#### ISRAEL NEWS FROM CALVARY CHAPEL JERUSALEM

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# SYRIA COMPLETES CHEMICAL WEAPON WARHEADS

Syria has completed chemical warheads for its arsenal of Scud-based missiles. U.S. officials said Syria, with help from North Korea, has succeeded in designing and installing CW warheads for the Scud B, Scud C and Scud D missiles. This provides Syria with warheads that can reach distances from 250 to nearly 700 kilometers. The chemical agent deployed in the CW warheads is sarin, regarded as the most toxic of material. Syria has also been developing more toxic agents such as VX.

"Since the 1970s, Syria has pursued what is now one of the most advanced Arab state chemical weapons capabilities," Undersecretary of State John Bolton said. "It has a stockpile of the nerve agent sarin that can be delivered by aircraft or ballistic missiles, and has engaged in the research and development of more toxic and persistent nerve agents such as VX." (MENL)

## PREPARING FOR WAR

Egypt has received approval from the Bush administration to support U.S.-origin advanced navigation air pods for Cairo's F-16 fleet. The U.S. Defense Department has awarded Lockheed Martin Missiles and Fire Control a \$9.5 million contract to upgrade equipment for the LANTIRN system. The Pentagon contract calls for Lockheed Martin to provide for Egypt Advanced Deployment Kit/Electro-Optical Test Set upgrade for LANTIRN support equipment. A Pentagon statement said that so far \$6.8 million of the funds has been obligated. The statement said additional funds would be obligated as individual delivery orders are issued. The project is expected to be completed by August 2005. Officials said solicitation began January 2003 and negotiations were completed in September.

The United States also has completed a deal for the delivery of Harpoon advanced anti-ship missiles to Egypt and the United Arab Emirates. The Bush administration has approved the sale and delivery of scores of Harpoon Block 2 missiles and warheads for Egypt and the UAE. The Defense Department plans to supply the missiles over the next 18 months. Under the contract awarded by the Pentagon, the Boeing Co. has received a \$10.8 million project for the production of 86 Harpoon Missile Block 2 retrofit kits and 24 warhead section kits, for the governments of Egypt and the UAE. Officials said Egypt will obtain 62 retrofit kits and the UAE will receive 24 retrofit kits. The work will be performed in the United States.

Saudi Arabia and the United States are completing details for an accelerated military training schedule for 2004. The U.S. Defense Department has drafted a schedule for bolstered military training of the Saudi military and National Guard over the next year. The proposal has been relayed to Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan Bin Abdul Aziz and will be discussed in early 2004 during the resumption of annual defense dialogue between the two countries. The Pentagon has sent a new chief for the U.S. military training program to Saudi Arabia. In November, the new U.S. training chief met Prince Sultan in what was termed as the opening of the discussion of an accelerated U.S. training effort for the kingdom. Later, Asa Hutchinson, deputy secretary for homeland security, visited the kingdom and discussed security cooperation and visa controls with Saudi officials. Hutchinson told the London-based A-Sharq Al Awsat that the United States intends to increase training for Saudi security forces.

Saudi Arabia has also been declared eligible for a U.S. program to upgrade its combat air fleet. Officials said Saudi Arabia will acquire systems engineering and integration support for its air force starting from fiscal 2004 through 2008. They said the program calls for U.S. government and contractor teams to review platforms acquired by the United States. The Defense Department has awarded a \$303.4 million for systems engineering and integration support for several U.S. allies, such as Britain, France, Japan and Saudi Arabia. A Pentagon statement said the support level will include 100 staff years for the U.S. allies under the Foreign Military Program until 2008. MITRE is a federally funded research and development center. The Pentagon said this effort supports foreign military sales with Saudi Arabia and the other beneficiaries (TNS)

#### FASTER HEALING

A novel wound-dressing made of genetically engineered human collagen that will enable faster and improved healing of injuries has been developed by researchers at the Hebrew University Faculty of Dental Medicine in Jerusalem.

Collagen is the most abundant protein in the animal kingdom, including humans. It is the major constituent of connective tissues - tendons, skin, bones, cartilage, blood vessel walls and membranes. Collagen fibers are responsible for keeping all the body's organs and tissues in their correct functional structure. Preliminary animal experiments with the new dressing have shown substantially faster and better healing, with rapid formation of new collagen fibers, than has been possible using older methods. It is the fruit of many years of experimentation in the laboratory of Prof. Emeritus Shmuel Shoshan, who is the chief scientist of Dittekol Ltd. - a company formed in cooperation with the Hebrew University's Yissum Research Development Company to commercialize the new wound dressing. The company is now negotiating with investors for further development. (Arutz

## A CHRISTIAN LAMENT (By Elwood McQuaid)

By currently invoked, politically correct reckoning, when the Palestinians finally achieve statehood, Jerusalem will be lopped in half and become the capital of two nations "living side by side in peace." That's the dream. But dreams rarely reflect reality. And nocturnal pleasantries inevitably vaporize when exposed to the harsh light of morning. Such will be the case when foreign interlopers, dreamers, and wishful thinkers impose their concepts for the "new Middle East" on the citizens of the State of Israel.

