



For Members of the Prophecy Forum

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

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NEWS FROM RUSSIA

MEDVEDEV SUBMITS LAW ON EXTENDING PRESIDENT'S TERM

Voice of America News reports: "Russian President Dmitri Medvedev has sent parliament a draft law on extending the term of the country's president from four to six years.

The Russian leader first made the proposal in his state-of-the-nation address... The measure also calls for extending the term of the lower house of parliament, the State Duma, from four to five years.

Some Russian news reports raised the possibility the changes would require new presidential elections in Russia. This, they said, would allow former Russian President Vladimir Putin, who now is Russia's prime minister, to quickly seek to return to the presidency.

But Russian officials have downplayed the possibility, noting that the changes would not apply to Mr. Medvedev's current term. **(Who will become the "Gog of Magog" for the battle of the "Latter years" and "Latter days"? Time will tell – Ezekiel 38:1, 2, 8, 16.)**

RUSSIAN MPS BACK PRESIDENCY MOVE

BBC News reports: "Russian MPs have backed a bill extending the presidential term in its first reading, amid speculation it may herald Vladimir Putin's early return..."

Mr. Putin became prime minister in 2008 after being obliged under the constitution to step down after two consecutive presidential terms.

But speculation is rife that he is planning to return to the presidency.

The BBC's Richard Galpin says it has always been assumed that Mr. Putin may return after Mr. Medvedev has completed one term.

But the apparent rush to get this constitutional amendment through is being seen by some as a sign that Mr. Putin is in a hurry and may return much sooner.

Then he could potentially serve another two six-year terms. The bill also extends the mandate of the lower house, the State Duma, from four years to five.

The Duma passed the bill in its first reading by 388 votes to 58.

The bill must go through a second and third reading in the Duma, then be approved by the upper house and regional assemblies before it becomes law... **(I believe that all the final signs pointing to Christ's return are in progress. One of the final seven prophecies has to do with a powerful Russia and its leader – then Luke 21:27 will occur.)**

VLADIMIR PUTIN 'COULD RETURN AS RUSSIAN PRESIDENT NEXT YEAR'

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "The respected business daily *Vedomosti* quoted unidentified Kremlin sources as saying that Dmitry Medvedev, the current president, could step down after carrying out changes to the constitution that would allow Mr. Putin to solidify his grip on power.

In his first state of the nation address

Mr. Medvedev proposed amending the constitution to allow sitting presidents to stay in power for 12 rather than eight years.

Mr. Putin served as Russia's president between 2000 and May 2008, but was forced to shoehorn Mr. Medvedev, long his protégé, into his job because of a constitutional provision that barred him from serving more than two consecutive four-year terms.

Since May, Mr. Putin has been Russia's prime minister, but many believe he remains the country's most powerful man and are convinced that Mr. Medvedev is little more than a cipher.

Speculation abounded last year that Mr. Medvedev would be little more than a stopgap leader who would step down once he had extended presidential term limits and undertaken potentially unpopular social reforms that could have undermined Mr. Putin's popularity... **(Look for the change of presidents soon as these manipulations of Russia's laws take place.)**

MEDVEDEV BACKS OFF MISSILE THREAT

The International Herald Tribune reports: "President Dmitri Medvedev of Russia backed away from his threat to deploy missiles on borders of Europe, on the condition that President-elect Barack Obama take up a call Russia made with France to meet on European security by next summer.

The Russian leader, who threatened the United States just hours after Obama had won the U.S. election, argued at a

meeting in Nice that all countries 'should refrain from unilateral steps' before discussions on European security take place.

'If we share one home, we should get together and make agreements with one another,' Medvedev added.

His statement was the strongest signal yet that the Russians might not follow through with their threat to deploy Iskander missiles in Kaliningrad, a Russian enclave between Poland and Lithuania... José Manuel Barroso, president of the European Commission, called Cold War rhetoric associated with the threat 'stupid,' unusually direct language in diplomacy.

President Nicholas Sarkozy of France, who was host of the Nice meeting between Russia and the 27 European Union nations as EU president, helped Medvedev back off. The French leader supported the idea of talks on a new security architecture for Europe - a Russian proposal - and suggested they could be held by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in June or July.

The organization includes both the United States and Russia and spans much of the Northern Hemisphere, from

Vancouver to Vladivostok.

The French president also made it clear that he wanted the United States to reconsider its missile defense plan, which involves radar and interceptors being deployed to Poland and the Czech Republic.

'Between now and then, please no more talk of anti-missile protection systems,' Sarkozy said, referring to the potential talks. The French president added that deployment of a missile defense system 'would bring nothing to security in Europe...' (Russia plans two missile bases; one in Kaliningrad and another in Venezuela. It's the latter one American leaders fear because it's literally in our nation's backyard - II Timothy 3:1.)

