

Newsbytes

The First Watch

No. 767

Since 2001

April 13, 2016

Newzbytes is a ministry of Calvary Chapel of Appleton

www.ccappleton.org

“Let us be alert to the season in which we are living. It is the season of the Blessed Hope, calling for us to cut our ties with the world and build ourselves on this One who will soon appear. He is our hope—a Blessed Hope enabling us to rise above our times and fix our gaze upon Him.” Tozer

The word “treason” comes to mind..... md

Obama Admin Advising Global Banks on Ways to Give Iran Money

April 6 Freebeacon.com

The Obama administration is now advising foreign banks on how to bypass existing U.S. sanctions when dealing with Iran, according to the State Department, which disclosed that officials are offering guidance on how to grant the Islamic Republic access to billions of dollars in frozen assets.

However, the administration would not comment when pressed by reporters on whether foreign banks would be permitted to conduct monetary transactions with Iran using American dollars.

State Department Deputy Spokesman Mark Toner told reporters that the U.S. is committed to helping Iran access billions of dollars in frozen assets that are currently stored in banks across the globe. Some financial institutions have been hesitant to deal with Iran following the comprehensive nuclear agreement out of fear that such transactions might violate U.S. sanctions barring transaction with the Islamic Republic.

“It is incumbent on us to live up to our end of this deal,” Toner said, referring to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. “Part of that is to, you know, is to advise these banks and governments.”

Toner explained that foreign banks “don’t want to violate existing U.S. sanctions” and that the administration is mandated by the nuclear agreement to inform banks about “the extent of U.S. sanctions relief.” He was unsure of whether the administration was “proactively” advising banks or only responding to their inquiries.

Toner appeared to agree with a reporter’s assessment that the Obama administration is essentially helping foreign governments “avoid U.S. sanctions.” However, he later said that the administration is not promoting loopholes in the U.S. sanction regime against Iran.

While the administration has promised not to grant Iran direct access to the U.S. financial system, officials have remained mum on reports that it will grant Iran indirect access to U.S. dollars via foreign banks.

In anticipation of the administration’s alleged plans to grant Iran expanded sanctions relief, Republican Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Mark Kirk (Ill.) filed legislation Wednesday that would prevent the Treasury Department from permitting foreign banks to use U.S. dollars when conducting transactions with Iran.

Toner declined to comment on the legislation and skirted further questions about the issue.

Access to the U.S. dollar is “not what’s under consideration [by the administration] at all,” Toner said, echoing statements by other top administration officials in recent days.

Russia Will Ship S-300 Missile Systems to Iran Within Days

A Russian diplomat expects the first S-300 delivery to take place in the coming days.

Russia will begin the shipment of the first batch of S-300 surface-to-air missile systems within days, according to a senior Russian diplomat quoted by Interfax. "I don't know if this will happen today, but they (S-300 missiles) will be loaded (for shipment to Iran)," said Zamir Kabulov, a department chief at the Russian Foreign Ministry, on April 5 in Moscow.

Kabulov's statement appears to contradict a March 2016 report by the Kuwait-based daily Al-Jarida that Russian President Vladimir Putin had temporarily halted the S-300 sale after receiving intelligence briefings that Iran has supplied Hezbollah with advanced Russian missile systems, including SA-22 (Pantsir-S1) air defense systems and Yakhont supersonic anti-ship cruise missiles (See: "Has Putin Just Killed the Iran-Russia Air Defense Missile Deal?").

As I reported previously, in January 2015, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and his Iranian counterpart, Defense Minister Hossein Dehghan, agreed to settle their differences and move forward with the sale of five S-300PMU-1/SA-20 Gargoyle SAM systems (40 launchers) for \$800 million. The S-300PMU1 is a long range surface-to-air missile (SAM) system, "designed to engage aircraft, cruise missiles and theater ballistic missiles in intense clutter and jamming environment," according to deagel.com.

If the news of the imminent shipment of the S-300 missile systems turns out to be genuine, it would finally lay to rest a contentious issue between Moscow and Tehran that began in June 2010, when Russia cancelled the delivery of the S-300s due to a United Nations Security Council resolution imposing sanctions — which included a ban on the sale of hi-tech weapons.

