

FORGET OIL, THE NEW GLOBAL CRISIS IS FOOD

Jan 09. A new crisis is emerging, a global food catastrophe that will reach further and be more crippling than anything the world has ever seen.

The credit crunch and the reverberations of soaring oil prices around the world will pale in comparison to what is about to transpire, Donald Coxe, global portfolio strategist at BMO Financial Group said at the Empire Club's 14th annual investment outlook in Toronto on Thursday. "It's not a matter of if, but when," he warned investors. "It's going to hit this year hard."

Mr. Coxe said the sharp rise in raw food prices in the past year will intensify in the next few years amid increased demand for meat and dairy products from the growing middle classes of countries such as China and India as well as heavy demand from the bio-fuels industry.

"The greatest challenge to the world is not US\$100 oil; it's getting enough food so that the new middle class can eat the way our middle class does, and that means we've got to expand food output dramatically," he said.

The impact of tighter food supply is already evident in raw food prices, which have risen 22% in the past year.

MORE> www.nationalpost.com/news/story.html?id=213343

US PRESIDENT: WE MUST TALK TO IRAN

Jan. 26/09. President Barack Obama reiterated that his administration would talk to Iran. "Iran has acted in ways that are not conducive to peace and prosperity in the region," Obama has told *Al Arabiya* television. "Their threats against Israel; their pursuit of a nuclear weapon which could potentially set off an arms race in the region that would make everybody less safe; their support of terrorist organizations in the past - none of these things have been helpful."

"But I do think that it is important for us to be willing to talk to Iran, to express very clearly where our differences are, but where there are potential avenues for progress," he stressed. "And we will over the next several months be laying out our general framework and approach. And as I said during my inauguration speech, if countries like Iran are willing to unclench their fist, they will find an extended hand from us."

The newly installed US ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said earlier Monday that the Obama administration would engage in "direct diplomacy" with the Islamic Republic. She warned that Iran must meet UN Security Council demands to suspend uranium enrichment before any talks on its nuclear program.

Rice said the US remains "deeply concerned about the threat that Iran's nuclear program poses to the region, indeed to the United States and the entire international community."

"We look forward to engaging in vigorous diplomacy that includes direct diplomacy with Iran," she said. It would include "continued collaboration and partnership" with the other four permanent members of the Security Council - Britain, China, France and Russia - along with Germany, Rice said.

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AHMADINEJAD DEMANDS U.S. APOLOGY



Jan 28/09. Iran's president has responded to an overture by the new US president by demanding an apology for past US "crimes" committed against Iran.

The US "stood against the Iranian people in the past 60 years," Mahmoud Ahmadinejad said. "Those who speak of change must apologise to the Iranian people and try to repair their past crimes."

Mr Ahmadinejad also attacked US support for Israel and called on Mr Obama to withdraw US troops from their bases around the world. "If you talk about change it must put an end to the US military presence in the world, withdraw your troops and take them back inside your borders." The US should "stop interfering in other people's affairs," he said.

Full article > http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7855444.stm

IRAN REJECTS US CALL TO HALT NUKE WORK

Jan 28/09. Iran will not halt its nuclear activities as demanded by US President Barack Obama's administration, Aliakbar Javanfekr, a close aide to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad told Reuters. "We have no non-peaceful activities to suspend. All our activities are peaceful and under the supervision of the IAEA," he said.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1233050197299&pagename=JPost%2FJPostArticle%2FShowFull>

“ THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM”

Jan 28/09. "There's no way and no chance to stop the Iranian nuclear program," Republican U.S. Congressman and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Peter Hoekstra told the independent American news site *Newsmax*.

The Congressman, who has access to top secret information, indicated that an attack on Iran's nuclear facilities would be "incredibly difficult and complex."

Hoekstra explained that while [Israel's attack on a Syrian complex](#) in 2007 completely destroyed in a single blow what the committee believes was a nuclear reactor located at a remote site, the case with Iran is entirely different.

"In Iran you'd have to make multiple attacks against very difficult targets, with very precision bombing. That's very, very difficult," he said

MORE > <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1059583.html>

MASSIVE LAYOFFS AS GLOOM DEEPENS WORLDWIDE

Jan 28/09. BBC reported that workers around the world face losing their jobs as several big corporations announced more than 70,000 layoffs in one single day.

<http://www.maranathamrc.com/>

The biggest cuts came in the US where construction equipment maker Caterpillar said it would cut around 20,000 jobs.

In Europe, electronics group Philips, financial firm ING and UK steelmaker Corus announced cuts.