RUSSIA BUILDING MISSILES TO COUNTER US SPACE DEFENCES

SpaceWar.com reports: "Russia is developing missiles designed to avoid being hit by space-based missile defence systems that could be deployed by the United States, a top Russian general was quoted as saying.

'Development is now under way on the combat outfitting of missiles whose flight falls outside the range of space-based

missile defence systems,' Nikolai Solovtsov, the commander of Russia's missile forces, told *Interfax* news agency.

Solovtsov called the project a countermeasure to what he described as US plans to deploy weapons in space, according to *Interfax*.

'Judging by an analysis of US work in new weapons development and creation, they truly see space as a potential sphere for armed conflict and in connection with this are not withdrawing from plans to place weapons in space,' he said.

He also said Russia was 'perfecting the structure and makeup' of its missile forces in response to a planned US land-based missile shield, a controversial project that has provoked furious reactions from Moscow.

Solovtsov said the steps would include deployment of RS-24 intercontinental missiles, designed to overcome systems such as the US missile shield..."

(Preparations are in the works for Revelation 12:7 and Luke 21:26 - a war in space.)

Terrorist Threat

BARACK OBAMA IS WARNED TO BEWARE OF A 'HUGE THREAT' FROM AL-QAEDA

The Times Online reports: "Barack Obama is being given ominous advice from leaders on both sides of the Atlantic to brace himself for an early assault from terrorists.

General Michael Hayden, director of the CIA, acknowledged that there were dangers during a presidential transition when new officials were coming in and getting accustomed to the challenges. But he added that no 'real or artificial spike' in intercepted transmissions from terror suspects had been detected.

President Bush has repeatedly described the acute vulnerability of the US during a transition. The Bush Administration has been defined largely by the 9/11 attacks, which came within a year of his taking office.

His aides have pointed to al-Qaeda's first assault on the World Trade Centre, which occurred little more than a month after Bill

Clinton became President in 1993. There was an alleged attempt to bomb Glasgow airport in Gordon Brown's first days in Downing Street and a London nightclub attack was narrowly thwarted.

Lord West of Spithead, the Home Office Security Minister, spoke recently of a 'huge threat', saying: 'There is another great plot building up again and we are monitoring this.'

Intelligence chiefs on both sides of the Atlantic have indicated that such warnings refer more to a general sense of foreboding than fear of an imminent or specific plan..." (Christians should pray for all their leaders including Senators, Congress Members, Governors, Mayors, etc - I Timothy 2:1-3.)

REPORT: CHANCES OF WMD ATTACK IN BIG CITY GREATER

Reuters reports: "The chances of a terror attack on a major city somewhere in the world using weapons of mass destruction are better than even,

according to a task force mandated by the U.S. Congress, *The Washington Post* reported...

A draft study by the panel warns of growing threats from rogue states, nuclear smuggling rings and the spread of atomic information in the developing world, the newspaper reported.

The panel, the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, singled out Pakistan as a grave concern because of its network of terror groups, history of instability and nuclear capabilities, according to the report.

'In our judgment, America's margin of safety is shrinking, not growing,' the newspaper quoted from the draft report.

The panel said it is more likely that a terror attack, which could also include biological weapons, will take place by the end of 2013, according to the report..."

("This know also that in the last days perilous [dangerous] times shall come" - II Timothy 3:1. The time has arrived.)

NEW REPORT CALLS NUCLEAR TERRORISM SERIOUS RISK

Voice of America News reports: "The new report, called 'Securing the Bomb 2008,' says major progress has been made to reduce the danger of nuclear terrorism.

The report warns, however, there are still major gaps in these efforts and says the risk of terrorists acquiring a nuclear weapon remains unacceptably high.

The author of the report, Harvard professor Matthew Bunn, says the potential for a disastrous attack is very real.

'That would incinerate the heart of a major city,' he said. 'It could turn the center of Washington, D.C. or the center of Manhattan into a smoking, radioactive

ruin that would be unusable for decades to come. That would have profound and catastrophic effects on our society, really reverberating around the world.'

The study is the seventh annual report from Harvard University's Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and was commissioned by the Nuclear Threat Initiative, a nonproliferation group based in Washington, D.C.

The report details a series of events around the world in recent years it says highlights the risk of poor security at nuclear installations.

These include an armed break-in at a South African site with hundreds of kilograms of highly enriched uranium, the arrest of a Russian colonel for soliciting bribes to overlook violations of

nuclear security rules and the increasing terrorist threats amid the ongoing strife in Pakistan.

