



STRAUSS-KAHN

IMF CHIEF: WORLD IN "GREAT RECESSION"

March 11/09. The global economy will shrink this year as the world enters "a Great Recession," the head of the [International Monetary Fund](#) said Tuesday.

Speaking in a taped interview with French television channel France 24, [Dominique Strauss-Kahn](#) said economic data has worsened since January, when the IMF forecast a global growth in gross domestic product of 0.5 percent this year.

"Since then, the news hasn't been good," Mr. Strauss-Kahn said. "I think that we can now say that we've entered a Great Recession."

"This recession can last a long time," Mr. Strauss-Kahn added, "unless the policies we're expecting are put in place, in which case 2010 can be a year of return to growth."

The World Bank said Sunday that the global economy will shrink this year for the first time since World War II and that the global financial crisis will make it tougher for poor and developing nations to access needed financing.

Washington Times, PARIS (AP)

<http://www.worthynews.com/top/washingtontimes-com-news-2009-mar-11-imf-chief-world-is-in-a-great-recession-/>

WORLD NEEDS SINGLE CURRENCY: KAZAKHSTAN

March 10/09. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev has called for the creation of a single world currency called the "acmetal" as a means of combating the worsening global financial crisis.

"In our view, we must create a single world currency under the aegis of the United Nations," Nazarbayev said on Tuesday, a day before a major economic conference opens in his Central Asian country. We must make a transition to an absolutely new global currency system based on legitimacy and, in view of all countries, one single monetary system," he told a meeting of the Eurasian Association of Universities.

This is the first time Nazarbayev has spoken publicly about the need for a single world currency although he has previously written about it. He first called for the creation of a worldwide currency, to be called "acmetal" - a combination of "acme," a Greek word meaning the peak or the best, and "capital" - in an article published last month.

Kazakhstan, an energy-rich Central Asian state, has enjoyed growth rates of up to 10 per cent over the last years but it has been hit, like its ex-Soviet neighbors, by the credit crunch as well as the dramatic fall in oil prices. - www.sbs.com.au

RUSSIA TO PROPOSE NEW GLOBAL COMMON CURRENCY ...

By JOEL C ROSENBERG

March 18/09. Amidst the global economic crisis in which upwards of 45% of the world's wealth has been lost in the last 18 months, talk of radically restructuring the global economic system is growing. In recent weeks, leaders in Europe, Africa and the Middle East have proposed scrapping the current economic order and going to a single common currency.

A [story in this morning's Moscow Times](#) – and featured prominently on the Drudge Report — is creating quite a stir in particular. At the April 2nd meeting of world leaders in London (the G20), the Kremlin is reportedly set to propose a new global common currency system that will replace the U.S. dollar as the international currency of choice.

The Kremlin document also called for national banks and international financial institutions to diversify their foreign currency reserves. It said the global financial system should be restructured to prevent future crises and proposed holding an international conference after the G20 summit to adopt conventions on a new global financial structure.”

FULL STORY> <http://bible-prophecy-today.blogspot.com/2009/03/russia-to-propose-new-global-common.html>

FREEMAN WITHDRAWS FROM POST, SLAMS ISRAEL 'LOBBY'

March 11/09. Charles (Chas) Freeman, who was slated to be picked as the new chairman of the National Intelligence Council, slammed the Israel 'Lobby' after withdrawing his candidacy for the post.

"I regret that my willingness to serve the new administration has ended by casting doubt on its ability to consider, let alone decide what policies might best serve the interests of the United States rather than those of a Lobby intent on enforcing the will and interests of a foreign government," Freeman said in a statement to Foreign Policy.

He added that, "The outrageous agitation that followed the leak of my pending appointment will be seen by many to raise serious questions about whether the Obama administration will be able to make its own decisions about the Middle East and related issues."

But Freeman's past remarks on Israel have stirred controversy. He is quoted as saying in 2007 that "The brutal oppression of the Palestinians by Israeli occupation shows no sign of ending," and "American identification with Israel has become total."

