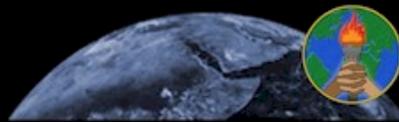


POLICY: Diplomacy

Sooner or later, the US will be forced to resolve a contradiction – how can it be “Leader of the Free World” and “World’s Greatest Democracy” but undemocratically deny a “vote” in the agenda to those it is leading. Iraq, more than any event since 1945, has put **unilateralism** back into everyday debate. But the **United Nations** was formed to be an alternative to unilateralism.

Near-Term	Mid-Term	Long-Term
<p>Britain, had foreign policy mechanisms well in place by the 14th century, but <i>arguably</i> the isolationist US did not start doing serious foreign policy until 1940. This, and other factors, is responsible for the several serious foreign policy mistakes in the last 60 years – backing the “wrong side” for short term political motive to have that decision blow back with a vengeance.</p> <p>Iraq has been a watershed for US diplomacy, causing US credibility in many places to wear very thin, and in some places to add credibility to the anti-US challenge from global Islamic militantism.</p> <p>Can the US be the only one in step?</p>	<p>Diplomacy need not be the zero-sum game. All states act in their own national interest, and often ruthlessly, but the point of diplomacy is to achieve national ends while making as few long-term enemies as possible. It is arguable that the US has not got this highly nuanced game right yet. But it needs to if it is not to find itself in a world less and less able to share its vision -- to be not only the tolerated “fat kid in the canoe”* but suddenly to be friendless. Diplomacy nurtures and furthers national interests which are so important that they should transcend administrations. <i>Politics</i> is about tomorrow and the next election; <i>Diplomacy</i> is about the nation’s place in the world a generation from now.</p> <p>*[attributed to Dean Rusk]</p>	<p>Doubtless the US Diplomatic Corps has talents equal to the best in the world but there is a sense in many places that the US is new to “the great game”, and it shows.</p> <p>The negotiations alleged this week between the UK Foreign Office and the Muslim Brotherhood is instructive. As the spiritual parent of most radical Islamic movements in the world today, the Muslim Brotherhood seems an unlikely partner. But, thinking deeply about the roots of Islamic militantism throughout history and today, it is obvious that the only way to a lasting solution is to beard the lion (or one of the lions) in the den and establish a <i>win-win</i> position.</p> <p>Far-sightedness is everything.</p>

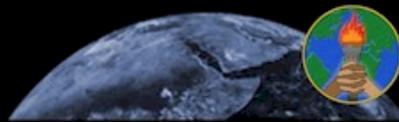
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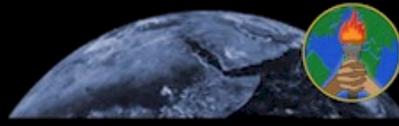
Hazard Level

Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

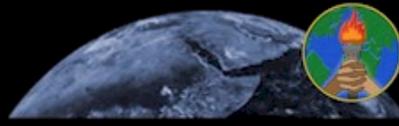
week-ended	See daily list of news items
2007 Jul 01	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A <i>Pew Poll</i> across <u>47 countries</u> has found that the <i>image</i> of the US (and China) has declined -- "there is a question as to whether we are living up to our own values, which is what is making people question what our policies are" said former Secretary of State Albright. Key Islamic countries such as Malaysia have welcomed a US plan to appoint the first-ever <i>envoy</i> to Organization of the Islamic Conference -- "It would be the first US diplomat dedicated to dealing with the <i>OIC</i>, <u>the world's second-largest international organization</u>, after the United Nations." [Comment: Everything will depend on <u>who</u> is chosen as that envoy.] <i>The Asia Times</i> says "right-wing hawks have gained control of the weapons in the 'war of ideas'" -- Neo-cons take spin to US-backed airwaves. After several African countries declined the opportunity to host AFRICOM HQ, "latest plans envisaged 'a <i>distributed command</i>' that would be 'networked' across several countries." The Caribbean trade grouping CARICOM made it clear they will not sacrifice their "<i>functional relationships</i>" with Venezuela and Cuba to please the US. A meeting of India, US, Japan and Australia is said to have "unnerved" Beijing -- Beijing sought to know from New Delhi whether a <i>new bloc</i> was emerging.
2007 Jun 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Several north African countries have declined an opportunity to host the proposed AFRICOM; "people on the street assume their governments have already had too many dealings with the U.S. in the war on terror" -- North Africa Reluctant to Host U.S. Command. Are some posts too tough for the US Foreign Service? -- Stress Taking Toll on Foreign Service. Reports of the US-CARICOM summit displayed little diplomatic warmth for or by the US -- US-CARICOM SUMMIT - US tells Caribbean to improve business climate.
2007 Jun 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A former French ambassador discusses the US version of "Terrorism" [is it just a stalking-horse for US hegemony] -- The 'Global War on Terror' and the New Imperialism. The US dispense largesse and expectations -- U.S. lawmakers restore aid to Pakistan, Indonesia, tell Egypt to improve its rights record. Sudan is better placed than the CIA to collect intelligence on <i>al Qaeda</i> -- Sudan helps US spying in Iraq. [Comment: This may explain some of the soft peddling on Darfur.] Again isolationist, Japan flouts the <i>Convention on Registration of Objects</i> launched into Outer Space -- Japan ignores int'l treaty, avoids registering spy satellites.
2007 Jun 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary Gates acknowledges the importance of Kyrgyzstan as a US toehold in Central Asia -- US needs Kyrgyz base, says Gates. [Kyrgyzstan has already said all deals are off if the base is used to support any attack on Iran.]
2007 Jun 03	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↓ The "worst-case" in the CIA's 2002 6-page Iraq analysis is very accurate, down to <i>world-wide disaffection</i> -- Before War, CIA Warned of Negative Outcomes. What happened at the last five G8 summits [Factbox] [Prediction: Africa, Climate change, HIV will be talked about and another G8 will end.]