The report says the materials for a nuclear bomb exist in hundreds of buildings in dozens of countries..." **(In times like these as global secular leaders predict such doomsday events, the Lord's people must rest upon the promises of God. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea; Though the waters thereof roar and be troubled, though the mountains shake with the swelling thereof. Selah." Psalm 46:1-3.)**

CYBER TERRORISM

US CONGRESS WARNED OF CHINESE CYBER, SPACE THREATS

SpaceWar.com reports: "China has developed a sophisticated cyber warfare program and stepped up its capacity to penetrate US computer networks to extract sensitive information, a US congressional panel warned..."

'China has an active cyber espionage program,' the US-China Economic and Security Review Commission said in its annual report to the US Congress. 'China is targeting US government and commercial computers.'

In its 393-page report, the panel also criticized Beijing for exercising 'heavy-handed government control' over its economy and 'continuing arms sales and military support to rogue regimes' such as Sudan, Myanmar and Iran.

The commission also issued a warning about China's space program. 'China continues to make significant progress in developing space capabilities, many of which easily translate to enhanced military capacity,' it said.

'Although some Chinese space programs have no explicit military intent, many space systems -- such as communications, navigation, meteorological, and imagery systems -- are dual use in nature,' the commission said.

The commission, which was established by Congress in 2000 to analyze the economic and national security relationship between the two

nations, said China was investing heavily in cyber warfare.

'Since China's current cyber operations capability is so advanced, it can engage in forms of cyber warfare so sophisticated that the United States may be unable to counteract or even detect the efforts,' the commission said.

It said Chinese hacker groups may be operating with government support.

'By some estimates, there are 250 hacker groups in China that are tolerated and may even be encouraged by the government to enter and disrupt computer networks,' the commission said..." **(China also prepares for a future war, as one of the most devastating ever – Revelation 9:14-18; Revelation 16:12.)**

CYBER-ATTACK ON DEFENSE DEPARTMENT COMPUTERS RAISES CONCERNS

The LA Times reports: "Senior military leaders took the exceptional step of briefing President Bush on a severe and widespread electronic attack on Defense Department computers that may have originated in Russia -- an incursion that posed unusual concern among commanders and raised potential implications for national security.

Defense officials would not describe the extent of damage inflicted on military networks. But they said that the attack struck hard at networks within U.S. Central Command, the headquarters that oversees U.S. involvement in Iraq and

Afghanistan, and affected computers in combat zones. The attack also penetrated at least one highly protected classified network.

Military computers are regularly beset by outside hackers, computer viruses and worms. But defense officials said the most recent attack involved an intrusive piece of malicious software, or 'malware,' apparently designed specifically to target military networks.

'This one was significant; this one got our attention,' said one defense official, speaking on condition of anonymity when discussing internal assessments.

Although officials are withholding many details, the attack underscores the increasing danger and potential significance of computer warfare, which defense experts say could one day be used by combatants to undermine even a militarily superior adversary...

Military electronics experts have not pinpointed the source or motive of the attack and could not say whether the destructive program was created by an individual hacker or whether the Russian government may have had some involvement. Defense experts may never be able to answer such questions, officials said.

The defense official said the military also had not learned whether the software's designers may have been specifically targeting computers used by troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

However, suspicions of Russian

involvement come at an especially delicate time because of sagging relations between Washington and Moscow and growing tension over U.S. plans to develop a missile defense system in Eastern Europe. The two governments also have traded charges of regional meddling after U.S. support

for democratic elections in former Soviet states and recent Russian overtures in Latin America.

U.S. officials have worried in recent years about the possibility of cyber-attacks from other countries, especially China and Russia, whether sponsored by governments of those countries

or launched by individual computer experts..." (Luke 21:9-11; 27-32 – Look up! Christ's return is at the door – Matthew 24:33.)

KNOWLEDGE INCREASED

IBM TO BUILD BRAIN-LIKE COMPUTERS

BBC News reports: "IBM has announced it will lead a US government-funded collaboration to make electronic circuits that mimic brains.

Part of a field called 'cognitive computing'; the research will bring together neurobiologists, computer and materials scientists and psychologists.

As a first step in its research the project has been granted \$4.9m (£3.27m) from US defense agency Darpa.

The resulting technology could be used for large-scale data analysis, decision making or even image recognition.

'The mind has an amazing ability to integrate ambiguous information across the senses, and it can effortlessly create the categories of time, space, object, and interrelationship from the sensory data,' says Dharmendra Modha, the IBM scientist who is heading the collaboration.

'There are no computers that can even remotely approach the remarkable feats the mind performs,' he said.

'The key idea of cognitive computing is to engineer mind-like intelligent machines by reverse engineering the structure, dynamics, function and behavior of the brain.'

IBM will join five US universities in an ambitious effort to integrate what is known from real biological systems with the results of supercomputer simulations of neurons. The team will then aim to produce for the first time an electronic system that behaves as the simulations do.

