This Week's Developments

February 25 – March 03, 2024

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- Iran Greenlights Hezbollah Attack on Israel
- Macron's Ukraine troop talk shakes up NATO allies
- Russia's invite to Hamas, PIJ and its implications
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Navalny's parents bury their son as thousands chant his name

Reuters March 2, 2024



EVENT

Many thousands of people turned out to pay their respects at the cemetery and earlier outside the Soothe My Sorrows church in southeast Moscow where the funeral took place. Among the large crowd, many people clutched bunches of flowers and some joined in a series of chants - "Russia will be free", "No to war", "Russia without Putin", "We won't forgive" and "Putin is a murderer". Police were present in large numbers at what evolved into one of the biggest displays of anti-Kremlin dissent in years, but for the most part did not intervene. Public demonstrations in Russia are risky and rare, especially since the start of the war in Ukraine that the Kremlin calls a "special military operation". More than 20,000 people have been detained in the past two years. Despite Friday's high turnout and flashes of defiance, Navalny's death leaves Russia's fragmented opposition in an even more precarious position as Putin prepares to extend his 24-year rule by another six years in an election this month. All of the president's leading critics are behind bars or have fled the country. On a memorial website, opens new tab, more than 140,000 people lit "virtual candles" for Navalny. It was unclear how many of those were inside Russia.

COMMENT

Putin is about to add another six years to his tenure as president of Russia. He will do whatever it takes to make sure that he is not challenged - either by another politician would-be leader, or by a public uprising. In six years he will be 77, still younger than both the current US president and his challenger. Add to that the optics of being in top physical shape in spite of some rumors to the contrary. Whether it is Putin that is the "Gog, of the Land of Magog" is really, in my opinion, not for us mere humans to say; it borders on being presumptuous and certainly can set out markers and deadlines in which people place their faith, and if it doesn't happen, they are discouraged and lose heart. It has happened before. Suffice it to say - IF Mr Putin is the personage spoken of in Ezekiel 38, it is just one more indication that Christ's return is imminent, the time is short because most of the timelines put Christ in the earth possibly 5 to 10 years prior to Gog coming down on the mountains of Israel. SO we can do the math.

BIBLE QUOTE

Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I am against you, O Gog, prince of Rosh, Meshech and Tubal... After many days you will be summoned; in the latter years you will come into the land that is restored from the sword, whose inhabitants have been gathered from many nations to the mountains of Israel which had been a continual waste; but its people were brought out from the nations, and they are living securely, all of them.

Ezek 38:3, 8

'Lebanon will be next': Iran greenlights Hezbollah attack on Israel

Jerusalem Post, February 28, 2024



EVENT

Tehran gave the go-ahead amid fears that, after the IDF completes an invasion of Rafah, southern Lebanon "will be next." Iran has given Lebanese terror organization Hezbollah the green light to escalate its attacks along Israel's northern border, the Arabic Post reported on Wednesday, citing high-level Iranian and Lebanese sources. The Islamic Republic has reportedly set conditions for Hezbollah, ordering it to launch a large-scale attack on Israel only after it "had become certain of Israel's intention" to carry out an invasion of the southern Gaza city of Rafah. As per the report, Tehran gave the go-ahead amid fears that, after the IDF completes an invasion of Rafah, southern Lebanon "will be next." Esmail Qaani, the IRGC's Quds Force commander, visited Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah on Monday to discuss "the latest developments" along Israel's northern border. "Nasrallah told Qaani that the attack is likely to be very imminent, most likely in the month of Ramadan, or with Israel's invasion of the city of Rafah. Nasrallah said that he is completely certain of [Israel's] intention to launch a large-scale attack on Lebanon, and he asked Qaani to give him complete freedom in how he intends to attack."

COMMENT

It appears that, if the reports are correct, Iran is beginning to openly show its actual hands-on direction and control of the actions of its proxies - the Hezbollah in Lebanon, virtually instructing them to invade Israel before Israel invades Lebanon, which could be at any time. When this occurs the war will ramp up to another level. A lot of things are happening all at once. The Houthis have sunk a ship in the Red Sea, Gazans are starving and suffering, triggering the world's emotive reaction, the recent stampede and resulting casualties around a food convoy has aborted the latest attempt at a ceasefire; Israel has announced its plans for more settlements in the West Bank at the same time that it is confiscating millions of dollars from the Palestinian authority to distribute to families victimized by HAMAS; & Israel's delegate to the UN has openly challenged Russia's invasion of Ukraine and it's support of HAMAS. All this happening together appears to be goading Tehran to openly say to Hezbollah "go for it"!