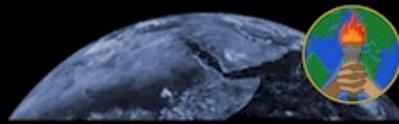
	<p>"Mr Gorbachev accused America of 'empire-building', which he said the UK should have warned it away from." -- Gorbachev criticises US 'empire'.</p> <p>"It is hard to understand why President Bush welcomed Uribe at the White House this month." -- US aid exacerbates abuse in Colombia.</p> <p>More detail, and concerns, on AFRICOM -- U.S. Africa Command Brings New Concerns.</p> <p>"The Gallop poll has found that between 85% and 95% of the people in the Arab and Muslim states want democracy." -- Majority in Arab world favour democracy: Poll.</p>
2007 May 27	<p>↓ Seymour Hersh comes out with some more outrageous claims ... which may, or may not, be true -- Fatah al-Islam had support from US, claims Hersh.</p> <p>"The US government now lives in its own, strange, insulated world" -- Why the US Government Is Hated All Over the World [Opinion]. Amnesty International adds that the US now treats the whole world as its own <i>battlefield</i>; "the US administration's double-speak has been breathtakingly shameless" -- US treats world as 'giant battlefield', says Amnesty. Vice president Cheney is well suited to a role in what some see as a new "good cop - bad cop" approach to world affairs -- Cheney Stands Alone As Hard-Liner.</p>
2007 May 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some in Australia want assurances that President Bush's presence in Sydney in September will cause minimum disruption to <i>emergency services</i> and other civil functions from <i>radio jamming</i> used to thwart some types of <i>bombs</i>. <p>A good guide to the doctrine behind a new and important <i>world grouping</i>, ALBA -- The Fifth Summit of the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas (ALBA).</p> <p>Following the Wolfowitz incident, some observers say now is a time for the other shareholders to end the US fiefdom over the World Bank's presidency -- "The shareholders of the World Bank will have learned nothing ... if they again allow a minority shareholder [the US] to install a president of its choosing ..."</p>
2007 May 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Cuba and Venezuela continue to demand the US extradite Luis Posada Carriles for the 1976 <i>bombing</i> of a Cuban airliner, but the US refuses [possibly against international law] to send him to either country. <p>Comment continues on US AFRICOM -- "after generations of betrayal and abuse by more powerful blocs, Africa needs to carefully choose and judge its covenants carefully ..."</p> <p>Warring clans that can't agree on Iraq's future ... that is, the State Department and the Pentagon Neocon faction -- Cheney follows Rice to Middle East.</p> <p>Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu has criticized African leaders for their cowardice on Zimbabwe – he says Africa is "so reluctant just to call a spade a spade. Human rights violations are human rights violations".</p> <p>After 30 years, the first ASEAN-US summit will take place in September 2007.</p>
2007 May 06	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Salvador's Front for National Liberation alleges that alleged anti-Cuban terrorist Luis Posada Carriles was trained at "a center of anti-Cuba terrorist operations in El Salvador" sponsored by the US.
2007 Apr 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following the <i>Virginia Tech shooting</i>, the State Department was moved to quickly disseminate talking points to <i>overseas posts</i> on the safety of US campuses for <i>foreign students</i>. <p>Saudi Arabia: "The problem is that Bandar has been pursuing a policy that was music to the ears of the Bush administration, but was not what King Abdullah had in mind at all" -- U.S. puzzled by diminishing clout of Saudi prince.</p> <p>The US has negotiated a major <i>arms deal</i> with Qatar -- "the deal will be worth several billions of dollars and transform the <i>Qatari</i> military."</p> <p>Thailand is angry at a piece by a lackey of big <i>pharmaceuticals</i> in the Murdoch Washington Times that calls the country a member of "<i>the axis of IP evil</i>" for</p>