The longer-term goal is to create a system with the level of complexity of a cat's brain.

Prof Modha says that the time is right for such a cross-disciplinary project because three disparate pursuits are coming together in what he calls a 'perfect storm'.

Neuroscientists working with simple animals have learned much about the inner workings of neurons and the synapses that connect them, resulting in

'wiring diagrams' for simple brains.

Supercomputing, in turn, can simulate brains up to the complexity of small mammals, using the knowledge from the biological research. Modha led a team that last year used the BlueGene supercomputer to simulate a mouse's brain, comprising 55m neurons and some half a trillion synapses.

'But the real challenge is then to manifest what will be learned from future simulations into real electronic devices - nanotechnology,' Prof Modha said.

Technology has only recently reached a stage in which structures can be produced that match the density of neurons and synapses from real brains - around 10 billion in each square centimeter..." (**But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: [when] many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**" – Daniel 12:4.)

HAWKING BETS CERN MEGA-MACHINE WON'T FIND 'GOD'S PARTICLE'

Canada.com reports: "Renowned British astrophysicist Stephen Hawking has bet 100 dollars (70 euros) that a mega-experiment will not find an elusive particle seen as a holy grail of cosmic science, he said..."

"The LHC will increase the energy at which we can study particle interactions by a factor of four. According to present thinking, this should be enough to discover the Higgs particle,' Hawking told BBC radio.

'I think it will be much more exciting if we don't find the Higgs. That will show something is wrong, and we need to think again. I have a bet of 100 dollars that we won't find the Higgs,' added Hawking, whose books including 'A Brief History of Time' have sought to popularize study of stellar physics...

Physicists have long puzzled over how

particles acquire mass. In 1964, a British physicist, Peter Higgs, came up with this idea: there must exist a background field that would act rather like treacle.

Particles passing through it would acquire mass by being dragged through a mediator, which theoreticians dubbed the Higgs Boson.

The standard quip about the Higgs is that it is the 'God Particle' -- it is everywhere but remains frustratingly elusive.

While questioning the likelihood of finding Higgs Bosons, Hawking said the experiment could discover superpartners, particles that would be 'supersymmetric partners' to particles already known about.

'Their existence would be a key confirmation of string theory, and they could make up the mysterious dark matter that holds galaxies together,' he told the BBC..." (**Stephen Hawking, the greatest mind since Albert Einstein disputes the theory that the gigantic explosion of the Hadron Collider located under the borders of France and Switzerland could recreate the "Big Bang Theory" which 7,000 scientists and engineers say would disprove or minimize the work of God our Creator – Psalm 14:1; 53:1.**)

FROZEN MICE CLONED - ARE WOOLLY MAMMOTHS NEXT?

Reuters reports: "Japanese scientists have cloned mice whose bodies were frozen for as long 16 years and said it may be possible to use the technique to resurrect mammoths and other extinct species.

Mouse cloning expert Teruhiko Wakayama and colleagues at the Center for Developmental Biology, at Japan's RIKEN research institute in Yokohama, managed to clone the mice even though their cells had burst.

'Thus, nuclear transfer techniques could be used to 'resurrect' animals or

maintain valuable genomic stocks from tissues frozen for prolonged periods without any cryopreservation,' they wrote in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Wakayama's team used the classic nuclear transfer technique to make their mouse clones. This involves taking the nucleus out of an egg cell and replacing it with the nucleus of an ordinary cell from the animal to be cloned.

When done with the right chemical or electric trigger, this starts the egg dividing as if it had been fertilized by a sperm.

'Cloning animals by nuclear transfer provides an opportunity to preserve endangered mammalian species,' they wrote.

'However, it has been suggested that the 'resurrection' of frozen extinct species (such as the woolly mammoth) is impracticable, as no live cells are available, and the genomic material that remains is inevitably degraded,' they said.

Wakayama's team dug out some mice that had been kept frozen for years and whose cells were indisputably damaged. Freezing causes cells to burst and can damage the DNA inside. Chemicals called cryoprotectants can prevent this but they must be used before the cells are frozen.

They tried using cells from several places and discovered that the brains worked best. This is a bit of a mystery, as no one has yet cloned any living mouse from a brain cell.

Many animals have been cloned, starting with sheep, and including pigs, cattle, mice and dogs. Livestock breeders want to use cloning to start elite herds of desirable animals, and doctors want to use cloning technology in human medicine.

'There is hope in bringing Ted Williams back, after all,' cloning and stem cell expert John Gearhart of the University of Pennsylvania said in an e-mail. The family of Williams, the Boston Red Sox hitter, had his body frozen by cryogenics firm Alcor after he died in 2002.

Gearhart was only half-joking and said the study 'may now stimulate the small industry of freezing parts of us before we die to bring us back in the future.'