BIBLE QUOTE

"Lo, thine enemies make a tumult: and they that hate thee have lifted up the head. They have taken crafty counsel against thy people, and consulted against thy hidden ones. They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance."

Psa 83:2-4

Macron's Ukraine troop talk shakes up NATO allies

Reuters February 28, 2024



French President Emmanuel Macron wanted to create "strategic ambiguity" by openly discussing the idea of sending Western troops to Ukraine, but...he sparked confusion and irritation among some allies. Macron's comments at a late-night news conference, after he hosted a meeting of Western leaders to rally support for Ukraine, fitted with his reputation as a diplomatic disruptor who likes to break taboos and challenge conventional thinking. By declining on Monday night to rule out putting Western boots on the ground in Ukraine, Macron was challenging the prevailing view that such a move would gravely escalate the risk of a global war between NATO and Russia. His comments may turn out to be prescient and pave the way for greater direct Western involvement in the war in Ukraine against Russia's invasion sometime down the line. But they also run the risk of undermining the very thing Macron sought to bolster with the Paris meeting – unity among Ukraine's Western allies as Kyiv's forces struggle to hold off Russian troops two years into the war. The White House declared it would not send troops to Ukraine. Germany, Britain, Italy, Spain, Poland and the Czech Republic also all swiftly distanced themselves from the idea.

COMMENT

Macron is laying the groundwork for possible future NATO involvement in the Russo/Ukraine war. There is an obvious underlying air of trepidation among the countries and territories to the west of Ukraine as they look on and see Ukraine faltering in its efforts to keep the Bear at bay. Macron is bringing that to the surface and making the point that it needs to be discussed and a plan put in place. The account also goes on to say that Macron made a not so subtle hint that Germany had not been carrying its weight in supplying aid to Ukraine - at least of the type that is effective in defence. This has not helped to defray the tension between these two major powers of the alliance. So again, what is this but more influence (spirit) coming from the frog itself, stirring things up among the nations. It has prompted Russia's (Putin's) response, threatening nuclear war if any of the western nations set feet in Ukraine. The frog is poking the Bear.

BIBLE QUOTE

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the Beast, and out of the mouth of the False Prophet. For they are spirits of demons performing signs, which go forth to the kings of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Rev 16:13, 14

Russia's worrisome invite to Hamas, PIJ and its implications

Jerusalem Post, February 19, 2024



EVENT

Russia has invited Palestinian groups to Moscow, which could bring together Hamas, the Palestinian Authority, and other terrorist groups. Palestinian Authority Prime Minister Mohammad Shtayyeh said over the weekend that Russia invited Palestinian factions to meet in Moscow at some point in late February, the latest Russian move to increase its influence in a post-October 7 world. Moscow hosted a Hamas delegation already in October, as Hamas sought to do outreach to Moscow. In October, a Hamas delegation set out for Moscow, led by senior Hamas member Mousa Abu Marzouk, and met with the Russian and Iranian deputy foreign ministers, Mikhail Bogdanov and Ali Bagheri Kani. That meeting represented a convening of interests between Russia, Iran, and Hamas. This is concerning because Iran backs Hamas and also supplies Russia with drones for its use in the war in Ukraine. Russia has been particularly cold towards Israel following October 7, slamming its operations in Gaza and particularly Israel's ambassador to Russia in early February.

COMMENT The one nation that has benefited most from the conflict between Israel and Hamas is Russia. The USA now has to fund and supply weapons to both Ukraine AND Israel. This is creating great financial pressure and with limitations on the number of weapons some that were intended for Ukraine have now gone to Israel. Some analysts believe that Putin's fingerprints are all over the Hamas Oct 7th attack. Which explains why Putin is about to welcome to Moscow (again) the terrorist groups that want to destroy Israel. The Bible says that Israel's enemies will visit Gog (Putin) asking him to support their cause...

BIBLE QUOTE

After many days thou [Gog] shalt be visited: in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste: but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them. Visited means "sought after", "needed", "visited", "to seek" (Ezekiel 38:8)

Israel opposes 'unilateral' imposition of Palestinian state

Reuters, February 18, 2024



EVENT

Israel on Sunday formalised its opposition to what it called the "unilateral recognition" of Palestinian statehood, and said any such agreement must be reached through direct negotiations. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu brought the "declaratory decision" to a vote in cabinet, which unanimously approved the measure, according to a statement. Netanyahu said at the start of the weekly meeting that the move comes after "recent talk in the international community about an attempt to unilaterally impose on Israel a Palestinian state." The formal Israeli statement, according to Netanyahu's office, reflects the fact that: "Israel rejects outright international dictates regarding a permanent accord with the Palestinians. An accord, should it be reached, will only come through direct negotiations between the sides, without preconditions." "Israel will continue to oppose the unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state. Such recognition in the wake of the October 7th massacre will grant a huge, unprecedented reward to terrorism and prevent any future peace accord," it said.

