



Top Stories



Shimon Peres discusses the future of Israel with Wikinews

Canupa Gluha Mani speaks about Lakota Oyate, Lakota freedom

Wikinews interviewed Canupa Gluha Mani, a longtime activist and the central figure of the Lakota movement, about the movement and Lakota Oyate.



Wikipedia Current Events

Peter de Villiers is appointed as the first ever black coach of the South African rugby union team.

- Fatmir Sejdiu is reelected President of Kosovo after a third round of the Kosovar presidential elections, 2008

- The price of gold in the London Gold Fixing rises above €600 per troy ounce for the first time. (€603.528, a.m. Fixing.)

Apple to lower UK iTunes prices

The European Commission has forced Apple Inc. to lower its prices for media in its United Kingdom iTunes store, Apple's online media shop. The change in policy will occur within the next six months, Apple announced this morning.

Apple is the producer of the world's most-sold MP3 Player, the iPod and launched the iTunes Music Store, a online music store, on April 28, 2003. The store was renamed to iTunes Store in 2006, as Apple began selling other media apart from music, such as feature-length movies. Since its launch the store has sold more than 3 billion songs. At the moment songs are sold for £0.79 per song and £7.99 per album which after the price cut will on average be reduced to £0.74 and £7.48 to match the EU prices of €0.99 and €9.99, according to Times Online.

The price decrease follows an investigation by the European

Commission due to Apple charging customers in the UK up to 10% more than in other EU countries. According to The Register, Apple will be demanding that the record labels lower their prices in the UK in respect to this forced price cut.

The European Commission welcomed Apple's announcement and in a reaction to the news European Commissioner for Competition Neelie Kroes said "the Commission is very much in favour of solutions which allow consumers to benefit from a truly Single Market for music downloads."

Global premiere of Lordi horror movie Dark Floors next month in Oulu, Finland

It has been announced that the global premiere of the Lordi horror movie Dark Floors will be on February 8 in Oulu, Finland. Lordi, a Finnish theatrical hard rock band, will also perform at the premiere.

The event will take place at the Oulun Energia Areena, home of the Oulun Kärpät, a team in the SM-liiga, the Finnish National Hockey League. The premiere will be the nation's largest, and is a co-operative measure by Northern Film, Media Foundation POEM and Oulun Kärpät.

The film is based on an original concept by director Pete Riski, who directed all Lordi music videos, and the band's frontman and lead vocalist. Made in English with a United Kingdom cast except for the band, Lordi appear in their famous

Featured story

John McCain and Hillary Clinton win New Hampshire primaries



According to media reports, John McCain has won the New Hampshire

primary for the Republicans in the 2008 Presidential race. "I hate to use to the word kid, but I think we showed the people of this country what a real comeback looks like." New York Senator Hillary Clinton has won the New Hampshire Primary.

monster costumes playing a group of monsters terrorising a group of people trapped in a hospital. Blabbermouth reports that the film is expected to become an international success.

The end credits of the movie will feature the Lordi song *Beast Loose in Paradise*, which was released as a single late last month.

Riski directed the film, which was produced by Markus Selin and written by Pekka Lehtosaari. The project started after an interview with Lordi's vocalist in which he suggested Selin contact him over an idea he had had for a film. Solar Films produced the film in co-operation with Northern Film, Media Foundation POEM and the North Finland Film Commission.

Oulu is considered a good choice for the premiere, as it has a reputation amongst Finns as the "film-friendly town up north" and because *Dark Floors* was filmed there over the course of summer 2007. 5,000 people are expected to attend the premiere and accompanying show. Tickets became available today at www.Lippupalvelu.fi.

George Bush arrives in Middle East

US President George W. Bush has arrived in Israel - the first stop on a Middle East journey designed to bolster the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and foster unity on Iran.

They formed a long welcoming line as George W. Bush set foot on Israeli soil for the first time in his presidency

"If there needs to be a little pressure then you know I will provide it." —George W. Bush
Following a discussion with Ehud

Olmert, the Israeli Prime Minister, George Bush said he would provide pressure if necessary. He made this clear by saying "If there needs to be a little pressure then you know I will provide it," after the talks.

He spoke of the strong ties between the United States and Israel. He says the source of that strength is a shared belief in the power of human freedom.

"We will do more than defend ourselves. We will seek lasting peace. We see a new opportunity for peace here in the Holy Land and for freedom across the region," said Mr. Bush.

Like President Bush, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert kept his comments at the arrival ceremony broad in nature, avoiding any direct reference to issues related to the peace process.

"From the very beginning, your policies have reflected a basic understanding of the challenges facing Israel in this troubled region and a solid commitment to our national security," he said.

It fell to Israeli President Shimon Peres, who is considered by some to be largely ceremonial, to offer some tougher talk. He said President Bush is right to urge the world to pay attention to the threat posed by Iran.

"We take your advice not to underestimate the Iranian threat. Iran should not underestimate our resolve for self-defense," said President Bush.

President Bush, Prime Minister Olmert and President Peres wasted no time getting down to business - launching talks shortly after the arrival ceremony.

Thursday, President Bush will travel from Jerusalem on to Ramallah, the West Bank headquarters of the Palestinian Authority, to meet separately with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

At a meeting in Jerusalem, Tuesday, Prime Minister Olmert and President Abbas agreed to begin negotiations on the thorniest issues blocking a peace agreement. Among them: the borders of a future Palestinian state, competing claims to Jerusalem, and the status of Palestinian refugees.

Concerns about rocket attacks into Israel from Gaza and Israeli settlement activity have created tensions since the American-led Annapolis Mideast conference in November. President Bush is expected to use his trip to encourage both sides to look at the big picture and keep focused on the need for peace.

During the flight to Israel, White House National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley told reporters traveling with the president that Mr. Bush is not coming to the Middle East to interject himself into the negotiations. He said, instead, the president wants both sides to stay focused, and look beyond what he called "a lot of distractions."

Hadley also talked about the recent incident involving Iranian vessels and U.S. Navy ships in the Persian Gulf. He said Iran must be careful and realize there will be consequences to bear if they again menace American boats in international waters.

China bans free plastic bags

The People's Republic of China has

banned free plastic shopping bags in a move to take effect from June 1, 2008. The decision made by the Chinese Cabinet, the State Council, is intended to reduce the amount of plastic bags used in China, currently being estimated at three billion per day. The State Council also announced that at the same time as the ban, the manufacturing, sale and even use of very thin plastic bags, which are defined as being under 0.025mm thick, will be banned. Any company that does not follow this ban can be fined.

The ban of free plastic bags and complete ban on very thin bags will, the government hopes, help reduce the amount of crude oil used for plastic packaging, which is currently at five million tonnes per year according to Times Online. The notice issued by the Chinese government said: "We should encourage people to return to carrying cloth bags, using baskets for their vegetables."

