

# Eye on the World

## Jan. 2-3, 2010

*This collection of short news items is from the "Eye on the World" section of the Church of God Big Sandy's Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Jan. 2-3, 2009.*

### Compiled by Jeanine Case

Vladimir Putin said Russia needs to develop more weapons to force America to stop doing "whatever it wants."

Until now, observers said they thought the United States and Russia were slowly moving towards a successor to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.

"The Prime Minister was believed to be voicing the deeply held views of hardliners in the Russian military machine," reported Will Stewart of Timesonline.co.uk on Dec. 30, 2009. "But his forthright statement may also be linked to growing signs that he is preparing to announce his intention to seek a new presidential term in 2012."



China is considering building a naval base in the Middle East. As the world's largest importer of oil, China is believed to want to establish bases in the Middle East and throughout the Indian Ocean and South China Sea to protect its tankers, reported Malcolm Moore Dec. 30, 2009, at Telegraph.co.uk.



His former fellow students and teachers are speculating that the Nigerian national suspected of trying to blow up a plane headed for Detroit might have used "Arabic studies" as a pretext for entering Yemen, perhaps then disappearing into one of Yemen's al-Qaida strongholds.

As reported in The Associated Press and elsewhere, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was apparently influenced by an offshoot of Osama bin Laden's group in Yemen that has claimed credit for attempting to bomb the flight.



The Environmental Protection Agency is not sure it wants to allow shale-gas drilling in New York state, according to a Reuters article by Jon Hurdle.

The process of shale-gas extraction is controversial because chemicals, sand

and water are blasted through rock to free trapped gas in a procedure known as "fracking." However, fracking is exempted from regulation under the U.S. Clean Water Act.



According to a Reuters report dated Jan. 1, 2010, China claims to have arrested about 5,400 people in a crackdown on Internet pornography.



The death toll from a suicide-bomb attack at a volleyball game in Pakistan on Jan. 1, 2010, reached 75, police said, according to a Reuters report.

An estimated 42 people were wounded.



ABC News reports online that a tax loophole may allow the heirs of some wealthy people a financial incentive to pull the plug on loved ones connected to life-support systems to make sure they die in 2010. Death taxes could be higher after Dec. 31, 2010.



Attorneys general from 13 states asked the top two Democrats in Congress to remove extra Medicaid funds directed toward Nebraska.

According to a report at the online version of The Hill posted Jan. 1, 2010, the request is to counter the result of financial favors directed toward the state of Nebraska in return for Sen. Ben Nelson's support of the Senate's health-care-reform bill.



Rep. Ron Paul of Texas on Dec. 30, 2009, said the United States is to blame for the near downing of a Delta plane about to land in Detroit because "we're occupiers."

As reported at WorldNetDaily.com, Rep. Paul, a Republican and libertarian, has an isolationist perspective that even garnered him the support in 2008 of talk-show host Howard Stern. Mr. Paul is known for his independent streak as well as his efforts to abolish the Federal Reserve.

Conservative author Ben Stein, who also was part of the interview on Larry King's talk show on CNN, said America should be taking measures to defend itself. "They're terrorists and murderers," he said.

Paul responded: "They're terrorists because we're occupiers." Mr. Stein countered that "they're psychos. We're not occupiers."