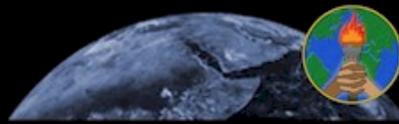
	<p>breaking patent on expensive badly needed medications.</p> <p>A public opinion poll in Egypt, Morocco, Pakistan and Indonesia show many reject violence but many support ejecting the US from all Islamic lands; more than 70% believe the United States is <u>trying to weaken and divide the Islamic world</u>.</p> <p>Russia says it is working for a multipolar world -- "<i>all friends of America, and we consider ourselves such, should help the United States to make 'a soft landing' in the multipolar reality.</i>"</p> <p>Former Portuguese president Jorge Sampaio has been appointed the first UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations, an initiative to promote reconciliation between religions, cultures and nations.</p>
<p>2007 Apr 22</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US says it is committed to rebuilding relations with (oil-rich) Libya. The US is seeking to sell Israel smart bombs -- "<i>recently, Israel has objected to US plans to sell smart bombs to Saudi Arabia ...</i>". • Colombia's President Uribe is annoyed that Al Gore declined to appear at an event with him -- "<i>I deplore the cancellation of the presence of Vice President Al Gore at this meeting,</i>" said Uribe. • The US says it is ready to train Thai forces if asked -- "<i>US troops could instruct Thai forces on how to use a 'softer touch' to win over local populations ...</i>" [The US track-record in this area of expertise is not given.] Thailand declined the US offer of military support -- it is an "<i>internal matter</i>". • Now the US has no coherent strategy on anything it must return to the doctrines of Truman's NSC-68, Weinberger and Powell as the only hope -- <i>Future of the US hinges on a strategic pullout from hot spots [Analysis]</i>. • A UK Coroner has launched another attack on US lack of cooperation -- "<i>It seems to me inexcusable that witnesses could come to assist this inquest but they are not allowed to do so.</i>" • Malaysia will cooperate but is "<i>uncomfortable</i>" about formally joining the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI). • Reliable cocktail chat indicates the US may be finally recognizing the importance of Egypt's Muslim Brotherhood -- <i>US attitude towards Muslim Brotherhood changing: report.</i>
<p>2007 Apr 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Musharraf of Pakistan has utterly rejected suggestion of joint counter-terror operations with the US -- "<i>the whole population of Pakistan will rise against it</i>". • Following a brief disagreement over Israel's supply of UAVs to China in 2004, the US now agrees to "<i>raise defense ties</i>" with Israel.
<p>2007 Apr 08</p>	<p>↑ The surprising resolution of the UK Marines incident speaks to the benefits of adult supervision in the foreign service; "<i>a grave diplomatic crisis was resolved with a speed that surprised everyone ...</i>" -- <i>The invisible men who defused the crisis.</i></p> <p>Now 55.2 % of Cuban Americans in Miami-Dade favor "unrestricted" travel to Cuba.</p>
<p>2007 Apr 01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before anyone asks ... the UAE has said no attack on Iran will be launched from its territory. Somewhat surprisingly, the Saudi "king" has condemned the US occupation of Iraq. [The Saudis are not ready to dirk Bush-Cheney yet, but they know the ball is moving towards the Democrats.]
<p>2007 Mar 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Departing US Ambassador to Iraq has praised the Kurdish region, but warm and furry feelings for "Kurdistan" are a further nail in the coffin of US-Turkish relations.
<p>2007 Mar 19</p>	<p>↓ Does '<i>the West</i>' still exist? What of Japan? Central Asia? What is the West, and what are its borders? [Or is it a state of mind?]</p> <p>A UK coroner has found that an Iraq "friendly fire" death at the hands of US pilots was "<i>criminal</i>" -- the case, and this verdict, exposes differences between the two</p>



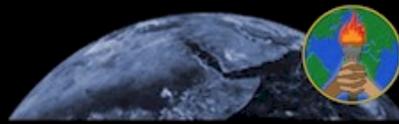
	<p>allies. <i>The Guardian</i> says President Bush returns from his Latin America tour “empty-handed” -- “the collapse of American credibility under Bush accelerated a process already underway.” A Harvard commentator says “Washington is learning that not every problem is like a nail” -- “[Democracy] must be rooted in the indigenous society and bear its characteristics, not be imposed from abroad.” The US seems intent on returning Mohiuddin AKM Ahmed to Bangladesh to a death sentence for his role in the 1975 coup.</p>
<p>2007 Mar 12</p>	<p>↓ The US has again refused to run for a UN Human Rights Council seat -- the US rejects membership of the body because it perceives an anti-Israeli bias. In Latin America, President Bush says “the region’s grinding poverty is a scandal that has caused some to question the value of democracy”. [Some observe this realization is 80 years too late.] In Argentina, “President Hugo Chavez will lead a leftist rally in an Argentine stadium ... when US President George W. Bush is due to arrive in neighboring Uruguay.” In Brazil, President Lula’s own Workers’ Party (PT) will protest President Bush’s visit -- “The government has to maintain a state-to-state relationship. But the PT, as a party, has an opinion ... ” Over twenty are injured in clashes with police in anti-Bush protests. In Uruguay “demonstrators carried signs which claimed Bush was guilty of ‘genocide’ and accused him of intending to ‘break Latin American unity’ with his visit.” In Guatemala, Mayan priests will purify a site after it is visited by President Bush -- “spirit guides of the Mayan community decided it would be necessary to cleanse the sacred site of bad spirits after Bush’s visit ...”</p>
<p>2007 Mar 05</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan declares that NATO forces do not have authority for hot pursuit into Pakistan. Some warn the US daily nagging of Pakistan may undermine its government -- any regime change in Pakistan would not be the kind the US would like. A group of UK tourists who went missing in northern Ethiopia are said to be held by Eritrea, but Eritrea denies this. [Why a group of “tourists” including diplomats and divers were wandering the wilds of a dangerous region of Ethiopia is not yet known.] Algeria says its cooperation with the US against Islamic militancy is “profitable” but it will <u>never</u> agree to a US military base on its territory. The US says Malaysia is “a success story in the Muslim world”. The glorious Islamic era can be revived, says Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak depicts the real “Caliphate” as an abode of learning, not violent jihad. The <u>new</u> New World Order will see India and China in major roles -- “This tectonic shift will pose a challenge to the US-dominated global institutions that have been in place since the 1940s.” -- The New New World Order. The Iraq “Neighbors Summit” will, God willing, be a landmark meeting because it allows the US, Iran and Syria to sit down together without significant loss of face. The British Council will close 15 offices in Europe and increase activity in Yemen, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Uzbekistan and other Islamic states. Recent India-China-Russia three-way meetings highlight the potential strength of that bloc as a balance to US influence -- “we are talking of an increasingly globalised India and China, and Russia which is sitting on huge energy reserves.”
<p>2007 Feb 26</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Berdymukhammedov of Turkmenistan says <u>democracy can not be imported</u> -- “any attempt to solve a sociopolitical or economic problem immediately and forever only brings chaos and instability.” Remarkably, Voice of America is closing its Uzbek and other services -- “cutbacks are being made in an effort to shift resources to new technology and ‘critical audiences’ in the Middle East, North Korea, Somalia and Cuba.”