Mammoths may be the extinct animals that scientists would be most likely to try to clone, as many of the animals have been found preserved in ice...' (Let's quit playing God as "inventors of evil things" – Romans 1:30.)

MAMMOTH'S GENOME PIECED TOGETHER

BBC News reports: "A US-Russian team of researchers has pieced together most of the genome of a woolly mammoth, Nature

journal reports.

The experts extracted DNA from samples of mammoth hair to reconstruct the genetic sequence of this Ice Age beast.

Though some stretches are missing, the researchers estimate that the genome is roughly 80% complete.

The work could provide insights into the extinction of the mammoth and also resurrects questions about the viability of cloning long-dead species.

The scientists were aided in their task by the fact that several deep-frozen carcasses of woolly mammoths have been dug out of the permafrost in Siberia.

These conditions are ideal for the preservation of hair, which is a preferred source for the extraction of ancient DNA...

Enthusiasts have long dreamt of using ancient DNA to bring extinct species back from the dead. But most scientists are doubtful this could ever be achieved.

The changes that creep into an animal's genetic sequence after its death pose a significant challenge.

'It's a bit like trying to build a car with only 80% of the parts and knowing that some of the parts are already broken,' said Jeremy Austin, deputy director of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the University of Adelaide.

'Even if we did have the genome in its entirety, we still have the problem of knowing what is a real mutation versus what is [a] sequencing error or DNA damage. At a genome scale, this in itself is an almost insurmountable problem.

'After this we have the issues of how to construct artificial chromosomes.'

Hendrik Poinar, a geneticist from McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, commented: 'We have no idea - yet - how many chromosomes mammoths had...' ("...they provoked him [God] to anger with their inventions: and the plague brake in upon them" – Psalm 106:29. It may happen again.)

BRITISH TEAM LEADS STEM CELL HEART SURGERY THAT COULD END NEED FOR TRANSPLANTS

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "The researchers at Imperial College London are perfecting a technique to rebuild a heart severely damaged and scarred by disease or cardiac arrest.

They have discovered a way to extract, grow in the laboratory and then graft on a patient's own muscle-building cells which then can be used to patch up the heart and increase its pumping power.

Eventually it could end the need for transplants, revolutionize heart surgery and reduce the 238,000 lives lost every

year to heart disease, the UK's biggest killer.

What is more, it could increase the quality of life for the million or so people who suffer a heart attack every year.

The world-leading research, which is being led by the American Professor Michael Schneider, was last night awarded The Medical Futures Innovation Award, otherwise known as a medical Oscar.

Dr Nicholas Boon, President of the British Cardiovascular Society and one of the judges for the awards, said: 'This could transform the care for patients who have had heart attacks or have heart disease.

'Because the cell therapy uses a patient's own cells, it negates the risks or complications associated with other treatment options such as rejection linked to transplantation.'

Andy Goldberg, an orthopedic surgeon who founded the awards, said: 'It is early stages but if this research does what it says on the tin it will be absolutely massive.

'It will be the biggest breakthrough in heart disease treatment.'

In a cardiac arrest, heart muscle cells die but existing treatments do not repair the damage to the muscle and have a limited effect on heart function.

At the moment, there is no cure because the heart cannot heal itself, although medication can ease the symptoms. A last resort is a transplant which is incredibly risky and not always successful.

The team at the Cardiovascular Science at the National Heart and Lung Institute have discovered a way to rejuvenate hearts using a specialist version of heart stem cells - known as 'progenitor' cells - found in small quantities in human hearts.

Professor Schneider was among the first to show that stem or 'progenitor' cells exist in heart muscle, and then developed techniques to purify progenitor cells from a patient's heart and grow them in the laboratory.

Naturally there are only around 300 of these special cells for every million normal heart cells. The team thinks they are just there to help the heart recover from normal wear and tear.

The research team has solved the problem, however, by isolating the special cells from human hearts and cloning them in the lab. Then, using a proprietary, non-toxic technique, they have multiplied them...' (This could become a blessing to mankind as a human's own cells are used to repair one's own heart thus avoiding

rejections because of using one's own cells.)

STEM CELL WINDPIPE TRANSPLANT BREAKTHROUGH

BBC News reports: "Surgeons in Spain have carried out the world's first tissue-engineered whole organ transplant - using a windpipe made with the patient's own stem cells.

The groundbreaking technology also means for the first time tissue transplants can be carried out without the need for anti-rejection drugs.

Five months on the patient, 30-year-old mother-of-two Claudia Castillo, is in perfect health, *The Lancet* reports.

She needed the transplant to save a lung after contracting tuberculosis.

The disease had damaged her airways. Scientists from Bristol helped grow the

cells for the transplant and the European team believes such tailor-made organs could become the norm.

