

This Week's Developments

November 15 - 21, 2020

- Allies tense after Trump sought Iran attack plan
- Israel strikes 'Iranian military sites' in Syria
- Iran on high alert in Trump's final weeks in office
- Putin orders a new nuclear-proof command centre
- UK announces largest military spend since Cold War
- UN panel votes 163-5 in support of Palestinian statehood
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Allies tense after Trump sought Iran attack plan

The Times, November 18, 2020



EVENT

Senior Republicans are becoming nervous about President Trump's "bucket list" for his final weeks in office after he ordered a withdrawal yesterday of US troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and it emerged that he had reviewed plans to bomb Iran. He is still refusing to concede the election to Joe Biden but there are growing concerns that when he does finally leave the White House, he will try to bow out with a series of grand gestures at home and abroad. Mr Trump's ability to act unilaterally is greatest in foreign policy, where Christopher Miller, the acting defence secretary, has announced cuts in US troop numbers from 4,500 to 2,500 in Afghanistan and from 3,000 to 2,500 in Iraq by January 15, which is just five days before the inauguration of Mr Biden as the next president. Options for a strike on Iran's main nuclear processing facility were discussed at an Oval Office meeting last Thursday but Mr Trump was apparently talked out of an attack.

COMMENT

As one editorial said this week "Shifting power between outgoing and incoming American presidents is a delicate operation, like carrying a Ming vase across a busy road." And this transition is the most fraught in US history. President Trump as commander in chief has the ability to launch an attack if he wanted to – and who knows in a desperate attempt to stay in power what he might do. He appears to be following a scorched earth policy trying to hamstring Biden who wants to revive the Iran deal. On the other side of the coin America's rivals might well see an opportunity for mischief during this period of uncertainty. With Washington distracted an adventurist regime might want to take advantage. The world has increasing fear and perplexity and watching the world's superpower transition only adds to mankind's sense of foreboding.

BIBLE QUOTE

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.
(Luke 21:25-26)

Israel strikes 'Iranian military sites' in Syria after bombs found in Golan

BBC, November 19, 2020



EVENT

Israel's military says it launched air strikes against Iranian and Syrian military targets in Syria overnight, after explosive devices were found in the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. The Syrian state news agency said the country's air defences had "confronted an Israeli aerial aggression" and downed a number of missiles. It reported that three Syrian soldiers were killed and another was injured. But a monitoring group reported that 10 people died, including five Iranians. Israel has repeatedly struck Iranian targets in Syria and those of allied militia groups in recent years, but it rarely publicly claims responsibility. It has said it will not tolerate Iranian "entrenchment" in Syria. On Tuesday, three Claymore anti-personnel charges were found near an Israeli military position in the Golan Heights, Israeli military spokesman Lt Col Jonathan Conricus told reporters. The devices were planted by a Syrian squad on the orders of Iran's Quds Force, the main overseas operations arm of the Revolutionary Guards, he added.

COMMENT

Western intelligence sources suggest Israel has stepped up strikes on Syria this year with US approval, in an effort to check Iran's military reach. The latest strikes took place hours before US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo was due to arrive in Israel for a three-day visit. Israeli media report that Mr Pompeo is expected to become the first top American diplomat to visit the Golan Heights. President Trump announced last year that the Golan Heights is Israeli land. Zechariah 11 speaks of great trouble coming on Bashan – this is the same area as the Golan Heights. It also speaks of fire coming on Lebanon. The next chapter focuses on the inner ring war. Golan is very significant...

BIBLE QUOTE

Open thy doors, O Lebanon, that the fire may devour thy cedars. Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down. There is a voice of the howling of the shepherds; for their glory is spoiled: a voice of the roaring of young lions; for the pride of Jordan is spoiled.

(Zechariah 11:1-3)

Iran's allies on high alert in Trump's final weeks in office

ABC News, November 20, 2020



EVENT

Iran's allies have collectively welcomed Trump's election defeat. Under his presidency, tensions with Iran escalated, reaching fever pitch at the beginning of the year with the U.S. airstrike that killed Iran's top general, Qassim Soleimani, at the Baghdad airport. Iran launched a ballistic missile attack in response to the fatal drone strike, targeting U.S. soldiers in Iraq and wounding dozens. Trump also unilaterally withdrew America in 2018 from Iran's nuclear deal with world powers, meant to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons, and re-imposed punishing sanctions on Iran, crippling its economy. Iran has since abandoned all limits on its uranium enrichment program, even as the deal's other international partners have tried unsuccessfully to salvage it. The incoming Biden administration has stated plans to rejoin or renegotiate the 2015 nuclear accord. But there is growing concern over what Trump, who is refusing to concede the election, might do in the last days of his presidency including a potential strike on America's enemies.

COMMENT

Iran is on high alert, uncertain of what Trump might do in his dying days in office. They fear that he might do all he can to prevent Biden from re-entering the peace deal. Obama when he left office did all he could to prevent Trump from being too friendly with Russia. Obama ensured that Russian sanctions would remain in place throughout the next president's period in office. We don't know if Trump will lash out at Iran but we do know with Bible in hand that Iran has a significant role to play at the time of the end. Iran is the main backer of Hamas and Hezbollah (the pricking briers around Israel) that need to be removed. Iran if provoked could spark the initial inner ring war around Israel. Iran we know will be part of the outer ring war invasion of Israel as it allies itself with Russia.