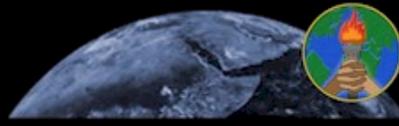
	<p>Leader of a powerful Kenyan union grouping says <i>aid</i> is just a stalking horse for a new generation of <i>exploitation</i> of Africa – all the <i>conflict</i> in Africa needs to be understood in the context of the <i>colonial past</i>. Two bills before Congress reveal the US sees the <i>Horn of Africa</i> as a key constituent in its strategic geo-political interests. Although US Middle East policy is usually formed in <i>Tel Aviv</i>, Washington now adds its own fear and loathing of Syria, reportedly forbidding Israel to negotiate with Syria.</p> <p>The German Foreign Minister has called for civilized dialogue on Russia's objection to the US missile shield in Europe -- "<i>the third missile defense ring in Poland will have missile silos that are similar to those built for launches of ballistic missiles.</i>" "<i>The point is that we can't do without the Europeans ...</i>" -- Losing/ Europe in the War on Terror</p> <p>A good analysis of the ancestry of "<i>an imperial foreign policy that envisions the United States forever at war.</i>" -- America's crusaders</p> <p>Newly opened archives files reveal Japanese <i>war criminal</i> Colonel Masanobu Tsuji, mobster Yoshio Kodama and others were forgiven all in the US religious fervor against <i>communist</i> thought -- CIA files show how postwar 'spies' snookered U.S. intelligence</p> <p>The Indian Army is hosting a global conference on the emerging world order -- the Centre for Land Warfare Studies is hosting "<i>Emerging World Order: Implications for the Security Calculus of the extended South Asian Region</i>"</p>
2007 Feb 19	<p>↓ The EU parliament officially condemns the CIA rendition adventure. Over 50,000 have <i>marched</i> in Italy against the proposed expansion of the US base at Vicenza. An Italian judge <i>indicted</i> 26 Americans and five Italians in the first criminal trial case over the CIA's rendition program. Germany is unhappy with US moves on the <i>anti-missile shield</i> in Europe -- "<i>Because the sites for the stationing are quite near Russia, one should have talked about it with Russia beforehand.</i>"</p> <p>While the US is distracted by its wars, Russia is winning hearts and minds in Latin America. Also, the US has cut funding for Central Asia aid programs, partly due to a "more difficult <i>budget</i> environment". An analyst argues why the new US AFRICOM will hurt Africa -- "<i>Africom would destabilise an already fragile continent and region, which would be forced to engage with US interests on military terms.</i>"</p> <p>A meeting of the Trilateral grouping -- India, China, Russia -- criticized "<i>double standards</i>" in the fight against <i>terrorism</i>, assured everyone the pact is "<i>not against any country</i>", and expressed hopes for "<i>an increasingly multi-polar world order based on principles of equality of nations</i>".</p> <p>The UK ambassador to the US 1997-2003 says the UK has sacrificed its own <i>national interests</i> to that of the US.</p>
2007 Feb 12	<p>↓ Secretary of Defense Gates says the US needs to boost its "<i>soft power</i>". [Secretary Gates is perhaps the first in the Cabinet to know about "soft power" but it may take more than knowing the term which until now has been the reserve of nations such as India.]</p> <p>Germany adds to the pressure building against the US idea of an all-purpose NATO -- "<i>Sometimes I doubt if all questions can be addressed in the NATO context</i>". President Putin of Russia is more clear -- "<i>The UN must not be replaced either by NATO or the European Union</i>" – and launches a full-frontal attack on US foreign policy; he says the US has "<i>made the world a more dangerous place and left successive conflicts unresolved</i>".</p> <p>Creation of the new AFRICOM to replace shared responsibility of three Commands recognizes Africa as a vital front in the "<i>war on terror</i>" [contention with Islamic</p>



