

Yachad Ministries' Israel's News Update July 13, 2018 ***(1st of Av, 5778)***



For the Yachad Report Newsletter For July 2018

ISRAEL WORLD'S EIGHTH MOST POWERFUL NATION: A prestigious USA-based magazine said that Israel is the eighth most powerful nation in the world, ahead of international heavyweights such as the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, and Singapore. "Israel, the only Jewish nation in the world, is a small country on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean Sea. For its relatively small size, the country has played a large role in global affairs. The country has a strong economy and landmarks of significance to several religions," wrote the USA News and World Report's annual ranking of 'Best Countries'. "Israel has a technologically advanced market economy with cut diamonds, high-technology equipment and pharmaceuticals among its major exports. The country is very highly developed in terms of life expectancy, education, per capita income and other human development index indicators." Following Israel was Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and South Korea. Topping the list was the United States, Russia, and China." (Arutz-7)

ISRAELI RESEARCHERS EXPERIMENTING WITH LATE-STAGE CANCER CURE: Israeli scientists are experimenting with immunotherapy, which manipulates one's immune system to identify, fight and destroy cancer cells. While immunotherapy has been around for decades, new advances in the field coupled with recent drug approvals from the USA Food & Drug Administration have intensified interest in immunotherapy and its applications for cancer treatment, especially late-stage cancers that resist conventional treatments. Immunotherapy drugs already are helping patients with melanoma, lung, stomach, liver and bladder cancers, as well as some blood cancers. "Recent developments in immunotherapy have ushered in a medical revolution, representing a real paradigm shift in cancer treatment," said Dr. Mark Israel, national executive director of the Israel Cancer Research Fund. "Cancer immunotherapy is exciting because, as opposed to other forms of therapy, it engages the body's own highly sensitive system for detecting cancer cells and destroying them," Israel said. Dr. Nathan Karin, an Israeli immunologist and his team are studying whether the cellular mechanisms driving autoimmune diseases like Type 1 diabetes and multiple sclerosis can be utilized to create immunotherapy drugs to fight cancer. They are researching the interplay between two types of cells vital to the immune system: regulatory T cells and effector T cells. By suppressing effector T cells, they impede the immune system's ability to fight cancer. "We believe that if you amplify regulatory T cells you can treat autoimmune disease, and if you block their activity you can thwart cancer," Karin said. (INN)

GROUND SHAKES AGAIN IN TIBERIAS AREA: An earthquake of 3.2 magnitude was felt Monday evening 9 July 2018 in the area of Tiberias. This was the ninth earthquake in the area in recent days. Earlier Monday, Home Front Command teams began mapping the dangerous structures in the city, which are liable to be hit by a strong earthquake. In recent days, city residents reported damage caused to various buildings due to the wave of earthquakes. These are mainly minor damages. The Defense Ministry announced earlier this week it will hold a special conference to plan protection against earthquakes. The Knesset's Home Front Subcommittee will convene and discuss earthquake preparations. (INN)

GAZA CURRICULUM: 'HOW SHALL WE KILL AN ISRAELI'? A military training camp in the Gaza Strip has started a new project for training Palestinian youngsters under the course title "How will we kill an Israeli?" In the course curriculum, the youngsters, who study at school and are recruited by Palestinian military groups, learn methods of attacking and killing Jews. This military training camp, was established with the cooperation and financial support of the Iranian regime. Specifically, the paramilitary personnel of the Revolutionary Guards' army, provides courses for 14-year and up youngsters, so that they shoot at targets made to look like Israelis whom the trainers of this camp call "usurpers and terrorists". Within these lessons, people dressed in Israeli soldiers' uniforms appear and the Palestinian Arab youngsters attack them while shouting "Allah akhbar". The use of an M-16 rifle, shooting at targets resembling Israeli soldiers, along with other skills, are taught even to elementary school children in grades 4 and 5. A spokesperson for the Resistance Committees of the People of Palestine this month acknowledged "all the world knows that Iran has always been the protector and supporter of the Palestinian people and resistance." (INN)