Russia had to stop all military-technical cooperation with Iran. This hit Iran particularly hard, since it had relied heavily on Russia in modernizing its military forces. Up until 2000, Iran was the fourth largest importer of Russian military hardware. One Russian analysis argued that Russia had lost a total of \$13 billion in arms sales due to the UN sanctions. In 2010, after, Russia suspended the delivery of the S-300, Iran demanded \$4 billion in compensation from the Russian state.

"Under the so-called Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCOP), an international agreement on the nuclear program of Iran signed in July 2015, the UN arms embargo will be lifted 5 years after the JCOP adoption day. However, conventional weapons sales can be decided on a case-by-case basis meanwhile," I explained in February.

Russia has also offered to license-produce the third-generation T-90s main battle tank in Iran. Both countries are purportedly also close to signing a contract for the co-production of an undisclosed number of Sukhoi Su-30 multirole fighter aircraft in Iran. However, this week, a senior U.S. official said in a testimony in front of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States would block any such sale.

"We would block the approval of fighter aircraft," Thomas Shannon, the U.S. undersecretary of state for political affairs said, according to Reuters. "We've got a commitment ... from the Russians in terms of working to prohibit the transfer of technologies to Iran's ballistic missile program," Shannon added.

Welcome To Smart Neighborhood Watch 2025

http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=241

Home security is big business the world over, and is destined to become more so as an increasingly disarmed population will be encouraged to turn over their protection to the corporate State.

A new report commissioned by the United States' largest home security firm, ADT, offers a preview of a future that makes today's security methods seem like the Stone Age by comparison. And it could arrive in as little as ten years' time.

Most people have become acclimated to the following seemingly disparate technologies that are becoming part of everyday life: drones, surveillance cameras, biometric identification, and smart technology for the home. While people have become more aware of how government has argued for the use of these systems to combat the ever-present threat of terrorism, they have not imagined how this will eventually trickle down to a common consumer experience, nor would they probably expect a full synthesis to be available at their fingertips.

Nearly every poll has shown an increase in fear over personal safety, even as the world has become a statistically safer place to live. Fear-mongering by the media - driven by the corporate State - has nevertheless convinced people that they are in imminent danger at all times, whether outside or inside of their home.

Strangely, even though police are viewed more than ever as an authoritarian and abusive presence, there has been very little outcry over the hi-tech methods that are beginning to take root which empower them even further to become a direct influence in the lives of the average person.

We have seen the rise (and abuse) of license plate readers, Stingray mobile phone surveillance, X-ray guns for drug and detection, audio shotgun detection like ShotSpotter, WiFi that can see through walls, social media monitoring, and actual pre-crime detection systems. Coupled with the latest move to merge local police with the NSA, we are already well on the way to a Minority Report-style world.

Perhaps familiarity doesn't breed contempt when it comes to personal safety, however. The report commissioned by ADT from security researchers and consultants, Futurizon, paints a picture of a frightened population where fully 60% of people do not feel safe in their own home and will likely embrace new solutions offered by enhanced surveillance and identification technologies.

The most imminent method that Futurizon envisions is one that employs facial recognition. This of course is already available, even citywide, in places like New York City's Ring of Steel. The same concept could be used in neighborhoods equipped with security cameras linked to a database of known criminals. Upon said "criminal" entering a neighborhood, an alarm would be triggered that could potentially remove the threat before an act could be committed: pre-crime.

However, because pre-crime warnings might not be enough, the study envisions the next phase would be to employ virtual directed energy weapons - in this case, low-frequency sound or light systems that could physically disrupt the intruder. At the very minimum, researchers see the potential for the security system to speak to the intruder and let them know (by name) that they have been identified and are being tracked. If this is not enough of a deterrent and the intruder manages to continue forward progress, property systems such as spray guns containing a chemical could mark the intruder as the general warning system triggers the launch of rooftop drones to capture video and perhaps initiate arrest from robot police guards stationed nearby.

While some people might conclude that each has the right to defend their private property as they see fit, or even cooperate with neighbors to watch their community, it would be wise to remember that in a world driven by data and linked communications, this apparatus becomes a two-way street; all that can be received can also be transmitted. Once society is blanketed by is believed to be a private security apparatus, it becomes much easier for the overarching technocratic State to centralize these systems and reverse their use to point inward for control rather than outward for protection. In this way, we are very likely on the path to building our own prison.

