

Eye on the World

June 5-6, 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 June 5-6, 2010.

Compiled by Dave Havir

(A listing of 10 articles about events occurring in Israel can be found in the "Among Friends" section of the church Web site [churchofgodbigandy.com] for this weekend.)



An article by Carol Cratty titled "Document Says Number of Attempted Attacks On U.S. Is at All-time High" was posted at cnn.com on May 30, 2010.

The article quoted an unclassified intelligence memo from the Department of Homeland Security dated May 21.

Here are some of the quotes from the memo.

■ "The number and pace of attempted attacks against the United States over the past nine months have surpassed the number of attempts during any other previous one-year period."

■ "We have to operate under the premise that other operatives are in the country and could advance plotting with little or no warning."

The article said: "The intelligence note says recent attempted terror attacks have used operatives and tactics which made the plots hard to detect.

"The document specifically mentions the cases of Afghan national Najibullah Zazi, who pleaded guilty in February to plotting attacks on New York's subways, and Times Square bombing suspect Faisal Shahzad, a Pakistani-American.

"The intelligence report says both men spent significant time in the United States and were familiar with their alleged targets. Furthermore, the plots involved materials that can be commonly purchased in America without causing suspicion."



An article by Jana Winter titled "Calif. College Offers Scholarships to Illegal Immigrants" was posted at foxnews.com on May 28, 2010.

It said: "A public community college in California has set up a scholarship fund for immigrant students—including illegal immigrants. The \$2,500 scholarship has sparked anger by some, including at least one lawmaker who is threatening to cut off federal funding to the school."

The school is Orange County's Santa Ana College.



An article by Greg Miller titled "Options Studied for a Possible Pakistan Strike" was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 29, 2010.

It said: "The U.S. military is reviewing options for a unilateral strike in Pakistan in the event that a successful attack on American soil is traced to the country's tribal areas, according to senior military officials."



An article titled "Al-Qaida's No. 3 Leader Reported Killed by U.S. Strike" was posted at aolnews.com on June 1, 2010.

It said: "Mustafa Abu al-Yazid, a founder of al-Qaida and its third in command, has been killed by a U.S. drone strike in the northern border regions of Pakistan, according to the terrorist group and a U.S. official."

The article later said: "Al-Yazid, 55, headed al-Qaida's operations in Afghanistan, controlling everything from finances to mission planning. He is also believed to have arranged the financing of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington."



An article by Justin McCurry titled "North Korea 'Is Exporting Nuclear Technology' " was posted at guardian.co.uk on May 28, 2010.

It said: "International efforts to avert a full-blown crisis on the Korean peninsula were given greater urgency today after a leaked UN report claimed that North Korea is defying UN sanctions and using front companies to export nuclear and missile technology to Iran, Syria and Burma."



An article titled "Syria Conducted Nuclear Experiments: IAEA Document" was posted at breitbart.com on May 31, 2010.

It said: "Syria has told the UN atomic watchdog about past nuclear experiments, but is still refusing to cooperate over allegations that it was building a secret nuclear reactor with North Korea's help, a new report revealed Monday."



A Reuters article titled "Russia Says Terrorists Seeking Nuclear Materials" was posted at alertnet.org on June 2, 2010.

It said: "The chief of Russia's state security service said on Wednesday that terrorists were seeking access to nuclear materials across the former Soviet Union, Interfax news agency reported."



An article by Judy Dempsey titled "German President Quits Over Remarks on Military" was posted at nytimes.com on May 31, 2010.

It said: "President Horst Kohler of Germany resigned Monday amid a barrage of criticism for remarks he made during a visit to Afghanistan."

The article later said: "His resignation was another blow for Chancellor Angela Merkel, a close friend and an important conservative ally."



An article by Alexandra Olson titled "Cancun Mayor Charged With Ties to Drug Cartels" was posted at aolnews.com on June 1, 2010.

It said: "The mayor of Cancun was charged with drug trafficking ties Tuesday, forcing him to end his campaign for governor in a scandal that has shaken Mexico's upcoming state elections."



An article by Eric Berger titled "Foreboding Signs Forming in the Tropics" was posted at chron.com (*Houston Chronicle*) on May 28, 2010.

It said: "Scientists have tracked ocean temperatures in the hurricane-prone waters of the Atlantic since the end of World War II, but never have they seen a run-up to hurricane season as sobering as this one.

"The tropics are even warmer than the toasty waters that spurred the 2005 hurricane season into such dizzying activity, with 28 named storms including Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

"Seasonal forecasters—a cautious lot, as the science of predicting storms remains an imperfect art—are nevertheless wary as the hurricane season begins Tuesday [June 1]."



An article titled "Tropical Storm Kills Nearly 150 in Central America" was posted at aolnews.com on May 31, 2010.

It said: "Flooding and landslides from the season's first tropical storm have killed at least 142 people and left thousands homeless in Central America, officials said Monday."



An article by Jason Burke titled "Hundreds Die in Indian Heatwave" was posted at guardian.co.uk on May 30, 2010.