The People's Republic of China is not the first country to ban or restrict plastic shopping bags and the notice names Uganda and South Africa according to CNN. Many supermarkets in the European Union have voluntarily adopted methods to reduce usage of plastic bags, which often also consist of charging for bags (e.g. Germany) or rewarding customer loyalty points for returning used carrier bags. Still, many of the world's leading polluting countries, including the United States of America, have not yet introduced any legislation intended to reduce the usage of plastic bags. The United States Environmental Protection Agency claimed that in 2000 only 1% of plastic bags in the United States were recycled.

The People's Republic of China has

attracted a lot of attention in the past for having possibly the highest greenhouse emissions in the world, disproportionate to the size of its economy, according to The Telegraph. Times Online quoted a Chinese activist as saying that plastic bags are not the main problem and the government needed to make people care more about the environment.

Fourteen days left to send National Geographic your shoe for world record

For the past few months, National Geographic Kids (NGK) has been collecting used running shoes from across the United States, in hopes of creating the world's longest chain of shoes.

The record attempt organizers welcome shoes of any brand, any shapes, and any size, so long as they have laces and are meant for humans.

The collected shoes will be sorted afterwards, and Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program will take and recycle all the athletic shoes. Nike, which also donates its unusable material to the program, creates rubber surfaces for basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields, and running tracks.

Donations of shoes have been received from actress Cameron Diaz, and US Women's Soccer team players Shannon Boxx, Angela Hucles, Carli Lloyd, Lindsay Tarpley, and Cat Whitehill.

NGK, a magazine by the National Geographic Society, says that 2000 to 2500 athletic shoes contain enough material to build a basketball surface.

Shoes can be sent before January 22, 2008 to:

NG KIDS / Set a Guinness World

Record
P.O. Box 98001 (RB)
Washington, DC 20090-8001
United States of America

Nike has disposal locations for shoes in Nike stores around the US, Canada, the U.K., Netherlands, Germany, Australia, and Japan. Select athletic clubs, schools and colleges also participate in "Nike Grind".

Dr. Phil's consultation meant to be private: Spears family

A spokesperson for the parents of Britney Spears went on The Today Show to speak out against television psychologist Dr. Phil McGraw, whom they feel exploited the family's trust.

Lou Taylor went on the NBC morning show to say that when they "extended trust" to "Dr. Phil", as he's known, it was as a medical professional and not as a television personality. They say he was to keep the matters private.

McGraw was "not invited to make this part of the public display, part of the media," said Taylor on behalf of father Jamie Spears and mother Lynne Spears.

Taylor was responding to McGraw realizing a statement about Spears, and then appearing for an interview on the Entertainment Tonight entertainment news program. McGraw's statement read:

"My meeting with Britney and some of her family members this morning in her room at Cedars leaves me convinced more than ever that she is in dire need of both medical and psychological intervention. She was released moments before my arrival and was packing when I entered the room. We visited for about an hour

before I walked with her to her car. I am very concerned for her."

"Because the Spears situation is too intense at this time, and out of consideration to the family, I have made the decision not to move forward with the taping at this particular time. Britney and her family are in our prayers and we ask that they be in yours."

Originally it was rumored that the family would appear on Dr. Phil for one of the news headline-based special episodes. Taylor also told interviewer Meredith Viera that the family had never discussed such plans. They had only hired McGraw to talk privately to Spears, one of "many professionals and many resources surrounding the family."

According to Taylor, the Spears parents, along with pregnant daughter Jamie Lynn "are people who love their daughter, and know what's going on," praying every day for her well-being. They are broken hearted regarding "the morbidity of people watching" the breakdown.

Von D from "LA Ink" TV series sets world record for tattooing

Realising how visual a medium tattooing is, tattoo artist Kat Von D of TV series LA Ink set a world record while raising funds to fight childhood blindness. In 24 hours, Von D tattooed 400 people with an "LA" logo, in her West Hollywood, California tattoo shop.

The December event at High Voltage Tattoo drew 1000 people in line, although only 400 could get the image emblazoned on them, for a \$20 donation. Most learned of the event through her MySpace profile. In all, the funds raised will help 32,000 children's eyesight, through Vitamin Angels.

Vitamin Angels is the only organization in the world solely dedicated to eradicating vitamin A deficiency among children, with the goal of warding off youth blindness by 2020. The year 2020 is chosen because perfect vision is described as "20/20".

First in line at the event was Jose Flores, who had camped out in front of the store since 7:15 the previous evening. Doors didn't open until 10 am, and Flores didn't get the tattoo until Von D was done with her friends and family, including internet celebrity Jeffree Star.

A Guinness World Records official was scheduled to attend, but was caught in a snow storm.

Katherine Von Drachenberg told the Los Angeles Times that, as a teenager, she "be at the mall and parents would grab their kids and be like, 'Honey!' It was like that scene in Pretty Woman, where the women on Rodeo Drive think Julia Roberts is going to shoplift. Now people just come up to me more out of curiosity -- everyone from grandmas to soccer moms."

The record setting event was filmed for LA Ink, a series that airs Tuesday nights on TLC in the United States. The series is a spin-off of Miami Ink, a series featuring Von D's previous place of employ, before she set off on her own.

The series' second season started last night, however that particular episode will air March 4.

Couple with 99 grandchildren possibly record holders

Hans and Josie Schaffer of Bedford, United Kingdom are possibly world record holders, now that they have a total of 99 grandchildren and great-

grandchildren.

The pensioners spend most of the year saving for Christmas gifts. Their eleven children have brought them 56 grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren.

"The kids just kept coming – and then their kids just kept coming," said Josie, 77, to the Sun newspaper.

Husband Hans was a prisoner of war in World War II, and went to work as a farmer for Josie's family. Now 85, they're about to celebrate their 50th anniversary.

While there is no existing record with Guinness for alive couples with the most grandchildren, Guinness World Records authorities say the couple very well might hold the record.

Glasgow resident Margaret McMillan had 123 grandchildren, but died last year at 98. It wasn't until her funeral that the number, which included 15 great-great-grandchildren, was established by the family.

Yemeni man creates world's largest crossword puzzle

Yemen's Abdul-Karim Qasem, who creates crosswords for publications like al-Arabi magazine and the newspaper al-Moshahad, has created a puzzle more than 3 times larger than the current recognized record holder.

Qasem's puzzle, currently in the initial stages of review with the Guinness World Records, includes 320,500 "puzzle squares", easily topping the previous high of 91,000 squares. The accompanying book of clues for the puzzle is 800,720 words long.

Qasem learned of the previous

record when visiting the Guinness World Records website in 2000. He took the next seven years to research unique information for the puzzle, from in various international books and websites. "I did not want my information to be repeated," he told the Yemen Observer.

He told the Observer that, during the seven years, he ignored his children's "simple and serious needs", and bought supplies for the project with funds reserved for basic family needs.

