

# Eye on the World

## Jan. 23–24, 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. 23–24, 2010.*

### Compiled by Jeanine Case

An article posted at Yahoo.com is headed "Iran in Billion-Euro Deal With Germany."

According to the article printed on Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, Iran has signed a one-billion-euro (\$1.44 billion) deal with a German company to build 100 gas turbo-compressors.

The article went on to say that an unnamed German will provide the information to "build, install and run the equipment needed to exploit and transport gas," according to Ali Reza Gharibi, the head of Gas Engineering & Development Company for Iran.

The article stated that the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) claims no deal was signed.

Many world powers want to impose sanctions that would cause existing bans to become stricter.

Although Iran is second only to Russia in the size of its gas reserves, it has played only a small role in the gas export market.

Official figures, the article concluded, show that China and Germany are Iran's top trading partners behind the United Arab Emirates."



FT.com ran an article titled "Russia Diversifies Into Canadian Dollars." It was written by Peter Gamham and posted on Jan. 20, 2010.

According to the article, Russia's central bank wants to diversify its foreign exchange reserves by buying Canadian securities and dollars.

"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."

According to the article, others have also been buying Australian and Canadian dollars. Some of these are reportedly Asian.

The Canadian and Australian dollars are doing much better than the American, making them a better investment.



Among the Texans running for governor of their state, besides Gov. Rick Perry and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison will be Debra Medina.

While you may have heard of the first two, Mrs. Medina may be a new name to you. According to her campaign literature, she stands strong on a issues important to Texans.

She said that Texans:

- "Know private property and gun ownership are essential elements of freedom."
- "Must eliminate property tax. A broad-based sales tax is the most efficient and sufficient means to fund necessary government service."
- "Must defend our state sovereignty. We do not need Washington, D.C., directing our industry, our health care or our education. Texas will take care of Texans."
- "Are a nation of diverse people who share a common history, culture and heritage. The wealth of a nation is in her people."
- "Must develop real economic solutions to address illegal immigration, and we must secure our border."

For more information go to [www.MedinaforTexas.com](http://www.MedinaforTexas.com).

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On Wednesday, Jan. 20, 2010, *The Washington Times* ran an article titled "China Removed As Top Priority for Spies."

The article stated that, although senior intelligence leaders opposed the policy change made by the White House National Security Council, they lowered "the priority placed on intelligence collection for China."

The intelligence leaders are said to be worried the change of policy will hamper the United States' ability to obtain secrets about Beijing's cyber-attacks and its military.

This means China no longer has a priority-one status. It has been downgraded to a priority-two level. This level of status is the kind that covers events such as tensions between India and Pakistan or humanitarian crises like the one in Haiti. Iran and North Korea are still at priority one.

Administration officials have reportedly said this is a way in which the Obama administration hopes to engineer "a more cooperative relationship with Beijing."



Pravda's online Russian news source ran an article titled "Hugo Chavez Conducts 'Military Communism Reforms' to Kill Venezuela's Economy."

"Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez has apparently decided to reorganize the economy of his nation from head to toe. On January 18, Chavez passed the law stipulating the expropriation of the stores that raise prices on their goods. Chavez announced the expropriation of six Hipermercado Exitto stores after the French-Colombian retailer broke the law by raising prices."

According to the article, the day before this event took place the news came that three private banks had been nationalized. Recent events are proving the country is working to nationalize its banks.

It is reportedly Mr. Chavez's belief that "the people of Venezuela will not suffer from the devaluation because the authorities would punish entrepreneurs for price speculation."



On Tuesday, Jan. 18, 2010, WorldNetDaily.com ran an article titled "Now 3 Dozen Lawmakers Want Proof of Obama Eligibility." The article was written by Bob Unruh.

The article stated that Arizona lawmakers want to pass a law that "would require state officials to begin independently verifying the accuracy of newly required documents affirming eligibility of any candidate for the U.S. presidency."

About three dozen lawmakers signed as cosponsors.

"The plan would essentially have the same effect as the federal law proposed by Rep. Bill Posey, R-Fla."

The provisions of Rep. Posey's HR 1503 are straightforward:

"To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require the principal campaign committee of a candidate for election to the office of President to include with the committee's statement of organization a copy of the candidate's birth certificate meets the qualifications for eligibility to the Office of President under the Constitution."

The bill also states:

"Congress finds that under . . . the Constitution of the United States, in order to be eligible to serve as President, an individual must be a natural born cit-

izen of the United States who has attained the age of 35 years and has been a resident within the United States for at least 14 years.”

It is the goal of the sponsors to have the bill effective in time for the 2012 presidential election.



TimesOnline.com reported that Britain’s “terrorist threat level” has risen to “severe.”

According to an article posted Jan. 22, 2010, the threat level went from “substantial” to “severe,” meaning that counter-terrorism agencies believe an attack is “highly likely.”

Home Secretary Alan Johnson announced approval of the measure.

“*The Times* understands that the decision to raise the threat level is connected to the conference on Afghanistan taking place at Lancaster House, London, next Thursday.”



Air America, the liberal-leaning radio network, announced this week it was shutting down on Jan. 21, 2010.

“It is with the greatest regret, on behalf of our Board, that we must announce that Air America Media is ceasing its live programming operations as of this afternoon, and that the Company will file soon under Chapter 7 of the Bankruptcy Code to carry out an orderly winding-down of the business,” read an announcement at AirAmerica.com.

The announcement continued:

“When Air America Radio launched in April 2004 with already-known personalities like Al Franken and then-unknown future stars like Rachel Maddow, it was the only full-time progressive [liberal] voice in the mainstream broadcast media world . . .

“We are proud that Air America’s mission lives on through the words and actions of so many former radio hosts who are active today in progressive [liberal] causes and media nationwide. In the years ahead, as we look back, we should all be proud of our passionate determination to assure that our nation’s progressive [liberal] voice would be heard loud and clear. Through the hard work and dedication of current staff, and those who preceded you, a lasting legacy was forged which will now continue through other voices and venues.”

The network portrayed itself as a “progressive” alternative to the highly popular talk-radio offered by Rush Limbaugh, Sean Hannity, Glenn Beck, Mark Levine, Laura Ingraham, Michael Savage, Jason Lewis and many others.