



Public Daily Brief



Week: 04 July – 10 July 2006

Forecast

this week: 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 militancy.</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 militancy 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>

World Crises: latest assessments by *International Crisis Group*

!!!	Alert	Israel/Occupied Territories, Somalia, Sri Lanka
↓	Deteriorated	Afghanistan, Chad, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea, Israel/Occupied Territories, Macedonia, Morocco, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), North Korea, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan
↑	Improved	Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Peru

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4194&l=1>

LEGEND

Hazard Level	Change Codes
	↓ Deteriorated • Steady ↑ Improved !!! Alert



Threats

Summary

see daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?THREATS>

Poverty	↓ Robust trade is thought to be the real answer to poverty but the West, particularly the US, are accused of failing to trade as equals with the developing world.
Infectious Disease	• A vaccine against H5N1 is ready for human testing and a new cheap HIV/AIDS medication is ready for distribution; however a fight among the G8 is stalling other vaccine plans and further reasons emerged not to use DDT in treating the world's greatest killer, malaria .
Environment	• As oceans acidify and other effects of climate warming such as wild-fires are identified, the Supreme Court is considering whether the CO2 molecule is within the responsibility of the EPA.
Inter-State Conflict	↓ The situations in neither Afghanistan nor Iraq improved; the deteriorating Israel-Palestine situation led to new calls from Islamic nations for UN intervention.
Civil War	↓ A sudden outbreak of fighting in the long-lived insurgency in the southern Philippines has displaced up to 30,000 people; the struggle for control in Mogadishu remains violent and uncertain; the cost of other wars such as that in the Congo remain forgotten.
Genocide	↓ Libya has offered to act as broker in the Arab-African genocide in Darfur ; no-one has offered to help alleviate the Chinese cultural genocide in Tibet .
Other Atrocities	• Following years of rumors, well-documented evidence surfaced on human organ harvesting in China ; Burma/Myanmar has indirectly threatened to kill Aung San Suu Kyi ; Spain laid war crimes charges in connection with Guatemala's civil war.
Proliferation	↓ Mr Kim went ballistic and the US and Russia agreed on a new level of civilian nuclear cooperation. Hans Blix said that nuclear weapons are a danger to all whoever possesses them.
Terrorism	↓ A plot to attack New York's Holland Tunnel was busted. The agent once in charge of the disbanded CIA bin Laden unit said 10 years of experienced had been squandered. A year after the event, al-Qaida – rightly or wrongly – claimed credit for the 7/7 London bombings. The UK Foreign Office was said to be building alliances with the Muslim Brotherhood ; if true, possibly the most intelligent move in recent years in the struggle against global militant Islam..
Transnational Crime	• [nothing significant to report]

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

!!! ALERT



Public Daily Brief



Policy		<i>see daily items on the web at</i>			
Summary		http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY			
Debt		•	The federal deficit will come in below \$300M, less than expected but large.		
Diplomacy		↓	“The World and Washington need to talk” summarizes a growing view. [see this weeks <i>Forecast</i> on page 1.]		
Economy		•	[nothing significant to report]		
Education		↓	The Education Department says only four states (Maryland, Oklahoma, Tennessee, West Virginia) conform to the No Child Left Behind law – the others face funding cuts.		
Energy		↓	The search for energy sources has rapidly become an immodest scramble – China is spending hugely to ensure future supply, the US says the world should see the coming crisis as a matter on international partnerships; it is rumored the upcoming G8 meeting will embrace nuclear power as never before.		
Family		•	UK scientists have responded vociferously to a Vatican cardinal on stem cell research; and a fertility expert has said late assisted childbirth among the affluent is a selfish indulgence.		
Immigration		↓	As Congress Republicans continue their enquiry, New York has warned it would be doomed without (illegal) immigrants.		
Justice		•	The Voting Rights Act should not need to be reauthorized; but it probably does.		
Revenue		↑	A surprising jump in tax revenues is beating down the budget deficit.		
Security		•	The Chair of the House Intelligence Committee moved the SWIFT controversy into its next chapter.		
Social Security		•	Unexpectedly, President Bush revived the issue of social security reforms.		
Water		•	[nothing significant to report]		
		↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	!!! ALERT



Challengers

Summary

see daily items on the web at

<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?CHALLENGERS>

Brazil	• Brazil reported the arrest of "the biggest cocaine supplier in Brazil".		
China	↓ The scale of China's influence on the world economy and world environment is becoming increasingly obvious. Pollution in some parts of China is biblical; but, being a dictatorship, China is able to enforce new practices any time it chooses to.		
India	• With the US-India deal now done, India successfully tested a nuclear-capable <i>Agni-III</i> missile.		
Indonesia	• [nothing significant to report]		
Iran	• Russia has asked Iran to respond promptly to demands on its nuclear programs; Iran stresses it has rich and powerful friends – the Arab world – and prepares its response with glacial speed.		
Russia	• Russia saw reasons for hope in Chechnya but reasons for worry in Moldova and Georgia as President Putin hones a pop-star image in a world internet chat and prepares for the G8 in his home town, St Petersburg.		
Venezuela	• Venezuela defied its enemies in a May-Day style Independence Day parade, then got back to work selling its oil and gas to the world.		
[wild-card]	• Turkey and Central Asia's Kazakhstan join the queue of nations reminding others such as the US that a strategic partnership is for two-way advantage.		
↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	!!! ALERT

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