The man asked the local authorities in Ibb for support, but was met with indifference. However, when he visited the Presidential Office in Sana'a, President Ali Abdullah Saleh immediately asked the Ministry of Culture to "support [him] in any way [he] needed."

Finding ballpoint pen ink wasn't clear enough on his paper, Qasem filled his pens with a medicine meant for curing simple burns. Despite this effort, his once "very good" eyesight has weakened, forcing him to wear glasses. His back also hurts from the experience, and any quick movement hurts him to the extent that he is bedridden for the next two days.

Multiple steps remain before he can travel to London with his puzzle, for the final confirmation.

Pentagon releases video of incident involving Iranian ships in Persian Gulf

The Pentagon in the United States has released a video tape of an incident where Iranian high-speed boats attempted to surround at least three U.S. warships passing through international waters in the Persian Gulf.

On Monday January 7, a fleet of the Iranian boats charged and then threatened to blow up the U.S. ships. In the video, which was shot from the USS Hopper, and runs for some four minutes, shows the speedboats racing at the US ships. In the audio, a warning said to come from the Iranians can be heard: "I am coming at you; you will explode." Near the end of the footage, the Americans issue their own warning to change course or become "subject to defensive measures."

Tuesday, U.S. President George W. Bush called the actions of the Iranians a "provocative act":

"My message today to the Iranians is they shouldn't have done what they did. It is a dangerous situation. They should not have done it, pure and simple. . . . I don't know what their thinking was, but I'm telling you what my thinking was. I think it was a provocative act," said Bush during a press conference in the White House's Rose Garden today.

The boats disappeared a short time later, just as the U.S. ships were preparing to open fire on the vessels.

Iran claims that their troops may not have recognized the ships as being from the U.S. and says that the incident is "normal" for both nations.

"That is something normal that takes place every now and then for each party," said Mohammed Ali Hosseini, a spokesman for the Foreign ministry in Tehran.

Further, Iran claims that the footage released by the Pentagon is just a part of a propaganda campaign. "The footage released

by the US Navy are file pictures and the audio has been fabricated," Revolutionary Guard sources said on Iranian TV.

John McCain and Hillary Clinton win New Hampshire primaries

According to media reports, John McCain has won the New Hampshire Primary for the Republicans in the 2008 Presidential race.

"I hate to use to the word kid, but I think we showed the people of this country what a real comeback looks like. I'm grateful to the people of New Hampshire. I'm committed to keeping this country safe, and we're going to move on to Michigan and South Carolina and win the nomination," said McCain.

Also according to media reports, New York Senator Hillary Clinton has won the New Hampshire Primary in the 2008 United States Presidential race.

MSNBC reports that Clinton beat Barack Obama by a "very narrow margin." Opinion polls held before the polls closed showed Obama winning.

Singapore Airlines bid for China Eastern Airlines unsuccessful

A bid made by Singapore Airlines for a 24% stake in China Eastern Airlines was turned down by minority shareholders.

Talks about a sale started in March 2007 when Singapore Airlines and China Eastern started negotiations about a possible deal. According to Forbes the deal would have helped China Eastern's earnings and accelerate the consolidation and would have improved the market position of China's third-largest airline. Talks went on throughout

the year and both companies suspended trading of their shares on May 21, 2007, according to a AFP press release.

The vote took place at a shareholder meeting in Shanghai, People's Republic of China. According to Financial Times Online, the blocking of the SA bid by minority shareholders is bad news for China Eastern Airlines managers, who were and still are in full support of Singapore Airlines, which the Singaporean government owns a 55% stake in via Temasek Holdings.

Financial Times Online says this is most likely due to the fact that Air China not having made any formal bids yet, instead creating many media rumors about a possible purchase. The bid by Air China, that is likely to be larger than that of Singapore Airlines, may be supported by Cathay Pacific, who are in a cross-shareholding relationship with China National Aviation Corp., the parent company of Air China.

China has plan to obtain North Korea's nuclear weapons

The People's Liberation Army (PLA) of China has a plan to seize North Korea's nuclear weapons if it becomes necessary, says a report by Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington-based think tank.

CSIS experts have been talking to Chinese military researchers, who claimed that in the case of instability in neighboring North Korea, the Chinese military would be dispatched to obtain the nuclear weapons developed by North Korea over the past years. The report says that in such a case, China would try to coordinate its efforts with the international community, primarily

the United Nations. However, the report goes on to state that China would intervene earlier if "the international community did not react in a timely manner as the internal order in North Korea deteriorated rapidly".

Jiang Yu, a spokeswoman for the Foreign Ministry of the People's Republic of China said she was unaware of such plans, but did not deny the existence of such a plan.

Richard Spencer of The Daily Telegraph says the plan indicates a major change in attitude of the Chinese government towards its neighbor. China is one of the five nations on the UN Security Council and a legitimate nuclear power in accordance with the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1968.

Shimon Peres discusses the future of Israel

Along with technology writers for Slate, PC Magazine, USA Today, BusinessWeek, Aviation Weekly and other publications, Wikinews was invited by the America-Israel Friendship League and the Israeli Foreign Ministry to review Israel's technology sector as part of a campaign to 're-brand the country.' To show that there is more to Israel than the Palestinian conflict. On this trip, the non-conflict item on display was the large Israeli technology sector, which has given the world the Pentium processor and Instant Messaging. The schedule was hectic: 12-14 hours a day were spent doing everything from trips to the Weizmann Institute to dinner with Yossi Vardi.

On Thursday, the fifth day of the junket, David Saranga of the foreign ministry was able to arrange an exclusive interview for David Shankbone with the President of Israel, Nobel Peace

Prize recipient Shimon Peres. For over an hour they spoke about Iranian politics, whether Israel is in danger of being side-lined in Middle Eastern importance because of Arab oil wealth, and his thoughts against those who say Israeli culture is in a state of decay.

Now a largely bygone era in the development of the Israeli state, Shimon Peres spent his early days on kibbutz Geva, and was one of the founders of kibbutz Alumot. In 1953, at the age of 29, Peres became the youngest ever Director General of the Ministry of Defense. Forty years later it was Peres who secretly gave the green light for dialogue with Yassir Arafat, of the verboten Palestine Liberation Organization. It was still official Israeli policy to not speak with the PLO. Peres shares a Nobel Peace Prize with Yitzak Rabin and Arafat for orchestrating what eventually became the Oslo Accords. The "roadmap" that came out of Oslo remains the official Israeli (and American) policy for peace in the Palestinian conflict. Although the majority of Israeli people supported the plans, land for peace was met with a small but fiery resistance in Israel. For negotiating with Arafat, former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shouted at Peres, "You are worse than Chamberlain!" a reference to Hitler's British appeaser. It was during this time of heated exchanges in the 1990s that Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by Yigal Amir, a Jew who thought it against Halakhic law to give up land given by God (Hashem)

In the fifteen years since Oslo, the Palestinian Islamist militant organization and political party Hamas won the parliamentary elections of the Palestinian

Authority in 2007. After coming to power, Hamas announced it was giving up suicide attacks and offered a 10-year truce in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem. This was not Oslo. Fatah, the former ruling party and now warring with Hamas, took over the West Bank to leave Hamas in control of the Gaza. The two factions now run two de facto Palestinian states.

