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Russia & China

Virginia governor defends letting babies die AFTER birth

January 31, 2019 World Net Daily reported: "Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam is raising eyebrows with his comments in support of letting infants die after they have been born alive.

Northam, a Democrat, appeared Wednesday on WTOP Radio to discuss House Bill 2491, also known as the Repeal Act, which would remove all restrictions on abortion in Virginia, even allowing a woman to abort her child while she's in labor. When asked if he supported the measure promoted by fellow Democrat Kathy Tran, the governor said doctors could make decisions to allow a baby to die even after it's born alive.

'If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen,' Northam explained. 'The infant would be delivered. The infant would be resuscitated if that's what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.'..."

Tightening alliance between Russia, China is 'scariest' part of US intel chiefs' testimony: Byron York

January 30, 2019 foxnews.com reported: "The security assessment from top U.S. intelligence chiefs on Capitol Hill this week shed light on what could be a terrifying new alliance between Russia and China, Washington Examiner chief political correspondent Byron York argued Tuesday.

Earlier in the day, members of the Senate Intelligence Committee received insights on potential global threats -- including Iran, North Korea and ISIS -- from Dan Coats, director of national intelligence; Gina Haspel, CIA director; and Christopher Wray, FBI director. Many say their analyses contradict the rhetoric that has come from President Trump, who has downplayed many of the same security threats.

During Tuesday's "Special Report" All-Star panel, York -- along with NPR national political correspondent Mara Liasson and the Federalist senior editor Mollie Hemingway -- weighed in on the biggest takeaways from the intel hearing.

York pointed out that the "scariest sentence" from their report was that "China and Russia are more aligned than at any point during the mid-1950s," and that both countries pose major cybersecurity threats to the U.S. and will likely try to interfere in future U.S. elections.

"That is not good," York told the panel."..."

Israeli strikes on Iran in Syria may lead to war - U.S. intelligence chief

January 30, 2019 jpost.com reported: "The top US intelligence chief warned that Israel's ongoing strikes against Iranian targets in Syria increase the threat of regional war.

'We assess that Iran seeks to avoid a major armed conflict with Israel,' Dan Coats, the director of national intelligence, told the US Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on Tuesday. 'However, Israeli strikes that result in Iranian casualties increase the likelihood of Iranian conventional retaliation against Israel.'

Israeli officials have repeatedly voiced concerns over Iran's presence in Syria and the smuggling of sophisticated weaponry to Hezbollah from Tehran to Lebanon via Syria, stressing that both are red-lines for the Jewish State.

'Iran's efforts to consolidate its influence in Syria and arm Hezbollah have prompted Israeli airstrikes as recently as January 2019 against Iranian positions within Syria and underscore our growing concern about the long-term trajectory of Iranian influence in the region and the risk that conflict will escalate,' Coates said..."

Russia's New Hypersonic Nuclear Weapon

January 29, 2019 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Last month Russia tested a new hypersonic weapon designed to sneak under current U.S. ballistic missile defenses. The Avangard, a winged glider weapon boosted high into the atmosphere by a ballistic missile, descends on its target at speeds in excess of 6.7 km/sec.

This is 15,000 MPH, almost the speed of an orbiting satellite. According to Russian news sources, Avangard will enter Russian service this year. Check YouTube for footage of the test launch.

Russian President Putin announced this and other new nuclear weapons programs last year. This weapon included the 'Poseidon' Nuclear Apocalypse Torpedo and the Burevestnik Nuclear-Powered Cruise Missile.

A rocket boosts Avangard gliders very high into the atmosphere, but unlike regular ICBM warheads, Avangard doesn't go all the way out of the atmosphere. Instead, at a preset altitude, the booster fairing is released. Then Avangard is released and it proceeds as a glider to its target at hypersonic speeds of up to Mach 20. During its recent test the Avangard traveled more than 6,000 km. Russia is apparently creating a host of new nuclear weapons to get around ballistic missile defenses. For example, 'Poseidon' would travel into U.S. territory underwater in order to deliver a thermonuclear strike..."

Iran threatens Israel with 'inferno,' vows to improve missile accuracy

January 29, 2019 timesofisrael.com reported: "Iranian officials continued their anti-Israel rhetoric on Tuesday, threatening to improve the accuracy of their country's missiles and warning that terror groups Hamas and Hezbollah were prepared to unleash an 'inferno' on the Jewish state.