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 Philistines with the inhabitants of Tyre; Assur [Iran] also is joined with them: they have holpen the children of Lot. Selah. (Psalm 83:4-8)

Putin orders a new nuclear-proof command centre

The Jamestown Foundation, November 18, 2020



EVENT

Russian President Vladimir Putin has ordered the creation of a new nuclear-strike-proof command-and-control (C2) centre for the country's nuclear forces. On November 13, he signed a decree on the implementation of the national defence plan for 2021–2025. Reportedly, a key element in this planning process is the construction of a nuclear command centre. As one commentary in Izvestia noted, its importance cannot be underestimated, as the ability of the Armed Forces to respond to strategic-level threats depends on such systems. Putin's initiative, however, seems tied to the ongoing uncertainties around the nuclear arms control regime. Notably, the last major nuclear weapons limitation treaty between Russia and the United States, the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START), is scheduled to phase out in February 2021, unless both sides agree to extend it. The planned nuclear forces C2 centre is thus meant to position Moscow for future talks with the incoming US administration in addition to the natural role it will play in Russia's ongoing military modernization efforts.

COMMENT

Putin continues to prepare for war – exactly as described in Ezekiel 38:7. A headline in the Economist this week said “Putin's new model army: Russian military forces dazzle after a decade of reform”. The article said that after the USSR collapsed Russia's mighty army was laid low. But after a huge increase in spending over the last decade Russia's military might has been transformed. They have added 600 new planes, 840 helicopters, 2300 drones. Russia can now get 100,000 troops complete with heavy armour to a hotspot in less than 30 days. NATO couldn't manage half that in light armour. Russia is surely nearly ready to launch the war the Bible prophesied it would.

BIBLE QUOTE

A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations. .. But I will remove far off from you the northern army,
(Joel 2:2+20)

Post-Brexit UK announces largest military spending since Cold War

Reuters, November 18, 2020



EVENT

Britain announced its biggest military spending increase since the Cold War on Thursday, pledging to end the “era of retreat” as it seeks a post-Brexit role in a world Prime Minister Boris Johnson warned was more perilous than for decades. Johnson said the extra spending reflected the need to upgrade military capabilities even as the COVID-19 pandemic pummels the economy and strains public finances. He outlined plans for a new space command, an artificial intelligence agency and said the navy would be restored as Europe’s most powerful. Outlining the first conclusions from a big review of foreign policy and defence, he announced an extra 16.5 billion pounds (\$22 billion) for the military over the next four years. The defence budget is now just under 42 billion pounds a year. “I have done this in the teeth of the pandemic, amid every other demand on our resources, because the defence of the realm and the safety of the British people must come first.” Johnson told parliament by video link from Downing Street.

COMMENT

Britain was the main battlefield ally of the United States in Iraq and Afghanistan and, alongside France, the principal military power in the European Union. But its 2016 vote to leave the EU has made its global role uncertain at a time when China is rising and President Donald Trump has cast doubt on U.S. support for traditional allies. The military spending announcement comes a week after Johnson promised U.S. President-elect Joe Biden that Britain was determined to remain a valuable military ally. We can see here how Tarshish and the young lions are determined to stay on the same side - and also how the UK wants to keep some of its global military influence. However we know the power of Tarshish is to be brought low at the time of the end.

BIBLE QUOTE

For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: And upon all the cedars of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the oaks of Bashan [Golan Heights], ..And upon all the ships of Tarshish [Britain], and upon all pleasant pictures [ships] (Isaiah 2:12-16)

UN panel votes 163-5 in support of Palestinian statehood

The Times of Israel, November 20, 2020



EVENT

The United Nations voted overwhelmingly to approve a draft resolution in favour of Palestinian self-determination, with Israel and the United States voting against. The proposal on Thursday in the UN General Assembly's Third Committee — the committee that deals with human rights and humanitarian affairs — passed 163 to 5, with 10 abstentions. Canada, which typically votes alongside Israel in such resolutions, stood with the majority. The resolution emphasized “the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the right to their independent State of Palestine” and “stressed the urgency of achieving without delay an end to the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 and a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,” based on a two-state solution.

COMMENT

In our daily readings this week we have been reading the short but incredibly powerful prophecy of Joel. Just 3 chapters but packed full of information and prophecy about the last days. Chapter 2 talks about the invasion of an army the size and scope of which has never been seen before or will be again. This “northern” army had an initial fulfilment with Assyria but its greatest fulfilment is when Russia invades from the north. The final chapter speaks of how the nations will try to “part my land”. The division of God’s land is exactly what the UN voted on this week - they want TWO states living in the ONE land of Israel. But God says in Joel 3 - what have you to do with me O Tyre and Zidon (Hezbollah stronghold) and all the coasts of Palestine (Palestinian stronghold)? The answer is nothing. God will never tolerate the division of His land.

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 my land. Yea, and what have ye to do with me, O Tyre, and Zidon, and all the coasts of Palestine? will ye render me a recompence?
(Joel 3:2+4)

ADDITIONAL AND SUPPORTING ARTICLES

2020-11-20 **DebkaFile** (world events through the bi-focals of Israeli military intelligence)

For Vladimir Putin, the great global troublemaker, problems are mounting closer to home - The Independent

Introducing the 'Great Reset,' world leaders' radical plan to transform the economy – The Hill

Kremlin Denies Reports Putin is Ill, Planning to Resign - World Report - US News

Vladimir Putin planning to step down next year- New York Post report