Having lived and shaped this history does not make Peres nostalgic; indeed, he is dismissive of the peers in his generation. Peres reaches out directly to young people when he intones "Don't listen to the old generation." He goes on to say, "the older want that we shall obey older traditions, and that children will behave like their parents. But the children.... are not deteriorating! They are stronger, they are better informed, they are full of energy, they have a strategy." Peres challenges traditionalists and those who call for a simpler era in Israel and find the younger generation beyond comprehension. People such as Yitzhak Apeloig, the President of the Technion, who said at lunch he has heard some of the faculty at his venerable university complaining that they can not understand the Hebrew spoken by young Israeli students. Peres brushed off this and other criticism, including about the waning societal antipathy towards those who get out of military service, once considered one of the most important obligations an Israeli has to his or her country. "Go over to sport, fight without killing, what's wrong?" responded Peres, although he conceded, "As long as we have dangers, we must be prepared to face them."

Peres is the elder statesman of Israeli politics, but he remembers that he has not always been as popular as he is today. "Popularity is like perfume: nice to smell, dangerous to drink," said Peres. "You don't drink it." The search for popularity, he goes on to say, will kill a person who has an idea against the status quo.

Perhaps where he was most measured was in his responses on American politics; Peres laughed off the question of whether Evangelical Christians, who are strong supporters of Israel based upon dispensationalist predictions, are comparable to Muslims who fight modernity. He raised the candidacy of Mitt Romney as evidence that "Mormons too are becoming modern, and the evangelists they participate in all modernity. They are not terrorists."

Below is David Shankbone's interview with Shimon Peres, the President of Israel.

Israeli technology

David Shankbone: One of your big initiatives in technology has been nanotechnology.

President Shimon Peres: Yes.

DS: What made you focus on nanotechnology as a sector for Israeli investment?

SP: Well, nanotechnology is not a vocation but a dimension. It's a new dimension and it concerns all walks of life, not limited to one, from the military to the civilian. Everywhere you turn around you can see the eventual effect of nano. It also raises some of the most complicated moral issues because until now the human race knew how to build. It didn't know how to grow. What we did is collected wood and stones and steel and glass and we built from

up to down. Structure. Now, what is common to both building a structure is the smallest particular, the nanometer. The minute you can manage it, you can begin to make things grow. And that's a tremendous change; it is also a tremendous dilemma for humanity. Now actually, like on many other occasions, we discover the nano from the negative side. The bomb.

DS: The bomb?

SP: Yes. The nuclear bomb. The nuclear bomb was to release the hidden powers of a combination or dispersion of nanostructures. The minute you dismantle an existing structure, then you create a lot of energy and you create new dimensions and new measurements. I mean the size has nothing to do with power. You can, say, take a nuclear bomb where the core is six or seven kilos of plutonium and you can destroy a city. Why can't you build a city with the six kilos? Same story. And the answer is clear. It was easier to destroy because then you don't have to control the nanostructure. It's simple when you want explosions; then, fission or fusion does not matter. The minute you want to build, you have to control the nano, and for a very long time we couldn't, we weren't able to see the nano, it is so small. No microscope could grasp it. The size of a nano is like 1/100th of a single hair, which is unbelievable. Or if you want to, to compare the nanometer with the meter is to compare an orange to the globe. Same proportion. That's nothing. And the minute they discovered the microscope, the electronic microscope that can see the nanostructure, we can begin to build. And to build with materials and powers and combinations that we weren't aware of. And then you can create a lot of things, like I

said, on the military side. But it doesn't make sense to chase it in modern warfare. It's not armies against armies. It's strength against, the strength of a collective army against the strength of an individual terrorist. It does not make sense to take an F-16 that costs \$40-50 million and chase a terrorist. Nano enables you to miniaturize everything.

DS: To miniaturize?

SP: Yes. And from the beginning you can create invisible sensors that will inform you about every movement in armies all over the world. Then you can hand over the soldier, a new uniform made of nano which is immune against cartridges, against biology and chemical warfare. It's a strong material because the nano material is 100 times stronger than steel and it weighs only 1/6 of it. It can warm up the soldier in cold weather; cool him in the warm weather. It enhances his strength 3 times; he can lift 120 kilos with one hand. And then you can go on and say not only to protect the protector but as well to create robots as in planes without pilots and military units without soldiers. You don't need a soldier; you can run it by proxy. Small weapons, small robots that can penetrate or perform in conditions that a human being cannot. He is too large, too inflexible.

DS: That's amazing.

SP: Then take the nano in medicine. You can produce the smallest instruments that you don't have to invade the body. You can do it from the outside control, with such tiny little instruments.

DS: Are you satisfied with the progress in the nanotechnology sector here in Israel?

SP: Look, I started it 5 or 6 years ago to explain to the people the

importance of it, then I was instrumental in collecting several hundred million dollars that was given to the universities and the research institutes. As a result, we have a very good group of nano experts, you see, all of the best, and now they are working with me voluntarily. I have 30 top scientists in Israel who have developed different ideas in the domain. This type of research can be applied to whatever you want: Alternative energy, because if you want to have solar energy, you need very large equipment. With nano you can condense it. The same is true about desalinization. It can replace the uniform of humankind. In the future ladies will have a dress. You can press a button and it will change the color. The nano has what has been called the lotus effect. Lotus is a flower that keeps cleaning itself. And so is a nano so it doesn't shrink, doesn't get dirty.

The future of the peace process in Israel

DS: Mr. President, as a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and as one of the fathers of the modern peace process in Israel, do you still think that there is a future to the peace process?

SP: The future is only peace. The problem is how long will it take and how many victims will it call for. Why do I say peace? Because when you look historically, at the development of humanity, most of our lives we are living on the land. The history is written with red ink. The reason for it is because people were fighting for our land, either defending it or extending it, because that was the main source. The land, the natural resources, the markets, all these go together. The minute the land was replaced by science, what is there to fight about? Armies cannot conquer science. Customs cannot check

what a scientist has in his mind, they can see what he has in his pocket but not what he has in his mind so it's uncontrolled; it means that borders aren't important and distances aren't important.

DS: How do you approach the difficult challenge of talking to the Palestinians when, in the end, they don't want Israel to exist. How do you come to an understanding to make peace possible?

SP: Well, what is the problem? I mean, is the problem national, say between Jews and Arabs; or is it a matter of generations between an old age and a new age? You see, the terrorists are protesting against modernity. They think that modernity may endanger their tradition. They are simply afraid and hate modernity. They consider modernity as their enemy, but then they have two problems. First of all, can they exist on tradition? They cannot. Sooner or later they will have to enter the new age. All the talks about nationalities, etcetera, well, the new age has very little patience for history. History is becoming more and more irrelevant.