Speaking at a conference on space technology, the secretary of Iran's National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, was quoted by the Tasnim news agency as saying that 'it has been an absolute disgrace for the Zionists when an Israeli minister was proved to be a spy, when there are hundreds of kilometers of tunnels dug underneath their feet, and when the resistance forces in Gaza and Lebanon have missiles with pinpoint accuracy and are ready to respond to any foolish Israeli behavior with an inferno.'...



Shamkhani also said Tehran has the capabilities to extend its missile range, but won't do so due to its 'defensive doctrine.'

'Iran has no scientific or operational restriction for increasing the range of its military missiles, but based on its defensive doctrine, it is continuously working on increasing the precision of the missiles and has no intention to increase their range,' he said, according to the Reuters news agency..."

Another Muslim warns Christian belief offends him

January 28, 2019 World Net Daily reported: "Many observers were stunned when a Christian making a basic statement of faith – that Jesus is the Son of God – was considered an insult to Muslims.

The dispute was in Uganda, but now the same issue has erupted in the United States' neighbor to the north, Canada.

There, a Muslim leader declared Muslims must take offense when people declare Jesus is the Son of God.

Robert Spencer at Jihad Watch wrote that, apparently, 'Christians who are anxious to avoid offending Muslims should convert to Islam now, because the simple expression of the Christian faith offends Muslims.'

It was Sheikh Younus Kathrada who said he stands by his statement that Muslims should be offended, though not necessarily become violent, when people worship Jesus or refer to him as the Son of God..."

Moscow urges U.S. to abandon plans to resurrect 'Star Wars'

January 28, 2019 SpaceDaily.com reported: "Earlier on Friday, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg has held a press conference after the meeting of the Russia-NATO Council. The meeting focused on the fate of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) in light of Washington's decision to withdraw from the agreement.

The Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs urged Washington on Friday to abandon its plans to implement a missile defence system in space, noting that such a move may trigger an arms race.

'The United States' implementation of its military space plans will hit the current system of space activities safety resulting from the international space law. All of Washington's previous attempts to achieve superiority in the military sphere invariably resulted in growing tensions and new turns of the arms race,' the ministry said in a statement.

According to the ministry, the efforts appear to be aimed at bringing back the so-called Star Wars programme or US Strategic Defence Initiative, which former American President Ronald Reagan initially announced back in the 1980s. Moreover, Moscow thinks that the strategy proves that Washington's plans to use space for military operations in the nearest future are real..."

Race for 'hypersonic' weapons heats up as France joins fray

January 28, 2019 spacedaily.com reported: "World powers are vying to develop so-called "hypersonic" weapons that travel several times the speed of sound, with France the latest to join a field led so far by Russia and China.

Hypersonics are like missiles that travel at over five times the speed of sound (Mach 5) but are able to manoeuvre in mid-flight, making them much harder to track and intercept than traditional projectiles.

France is the fourth of the five permanent UN Security Council members to join the so-called "stealth by speed" contest, after China, Russia and the United States.

"We have decided to issue a contract for a hypersonic glider" that can travel at over 6,000 kilometres/hour, Defence Minister Florence Parly said last week, promising a test flight by the end of 2021.

"Many countries are acquiring them (hypersonic weapons) and we have the know-how to develop them. We could no longer afford to wait," Parly said, unveiling project V-MaX (Experimental Manoeuvering Vehicle).

In March last year, Russian President Vladimir Putin stunned Western military analysts -- and many in Russia -- by unveiling plans for a new arsenal of hypersonic weapons which he said would render missile defence systems obsolete..."

In December, the Kremlin touted the capabilities of its new hypersonic glider, aptly named "Avanguard".

The Kremlin said that in tests the intercontinental projectile reached 27 times the speed of sound -- 33,000 kilometres (20,500 miles) per hour or Mach 27.

"At this speed not a single intercepter missile can shoot it down," Deputy Prime Minister Yury Borisov boasted.

China has also reportedly carried out several successful tests since 2014 of a glider that can reach speeds of between Mach 5 and Mach 10."..."