To make the new airway, the doctors took a donor windpipe, or trachea, from a patient who had recently died.

Then they used strong chemicals and enzymes to wash away all of the cells from the donor trachea, leaving only a tissue scaffold made of the fibrous protein collagen.

This gave them a structure to repopulate with cells from Ms. Castillo herself, which could then be used in an operation to repair her damaged left bronchus - a branch of the windpipe.

By using Ms. Castillo's own cells the doctors were able to trick her body into thinking the donated trachea was part of it, thus avoiding rejection.

Two types of cell were taken from Ms.

Castillo: cells lining her windpipe, and adult stem cells - very immature cells from the bone marrow - which could be encouraged to grow into the cells that normally surround the windpipe...

Professor Martin Birchall, professor of surgery at the University of Bristol who helped grow the cells for the transplant, said: 'This will represent a huge step change in surgery.

'Surgeons can now start to see and understand the potential for adult stem cells and tissue engineering to radically improve their ability to treat patients with serious diseases.'

He said that in 20 years time, virtually any transplant organ could be made in this way..." **(Another blessing as one's own cells are used.)**

THE COMING GLOBAL SOCIETY

UK'S BROWN ENVISAGES 'GLOBAL SOCIETY'

The Guardian.co.uk reports: "Gordon Brown called for a new age of progressive multilateralism as he hailed Barack Obama's ideals of democracy, liberty, opportunity and unyielding hope.

In what will be interpreted as rejection of George Bush's unilateral actions, the prime minister used a keynote speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet to urge world leaders to join together to create a truly global society.

"While I see a world that is facing financial crisis and still diminished by conflict and injustice, I also see the chance to forge a new multilateralism that is both hard-headed and progressive," Brown said.

"And I believe that in our international co-operation on finance, climate change, terrorism and ending conflict, there is evidence of this new multilateralism at work in the world - fairer, more stable and more prosperous because it is rooted in cooperation and justice.

"And if we learn from our experience of turning unity of purpose into unity of action, together we can seize this moment of profound change to create, for the first time, the age of the truly global society, one where progressive multilateralism, not narrow unilateralism, is the norm."

The prime minister said the alliance between Britain and America, and more broadly between Europe and America, must provide leadership in the effort to build a stronger, secure and more equitable international order..." **(A New World Order is coming soon but it won't be global utopia as leaders think.**

God's Word predicts the coming of a universal despot who will be far worse than Hitler, Stalin, or Chairman Mao - **Daniel 8:23; Daniel 7:23, and Revelation chapter 13.)**

WORLD ASKED TO HELP CRAFT ONLINE CHARTER FOR RELIGIOUS HARMONY

Breitbart.com reports: "A website launched with the backing of technology industry and Hollywood elite urges people worldwide to help craft a framework for harmony between all religions.

The Charter for Compassion project on the Internet at www.charterforcompassion.org springs from a 'wish' granted this year to religious scholar Karen Armstrong at a premier Technology, Entertainment and Design (TED) conference in California.

'Tedizens' include Google founders Larry Page and Sergey Brin along with other Internet icons as well as celebrities such as Forest Whittaker and Cameron Diaz.

Wishes granted at TED envision ways to better the world and come with a promise that Tedizens will lend their clout and capabilities to making them come true.

Armstrong's wish is to combine universal principles of respect and compassion into a charter based on a 'golden rule' she believes is at the core of every major religion.

The Golden Rule essentially calls on people to do unto others as they would have done unto them.

"The chief task of our time is to build a global society where people of all

persuasions can live together in peace and harmony,' Armstrong said.

'If we do not achieve this, it seems unlikely that we will have a viable world to hand on to the next generation...' **(The plan for a one world religion - Revelation 13:11-18.)**

BRITAIN THINKING OF JOINING EURO

Breitbart.com reports: "Britain is considering joining the eurozone as a direct consequence of global financial turmoil, European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said.

'We are now closer than ever before. I'm not going to break the confidentiality of certain conversations, but some British politicians have already told me: 'If we had the euro, we would have been better off,' Barroso told a weekly French news program, referring to the fall in the pound's value since markets and liquidity meltdown earlier this year.

'The British have an enormous quality, one of many, that is they are pragmatic,' he said on the panel of a joint RTL-LCI radio and television broadcast. 'This crisis has emphasised the importance of the euro, and also of Britain,' he added.

'I don't mean this will happen tomorrow, I know that the majority (of British people) are still opposed, but there is a period of consideration underway and the people which matter in Britain are currently thinking about it,' the former Portuguese prime minister said..." **(A global financial system is coming - Revelation 13:16-18; 14:9, 11; 15:2; 16:2; 19:20; and 20:4. See also the next article.)**

THE SURVEILLANCE SOCIETY

INTERNET BLACK BOXES TO RECORD EVERY EMAIL AND WEBSITE VISIT

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "Under Government plans to monitor internet traffic, raw data would be collected and stored by the black boxes before being transferred to a giant central database.