Read more at http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=241#IRhsTdDCXcMCcrs5.99

Japan Plans To Test Fingerprints As "Currency"

APRIL 09, 2016

Japan has been moving to a cashless society for quite some time but new technologies and a desire to expand tourism are rapidly speeding up it's integration throughout the country.

Ecurrency and other cashless technologies started to increase rapidly when Japan passed legislation in 2006 that made banks liable for withdrawals by criminals using stolen or counterfeit bank cards.

Cash was already dying a slow death thanks to phone wallet services that many Japanese find extremely convenient. One of the popular services alone now has over 50 million users.

Japan is also one of the leading nations to introduce biometric ATM's which can authenticate your identity using the vein patterns in your finger. It's estimated there are now over 100,000 such ATM's with over 20 Million customers.

With the 2020 Tokyo Olympic games now on the horizon Japan is looking at fingerprint payment biometrics as a way to increase the number of foreign tourists by using the system to prevent crime and relieve users from the necessity of carrying cash or credit cards. Tourists would register their fingerprints and other data, such as credit card information, at airports and elsewhere upon arrival.

Tourists would then be able to conduct tax exemption procedures and make purchases after verifying their identities by placing two fingers on special devices installed at stores.

The government plans to role out experimental locations by next spring and then hopes to introduce it nationwide in time for the games in 2020.

However, few countries are as advanced as Japan in integrating biometrics and there are concerns that tourists will be uneasy about providing personal information such as fingerprints.

Read more at http://www.prophecynewswatch.com/article.cfm?recent_news_id=247#JTAdyh7FAc1yr2KD.99

Crisis averted: 1,300 Ethiopian Jews coming home

Amsalem and MK Avraham Neguise, also of Likud and himself an immigrant from Ethiopia, have refused to vote with the coalition in protest since early March. The move came after Netanyahu's office canceled the Knesset decision from last November to bring Ethiopia's 9,000 remaining Jews to Israel, citing budget constraints as a reason.

The decision to rescind the resolution has led to large protests by Ethiopian Jews, and Amsalem and Neguise's bucking of coalition discipline has crippled the narrow government with its one-seat majority.

Netanyahu was revealed to be feuding with Neguise in a Likud faction meeting late last month, but now the PM apparently changed his tune and decided to meet with Amsalem to reach the agreement.

Neguise and Amsalem have been punished for bucking coalition discipline, and during the summer Knesset session they will not be able to present bills, parliamentary questions and motions for the agenda, and will also not be able to give speeches in plenum sessions. They will only arrive at plenum sessions to take part in votes.

Last month Neguise, chairperson of the Immigrant Absorption Committee, told Arutz Sheva, "I respect the Prime Minister, he has an important share in the history of bringing the Jews of Ethiopia (to Israel), but currently there is an opportunity to complete the aliyah from Ethiopia and to end this chapter."

"I came here to bring a change and if they don't understand that, they have a serious problem," added the MK.

Beginning in the 1980s, Israel brought in tens of thousands of Ethiopian Jews. The remaining community in Ethiopia is comprised primarily of Falash Mura, who are descendants of Jews forcibly converted to Christianity generations ago, and for whom the Law of Return does not apply as they need to clarify their Halakhic (Jewish legal) status as Jews. The Ethiopian community in Israel has for years called on the government to bring the remaining Jewish population to Israel. The failure to do so has left some families separated for long years.

A SLOW MOTION TRAIN WRECK

Watching the end of Western civilization unfold. April 13, 2016 Frontpagemag.com
printed from IsraelNationalNews.com.



The four horsemen ride again; no, the bloody beast is back, slouching its way towards Bethlehem; no, it is an ancient genie unbound and its foul breath smells of more and more blood and human anguish as it grows ever-closer.

Yesterday, I screened a superb film about terrorism and anti-Semitism: "Watching the Moon at Night." It is written and directed by two Swedes: Joanna Helander and Bo Persson. We see, on camera, the late, great Robert Wistrich and Andre Glucksman—and Walter Laqueur, Anthony Julius, Vladimir Bukovsky, Zuhdi Jasser, Ramin Jahanbegloo, Hannah Rosenthal—and Dan Alon, one of the Israeli athletes who survived the Palestinian massacre

in Munich in 1972.

We see and hear from the victims of terrorism, those who survived an attack, those who lost loved ones, and we see scenes of carnage in Algeria, Spain, Jerusalem (not identified as Israel in the press materials), New York, Russia, Northern Ireland, Colombia, Norway. We are lulled by the words of Polish Nobel laureate Wislawa Symborska and by bewitching cinematography.

