



PROPHETIC TIMES

January 1998

The Weekly Reader of World News

April 5, 2025

Rubio tries to reassure wary allies of US commitment to NATO as Trump sends mixed signals

April 3, 2025 apnews.com reported: “U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio and the Trump administration’s new envoy to NATO are seeking to reassure wary members of the U.S. commitment to the alliance.

Rubio on Thursday decried “hysteria and hyperbole” in the media about U.S. President Donald Trump’s intentions, despite persistent signals from Washington that NATO as it has existed for 75 years may no longer be relevant.

Rubio and newly confirmed U.S. ambassador to NATO Matt Whitaker are in Brussels for a meeting of alliance foreign ministers at which many are hoping Rubio will shed light on U.S. security plans in Europe.

“The United States is as active in NATO as it has ever been,” Rubio told reporters as he greeted NATO Secretary-General Mark Rutte before the meeting began. “And some of this hysteria and hyperbole that I see in the global media and some domestic media in the United States about NATO is unwarranted...”



US Secretary of State
Marco Rubio

China practices hitting key ports, energy sites in Taiwan drills

April 3, 2025 spacewar.com reported: “China’s military said it practiced hitting key ports and energy sites during ‘live-fire’ drills Wednesday as part of exercises aimed at Taiwan, the democratic island it claims as its own.

The surprise maneuvers were criticised by Washington as ‘intimidation tactics’ and come after Taiwan President Lai Ching-te called China a ‘foreign hostile force’.

Named ‘Strait Thunder-2025A’, the drills were in the middle and southern parts of the Taiwan Strait as well as the East China Sea, the military said. The strait is a vital artery for global shipping. The military said it held ‘long-range live-fire drills’ and practiced hitting ‘simulated targets of key ports and energy facilities’ during the exercises. Wednesday’s exercises aim to ‘test the troops’ capabilities’ in areas such as ‘blockade and control, and precision strikes on key targets’, said Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesman of the Chinese military’s Eastern Theater Command. China’s Shandong aircraft carrier was also carrying out drills testing the ability to ‘blockade’ Taiwan, the Eastern Theater Command said.

Taipei has condemned the Chinese exercises...”

Israel defence minister says Gaza offensive expands, will seize ‘large areas’

April 2, 2025 spacewar.com reported: “Israeli Defence Minister Israel Katz announced Wednesday a major expansion of a military operation in the Hamas-run Gaza Strip, saying the army would seize ‘large areas’ of the Palestinian territory.

The defence chief said in a statement that Israel would expand its presence in Gaza to ‘destroy and clear the area of terrorists and terrorist infrastructure’. The expanded operation would ‘seize large areas that will be incorporated into Israeli security zones’, he said, without saying how much territory Israel would take.

The announcement comes after he warned last week the military would soon ‘operate with full force’ in additional parts of Hamas-run Gaza. Israel restarted intense bombing of Gaza on March 18 and then launched a new ground offensive, ending a nearly two-month ceasefire in the war with Hamas...”

US deploys B-2 bombers and carrier strike groups amid rising tensions with Iran

April 2, 2025 israelnationalnews.com reported: “US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth has deployed additional warplanes to reinforce the Pentagon’s naval assets in the Middle East, the Pentagon said in a statement on Tuesday.

The statement did mention specific aircraft, but US officials who spoke to *Reuters* on condition of anonymity stated that at least four B-2 bombers have relocated to a US-British military base on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, close enough to reach Yemen or Iran.

Hegseth has also ordered the Carl Vinson carrier strike group to the region, which will arrive in the region after completing exercises in the Indo-Pacific, according to *Bloomberg*. The Department is also prolonging the Harry S. Truman carrier strike group's deployment in the region, Pentagon spokesman Sean Parnell said.

The two carriers will 'continue promoting regional stability, deter aggression, and protect the free flow of commerce in the region,' added Parnell..."

Trump Delivers Deadly 'Either/Or' to Houthi Terrorists

April 2, 2025 pjmedia.com reported: "President Donald Trump, after a series of successful strikes against Houthi jihadis, is offering the Houthis a choice between ceasing their terror operations or being destroyed.

The Houthi jihadis have been attacking shipping in the key Red Sea passage, damaging trade for America, Israel, and other nations, since before Trump took office. But now Trump, unlike Joe Biden, is tired of Islamic terrorists pushing America around. So the president just warned the Houthis and their Iranian sponsors: 'the real pain is yet to come.'

On his Truth Social platform Monday, Donald Trump posted in his usual confident style, 'The Iran-backed Houthi Terrorists have been decimated by the relentless strikes over the past two weeks. Many of their Fighters and Leaders are no longer with us. We hit them every day and night — Harder and harder. Their capabilities that threaten Shipping and the Region are rapidly being destroyed.'

Nor will the strikes cease until the Houthis stop attacking U.S. shipping in the area, Trump added. 'Our attacks will continue until they are no longer a threat to Freedom of Navigation. The choice for the Houthis is clear: Stop shooting at U.S. ships, and we will stop shooting at you. Otherwise, we have only just begun, and the real pain is yet to come, for both the Houthis and their sponsors in Iran,' the president ended threateningly..."

China launches military drills around Taiwan, calls its president a 'parasite'

April 1, 2025 reuters.com reported: "China staged military drills off Taiwan's north, south and east coasts on Tuesday as a 'stern warning' against separatism and called Taiwanese President Lai Ching-te a 'parasite,' as Taiwan sent warships to respond to China's navy approaching its shores.

The exercises, which China has not formally named unlike war games last year, are happening after a rise in Chinese rhetoric against Lai and follow on the heels of U.S. Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's Asia visit, during which he repeatedly criticised Beijing.



China's military deployed ships, aircraft and artillery to practise blockading the island, strikes on ground and maritime targets, and air interception to 'test forces' coordination in combat,' Beijing's Eastern Theatre Command said in a statement..."

Khamenei warns Trump: You'll be dealt a powerful blow

March 29, 2025 israelnationalnews.com reported: "Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei on Monday morning responded to threats by US President Donald Trump, warning against any attack on Iran. According to Khamenei, if the US follows through on its threats, it will receive a 'strong blow.'

In his live speech, Khamenei acknowledged that the US is capable of 'mischief,' but warned that 'if it is carried out, they will definitely receive a strong counterattack.' He also called for the 'eradication' of the 'corrupt usurper Zionist regime,' which he said is the US' only proxy in the region..."