The vision was outlined at a meeting between officials from the Home Office and Internet Service Providers.

It is further evidence of the Government's desire to have the capability to vet every telephone call, email and internet visit made in the UK, which has already provoked an outcry.

Richard Thomas, the Information Commissioner, has described it as a 'step too far'.

The proposal is expected to be put out to consultation as part of the new Communications Data Bill early next year.

At Monday's meeting in London representatives from BT, AOL Europe, O2 and BSKyB were given a presentation of the issues and the technology surrounding the Government's Interception Modernisation Programme (IMP), the name given by the Home

Office to the database proposal.

They were told that the security and intelligence agencies wanted to use the stored data to help fight serious crime and terrorism.

Officials tried to reassure the industry by suggesting that many smaller ISPs would be unaffected by the 'black boxes' as these would be installed upstream on the network and hinted that all costs would be met by the Government..."

(Big Brother is about to arrive – see the verses from the preceding article.)

ID CARDS ARE NOT VOLUNTARY

The London Daily Telegraph reports: "When the Government introduced its ID card legislation several years ago, it made one thing clear. Even though it would be obligatory to register on the ID database when obtaining a new passport, it would not be compulsory to carry a card.

This has led some people to assume that the scheme is voluntary. It is not, except insofar as someone whose passport has expired is happy never to travel abroad again. But ministers recognized that the scope for ID 'martyrdom' was high if people were forced to carry an ID card.

The last identity system was abolished in 1952 following a celebrated case prompted by the refusal of a man called Clarence Willcock to produce his card when required to by a police officer. Mr. Willcock reasoned that as the war that necessitated their introduction was over, he had no need to carry ID with him. The Government wanted to avoid creating an army of Clarence Willcocks so deliberately did not make it a legal requirement to carry ID.

Now it turns out that they are planning to sneak in just such a power presumably hoping that no-one noticed. But the eagle-eyed lawyers at Liberty spotted that clauses in the draft Borders, Immigration and Citizenship Bill – confirmed as part of the Government's program for this session of parliament in the Queen's Speech - give state officials the power to make anyone who has ever entered the country, at any time, prove who they are.

This would effectively cover any British citizen who has ever left the UK, even for a holiday, because they will have 'entered' the UK on their return. It will mean that for the first time in more than half a century that the police will be able to demand your papers..."

NEWS FROM ISRAEL AND THE MIDDLE EAST

OLMERT: WE MUST CEDE PARTS OF JERUSALEM

The Jerusalem Post reports: "Prime Minister Ehud Olmert used a Jerusalem memorial ceremony for former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to reiterate that Israel must be willing to cede parts of the capital.

"If we want to keep Israel Jewish and democratic, we need to give up parts of the homeland we have dreamed about for generations and [mentioned] in our prayers, even Arab neighborhoods of Jerusalem, and to return to a 1967 Israel with certain amendments," he said, at the state ceremony on Mount Herzl, where Rabin is buried.

"The decision must be made now. The moment of truth has arrived. There is no escaping it, but [the opportunity]

can be missed. If, God forbid, we dither, we will lose the support for the idea of two states. There is no need to expand on the alternative... Rabin will win," he continued.

"The moment of truth has arrived," he repeated. "We can push it off for many years in which blood will be spilled. But we must look at it honestly, proudly and responsibly. The bullets that killed Rabin could not stop the historic path that he led. Even after his death, Rabin will be victorious..." **(This is a disastrous plan that will lead to war – Joel 3:2.)**

BARAK: HIZBULLAH HAS 42,000 MISSILES; SOME CAN HIT DIMONA

The Jerusalem Post reports: "Defense Minister Ehud Barak cautioned that Hizbullah had greatly improved its

abilities since the Second Lebanon War and was in possession of rockets that could reach as far south as Dimona. The defense minister also warned Beirut that the Shi'ite militia's integration in the Lebanese government could lead to extensive attacks on Lebanese infrastructure in the event of a military conflagration.

"Hizbullah has three times the ability it had before the Second Lebanon War and now has 42,000 missiles in its possession, as opposed to the 14,000 it had before the war," Barak said in a Knesset speech, warning that Hizbullah's recent maneuvers south of the Litani River were a liability for Lebanon. "In practice, UN Resolution 1701 isn't working, and Hizbullah's integration within the Lebanese republic exposes Lebanon and

its infrastructures to a more massive hit in the event of a future standoff.'