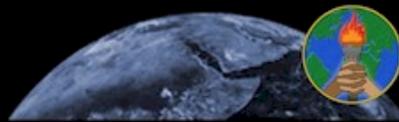
	<p>militantism] and talks have commenced with Kenya on implementation of the new arrangement which will “project US <i>soft power</i> as well as military might”.</p> <p>There is increasing evidence that Saudi Arabia (the home of <i>Wahhabism</i>) is taking a growing role to counter Iran’s influence in Iraq and beyond – [again the US chooses regrettable bedfellows]. An Assyrian Christian source poses an extreme [straw-man] forecast: <i>"Iraq will disappear from the map. Iran and Kurdistan are now the dominant regional powers, with unconditional US support."</i> Jamal Jafaar Mohammed, convicted <i>in absentia</i> of <i>bombing</i> US embassies, is a member of Iraq’s parliament.</p> <p>The proposed budget gives a slight increase in <i>aid</i> for <i>Latin America</i>, with Colombia, Ecuador and Haiti getting most. The US administration is stepping <i>media campaign</i> into Cuba and Iran (and DPRK) – [hoping perhaps to bring back the good old days of <i>Batista</i> and <i>the Shah</i>].</p> <p>Critics of Secretary of State Rice say <i>"Rice’s talent and experience was supposed to make up for what Bush lacked. It has not."</i></p>
2007 Feb 05	<p>↓ The US has taken China to the WTO in a dispute over <i>subsidies</i> -- <i>"Our decision to bring this case to the WTO comes after our efforts at dialogue failed."</i></p> <p>Russia and the US are at odds over Syria’s role in the <i>Middle East</i> -- <i>"Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov suggested the United States is being shortsighted by not engaging countries who could help fix problems..."</i>.</p> <p>China aired rare public criticism of Bush Iraq policy -- <i>"Unilateralism and terrorism breed each other, fight each other, but neither can overcome the other"</i>.</p> <p>More reports show US money has been squandered in Iraq -- endemic <i>corruption</i> and <i>carpet-bagging</i> of criminal proportions have done irreparable damage to the Iraqi people.</p> <p>In Germany 13 arrests have been ordered in the alleged CIA kidnap/rendition case - - <i>"The El-Masri case has been a sore point in otherwise good German-U.S. relations"</i>.</p> <p>Commonwealth Secretary-General McKinnon says the Commonwealth is a key partner in <i>African</i> affairs -- <i>"18 of the Commonwealth’s 53 countries are in Africa"</i>.</p>
2007 Jan 29	<p>↓ Views on the US have dropped sharply in a new worldwide <i>opinion poll</i> -- nearly half of those polled in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East said the US is now playing a “<u>mainly negative</u>” role in the world.</p>
2007 Jan 22	<p>↓ <i>"Bush’s foreign policy has failed"</i> says a UK minister -- a former Foreign Minister and anointed deputy leader of the ruling Labour party makes the highest-level and most scathing attack yet on US policy.</p> <p>In marshalling the <i>Sunni</i> Muslim world against Iran, the US risks unprecedented regional conflict.</p> <p>Whether asserting US interests or acting out of altruism in Somalia, <i>"in either case the US has done itself and the region no favour."</i></p> <p><i>Tehran Times</i> says the US is only feigning an interest in peace -- <i>"Lasting peace in the Middle East is unimaginable as long as the U.S. continues its bias toward Israel."</i></p>
2007 Jan 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US State Department announces another effort to promote the <i>US image</i> abroad -- <i>Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes</i> says America’s image abroad is shaped by "a complicated tapestry". The Council on Hemispheric Affairs says new Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte is Latin America’s “Mr. Danger” - <i>"In Honduras, Negroponte was more a conspirator than a benign diplomat."</i> Domestic Greek <i>terrorists</i> seem to be behind an RPG attack on the US embassy in <i>Athens</i> - the group "November 17" carried out a similar attack against the embassy in 1996, causing minor damage and no injuries.