PA TV TO PREGNANT PALESTINIANS: YOUR BABY IS A 'MARTYR FOR PALESTINE': The Palestinian Authority has managed to turn congratulating pregnant women into an issue of supporting terrorism. The PA's official television and radio stations have broadcast a song numerous times expressing the wish to expectant mothers that their child will grow up to be "a proud martyr for Palestine." The notion of "fetus to martyr" has been used before by the Palestinian leadership. Palestinian Media Watch documented a Hamas imam preaching that every Muslim fetus seeks Jihad. "The Palestinian fetus in its mother's womb, the Muslim fetus throughout the world in its mother's womb, call on Muslims to unite through fear of Allah, through pleasing Him, and through choosing Jihad and Resistance," he said. (Breitbart)

BRITAIN TO REVIEW INCITEMENT IN PA TEXTBOOKS: The British government and other donors to the Palestinian Authority (PA) education system will undertake a review of incitement against Israel and Jews in Palestinian textbooks, media sources reported on 6 July 2018. "There is no place in education for materials or practices that incite young minds toward violence," said Parliament member Alistair Burt. "Our continued support will come with a strong challenge to the Palestinian Authority on education-sector incitement," he added. "We are in the final stages of discussions to take forward a textbook review jointly with other donors." The review should be completed by September 2019, said Burt, and will be "evidence-based and rigorous."

Examples were quoted from a report in October 2017. One book for 11th graders, "Islamic Education, Vol. 1," states that: "The corruption of the children of Israel in the land was and will be the cause of their annihilation." Another book for 10th graders, titled "Arabic Language, Vol. 1," ignores Jewish presence in the Land of Israel or depicts it as a common cause against which Muslims and Christians must do battle. In 2016, Britain suspended millions of pounds-worth of aid payments to the Palestinian Authority amid claims taxpayers cash is ending up in the hands of terrorists. The move came after furious British MPs demanded action following revelations that UK aid supposedly paying for civil servants in Gaza was being transferred to the Palestine Liberation Organization. Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop recently announced that Australia would cease its funding to the PA altogether over its salaries for terrorists jailed in Israel, including murderers. (INN)

ISRAEL HITS IRANIAN FORCES IN SYRIA: A Syrian airbase used by Iran's Revolutionary Guard was targeted in a series of airstrikes Sunday night, 8 July 2018. According to a report by Syria's state-controlled SANA news agency, the T-4 airbase in Syria was attacked by fighter planes which approached from the south. A Syrian military official was quoted as saying that Israeli fighter jets were responsible for the attack. The source added that despite heavy surface-to-air fire from Syria's anti-air defense network, including a large number of S-200 missile batteries, at least one Israeli jet managed to score a hit on the T-4 airbase. Rami Abdel Rahman, head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said that a missile bombardment killed an unspecified number of "Iranian and pro-regime fighters" at the T-4 base and was "likely to be Israeli". There has been no official confirmation from Israeli military officials regarding the report. Earlier on Sunday, Israeli PM Netanyahu reiterated Israel's long-standing demand that Iran remove its forces from Syria. "We will not tolerate the establishment of a military presence by Iran and its proxies anywhere in Syria – not close to the border and not far away from it." Israeli aircraft have struck the T-4 airbase repeatedly in the past, targeting the Iranian military forces stationed at the facility.

KLM, CMA CGM JOIN COMPANIES PULLING BUSINESS FROM IRAN OVER REIMPOSED USA SANCTIONS: Dutch airline KLM and cargo shipping leader CMA CGM have joined the growing list of major multinational companies ending their business with Iran because of reimpose USA sanctions. Since early May - when President Trump withdrew the USA from the Obama-era nuclear agreement with Iran - shipping firm A.P. Moller-Maersk of Denmark, French carmaker PSA Group and French oil major Total have also suspended multibillion-dollar projects. CMA CGM- the world's third largest container shipping fleet, announced over the weekend it would stop its work in Iran for fear that new sanctions could disrupt its USA business. Meanwhile, KLM, which resumed service to Iran after the nuclear deal was signed in 2015, said all flights to Tehran will soon be suspended. It also cited pressure from the hardening USA stance. (Washington Times)