Barak went on to threaten Iran, which he said 'continues to thumb its nose at the world and act vigorously to promote its military nuclear program. Israel is not taking any option off the table and I recommend that neither do others. Beyond that, any explicit statement would be harmful...' (Dimona is the base for Israel's nuclear weapons. Trouble ahead – Jeremiah 30:7. In II Kings 17:34 Jacob's name was changed to Israel.)

IRANIAN SUPREME LEADER CALLS ON LEBANON TO UNITE AGAINST ISRAEL

The Jerusalem Post reports: "Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on the disparate Lebanese ethnic

groups to unite against their common enemy - Israel, the Iranian IRNA news agency reported.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the power of all Lebanese groups should be at the service of the country's national unity to counter the danger of the Zionist regime,' Khamenei told visiting Lebanese President Michel Suleiman.

Khamenei, lauding Suleiman's support of Islamic militancy and his efforts to establish unity in Lebanon, promised that Iran would always side with Beirut, stressing that Lebanon enjoys high significance despite its small geographical limits. One such instance of 'exemplary' coexistence of different religious groups in Lebanon, he said, was the 'historical victory' over the Israel.

'Over the past 60 years, none of the Muslim

and Arab states have been able to face the Zionist regime, but people in Lebanon managed to break this myth and drive the Israeli army out of their soil,' he said.

Khamenei added that Lebanon has turned into a role model for other Muslim nations due to its 'resistance' to Israeli 'aggressions,' saying, 'During the 33-day war period, many Muslims in the Islamic and Arab states chanted slogans in support of Lebanese Hizbullah, especially...Nasrallah.'

The top cleric went on to voice his support for the repatriation of Palestinian 'refugees' residing in Arab states. He said that although certain people suppose that repatriation of the Palestinian refugees is impossible, they would definitely 'return' to their 'homeland...' (Psalm 83:4)

CONTENDING FOR THE

FAITH

REWARDS OFFERED FOR MURDERING CHRISTIANS, DESTROYING HOMES, CHURCHES

WorldNetDaily.com reports: "Hindu extremist groups are offering money, food and alcohol to anyone who murders Christians and destroys their homes.

The violence is nothing new in Orissa, India, where India's Communist Party estimates that more than 500 Christians have been killed by Hindu mobs in Orissa since late August, 12 times more than official government claims of only 40 homicides.

But now the stakes are even higher – and pastors have a bounty on their heads.

Faiz Rahman, chairman of Good News India, said Hindu militants are targeting Christian leaders, the *Christian Post* reported.

'The going price to kill a pastor is \$250,' he said.

Rahman, a head of several orphanages in Orissa State, said he's helped 25 pastors to leave refugee camps, but 250 Christian leaders are still in shelters.

'All of the pastors are high value targets,' Rahman told the UK-based Release International. 'We've got to get them out of the refugee camps.'

An All-India Christian Council spokesman said, 'People are being offered rewards to kill, and to destroy churches

and Christian properties. They are being offered foreign liquor, chicken, mutton and weapons. They are given petrol and kerosene.'

One official said he personally authorized 'cremation of more than 200 bodies' found in jungles after Christians were blamed for the death of Hindu leader Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati on Aug. 24. They continue to be persecuted even though Maoists openly admitted to murdering Saraswati.

Thousands of homes and churches have been destroyed, and an estimated 50,000 Christians have been forced to flee the violence. *Mission Network News* estimates 5,000 Christian homes have been burned and 200 churches ruined. According to the *Christian Post*, 30,000 people remain in government-operated refugee camps. Tens of thousands are living in forests – many seriously wounded...' (Jude verses 3-5, 8, 10, 12-14, 19)

NORTH KOREA ENRAGED BY LAUNCH OF GOSPEL GAS BALLOONS

WorldNetDaily.com reports: "North Korean officials are infuriated by leaflets that have been floated over the communist nation's secured borders and dropped from plastic bags attached to gas-filled balloons, and one organization behind the effort says there's good reason the atheists in power are upset – the

pamphlets are carrying a Gospel message directly to the people.

Hundreds of thousands of leaflets have reportedly been distributed in just the past few months, and may have been the reason the North recently announced it would shut its border with the South. The North also has threatened to cut other communications, such as telephone lines, over the issue.

The leaflets have been attributed to 'political' groups, but a spokesman for one organization sponsoring the effort said there's nothing political about it, and the tracts carry a message of hope directly to the North Korean people.

The spokesman and his organization, which spreads the Gospel around the world, couldn't be identified because of the potential for danger to affiliated activists who are dispatching the balloons.

But he told WND those who have fled government crackdowns on their faith inside North Korea are desperate to get the message of hope to their family, friends and communities behind the wall of communist information censorship.

'Each balloon carried 10,000 Gospel tracts, in three separate bags at the bottom that have a time release mechanism so that they drop at different times to spread the leaflets over a wider area,' he described...' (Mark 16:15 and Matthew 24:9)