DS: How do you feel about that?

SP: Well, I distinguish between two histories, the spiritual and the material. Or the history of events and the history of values. The history of values is okay because wisdom is ageless; it doesn't grow old, like material.

But events are totally unimportant for 2 reasons. First, the event is unimportant. Tell me, what events is today important such as how many elephants Hannibal had on the Alps, when you can have helicopters? Why should I bother my children with all this nonsense? What sort of a nose did Cleopatra have? God, I don't know! You can invite people to war over noses, but nobody will go to fight for

noses any more. On the other hand, there are already machines that can replace our memory. Why should I bother my child with memory when he can buy a computer that will remember everything you asked him to remember?

The waning importance of history

DS: Isn't the answer to that question that wise decisions are made with a basis from memory? Although a computer can have...
 SP: No, no. Forget memory. Look, the new age is unprecedented. When something is unprecedented, it means it doesn't have a past, doesn't have a history. It's totally oriented on the future. And whoever dwells in the past, doesn't understand the future because the past is full of prejudices, of commitments. It arrests us. And then you say you won't commit a mistake, so you'll commit new mistakes. It doesn't matter.

DS: What about the adage, "Those who forget history are doomed to repeat it"?

SP: So they will make new mistakes. Mistake is inevitable as long as there are human beings. But you cannot repeat mistakes because the world is not built on repetition; it's built on mutation.

DS: Don't you think Darfur is repetition?

SP: I think Darfur is, again, the last, or among the last battles between old and new. What are they fighting for? What are they killing killing killing over? They don't carry futures. It's not a mistake. It belongs to a past. It doesn't have a moment. I am sure that the reasons for war are over, even though still there are wars which are an inertia from the past, a continuation that doesn't make sense. I'm answering your

question. The problem is how to enable the whole world to enter the new future, including the Arabs. And there are already Arabs who did it. Look at Turkey, who is knocking on the doors of the united Europe. Why? It's not a geographic endeavor, it is an intellectual endeavor. They say you can be Muslim and modern.

DS: Like Dubai?

SP: Dubai...you must be very careful because Dubai is a small people with a large service sector. The citizens of Dubai are almost unnoticed. The rest are hired people. Turkey is different. Take Dubai or Qatar; in Qatar you have 180,000 citizens with 700,000 foreign workers. That also belongs to the past, because you see what's happening: they live on oil. Oil is not produced by human beings, the producer of oil is the land. It takes a million years to produce oil without any human interferences. The need for oil is growing, so the cost of oil goes up which is forcing people to go to alternative energies to balance it. Just because oil is discovered doesn't mean every year more and more and more people will pay for the same discovery. To hell with you, I shall look for an alternative! Even for Israel. If you have to make a choice between Saudi Arabia and the sun, it should go to the sun.

DS: A criticism of the Arab states is that back in the 1990s they had squandered the wealth that they were making on the high oil price because they had not invested it wisely. It seems that that has changed, that the Arabs are creating these new wealth funds and that much of the money that is generated in the Middle East is now coming from Arab states. Are you worried that Israel will become increasingly marginalized in the

Middle East? Right now it's very Iraq War focused or Iran-focused or the Emirates around the Gulf with their money.

SP: Look, if you'll ask me "What is the real wealth, money or brains?" I say brains is the greater producer of wealth, not oil. It's limitless, and you'll see that the GNP of Israel is very close to the Saudis'. So they are 3 times larger than us and they have all the oil in the world. We have brains. We have to develop it. And for that reason I say that whoever dwells in the past is ignoring the future. Modern society is not based on the experience of the past but on risk-taking for the future.

Is Israel a united society?

DS: As you know, I'm part of a group from a technology mission over here of journalists. We went to Meytav, your largest technology incubator, and spoke with their Vice President Norman Sandberg. One of the things that he raised as an issue is that Israeli society is becoming dichotomized between Tel Aviv and the rest of the country. How do you develop the brainpower without Israel becoming a city-state with Tel Aviv? Mr. Sandberg told us nobody wants to go to the North. They want to stay in Tel Aviv. They don't want to actually spread out and work on developing the rest of the country and invest outside of there. Is that a problem that you foresee that this bubble is forming around Tel Aviv in terms of brainpower?

SP: The whole world is moving from rural to urban life. Now everybody is made up of city-states; they are not a state of cities but cities that are states on their own. First of all, Tel Aviv is becoming noisy like all cities. It has all the flaws of a city, the crime and drugs, and the pollution. Like in America, you see people

and companies are leaving the cities. It will happen here, too. Secondly, it's a matter of transportation. If we shall speed up transportation, it's a small country, then people will move. In the United States, if you go half an hour, an hour, to work, it's normal. Here, an hour is the other side of the moon. It's nonsense. They'll get used to it. And then, more and more people today are not working in the same building, but using the same computers. So you computerize from home, which is again a difference. Today, a young boy is attending three schools: the formal school in the morning,; the informal school—television—in the afternoon; and the new language, which is Internet. We talk all the time that education is in the school; the school is just a third of the education of the children. What keeps them up-to-date is more the television and now more the internet. They look upon their teachers as old-age and a little bit boring, because they already know more than the teachers do. They have a new language, they have a new mind, they have a new sensitivity. In my judgment, the greatest thing is to bring over people from the old past that was slow--the cultivation of land--to a new future, which is as quick as an Internet.

DS: When you speak of language, Hebrew is very unique. At a time when languages are disappearing, Hebrew is the only example that I know of a language revived successfully. Although I don't speak Hebrew, I understand that the quality of Hebrew spoken by the younger generations has decreased.

SP: Don't listen to the old generation. They think everything is being ruined and is decaying. It's different! They would like that

we shall still dance a hora. And the boys and the girls want to have all the jumping stuff: They want to jump, let them jump, my God! They still want that they should sing Slavic melodies and they complain the dresses are becoming shorter. What do you care? Let them have their own taste. And by the way: they can have it! Why are the girls wearing such short skirts? Because they are not afraid to show their legs; they take care of themselves. In previous generations, the women were not as up to develop the lady, so she couldn't show her legs. Today, on the contrary.

DS: You used to not want to see the legs. [Laughs]

SP: They didn't show because you didn't want to see! [Laughs] So every generation handles it, they have new advantages, they have new problems, and the older want that we shall obey older traditions, and that children will behave like their parents. But the children have their own culture so they say they are deteriorating. They are not deteriorating! They are stronger, they are better informed, they are full of energy, they have a strategy. They are ready-made persons at an early age—14, 15, 16—physically and mentally and we don't give them a role in our society. So they go off on drugs. It's crazy! Let them play a role. Let them introduce themselves in the new hierarchies of our life. I believe that an inventor, a researcher can be the age of 15, 16, 17. We spoke about languages. What is the best time to learn a language? At the age of 2, 3, then you are becoming tired. Maybe at the age of 15 or 16 you have talents which are disappearing. Let them work. In the past generations they would not let the children work because it was a physical effort. Today, to

work is to think. Let them think; don't send them to drugs. Let them have their own challenges, their own curiosities

DS: What informs the question I asked about Hebrew is that it seems to build such a cohesive society here in Israel. It's one of the binding forces...