SERIES OF EARTHQUAKES HIT ISRAEL'S NORTH: An earthquake measuring 3.2 on the Richter scale was reported in the cities of Tiberias and Safed in the north of Israel Thursday morning 5 July 2018. An earlier earthquake was felt by residents of the Haifa and Western Galilee region at around 10:45 p.m. on Wed. night. That quake was measured at 4.5 on the Richter scale, according to the Israeli Geophysical Institute. The quake reportedly reached southern Lebanon and northeastern Jordan. There were no reports of damage or injury. On Saturday, 7 July 2018, an earthquake measuring 3.4 on the Richter scale shook northern Israel at 5:00 a.m. Another earthquake measuring 3.1 on the Richter scale was felt east of Tiberias on Sunday evening 8 July 2018. Earlier that day, shortly after 4:40 p.m., a 3.9-magnitude earthquake was felt near Tiberias and the Kinneret. Later on Sunday afternoon, an additional earthquake was felt in the same area, at a magnitude of 3.2. (J.Post)

SERIOUS EARTHQUAKE IN ISRAEL ONLY A MATTER OF TIME: A bigger earthquake than those felt by Israelis over the past couple of days is sure to come – and Israelis should be ready for power outages and if necessary to leave their homes. So warned Amotz Agnon, professor at the Institute of Earth Sciences at the Hebrew University. "Israelis have felt three earthquakes over the past few days; additional ones were recorded by instruments of the Geophysical Institute of Israel. We are sitting on a place that has produced major earthquakes in the past. They are centered on this belt which we call the Dead Sea rift – and it has generated earthquakes that were very devastating," he noted, referring to the 1837 magnitude-6.5 earthquake which struck the Galilee, killing an estimated 6,000 to 7,000 people. Asked how civilians can prepare for a more serious earthquake, Agnon recommended that they stock up on items such as torches, batteries and portable stoves in preparation for a few days without electricity, gas and water. In addition, he recommends that parents educate their children about what to do in case of an emergency.

Geologist Dr. Ariel Hyman said on 5 July 2018 that there is a big chance of a strong earthquake hitting Israel and that hundreds of people are likely to die in such a situation. In addition to buildings being destroyed, the damage to critical infrastructures such as electricity, water and communication is expected to be great. According to Israel's National Emergency Authority, there are 80,000 buildings, including schools and hospitals, over three stories high that were built before 1980, and therefore not constructed to current standards. Last May, the government announced that Canadian company Nanometrics had been selected to install an early-warning earthquake system in the Dead Sea Valley, the Jordan Valley and the Haifa area – all earthquake-prone regions. Defense Minister Avigdor Liberman noted that last year his ministry carried out the biggest drill in preparation for an earthquake and “learned many lessons, one of which was the need for a multi-year defense plan for the home front and especially for the north.” This month, he said, he would present it to the cabinet and is confident that the plan, which addresses threats posed by both war and earthquakes, will receive the green light. The big question is whether it will be implemented in time. (J.Post)

ISRAEL DOG UNIT TRAINS FOR MAJOR RESCUE MISSIONS: After this week's earthquakes in Israel, the Israel Dog Unit (IDU) staff continues to train as many rescue dogs as possible to search wreckage sites for missing persons trapped under buildings collapsed by an earthquake or missile attack. As a result of the earthquakes, the IDU held a demonstration and training session at a wreckage site to locate people trapped under ruins by rescue and cadaver dogs. Media, Knesset Members, government ministers, and rescue forces were invited to observe the exercise and learn how to improve the response to earthquakes and natural disasters in the national emergency system. IDU Commander Mike ben Ya'akov said "Israel isn't prepared for the next major earthquake. After yesterday morning's [3 July, 2018] earthquake, last night there were more, which is a bad sign. Scientists predict a major seismic event here every 90 years or so, and it's now been 91 years. In the event of a major earthquake or missile attack, thousands would likely die God forbid, and thousands more would be trapped. It's vital that we prepare as many dogs and handlers as possible." Tiberias Mayor Yossi Ben David has urged the government to implement a plan to strengthen buildings against severe earthquakes. (Arutz-7)

