



PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

March 15, 2025

Donald Trump orders military to draw up plans to seize Panama Canal

March 13, 2025 express.co.uk reported: "Donald Trump has reportedly ordered the US military to come up with plans to increase the number of troops in Panama as part of his mission to "reclaim" the canal. US Southern Command, responsible for security cooperation and operations in Central America, has drafted ideas such as working with the Panamanian military and US troops taking the canal by force, two officials told NBC News. The likelihood of military force depends on the level of partnership agreed upon by the Panamanian military, they added.

This is part of Washington's plan to reduce the level of influence China has over the region, particularly when it comes to access to the canal, though both China and Panama have denied any foreign interference in the waterway. The US president said last week that "to further enhance our national security, my administration will be reclaiming the Panama Canal, and we've already started doing it".



Panama Canal

While it remains unclear what "reclaiming means", the officials said (the) US Southern Command chief Admiral Alvin Holsey sent draft strategies to Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth this week ahead of his visit to Panama next month.

They stressed that military action in Panama would only be considered if the country does not allow Mr Trump to "reclaim" the canal..."

Taiwan president warns of China's 'infiltration' effort

March 13, 2025 voanews.com reported: "Taiwan President Lai Ching-te said on Thursday that China has deepened its influence campaigns and infiltration against the democratic island, pledging measures to tackle Beijing's efforts to 'absorb' Taiwan.

Taiwan has accused China of stepping up military drills, trade sanctions and influence campaigns against the island in recent years to force the island to accept Chinese sovereignty claims. Speaking to reporters after holding a meeting with senior security officials, Lai said Beijing had used Taiwan's democracy to 'absorb' various members of society, including organized crime groups, media personalities, and current and former military and police officers.

'They (China) are carrying out activities such as division, destruction, and subversion from within us,' Lai told a news briefing broadcast live from the presidential office.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Citing government data, Lai said 64 people were charged for Chinese espionage last year, three times more than in 2021. He said the majority of them were current or former military officials..."

Israel is missing from Air Canada maps: Passenger finds 'Palestinian Territory' in place of Israel

March 12, 2025 jpost.com reported: "A passenger on board an Air Canada flight on Monday noticed 'Palestinian Territory' was written on the plane's map system on their personal screen instead of Israel, N12 reported on Tuesday. 'A passenger snapped this photo on an Air Canada flight from Vancouver to Toronto today, showing that the airline's map no longer includes Israel,' a pro-Israel account posted on X. '@aircanada Care to Explain?'

Several pro-Israel accounts responded to the post and slammed the airline for the map. 'Canada is now part of the great Islamic caliphate,' one account wrote. 'That's what Canadians wanted and that's exactly what they got.'

Several pro-Palestinian accounts responded as well and called for the airline to keep the Palestinian Territories on the map..

Moscow targeted by 'massive' Ukrainian drone attack

March 11, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "Ukraine targeted Moscow in a 'massive' overnight drone attack, authorities said Tuesday, with Russia's defense ministry claiming it shot down 337 UAVs across the country.

'The Defense Ministry's air defense continues to repel a massive attack by enemy drones on Moscow,' mayor Sergei Sobyanin said on Telegram early Tuesday.

Russia's military shot down 91 drones around the capital, the defense ministry said in a statement, adding it downed another 126 over the Kursk region bordering Ukraine.

At least one person was killed and three more wounded in the southern suburbs of Moscow, according to the region's governor, Andrei Vorobyov.

He added that drone debris damaged at least seven units in a residential building in another suburb in the southeast.

The attack on the Russian capital, hundreds of kilometres from the Ukraine border, comes ahead of an expected meeting Tuesday between top US and Ukrainian officials in Saudi Arabia..."

North Korea's Kim inspects 'nuclear-powered submarine' project

March 11, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "North Korean leader Kim Jong Un inspected a project to build a nuclear-powered submarine, state media reported Saturday, saying that 'radically' boosting the navy was a key part of Pyongyang's defensive strategy.

Kim visited shipyards focused on building warships, the Korean Central News Agency reported, without giving details of the exact date or location of the inspection. Kim 'learned about the building of a nuclear-powered strategic guided missile submarine,' the report said, which was one of Kim's key military goals on a laundry list of high-tech weaponry unveiled at a previous party congress.

The report is likely referring to a nuclear-powered submarine capable of launching ballistic missiles, *Yonhap* news agency reported, adding this was the first time the nuclear-armed North had revealed construction of a ballistic missile submarine. Kim said the country's 'sea defence capability... will be fully displayed in any necessary waters without limitation,' KCNA said.

'The development of the naval force into an elite and nuclear-armed force constitutes an important content in the strategy for the development of the national defence,' it added..."

Iran, Russia and China to hold joint naval exercises this week

March 10, 2025 timeofisrael.com reported: "The navies of Iran, Russia and China will hold military drills off the coast of Iran this week in a bid to boost cooperation, Iranian media reported on Sunday.

The three countries, which share a common desire to counter what they characterize as US hegemony, have held similar exercises in the region in recent years.

The drills 'will begin on Tuesday in the port of Chabahar,' located in southeast Iran on the Gulf of Oman, the *Tasnim* news agency said, without specifying their duration.

'Warships and combat and support vessels of the Chinese and Russian naval forces, as well as the warships of Iran's naval forces of the army and the Revolutionary Guards' are expected to participate, according to *Tasnim*.

The exercises will take place 'in the northern Indian Ocean' and aim to 'strengthen security in the region and expand multilateral cooperation between participating countries,' *Tasnim* said..."



US takes rivalry with China to the high seas

March 10, 2025 spacewar.com reported: "The United States may still have the world's most powerful navy but it seems to have realized that this is no longer sufficient to reassert US supremacy over the high seas. If President Donald Trump's pronouncements on shipbuilding, the Panama Canal and Greenland are anything to go by, he wants to increase US sea power on several fronts — just as China is already doing. Beijing's expanding influence on the world's oceans is a challenge to Washington's efforts to protect its interests.

While the United States still dominates the seas militarily, it is weaker in other maritime sectors, such as merchant shipping and shipbuilding itself, analysts told AFP. Trump told the US Congress last week that his administration would 'resurrect' the country's nautical construction industry 'including commercial shipbuilding and military shipbuilding'. On China, he has complained that Beijing 'controls' the Panama Canal and has refused to rule out military force to wrest control of a vital strategic asset..."

Compiled by L. Jim Tuck

Minister

jim_tuck@ucg.org