SP: You said culture as justifying history, because I don't suggest to forget the language. No. I am also for having individuality for nations. That can be cultural. But otherwise, I mean, let science run, let values stay permanent. I'll give you just one example. Take away the land, okay. Take away a dunam of land. But in our culture, the yield per dunam is 25 times higher than it used to be. So maybe you lost one dunam but you won 25 yields. On the other hand, take away the Ten Commandments and the world becomes all of a sudden poor. You don't have anything to replace these 169 words. So that's what I mean, the permanence of the values and the mobility of the assets.

DS: One value used to be military service. 20 years ago it was anathema to not serve in the military and that was another binding cohesive force in Israeli society and now it's quite common....

SP: Go over to sport, fight without killing, what's wrong? Go over to chess, go over to competition or a creativeness to sing, to create. I would like to see the democracy not just a matter of real expression but a matter of self-expression.

DS: Do you think Israel's security is at a point where it can move from being concerned with military service to being unconcerned and moving more towards competition

in sports or the creative elements?
 SP: The minute we shall be free of danger, yes. Right now, no. as long as we have dangers, we must be prepared to face them. You cannot become all of a sudden a philosopher instead of a soldier. It doesn't make sense. But you see there are two things which are really fascinating. What makes Israel greater than our size? And that is the size of our enemies. We are forced to organize our defense, which means our agenda, not with the size of the land but with the size of the enemies of the land. So all the time we have to be more tense, more alert, more developed. The minute this will disappear, we will have to compete with the world to find our way. I think there is something in Judaism, by the way, which makes us inclined to do so. The greatest thing about Judaism--you can take it as a joke, you can take it seriously--is that introduced to life is dissatisfaction. A Jewish person cannot be satisfied, cannot be satisfied. The minute he is satisfied he begins to be non-Jewish. Dissatisfaction is the source of creation. All the time, because we were oppressed, we were small, we couldn't sit down and have a glass of wine. All through time we have had to try and struggle and invest and renew. That is the reason why the Jewish people, in a way, are the permanent revolutionaries of history.

Iran: will Israel strike first?

DS: With Iran, do you think that Israel would ever need to act unilaterally again, to make a strike, in response to their nuclear capabilities? The U.S. National Intelligence Estimate, which is quite controversial, said that they've stopped their nuclear weapons program, yet there are many centrifuges in Natanz that

are still producing material.
 SP: First of all about intelligence. One must understand the nature of intelligence. Intelligence is an organization to report and not to prophesize. They are not prophets and they don't claim to be. They are experts on what has happened; you can't ask them to be expert on what may happen because the best intelligence person in America will never have a Persian mind. So how can you know how the mind acts? Don't expect them. What will finally bring down the danger of Iran is the Iranians themselves; they are sick and tired. Ahmadinejad almost replaced Allah with enriched Uranium. It becomes a holy profession. "We are enriching uranium!" What are you enriching uranium, what for? If you try to use it, you will be hit.

DS: Are you saying the Iranian people will be the agents of change?

SP: Yes.

DS: But there was so much hope for Mohammad Khatami and yet his administration ended up a disappointment--

SP: Yes. There are hopes that become disappointments. It doesn't mean you don't have to try again.

DS: But the Iranian people seem to be rallying around their nuclear program.

SP: You're only as great as your word, don't forget. But the Iranian economy cannot hold it and they are mobilizing the world against them. Gradually. Every time more and more. The world is sick and tired. Finally, the world will have to decide if we live in a world with nuclear devices that can fall in the hands of terrorists or we are going to organize ourselves against this danger. So I will be very careful

not to describe Iran as an Israeli problem. It's a world problem and Israel must be sanguine about it. Keep cool.

DS: As part of a coalition?

SP: If they want us, yes. But we shall not insist. We are naturally in the coalition; I don't know if we shall be formally.

DS: And you feel it would be a mistake for Israel to act unilaterally, or not?

SP: Yes. I don't think Israel should say it; I don't think Israel should talk about it. The minute we shall talk about it we shall be left alone. Israel is the only country that has never had a foreign army to defend it. All the European countries had foreign armies, most of the Asian countries. We don't. And...

DS: You don't feel America plays that role with Israel?

SP: America helps us a great deal. We are grateful. But we have never asked for American soldiers to defend Israel. And one of the popularities of Israel in the United States is that American mothers know that their children don't face danger here.

DS: Although they face it quite often in Iraq and Afghanistan.

SP: But here we defend it ourselves. Even in the early times when the United States recognized us, they didn't give us rifles to defend our lives. It's only later that they gave us arms and we are very grateful. But with Iran, we shall do what we have to do in our own way. We don't want to bother anybody because it's a world problem. Until now, the problem was will the world stand on the side of Israel. Today, the question is will the world stand on the side of the world? Iran is a world danger.

The 2006 Lebanon War

DS: How did the Lebanese War help Israel's security?

SP: Look, Israel is almost 60 years old next year. In the 60 years we went through seven wars, two intifadas, all of them outgunned, outmanned, outnumbered. We didn't lose a single one. So there were wars that were more successful, less successful, never a failure. Now about Lebanon, it became a question of did we do rightly or wrongly. But clearly it not wind up better for Hamas, not better for Hezbollah winning. They don't know to answer, "Why did they go to the war?" Today, everybody recognizes that Hezbollah is a danger to Lebanon more than to Israel. Today when you speak to a Frenchman or to the United States, they are worried more about Lebanon and Hezbollah than about Hezbollah and Israel. So, we have learned our lessons too, and but I think by and large, some people say we could have saved the lives of 30 soldiers. Maybe.

DS: Do you think it's hurt the peace process, the Lebanese War?

SP: I don't think so. You know what is promoting the peace prospect more than losing it? That no one in the Middle East wants to fall under the spell of Iran. Iran today is a country with an appetite. An imperial appetite. They want an Iranian hegemony in the Middle East in the name of god and enriched uranium. And nobody wants it. So they attended Annapolis for the same reason. So everything, you know, it's not a one-sided situation. It's very dialectical, including Iran. So they think they won. What did they win? They are less accused; they are not less watched, not less disliked and not less suspected.