I say "on the State of Israel" because Israelis will be doing all of the giving, and Palestinians all of the taking while complaining that their portion still is not enough. Already the Palestinian Authority and its commissars have staked out police-state-like positions on what they will create and enforce in Jerusalem if they have their way. For proof, I isten to the words of Yasser Arafat's appointed mufti of Jerusalem. In a recent sermon delivered at the Temple Mount's Al-Aksa mosque and broadcast by PA radio, the mufti asserted that 70 years ago, the Committee of the League of Nations issued a statement giving Arabs the rights to the "Burak Wall" (Western Wall). Translation: No reference to the Western, or Wailing, Wall is legitimate because the wall is the exclusive province of the Muslim Wakf.

In a 1997 interview with Aaron Lerner, director of the Independent Media Review & Analysis (IMRA), the late Palestinian minister of wakf and religious affairs, Hassan Tahboob, explained the practical implications of that claim. Jewish worshipers, he said, would be allowed to pray toward the Wall, but be kept at least two meters away from it. They would not be permitted to touch the sacred stones and the practice of inserting prayers into the wall's crevices would be no more.

Presumably, some sort of barrier would restrict access. Under those circumstances Muslim guards would probably be posted between worshipers (both Jewish and Christian) and the "Al-Burak Wall" to enforce its Islamic sanctity. What Western masters of appeasement in the name of peace do not choose to consider is the fact that conceding the Old City, Temple Mount, and possibly the Western Wall to absolute Muslim authority literally excises the heart and soul from the anatomy of Judaism and the Jewish people. IN JUNE of 1967, Moshe Dayan voiced the desire pent up in the hearts of Diaspora Jewry for two millennia when, referring to the Old City, Temple Mount, and Western Wall, he declared that the Jewish people had returned to Jerusalem, "never to part from her again."

By no stretch of the imagination is it incorrect or imperialistic for Jewish people to claim as their heritage the place King David lawfully purchased from Aurunah the Jebusite. On Mount Moriah the Jewish people built and

maintained their magnificent Temples and made sacred pilgrimages from the far reaches of the known world to worship there. And all this transpired many centuries before Islam sprung from the birthing chamber. To dignify the illegitimate Muslim claims of exclusivity to the places where the Jewish Temples stood and Jesus worshiped and ministered is no less than an act of international thievery of indescribable proportions. Anyone deluded into thinking the Palestinian Authority would be a respectful and considerate custodian of areas sacred to Jewish people and Christians should think again.

Article 6 of the Palestinian Constitution states, "Islam shall be the official religion of the state."

Article 7: "The principles of the Islamic Shari'a are a primary source for legislation."

Article 8: "Jerusalem shall be the capital of Palestine and its seat of government."

Article 25: "Palestinian citizenship is secure and permanent for any Arab who lived in Palestine before May 1948. It is transmitted from father to child."

Article 32: "The right of the Palestinian refugee to return to his home and the original home of his ancestors is a natural right which cannot expire. Its exercise may not be delegated nor surrendered."

Edward B. Miller, in a January 15, 2003, guest editorial titled "A Constitutional Milestone?" which ran in the National Review Online, aptly commented: "Furthermore, a constitution that enshrines a right of return to Israel for all Palestinians, claims exclusive sovereignty over Jerusalem's Old City, or codifies the PLO's role... as sole representative of the Palestinian people will hardly create an atmosphere in which talks with Israel over final-status issues can be restarted... For the PA to attempt to legitimize such unreasonable expectations in a constitution will only subject Israel to further suicide bombings and the region to further turmoil."

An old spiritual expresses the desire to be "Walking in Jerusalem, just like John," one glorious day. If these seemingly intransigent Palestinian demands continue to generate a colossal, Western diplomatic cave-in, it is unlikely that either the apostle John or the singers of spirituals will be welcomed or even allowed to set foot on the holy ground confiscated by the sons of Ishmael. Nor will they be allowed within six feet of the Western Wall. Guess they'll have to wait for a tour of the "New Jerusalem" – the one waiting for us just over the horizon.

(The writer is a prominent Christian author and syndicated radio broadcaster

### in the US.)

#### NEWS REPORT FROM JERUSALEM

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