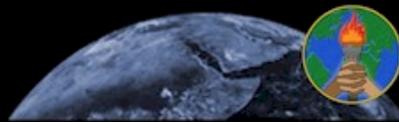
	<p>The strategic communications plan for Iraq still has (“to be determined”) under the IRAQI MESSAGES section -- maybe the US will never know what to say there.</p> <p>The Times [UK] says that the Somalia operation was long in the planning -- “<i>professional assistance</i>’ was recruited by officials based in the US embassy in Nairobi at the end of 2005 as part of a deniable operation.” An evangelical Christian general responsible for the Somalia attack may soon go -- “<i>Gates feels it all went out of control, that they’re doing too many things in too many places.</i>”</p> <p>The Red Diamond (a geometric transform of the <i>Star of David</i>) has now come in to force as an international emblem equivalent to the Red Cross and Red Crescent -- “In return for being allowed to join, Israel had to acknowledge the <i>Palestinian Red Crescent</i>...”</p>
<p>2007 Jan 08</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A professor of political science at Yale says containment [rather than military engagement] has been the key time and again in dangerous political situations -- “<i>When containment has been abandoned, the US has paid a high price</i>”. <p><i>The Jerusalem Post</i> observes that a record number of Jewish members [43] will enter the new US Congress – “<i>You’re going to see bipartisan continuation of support for Israel</i>”</p> <p>The US will to give Palestinian President Abbas \$86M to provide “<i>provide Abbas’s presidential guard with training and non-lethal equipment, including vehicles and uniforms</i>”.</p> <p>The US Assistant Secretary of State for Africa, seems to be deploying a weapon little used of late ... diplomacy – she says she says U.S. “<i>must lead from behind</i>” in Somalia. A second US carrier group will deploy to the Gulf “<i>as a warning to Syria and Iran and to give commanders more flexibility in the region.</i>” The US seeks to prevent the escape of al Qaeda actors from Somalia -- “<i>We would be concerned that no leaders, or members, of the Islamic Courts ... are allowed to flee and to leave Somalia.</i>”</p>
<p>2007 Jan 01</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From all indications, the US is adopting a policy of “<i>quiet pragmatism</i>” with presidents Chavez and Ortega. <p>The first issue South Africa will address as an incoming temporary member of the Security Council is the fighting in Somalia.</p> <p>Almost unknown in the US , the <i>Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)</i> has become “<i>a major positive element of international politics.</i>” The current score in The Great Game was calculated in The Great Game on a Razor’s Edge – the US is not doing as well as it would like. A US foreign policy think-tank said “<i>Globalization, in fact, has reached its high water mark and is receding.</i>” see Globalization in Retreat</p> <p>Critics of US foreign policy could not let Saddam pass without comment – “<i>a dictator created then destroyed by America</i>” said <i>The Independent</i> - “<i>Who sold him the components for the chemical weapons with which he drenched Iran and the Kurds?</i>” Other critics linked US overt (and covert) support for Somalia’s war-lords as a general proclivity for “<i>gangsterism</i>” -- this year, support for the Islamists grew after a covert US counter-terrorism initiative backing the secular warlords failed when it was blown.</p> <p>Iran’s Supreme Leader made a stirring speech to <i>Haji</i> pilgrims in the <i>Arafat Desert</i> - - “<i>We are all witnessing the coming of a new era ... an era when the humiliation of Islamic world will end</i>”.</p>
<p>2006 Dec 25</p>	<p>↓ Peru’s president has rejected US military support for the war on coca -- Peru will accept support on its own terms, particularly schemes that offer <u>alternatives</u> to coca farmers. Britain is looking to creating a coordinating body similar to a ‘security council’ -- “<i>It is no longer possible to look at domestic security policy and foreign policy separately from each other.</i>” Indonesia and the UK have launched an advisory</p>



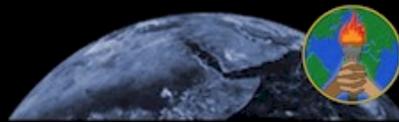
	<p>body to help counter ‘extremism’, but the <i>Indonesian UK Islamic Advisory Group</i> initiated by Prime Minister Blair is a good idea imperfectly executed as it excludes some key players. US Secretary of State Rice announced plans for regular regional briefings with the new US Secretary of Defense so the State Department and Pentagon can discover where their policy areas "overlap". Former German Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, writes about “the curse of <i>unilateralism</i>” -- "<i>Will America hark back to the spirit of 1945 or, despite being sobered and disappointed, decide to stick to its lone and lonely path?</i>" Commentators warn that US policy in the <i>Horn of Africa</i> may actually help rather than hinder <i>al Qaeda</i> --"<i>US handling of Somalia and Ethiopia is a tale of flawed intelligence, inadequate attention and overheated rhetoric, with a measure of domestic US politics thrown in.</i>" The US is said now to see Algeria as key partner in <i>war on terror</i>. With the Iraq Study Group report now in, some ask <i>Who’s Making the Call?</i> --"Bush often confuses <i>tactics, strategy</i> and <i>goals.</i>" A peace researcher observed “<i>It’s only dialogue if we talk to those who disagree</i>” -- "<i>how do you meet the challenges of terrorism without engaging with terrorists?</i>"</p>
<p>2006 Dec 18</p>	<p>↓ Renowned rich person George Soros wrote that the US has engaged itself in a “<i>self-defeating</i>” <i>war</i>, --"<i>We can escape a vicious circle of escalating violence only if we Americans repudiate the war on terror as a false metaphor.</i>" The “<i>War on Terror</i>” is over. Semantically. In the UK. – the term will no longer be used by the UK. A <i>Zogby</i> poll shows the attitudes of Arabic people toward US has become more negative than last year; unfavourables are 90% in Jordan, 82% in Saudi Arabia,....In a parting speech nearing the end of his terms as Secretary-General, Kofi Annan warns against <i>go-it-alone diplomacy</i> and <i>unilateralism</i>, the reasons the UN was formed; he quotes Truman: "<i>no nation can make itself secure by seeking supremacy over all others.</i>" US officials have visited Havana -- "<i>We sense that this is an important time, and we hope to be able to meet with officials here and others and hopefully launch a new era in U.S.-Cuba relations.</i>"</p>
<p>2006 Dec 11</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Bush reluctantly accepted John Bolton’s decision to leave when his current recess appointment as Ambassador to the UN expires in January 2007. A scholarly thesis by a visiting research fellow at the Asia Research Centre claims the <i>Neocons</i> have finished what the <i>Vietcong</i> started -- "<i>The American era is now over.</i>" The Iraq Study Group says only 6 of 1,000 at the U.S. Embassy in Iraq are fluent in <i>Arabic</i>. The <i>Consenso Cubano</i> umbrella group of over 20 exile organizations has repeated calls for easing of US restrictions on travel and remittances to Cuba. Yemen arrests gunman after shooting at <i>US embassy</i> -- the gunman opened fire with an AK-47 semi-automatic rifle at the fortified compound. Supporters of the Somali Islamic Courts Council made a protest against a US peace-keeper plan; they [and others] are certain US-backed peacekeeping is a cover for wider involvement. Some US funds for Afghan water projects are going to the <i>Taliban</i> : "<i>American money is haram [forbidden, unclean],</i>" said an elder in one village. "<i>We could not use it to improve our lives. So we decided to give it to the Taliban</i>". [Lessons learned?]
<p>2006 Dec 04</p>	<p>↓ Oops; a memo “leaked” before the Bush-Maliki meeting in Iraq said "Maliki is either ignorant of what is going on, misrepresenting his intentions, or his capabilities are not sufficient to turn his good intentions into action"</p> <p>NATO issues another reason for its relevance -- the 25,000-strong NATO Response Force can sustain itself for operations lasting 30 days or longer if re-supplied.</p> <p>An item on the visit by Vice President Cheney to Saudi Arabia alleges a dangerous a "Sunni Arab-U.S.-Israel security architecture" in the making, a "scheme to induce the United States to self-destruct".</p> <p>Even Cuban dissidents ask the US to lift travel and aid <i>restrictions</i> -- <i>anti-Castro groups</i> say <i>restrictions</i> ’’in no way help’’ their struggle.</p> <p>Newly elected President of Ecuador Rafael Correa has reiterated his plan to end the</p>



