DNA is now added to the pigs as they are reared to reduce clotting and the number of lungs which are rejected...”