DS: Do you think there is still a

strong peace movement in Israel?
SP: I think the situation is a peace movement because the more that the Arabs are learning, the more they are becoming peaceful. Look, we have in Israel 50,000 Arab citizens who are academicians. Ask where are they. Some of them are teachers who will remain in the vicinity of their university. Most of them are doctors. You won't find in Israel today a hospital without Arab doctors and Arab nurses. Now an Israeli that goes to the hospital, maybe he would be reluctant to employ an Arab at his factory but he doesn't hesitate to come to the hospital, lie on the bed and here comes an Arab doctor with a knife in his hand and operates on him. And he says thank you. So if you have healthy relations in hospitals, maybe it's a cure for the others. The more people who become professional and modern from both sides, this is the peace movement! The peace movement is not an attempt to write more songs about peace. We have enough songs. What we need is the development and we have to be passionate.

On American politics

DS: How have you seen America's role in the peace process change between Clinton to Bush?

SP: Look at America after the elections. In my journal, the two parties will come together and try to work up a bipartisan policy. You know somebody said that the difference between the Republicans and Democrats is the Democrats are reformers and the Republicans are maintainers. So they put in a little bit the Democrats to reform, then they put in the Republican to maintain. Then they change, but they keep basic on foreign affairs; America is revolutionary in technology, in economy, but very balanced in foreign policy and even when the

United States commits mistakes in her foreign policy, a foreign policy without America would be the greatest mistake of our generation.

DS: You earlier spoke about modernity and the importance of science and how a lot of the terrorists are very scared of modernity and how it will affect their traditions yet one of Israel's greatest supporters are the evangelicals in America, who are often seen in America as fighters of science and modernity.

SP: Look, I am not going here to make a license office. [Chuckles] I can judge on the general trend but I am not going to make any one remark. You know, one of the candidates is now Romney, who is a Mormon--

DS: Mitt Romney

SP: Yes, the Mormons too are becoming modern, and the evangelists they participate in all modernity. They are not terrorists. I mean, if you have an idea, you have an idea. The problem begins when you want to shoot when you have a different idea, to kill the future. You cannot kill it. Nobody can kill the future. Nobody can stop it. The terrorists will discover that they cannot live on their traditions. They will lose because they are not sustainable. Take a simple, single item: the attitude towards women. If they will not give equal rights to women, they will always be inferior because a nation that doesn't give equality to women is half a nation. So by definition they are half of modern nations. You lose a lot. It's not that you lose the women; you lose also the children because if the woman is uneducated, she cannot help the children to be educated. She doesn't have to make a balance between the number of the children and the state of

income of the family. This contradiction will grow and grow and grow and grow. It will take time, I don't know, it will take 5 years or ten years or fifteen years... But it is so clear that they cannot make a living by killing others or by hanging on tradition.

Peres on his Presidency and learning from the future, not the past

DS: What do you hope to achieve with your presidency?

SP: In the long term I would like to help our people to live on two foundations: on the heritage of our spirit and our talent at modernity. That we should be as old spiritually as the Ten Commandments, and as new economically as the latest model of the Internet. It's an educational process. Here the proportion between authority and freedom is in favor of freedom. Being free is the greatest, the best administration in life.

Administrations are still becoming old, they are becoming bureaucracies. They represent a world that is disappearing. The modern economy is based on global companies that don't have armies, don't have police; that don't have laws. They are based on good will, on inventions. So I don't see any contradictions. Since we shall always remain a small land and a small people, we have all time to see how to reach the size that is necessary to exist, to defend ourselves, to offer a future to our children.

DS: Do you hope to have another term as president?

SP: Oh, maybe next time I shall go and be a shepherd or a poet. Why go back to government? [Laughs]

DS: [Laughs] I think you are already seen as both of those things.

SP: Yes, I'm not orthodox about it

and I'm not particular. You know, once I was free of administration, I discovered the great advantage of being free. And I feel free. Most of my life, I was quite controversial.

[Laughs] Now I know I am tremendously popular. I don't know what is better, to be controversial and fight or to be popular and becoming a little bit...

DS: It is unique that when you look at your standing 20 years ago versus now, it's so different--

SP: When was better? [Laughs]

DS: [Laughs] Well...

SP: I think 20 years ago when I was fighting. What do you need popularity? Popularity is like perfume: nice to smell, dangerous to drink. You don't drink it. Why are people against you? Because you are against the status quo. Why was I unpopular? I didn't commit any crime in my life. The only crime I committed was to be a little bit ahead of time. And if this is the reason for being controversial, maybe the reason is better than the result.

DS: What do you look at as your greatest legacy in your career?

SP: I am bored by it. My greatest legacy...

DS: What pops into your head right away when I asked that? [Laughs]

SP: [Laughs] It is what I'm going to do tomorrow. What I did yesterday, for me it's boring and I'm very careful not to talk to my children about it because they will be bored. So why should I? My mind is set to see what will happen tomorrow.

DS: You don't speak to your children about the things you've done in you life or your grandchildren?

SP: No I learn from them what

they are doing. Why should I bore them? They know more about the computers and the internet and all; I am taking advantage.

DS: They probably know Wikipedia.

SP: My children are my parents because they teach me the future. Traditionally, I should have taught them, but I think it's a waste of time. Why should I? Why should I load their minds with what I may think are heroic stories? They have their own heroism which is now giving birth to new possibilities, to a new age. So my time? They don't ask and I don't bother them. I imagine they know because [the press writes] about me negatively so much, that they can not escape. [Laughs] But they know one thing: I don't complain. I generally never complain. They know we have an honest life. So whatever people are writing they do not care, because they know the truth.

DS: You're very unique in your generation but also in Israel as someone who's saying "Listen to the younger people." Wikipedia is something that was basically built by people under 30 and it's become perhaps the most influential media in the—

SP: Tell that to all those elder statesmen already. Go earlier and approach them. You know what is dying the fastest way? The daily newspaper. Tomorrow, it's dead. Who remembers the newspaper of yesterday? Israel is not only quite technologically developed, but the revolutionary mind is also expressed in all forms of life. No country in the last a hundred years stayed at a kibbutz or a moshav. So it's not only new forms of technology but new forms of life. Now let me tell you, the kibbutzim and the moshavim are, all told, today one-and-a-half percent of

the Israeli population. Not much. But they are 8.5% of the Israeli production. Unbelievable. They are 20% of our pilots. They are a third of the soldiers that were decorated. What do I mean with this? They are not billionaires. Their capital is pioneering and not collecting. If I have to advise young people that enter politics these days I say don't try for popularity; it will kill you. Because at the beginning you have an idea you want to make popular. But then you become so addicted to popularity that you forgot the idea that you wanted to sell. Better stick to your idea than to your popularity.

DS: Mr. President, I think that that is advice that many of our presidential candidates could heed as much as any young person. Thank you for your time.

Canupa Gluha Mani speaks about Lakota Oyate, Lakota freedom

It's now been three weeks since the four-person Lakota Freedom Delegation declared that the Lakota people were withdrawing from their treaties with the United States and, though small, the movement still proves controversial: two U.S.-recognized Lakota tribal governments have rejected the Delegation's authority outright with at least one tribe stating it will consider the Delegation's, now Lakota Oyate's, proposal. The rest of the tribes have remained silent.