	<p>US military's use of <i>Manta</i> airport for <i>counter-narcotics</i> operations from 2009. International Crisis Group says "The draft resolution the US intends to present to the UN Security Council on 29 Nov [2006] could trigger all-out war in Somalia and destabilize the entire <i>Horn of Africa</i> region."</p>
<p>2006 Nov 27</p>	<p>↓ [In the wake of "group diplomacy" recently done by China ...] Delegates arrived in Nigeria for first <i>Africa/South America summit</i> -- "Twelve South American countries will join 53 countries in Africa to discuss workable areas of mutual cooperation and understanding ."</p> <p>The head of Italy's military intelligence agency, SISMI, has been relieved of his post for his involvement with US rendition operations.</p> <p>An Uzbek government website declares that US criticism of Uzbek internal affairs "again shows the one-sided approach and double standards of U.S. foreign policy." International Crisis Group says it is imperative that any engagement with Syria is set up rationally, not set up to fail, or sabotaged by others. Syria may be able to help with Iraq, but the <i>Golan Heights</i> are likely to be the price.</p> <p>Vice President Dick Cheney visited oil-rich Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah for unspecified reasons.</p> <p>Analysts "vote" on the likelihood that the US could bomb Iran in 2007 -- "It is not realistic but it does not mean we won't do it."</p>
<p>2006 Nov 20</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some said NATO is failing -- NATO's job was "keep the Americans in, the Germans down, and the Russians out" but now "Russians are coming, the Germans rising, and the Americans leaving <i>Old Europe</i>." International Relations Center presented a well documented essay on a much-mentioned phenomenon -- the rise and possible decline of the <i>Neoconservatives</i>. But rumors of the <i>Neocon</i> death may be highly exaggerated -- where are the new ideas? President Bush is surely replacing his advisors, but with those his father used. <i>New York Times</i> said that for <i>evangelicals</i>, supporting Israel is 'God's Foreign Policy' -- "God maintains his Old Testament covenant with the <i>Jewish</i> people and thus commands Christian believers to help protect their 'older brothers'." <p>Prime Minister Blair uses "disaster" in reference to Iraq on the new <i>al-Jazeera</i> English-language channel. As the Baker-Hamilton Study Group approach producing a report, President Bush asks for views of front-line agencies as well; and somebody remembers there is a State Department ...</p> <p>The <i>Maoist</i> guerillas in Nepal are negotiating to join the government, but they remain on U.S. <i>terrorism list</i>.</p>
<p>2006 Nov 13</p>	<p>↓ For uncertain reasons, the US continued to put Israeli national interest above all else [including US national interest] by <i>vetoing</i> a UNSC resolution condemning Israeli actions in Gaza.</p> <p>An analyst said the US policy on Cuba is dysfunctional – "the US is mumbling to itself".</p>
<p>2006 Nov 06</p>	<p>↓ They're just misguided <i>foreigners</i> but up to 69% of respondents in a poll across several countries believe the US has made the world less safe.</p> <p>Let's bomb Iran says Richard Perle.</p> <p>The US has "urged" Fiji's military to not attempt (another) <i>coup</i>.</p>
<p>2006 Oct 30</p>	<p>↓ To tackle extreme Islamists at source, the US will need alliances with Algeria and other states in North Africa; European Command says "Africa, for a lot of reasons, is a place that we've got to care hugely about. We ignore Africa at our peril." Former German President Schroeder has written a book unflattering towards President Bush and praising the efforts of Russian President Putin.</p> <p>US Col. Oliver North has visited Nicaragua alarmed that "The anti-American <i>leftists</i> in Latin America are using <i>elections</i> to take and then solidify power."</p>