GOLAN RESIDENTS START VIRAL CAMPAIGN TO AID SYRIAN REFUGEES: The Golan Regional Council has launched an initiative to collect items for children and humanitarian aid for Syrian refugees fleeing the conflict in southern Syria. Hundreds of thousands have been forced flee their homes and villages to the buffer zone near Israel's Golan border as fighting between the Assad regime and the rebels intensifies. “The refugees have arrived at the buffer zone without basic equipment for proper survival,” said Golan Regional Council head Eli Malka. Malka explained that in the coming days there will be a mobilization and collection of items in each of the communities, and from there it will be taken to the council's center and transferred to the IDF, which will give out the aid and items to Syrian refugees. “These are our neighbors and we see this as a mitzvah to help them in times of trouble,” said Malka. Last week, the IDF transferred humanitarian aid as part of a special operation, which took place over several hours. Hundreds of tents were transferred along with 13 tons of food, 15 tons of baby food, medical equipment and medicine and 30 tons of clothing and footwear. This humanitarian aid was specifically transferred by the IDF to camps where Syrians fleeing hostilities are residing in the southern and central Syrian Golan Heights. (Arutz-7)

UK JEWS BLAST LABOUR FOR ATTEMPT TO REDEFINE ANTI-SEMITISM: The UK Labour party has adopted a new definition for anti-Semitism, drawing criticism from local Jewish leaders. The new 16-page code of conduct regarding anti-Semitism, which was released in full on 5 July 2018, was heavily influenced by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance's definition of anti-Semitism – a standard used by many agencies around the world, as well as the British government. But the Labour party also included controversial changes to the code, limiting the definition of anti-Semitism – particularly with regards to issues revolving around Israel and Zionism – in what critics say is a transparent bid to shield Labour party members from accusations of bigotry over their anti-Israel rhetoric. Item number 13, for instance, grants immunity even to members who denounce the establishment of the State of Israel. Accusations of apartheid by

Israel also appear to be singled out for protection. So does discussion of – including critical comment on – differential impact of Israeli policies on different people within its population or that of neighboring territories. The new code also defended use of the terms “Zionism” and “Zionists” in criticism of Israel, while acknowledging that they are at times used as anti-Jewish slurs or to refer to Jews generally.

British Jewish leaders blasted Labour’s adoption of the new code, saying it was “impossible to understand” the party’s thinking in making the changes. The new definition was adopted following years of scandals involving anti-Semitic comments by party members and criticism over the party’s alleged refusal to confront some over their anti-Semitism. Over the last several years, dozens of Labour members have been suspended over their anti-Semitic statements. Party chief Jeremy Corbyn himself has been accused of holding anti-Semitic views by senior UK Jewish leaders. Corbyn has also been criticized for calling Hamas and Hezbollah his "friends" and for outright refusing to condemn those two terrorist organizations despite being urged to do so by local Jewish groups. In March 2018 thousands of protesters gathered outside Parliament to condemn anti-Semitism in the Labour party. (Arutz-7)

MOSSAD RECOVERS WRISTWATCH OF LEGENDARY ISRAELI SPY ELI COHEN: Israel’s Mossad national intelligence agency has recovered an important personal item belonging to the legendary Israeli spy Eli Cohen. Cohen, an Egyptian-born Jew, worked as an undercover Israeli agent in Egypt and Syria before he was discovered and hanged in 1965. By the time of his discovery, Cohen had managed to climb the ranks of the Syrian Defense Ministry, becoming the top adviser to Syria’s Defense Minister. In a special operation recently, Israel’s Mossad managed to recover Cohen’s wristwatch and return it to Israel, it was revealed on 5 July 2018. PM Netanyahu praised the Mossad following the revelation of the watch’s return. "I commend the fighters of the Mossad for the courageous operation, the sole objective of which was to return to Israel a memento from a great fighter who greatly contributed to the security of the state. "Mossad director Yossi Cohen said the fallen spy's memory had become part of Israel's "heritage". (INN)

RESEARCHERS AT TEL AVIV U. DEVELOP NANOPROBES TO PINPOINT CANCER CELLS: Researchers at Tel Aviv University have developed smart nanoprobess that turn on a florescent light in presence of cancerous cells, which they say “may dramatically improve” post-surgical outcomes for cancer patients. The researchers created a so called “smart probe” that, when injected into a patient a few hours before surgery to excise a primary tumor, will help surgeons pinpoint where the cancer is situated down to several cancer cells, permitting them to guarantee the removal of more cancer cells, and with the least possible damage to surrounding healthy tissue. (Times of Israel)

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