COMMENT

One of the astonishing impacts of the massacre committed by Hamas against Israel on October 7th is the fact that almost every nation on earth is now clambering for there to be a Palestinian State. This means dividing Israel (and Jerusalem) in two and giving those people who want to destroy Israel half of "the land". World leaders believe this will solve the issue and the Palestinians would then live happily ever after in their new state next to Israel. Of course this would never happen. The total destruction of Israel is the only outcome they desire – and so war would continue. Israel has rejected any unilateral recognition of a Palestinian state. The division of Israel is recorded in Joel 3.

BIBLE QUOTE

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted [divided] my land. The nations may well announce a division of the land – but in the next verse God says "what has Philistia to do with me?" (Joel 3:2)

British parliament plunged into chaos over Gaza cease-fire vote

Politico, February 21, 2024



EVENT

Angry MPs staged a walkout in the House of Commons Wednesday night and vented their fury at Speaker Lindsay Hoyle, as a symbolic vote on a cease-fire between Israel and Hamas descended into chaos. MPs had been set to vote on a motion from the Scottish National Party calling for an "immediate" cease-fire in Gaza. The SNP used its dedicated "opposition day" in the Commons to push the motion. But Hoyle intervened to allow the opposition Labour Party — which feared a rebellion from its own MPs amid pressure over its response to the conflict — to put forward its own amendment to the motion, which also backed an "immediate humanitarian cease-fire" but included softer language on Israel's conduct in the war. The Prime Minister gave his own views on the Gaza votes controversy in a short broadcast interview on Thursday afternoon. "I think the important point here is that we should never let extremists intimidate us into changing the way in which Parliament works. Parliament is an important place for us to have these debates. Some people may want to stifle that with intimidation or aggressive behaviour."

COMMENT

The chaos seen in Britain's parliament was down to one thing – fear. MP's are fearful of the violent consequences if they are not seen to be backing Gaza and the Palestinians. It has come to light that many MP's are receiving threats if they don't vote "the right way" and condemn Israel. A staff member for an MP said it was "only a matter of time" until "the worst happens". This is why the UK prime minister said that some want to stifle debate though intimidation and aggression. The Bible says that Jerusalem would become a burdensome stone for all people and those who try to move it will be cut to pieces. In other words Jerusalem will become an insolvable issue that brings destruction

BIBLE QUOTE

And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. Don't forget the Hamas war is about Jerusalem. They call this conflict The Al Aqsa Flood – Al Aqsa is the Muslim name for the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. (Zechariah 12:3)

Israel strikes Hezbollah 'military compound' in Lebanon

Daily Telegraph, February 23, 2024



EVENT

A Hezbollah "military compound" in Lebanon has been hit by an Israeli strike amid ongoing cross-border fire as tensions intensify in the Middle East. Hezbollah claimed that two paramedics affiliated with the group and one of their fighters were killed in a "direct" attack on a civil defence centre in Blida, southern Lebanon. The Hezbollah-affiliated Islamic Health Committee said the attack caused "the destruction of the health centre as well as a number of ambulances". Late on Thursday, the Israeli army released a statement saying that it had identified fighters "entering a Hezbollah military compound in the area of Blida". "Fighter jets were scrambled and struck the compound where the terrorists were identified," it said. The violence on Israel's northern border has sparked fears of another full-blown war between Israel and Hezbollah like that of 2006.

COMMENT

In recent days, Israel has attacked deeper into Lebanon with a series of airstrikes that have killed Hezbollah fighters, some of them senior officers, and several Lebanese civilians. On February 19, Israel staged airstrikes against two warehouses in Ghaziyeh, just south of Sidon and some 50 kilometers (31 miles) north of the border. Despite the intensifying violence of recent weeks, the fighting between Hezbollah and the Israeli military still falls well short of reaching a threshold that could precipitate war. However, the Bible says that Hezbollah will be drawn into the conflict and ultimately, completely destroyed. Psalm 83 says that the inhabitants of Tyre will align themselves in a confederacy of people who want to destroy Israel. The region of Tyre is the stronghold of Hezbollah. But the Psalm says that the fate of these enemies of Israel is total destruction. This is the inner ring war that happens before Russia descends for a spoil.

BIBLE QUOTE

They have said, Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation; that the name of Israel may be no more in remembrance. For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against thee: The tabernacles of Edom, and the Ishmaelites; of Moab, and the Hagarenes; Gebal, and Ammon, and Amalek; the Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; (Psalm 83:4-7)

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