2006 Oct 23	<p>↓ In a remarkable development [– and contrary to treaties --] the US has asserted a unilateral right to deny access to space to anyone 'hostile to US interests'.</p>
2006 Oct 16	<p>!!! Sudan's Foreign Minister says it is "important to hold dialogues [with the US] for improving the bilateral relations", a position more mellow than previously expressed. It was a close run thing but the UN Security Council has voted sanctions on DPR Korea; now a flurry of diplomatic talks start on how to implement the measures. Referring to the Amish response to the massacre of children, one commentator said that the Bush administration's response to <i>9/11</i> was a popular one, but not the only one possible.</p> <p>Former Secretary of State Madeline Albright said "Iraq may prove to be the worst ever disaster in U.S. foreign policy."</p> <p>Talking to the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in New York, Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore said the US needs to be "more <i>inclusive</i> and <i>multilateral</i>" to have success in the <i>war against terror</i>.</p>
2006 Oct 09	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the wake of sanctions against Thailand, the US continues to apply unwelcome pressure to the interim regime.
2006 Oct 02	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the US and UK are unlikely to invade Sudan, the UN says "So Tony Blair and George Bush need to get beyond this posturing and grandstanding."; empty threats are simply stupid. <p>A think-tank said ... THINK; "[during the Cold War] there was lots of <i>strategy</i> but no <i>war</i>. And now there's an unfortunate situation where we have lots of war but very little discussion."</p> <p>US troops are providing civil affairs services in Jolo where there has been several weeks of bitter battle aimed at high-value Ji targets.</p>
2006 Sep 25	<p>↓ In answer in a hypothetical question, President Bush intimated there was no need to consult Pakistan if US forces had to strike bin Laden there. Turkey's Muslims, and others, are angered at the Pope's quotation about <i>Islam</i>; in reference to a planned papal visit, banners said "Either apologize or don't come."</p>
2006 Sep 18	<p>↓ The Pope for unknown reasons made comments that could only inflame Islamic sensibilities — the Arab League envoy to Iraq since June 2006 has resigned seemingly due to lack of funds and lack of mission.</p> <p>NAM Summit: Castro was elected President of the 100-nation NAM organisation — China accepted the invitation to attend as an observer; the US did not accept — the summit denounced the "<i>preventive wars</i>" and the "proclaimed rights of the world's only superpower to occupy countries illegally and change regimes"</p> <p>A Georgetown Professor observes that if the US continues headlong into a "<i>clash of civilizations</i>", oil prices will be the least of our worries.</p>
2006 Sep 11	<p>↓ 77% of Europeans now disapprove of the way President Bush has handled international affairs — <i>Foreign Affairs</i> magazine said 9/11 was not a "clash of civilizations" ... it was failed US foreign policy.</p>
2006 Sep 04	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venezuela said that the US is funding (via USAID) anti-regime movements in Venezuela and Cuba—responding to the US "transition" plan for Cuba, Cuba offered suggestions for US transition to democracy, but "since the US is a sovereign country, such a transition should not be forced from without". The Jerusalem Declaration on Christian Zionism by established Churches accused the Christian Zionist movement of promoting "racial exclusivity and perpetual war."
2006 Aug 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i> observed that one input into US foreign policy is religious: of all Americans, <i>evangelicals</i> have the most negative views of <i>Islam</i>.
2006 Aug 21	<p>↓ An analyst said one fallout from the Lebanon adventure is that not only Israel but also the US suddenly seems no longer invincible — a Professor Emeritus at</p>



	Georgetown University Law Center argued "American Jewry's identification with Israel is neither good for Israel nor for the United States ".
2006 Aug 14	↓ Israel 's request to expedite delivery of <i>cluster munitions</i> from the US provided diplomatic fodder for the Arab world.
2006 Aug 07	!!! In continuing protests in many parts of the world the US was seen as inseparable from Israel 's actions in Lebanon .
2006 Jul 31	!!! Although the US and Israel are confident of Israel 's position on the Lebanon situation, it has brought a litany of criticism from across the globe. 'Moderate' Arab governments who were at first neutral or annoyed with Hezbollah are now incensed against Israel , as are the ASEAN countries, France and the citizenry of many other nations. Critics say the US position has done irreparable damage to its relations with the world.
2006 Jul 24	↓ While the Senate thought it now had the numbers to confirm UN Ambassador Bolton, few disputed that relations between the US and the Islamic world now reached an all-time low and that the US is "clearly losing the war of ideas". Some administration allies thought that, independent of what policies were in play, they were being badly administered. The UK Foreign Minister - in a significant break with the US position on Lebanon -- criticized Israel 's tactics.
2006 Jul 17	↓ Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld continued diplomatic groundwork in Central Asia with a visit to Tajikistan ; some said that US policy in the Middle East was suddenly in a "perfect storm"; moderate Islamic Malaysia expressed regret not only for Israel 's actions, but also for the US position.
2006 Jul 10	↓ "The World and Washington need to talk" summarizes a growing view.
2006 Jul 03	• Challenges to US -led foreign policy range from the provocative (Iran) to the polite assertion of sovereignty (Indonesia), but recent weeks saw increasing self-awareness of large blocs that see themselves as a "balance" to the US – the European Union , the Arab World , the Muslim World , the "Moderate Muslim World" (centered on Indonesia and Malaysia) and a mooted Asia-Pacific Commonwealth including the US and China but dominated by neither of them.

Commencement of Service

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