My great good friend Richard Landes has come to visit. He tells me that these Swedish filmmakers have been censored in their own country. (I have had no time to check this out but will do so).

Then, he describes our lives, specifically his and mine: "We are watching a slow motion train wreck and we can do nothing to stop it."

"Ah, Richard," I say, "The train is gathering speed even as we speak."

"Where have we gone wrong? Why didn't they listen to us?" Richard asks.

"Shall we consult Isaiah or Jeremiah on this? Far greater prophets than we two have not been heeded."

"But why don't those who care about Israel and Judaism and Western Civilization listen? Why do they always tell me that I should be doing something else, something that I know is beside the point, something that will make no difference?"

"Richard, those who are on our side are as blind and as arrogant as our opponents are. Ignorance, smallness of vision surrounds us. That is our challenge, our dilemma, our task, possibly our downfall."

I've been writing about what was to come from the moment the two Israeli reservists were lynched in Ramallah in 2000. I saw the handwriting on the sky long before 9/11.

Actually, I've been fighting for Israel since the early 1970's. Back then, I knew that the UN-led scapegoating would lead to something far, far worse--but I did not foresee the end of Western Civilization--and by its own multi-culturally relativist hand. That took a decade. I said so but was not heeded in 1980; Richard said so too, but was not heeded in 1990.

Richard was all over the Al-Dura Blood Libel because he understood that cognitive warfare was fully upon us--and as he says, "Just because an idea is wrong does not make it inconsequential." (I am paraphrasing him here).

The wrong idea is that of Islamic supremacism, Islamic Jihad, radicalized, apocalyptic Islam.

We two are not funded to work on this or on the true meaning and nature of rising anti-Semitism. Others are;

some are worthy, most are treading water as fast as they can.

"So-and-so would not fund me because, I was told, he did not much like women."

Richard, tall and male, tells me: "He would not fund me either. He just said: "Nah, I'm not gonna do this."

Back to the drawing board.

"Maybe we see ahead before others do, is that our problem?"

We sure have swelled heads...but we are also pretty sober.

Richard and I have been talking about an Institute for Cognitive Warfare for more than a decade, possibly longer. And here we still are, sitting on our hands, doing what we can, doing everything we can, while knowing that we cannot stop what is coming; that the West is strangely paralyzed and the East is on a murderous rampage

How many more terrorist massacres will it take? When will the West decide to save itself? When will Muslims of good will decide to risk torture, jail, death in order to stop the death-eating Jihadists? How long will it take?

How much blood will have to be spilled before the forces of Good say: Enough! And take down the forces of Evil at least for another five hundred years.

Yes, the Israeli comedian listed here will surely be a hit with ISIS. Ever hear the phrase, "useful idiot"? Yep. — MD

Bono: send Amy Schumer and Chris Rock to fight Islamic State

U2 singer reassures Senate subcommittee he is serious about using comedians to humiliate 'goose-stepping' Isis with the power of laughter

Never one for holding back on an opinion, Bono has come up with a new way of destroying Islamic State – not with bombs, but with belly laughs. The U2 singer said sending comedians such as Amy Schumer and Sacha Baron Cohen would be an effective alternative to airstrikes.

Bono was speaking in front of a Senate subcommittee on Tuesday 12 April, during a wide-ranging discussion on the Middle East and the refugee crisis. He said: "Don't laugh. I think comedy should be deployed. It's like, you speak violence, you speak their language. But you laugh at them, when they're goose-stepping down the street, and it takes away their power. So, I'm suggesting that the Senate send in Amy Schumer, and Chris Rock, and Sacha Baron Cohen, thank you."

The 55-year-old had to reassure the crowd at the Dirksen Senate Office Building that he was "actually being serious" and in response he received a serious reply.

"Actually, that's not the first time I've heard experts on how do we counter violent extremism talk about that," said senator Jeanne Shaheen, Democrat for New Hampshire. "It's one of the things that we're looking at."

Speaking on the refugee crisis, Bono said: "Aid in 2016 is not charity; it is national security. It could be the best bulwark we have against violent extremism."

The U2 singer had been invited to speak by Lindsey Graham, chairman of the subcommittee, Republican senator and former 2016 presidential candidate.