Freeman is a former U.S. ambassador to Saudi Arabia and assistant secretary of defense for international security. He was also a senior U.S. diplomat in China in the 1980s. <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1070041.html>

A FEARFUL THING, BETRAYING ISRAEL

By HAL LINDSEY

March 21/09. The International Herald Tribune ran a story entitled "Is Global Rebranding What Israel Needs?" The piece opened by recognizing Israel as the world's pariah state:

Israel's sports teams have met hostility and violent protests in Sweden, Spain and Turkey. Mauritania has closed the Israeli Embassy. Relations with Turkey, an important Muslim ally, have suffered severely. A group of top international judges and human rights investigators recently called for an investigation into Israel's actions in Gaza. Israel Apartheid Week" drew participants in 54 cities around the world this month, twice the number of last year, according to its organizers. And even in the American Jewish community, albeit in its liberal wing, there is a chill.

Having established that everybody hates Israel (even liberal Jews), the columnist, Ethan Bronner, went on to build his case that Israel deserves it:

The reason that Israel is a "pariah nation" has absolutely nothing to do with Israeli policies. Israel was a pariah nation before it even had time to formulate national policies. As already noted, long before there was an Israel, the world tried to exterminate the Jews.

The true reason (*for hatred of Jews*) is this: Israel stands, as God intended, a sign to the nations. Israel was created as a visible proof of the true God's existence.

As the Bible declares, Israel was created to receive, write down and preserve God's Word. It was created to be the race through whom the Savior of the World would be born. Even their failures and disciplines were predicted in order that it would be a proof of the truth of God's Word. Their ultimate restoration to the land promised their forefathers was predicted in detail. These prophecies have been fulfilled before the eyes of our era.

All of this is lost on the liberal media, just as it apparently has been on the liberal Obama administration.

The World Tribune reported this week that Israeli Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi cut short his visit to Washington after getting an "extraordinarily cool" reception from the new U.S. administration.

General Ashkenazi reportedly attempted to arrange meetings with President Obama, Vice President Biden and intelligence czars Bob Gates, Dennis Blair or Michael Mullen. None of them would see him. He had valuable intelligence information about Iran to share with them.

The Tribune quoted an unnamed diplomat who told them, "The administration is sending a very clear message to Israel, and this is we want to talk about Palestine and not Iran."

And *Israel Today* is reporting that the Obama administration is not just cool to Israel. It alleges that President Obama "is about to break America's long ties of friendship with Israel, and maybe even take steps toward the dissolution of the Jewish state."

If true, America is in even more serious trouble than even the most pessimistic assessment can reflect. If America betrays Israel, then America is rejecting the Word of Israel's God.

The Bible warns, "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." ([Hebrews 10:31](#)) Fearful? That is an understatement of Biblical proportions.

FULL STORY> <http://bible-prophecy-today.blogspot.com/2009/03/fearful-thing-betraying-israel.html>

SHOULD WE LET IRAN HAVE NUCLEAR WEAPONS?

INCREDIBLY, A GROWING CHORUS OF "EXPERTS" SAYS YES.

By Joel C. Rosenberg

March 12/09. U.S. and Israeli experts increasingly believe Iran could have its first nuclear weapon by the end of 2009 or early 2010. President Barack Obama has all but ruled out military force to stop Iran, preferring instead to pursue direct negotiations with Tehran.

Last week, however, Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khomeini, dismissed such talk. "Negotiations with whom?" asked Khomeini. "With an occupying and bullying regime [Israel], who does not believe in any other principle other than force?...Or negotiations with America and Britain who committed the biggest sin in creating and supporting this cancerous tumor [the Jewish State]?"

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad also dismissed his American counterpart's desire for direct talks, saying they could only happen if the U.S. abandons her "satanic, coercive and aggressive ways."

Yet even as the leaders of Iran talk about annihilating Israel and the U.S., and feverishly try to build, buy or steal nuclear weapons, a growing chorus of "experts" in the U.S. foreign policy community are actually suggesting a nuclear-armed Iran might not be such a terrible thing.

FULL ARTICLE> <http://flashtrafficblog.wordpress.com/>