It said: "Record temperatures in northern India have claimed hundreds of lives in what is believed to be the hottest summer in the country since records began in the late 1800s.

"The death toll is expected to rise with experts forecasting temperatures approaching 50 degrees C (122 degrees F) in coming weeks."

The article later said: "Hospitals in Gujarat have been receiving around 300 people a day suffering from food poisoning and heat stroke."



An article titled "Iran to Sell 45 bln Euros, Buy Dollars, Gold—Xinhua" was posted at reuters.com on June 2, 2010.

"The Iranian central bank has announced that it will sell 45 billion euros from its foreign exchange reserves to buy dollars and gold, China's official Xinhua news agency reported on Wednesday, citing unspecified Iranian media reports."



An article by Wyatt Andrews and John Nolan titled "The Rise of the No New Debt Democrats" was posted at cbsnews.com on May 28, 2010.

It said: "A quiet fiscal revolt played out in Congress this week as dozens of moderate and even some liberal Democrats told Speaker Nancy Pelosi to forget about her grand version of the so-called 'Tax Extender' Bill.

"Their objection? The act that it added \$134 billion to the deficit.

"This was the bill Pelosi was using to add \$47 billion for unemployment benefits, which typically is a no-brainer vote for Democrats. Not this time."



An article by Andrew Stern titled "Bladojevich Trial May Entangle Obama" was posted at yahoo.com on June 2, 2010.

It said: "Among the 24 counts of fraud, conspiracy, bribery and racketeering that land [Rod] Blagojevich a long prison sentence are charges he dangled President Barack Obama's vacant U.S. Senate seat to the highest bidder or

demanded a cabinet post for himself in exchange for naming an Obama aide to the seat.”

The article later said: “Another possible wild card in Blagojevich’s long-awaited trial that begins on Thursday is whether it will entangle Obama and his aides in Illinois’ hurly-burly political theater.”



An AP article by Ian James titled “Stone: Film an Intro to Chavez and His Movement” was posted at google.com on May 29, 2010.

It said: “American filmmaker Oliver Stone said Friday [May 28] he deeply admires Hugo Chavez but suggested the Venezuelan president might consider talking a bit less on television.

“Promoting his new documentary *South of the Border* in Caracas, Stone heaped praise on Chavez, saying he is leading a movement of ‘social transformation’ in Latin America.”

The article later said: “Chavez makes near-daily speeches that run for hours, often reminiscing, lecturing about history, announcing news and breaking into song. His Sunday program can last six hours or more.”



A short article titled “Glenn Beck Smears Obama’s 11-year-old Daughter” was posted at mediamatters.org on May 28, 2010.

It said: “Glenn Beck [a popular conservative television and radio personality], who repeatedly and angrily tells his alleged persecutors to ‘leave the families alone,’ spent a good chunk of his radio program this morning mocking and attacking the intelligence of President Obama’s 11-year-old daughter, Malia.”

The Web site also posted Mr. Beck’s apology: “In discussing how President Obama uses children to shield himself from criticism, I broke my own rule about leaving kids out of political debates. The children of public figures should be left on the sidelines. It was a stupid mistake and I apologize—and as a dad I should have known better.”



An editorial by Charles Krauthammer titled “A Disaster With Many Fathers” was posted at washingtonpost.com on May 28, 2010.

The article described how various entities (including environmentalists, British Petroleum [BP] and federal officials) share blame in the accident in the Gulf.

The author makes some interesting comments about the role of Barack Obama in this disaster.

Toward the end of the article, he mentioned how Mr. Obama could be unfairly blamed when he said: “In the end, speeches will make no difference. If BP

can cap the well in time to prevent an absolute calamity in the gulf, the president will escape politically. If it doesn't—if the gusher isn't stopped before the relief wells are completed in August—it will become Obama's Katrina.

"That will be unfair, because Obama is no more responsible for the damage caused by this than Bush was for the damage caused by Katrina. But that's the nature of American politics and its presidential cult of personality: We expect our presidents to play Superman. Helplessness, however undeniable, is no defense."

However, in the concluding two paragraphs the author described how Mr. Obama's approach invites criticism in times of crisis.

Mr. Krauthammer said: "Moreover, Obama has never been overly modest about his own powers. Two years ago next week, he declared that history will mark his ascent to the presidency as the moment when 'our planet began to heal' and 'the rise of the oceans began to slow.'

"Well, when you anoint yourself King Canute, you mustn't be surprised when your subjects expect you to command the tides."



An article by Gautham Nagesh titled "Groups Want FCC to Police Hate Speech on Talk Radio, Cable News Networks" was posted at thehill.com on June 1, 2010.

It said: "The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is being urged to monitor 'hate speech' on talk radio and cable broadcast networks."

Eye on the World comment: While this request may look good on the surface, many conservative journalists on radio and television shows (which are drawing larger audiences than most liberal radio and television shows) are suspicious that this action is an attempt to silence their voice.