The announcements underscore the depth of the global downturn. "Without a doubt, 2009 will be a very tough year," said Caterpillar chief executive Jim Owens.

Many of the companies making layoffs unveiled poor financial results and issued gloomy outlooks for 2009. Caterpillar said its fourth-quarter net profit fell 32% from a year ago to \$661m (£482m).

IRAN DETAINS DOZENS OF CHRISTIANS

Jan 27/09. Members of Iran's Christian minority have requested prayers, amid reports of massive arrests of Christians, including many former Muslims, rights investigators said.

On Jan 21, at least ten Christians, including at least several people who abandoned Islam, were detained in the capital Tehran, advocacy group Middle East Concern (MEC) told Worthy News.

Christian news agency Compass Direct News quoted an unidentified source as saying that Iranian Christians estimate that "maybe up to 50 people were arrested" last week. "In Tehran alone already some 10 people were arrested -- all on the same day, Jan 21."

Among those detained were reportedly three Christians from two different families, Hamik Khachikian, an Armenian Christian, followed by Jamal Ghalishorani, 49, and his wife Nadereh Jamali, who are both former Muslims.

MEC said that earlier in December "new Christian believers" were summoned to the offices of Iran's feared secret police. "They were forced to sign documents stating that they would not meet together to celebrate Christmas."

Elsewhere leaders of Christian house churches for ex-Muslims were threatened in at least three provinces with "serious consequences" if they had further dealings with other Christian officials "either inside or outside of Iran." For full report>

<http://www.worthynews.com/4207-iran-detains-dozens-of-christians>

"OBAMA TO INTERNATIONALIZE JERUSALEM"

Jan 28/09. Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu warned at the Jerusalem Conference that the Obama administration and leftist Israeli politicians will try to internationalize holy sites in Jerusalem -- and he vowed to fight the move.

"Some politicians are trying to blur the importance of the Temple Mount to the Jewish People by referring to it as the 'Holy Basin.' We, as Jews, know who built the Temple Mount," Netanyahu said

The term "Holy Basin" refers to the area of the Temple Mount, the Mount of Olives, Mount Zion and a variety of Christian holy sites which the administration of former President Bill Clinton recommended be administered under a "special regime."

"We have demonstrated in the past, and will continue to demonstrate our commitment to a complete, undivided Jerusalem," Netanyahu assured a packed hall at the [Jerusalem Conference](#).

<http://www.maranathamrc.com/>

Moreover, he said, transferring sovereignty over those areas to the Palestinian Authority is not an option. "Everyone knows what will happen if we were to leave those areas and divide Jerusalem. Someone will enter – and that someone will be Hamas."

Dividing the capital, or resurrecting the specter of internationalizing the "Holy Basin", this time at the recommendation of the U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, would cause more problems even for the international community that it would solve, he added.

The three major religions of the world exist in peace, have access to all their sites, only because Jerusalem is united and under Israeli rule, Netanyahu contended, adding in deliberately Hebrew-accented English, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

<http://au.mg2.mail.yahoo.com/dc/launch?.gx=1&.rand=9qfr2f8nt3ie2>

Binyamin Netanyahu also said:

"JERUSALEM DIVISION WILL LEAD TO IRAN BASE"

Jan 28/09. An Israeli withdrawal from east Jerusalem will lead to the creation of an Iranian terror base in the city, Netanyahu said. "If we leave sections of Jerusalem, Hamas will enter and set up an Iranian-backed terror center," Netanyahu said in an address at the sixth annual Jerusalem Conference.

He added that one had to be "totally blind" to assume that a division of Jerusalem as part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians will lead to stability in the city.

<http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1233050195933&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

ZIMBABWE CHOLERA DEATH TOLL NEARS 3000

Jan 27/09. The cholera epidemic has swept through a country wracked with political and economic crises. WHO figures show 56,123 reported cholera case, and the number of cholera deaths in Zimbabwe is now approaching 3,000.

Zimbabwe's waste-disposing system has collapsed, and the Health Minister warns the epidemic could get worse in rainy season.

A VERY REAL NEW WORLD ORDER

BY CHUCK BALDWIN

It is hard to believe, but a majority of Americans (including Christians and conservatives) seem oblivious to the fact that there is a very real, very legitimate New World Order (NWO) unfolding. In the face of overwhelming evidence, most Americans not only seem totally unaware of this reality, they seem unwilling to even remotely entertain the notion.

FULL ARTICLE> <http://www.raidersnewsnetwork.com/full.php?news=23173>