The central figure the movement has been Canupa Gluha Mani, a longtime activist whose tactics have led repeatedly to his arrest and imprisonment — most recently in June 2007, when Canupa Gluha Mani was one of six arrested who participated in blockading a road in Nebraska to keep outside alcohol

from entering his dry reservation where it is banned. Wikinews talked to Canupa Gluha Mani about the movement and Lakota Oyate in an exclusive interview.

Also called Duane Martin Sr, Canupa Gluha Mani prefers to be referred to as just that, "Canupa Gluha Mani"; it means "He walks as he protects the pipe", though much of the meaning is lost in translation between English and the delicately-nuanced Lakota language. Canupa Gluha Mani prefers to speak in this, his native tongue -- he "hates" that the English language has become the everyday language of the Lakota, and decries the extinction of many indigenous American languages -- but uses English fluently and earthily.

Canupa Gluha Mani talked about the Cante Tenza, the Strong Heart Warrior Society, which he heads and which forms the paramilitary force of Lakotah. The society, an okolakiciye or warrior society, originated in the Black Hills. He told the following story: Four warriors in the hills ran across a coyote and gave it chase. And as the coyote ran he turned into a Lakota man, and in his changing the man left four objects: a rattle, a drum, a lance, and a tomahawk with which the Lakota people could be defended. Canupa Gluha Mani is a warrior leader, and his position with relation to the treaty council which traditionally governs the Lakota is "whip-man", loosely "sergeant at arms" -- that is, he enforces order and decorum when passions grow heated during tribal discussions.

The authority of the Lakota Freedom Delegation, he says, comes not from the BIA-recognized governments but rather from the "people who

understand treaties", i.e. the treaty council, from among the Seven Sister Bands of the Lakota. This traditional government is based on the idea of "staying quiet and listening to the people who have answers", the "itacans" or expert headmen.

Canupa Gluha Mani also endorsed Naomi Archer, who has acted as Lakota Oyate's liaison; indeed, as the Lakota Freedom Delegation prepared its trip to Washington DC he called in Naomi Archer, who though of non-native extraction is his adopted sister and a fellow Cante Tenza member, to handle media support. "I support the understandings of what she's saying", he said, referring to a previous interview with Archer which revealed an apparent split between Russell Means and other members of the Lakota Freedom Delegation. "She as an individual has integrity." However, the previous interview missed nuances and the perceived gap between Lakota Oyate and Russell Means' Republic of Lakota is not so great. "There's no division here....it's communication, that's all. We can always get past this."

With regard to Russell Means, who has declared himself Chief Facilitator of the Republic of Lakotah, he said, "I've worked with my uncle Russell Means in positive venues. And I'm still behind him, I have love for him;" He emphasized the familial bond between himself and Means, noting that Means had adopted him as a nephew. However, "the Lakota have to be recognized." It was "genocide", he said, that of all the races of humanity, American Indians are not represented at the United Nations.

On the subject of Lakota activist Alfred Bone Shirt, who organized

the Lakota Oyate's first freedom celebration and information meeting on Saturday, 5 January but has since made comments attacking the legitimacy of Canupa Gluha Mani, Naomi Archer and Lakota Oyate, Canupa Gluha Mani had this to say. "I have nothing to do with Mr Bone Shirt, nothing against him". He also noted that Lakota Oyate had respected Bone Shirt's call to take down invitations for donations, but expressed a wish that Mr Bone Shirt would make the same call to any other website inviting donations to Lakotah.

The traditional decision making process within the Lakota, he said, was informal discussions among the women of the Lakota rather than pronouncements and declarations. Ideas like western forms of government -- referencing the "Republic" -- and the use of the English language were part of the reason for both the misunderstanding of the dispute between Russell Means and Canupa Gluha Mani and the Lakota's problems: "It's hard for Indian people to adapt to this modern lifestyle....It's white teaching that cause Indian problem....leave us alone....This country has not learned a thing about its own First Nations people."

US governing of Lakota has led directly to the economic and social decline of the Lakotah people, he argues. Canupa Gluha Mani noted that the life expectancy for Lakota men is only 44, and that alcohol and drug use are epidemic, as are infectious diseases such as tuberculosis. But revival of the Lakota has to be not just economic to improve the circumstances of the people, but cultural too: "Our language is at stake right now" but the US government-backed

institutions like the Tribal Police are just "the second coming of the white man's cavalry".

Canupa Gluha Mani is on record as saying in a previous interview that "we'll probably get killed for" withdrawing from the United States. Now, he is tight-lipped on the future, and when asked about the possibility of a confrontation with the US will only say that "anything's plausible."

And if the United States government leaves the Lakota alone? "Then we can take our practices forward in good will." Canupa Gluha Mani, who is married to a woman of European descent, says that the traditional American Indian lifestyle can coexist with the western lifestyle, but "every wound has to heal". "We can be self-sufficient. We can govern ourselves." Having withdrawn from the outstanding treaties with the United States, will Lakota Oyate make a new arrangement with Washington? "That has yet to be exonerated." Lakotah continues to seek international recognition; although no country has declared recognition for Lakotah, he is "confident with the Bolivians" and also noted a positive response from the "Bulgarian freedom fighters" pressuring the US to recognize Lakota independence.

Canupa Gluha Mani then addressed the Lakota people directly. "What needs to get out there is, I love my people....This is your dream come true. That's what the symbolic meaning of Lakotah is. It's called freedom. Hoka hay."

Today in History

1475 – Moldavian-Ottoman Wars: At the Battle of Vaslui near Vaslui in present-day Romania, Stephen

the Great and his Moldavian forces successfully repelled an Ottoman attack led by Hadân Suleiman Pasha, the Beylerbeyi of Rumelia. 1776 – English pamphleteer and revolutionary Thomas Paine published the pamphlet *Common Sense*, a document denouncing British rule which contributed to stimulating the American Revolution among the populace of the Thirteen Colonies.

1863 – The London Underground, the world's oldest underground railway, opened on the

Metropolitan Railway between Paddington and Farringdon Street.

1929 – The Adventures of Tintin, a series of comic books created by Belgian artist Hergé that has been sold in over 50 languages and more than 200 million copies to date, first appeared in a children's supplement to the Belgian newspaper *Le Vingtième Siècle*.

1946 – The first session of the United Nations General Assembly convened at the Westminster Central Hall in London with representatives from fifty-one member states.

January 10 is The Remembrance of Muharram in Shi'a Islam begins (2008, A.H. 1429).

Quote of the Day

I believe that the Universe is one being, all its parts are different expressions of the same energy, and they are all in communication with each other, therefore parts of one organic whole. This whole is in all its parts so beautiful, and is felt by me to be so intensely in earnest, that I am compelled to love it and to think of it as divine.

~ Robinson Jeffers

Word of the Day

great unwashed n

- (idiomatic) A contemptuous term for the populace, particularly the working class.

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