



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

by Robert David Steele (Vivas), CEO, OSS.Net, Inc.

Threat Summary

Inter-State Conflict, Proliferation, and Terrorism in the RED. Pakistan points out nothing less than a Marshall Plan (or as we have long recommended, a Berlin Airlift) will save Afghanistan. The same is true for Iraq, Lebanon, Sudan, and Chad, among others. We are spending tens of billions on the war metaphor (inclusive of full funding for Air Force and Navy while starving the ground forces actually doing the dying—the Army and the Marine Corps) and next to nothing on waging preventive sustainable peace. The US continues to disgrace itself in giving Israel a blank check that now included a projected bombing attack on Iran, and disgracefully continues to veto United Nations sanctions and condemnations of Israeli genocide against Palestine.

Poverty, Environment, Civil War and Transnational Crime are in the ORANGE. US continues to break most of its promises on generic medicines while also failing to restructure its assistance efforts to focus on water, electricity, and Internet access as recommended by the United Nations. US construction still lacks green rules that could make a huge difference on energy use and emissions, while also refusing to emphasize alternative energies, localized energy production, and conservation. Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, and the Philippines all are deforesting at record pace, and have populations that will be driven to instability by this practice. A Civil War alert is in effect for the Ethiopia-Somalia region. Transnational crime, within which we include predatory immoral capitalism and the anti-development guidelines of the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, is at an all time high, with roughly two trillion of the roughly 9 trillion a year economy being completely illicit and not contributing tax revenue.

Infectious Disease and Genocide are YELLOW verging on ORANGE. Diseases are mutating and combining in animal hosts; making the leap from animals to humans; and infectious diseases are re-emerging. Meanwhile, the US medical “industry” is imploding.

Other Atrocities are in the BLUE, somewhat improved, but the scale of mayhem in the Congo is becoming clearer as medical workers reach previously cut-off areas. Meanwhile Japan slaughters whales. Not mentioned this week, but continuing to haunt the world, are a global trade in body parts from both prisoners and kidnapped victims, and kidnapped sex slaves, some “by name.”

Policy Summary

Diplomacy, Immigration, Security, Social Security, and Water are in the ORANGE. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is failing, with Russia expanding, Germany rising, and America retreating. Israel continues to be a plague upon American diplomacy and its largely inept and ill-considered relations with all Arabic, Muslim, and Middle Eastern parties, most notably Iraq and Syria. *The Economist* has finally realized what Robert Steele has been saying for 18 years—that spying budget are insane, and that spies know little more than journalists (and hence are not providing the return on investment for \$60 billion a year in the USA). The U.S. Senate continues to obsess on terrorism, which is a tactic, not an enemy, and to have little understanding of the role that the Internet plays in human security—on the one hand, they are about to violate Net Neutrality, and on the other they are ignorant of the enormous good that data mining can offer in identifying fraud, waste, and abuse. In the US 12% of the population is going hungry (despite hundreds of millions of dollars in agricultural subsidies) but the government will not use the word “hungry.” US hospitals continue to operate at full capacity, and are in no way ready to cope with even the smallest disasters. Water continues to be the single most important policy area that is neglected, but some small signs of progress are visible—Perth has opened a desalination plant, and in Africa, rainfall harvesting could meet all needs of the current population several times over—if it were but managed properly.



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

Debt, Economy, Energy, and Justice are in the YELLOW (this is a USA-oriented endeavor at this time). The US debt is now over \$9 trillion with over \$40 trillion in known future unfunded obligations. The US economy is experiencing the worst concentration of wealth, the worst state of the middle class, and the worst state of the blue collar class and the working poor ever in modern times. Donald Rumsfeld is under indictment for war crimes, and Henry Kissinger is still very much at risk for being brought to justice outside the USA. In the US, Haliburton has a contract to build emergency detention centers for very large numbers, inspiring the view that they are intended to hold recalcitrant US citizens rather than terrorists.

Challengers Summary

NOTE: *Challengers* are not competitors as much as they are major players destined to make all the mistakes made by the USA. US strategy must be one of educational engagement—but first US has to re-educate itself.

Iran and Venezuela are in the ORANGE. There is no evidence that Iran is close to making a nuclear weapon (although it may have Sunburn Mach 3.0 carrier killers with a nuclear warhead courtesy of Pakistan or Russia), but Vice President Dick Cheney, the same neo-conservative that took America to an elective war on Iraq for reasons yet to be fully investigated, discounts the evidence while George Bush is on public record as saying that an Israeli attack on Iran would be “understandable.” All evidence points to a “wink and nod” from the White House for an Israeli attack on Iran which the US would join in the event Iran defends itself. The US persists in refusing to recognize the valuable role that Iran and Syria as well as Turkey could play in stabilizing the entire region contingent on a rapid US withdrawal of its forces and a commensurate investment in water, electricity, and good order. There is little to show for the hundreds of billions paid to Halliburton and Bechtel—they took the money and have departed Iraq. In Venezuela, President Chavez is not only likely to be re-elected, but in the face of many failures of the Bush-Cheney regime, he is looking increasingly credible in a world where the American “big stick” has done a great deal of damage and little discernible good. Economic populism in Latin America is now replicated in the USA, where the middle class, the blue collar workers, and the working poor, with a strong leavening of earnest immigrants both legal and illegal, perceive the need to reverse the blatant looting of the American commonwealth by banks, Wall Street, and predatory corporations.

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Wild Card are in the YELLOW. President Lula is making common cause with Venezuelan President Chavez. This region is on the verge of becoming a fully independent regional power, and its last memories of North America will be negative. China and India are opening important negotiations, while both China and India are demonstrating capabilities lethal to US naval forces—in one instance, a Chinese submarine surfaced within torpedo and missile range of a US fleet before being detected. Both China and India continue to experience major shortfalls in water and energy. On a positive note, India appears to see itself as a future regional power for peace instead of an international super-power dependent on out-dated military concepts. Indonesia, the largest Muslim population outside of India, has blessedly remained largely stable, to the point that Australia is now entertaining the sale of uranium to Indonesia, with no comment from the US. In the Wild Card arena, the Treaty of Waziristan effectively ends the war on terror with a victory for Al Qaeda and the Taliban. Turkey has broken military ties with France over remembrance of the Armenian genocide, while the Kurds nurture their new autonomy apace.

Russia is in the BLUE verging on the YELLOW. President Putin continues to demonstrate sound control of the Russian state, despite major problems with Georgia, with oil wells blown up in Chechnya, with blowback from the inept poisoning of a Russian critic in London, and a continued internal war with the new multi-billionaires that Harvard helped loot the Russian economy in return for major increases in its endowments. Russia may suffer in future from demographic shortfalls.



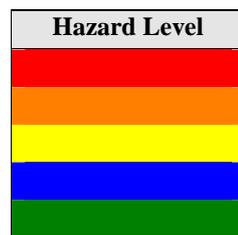
Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

World Crises [based on monthly assessments by <i>International Crisis Group</i>]		
↗	Alert	Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Somalia
↓	Deteriorated	Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Fiji, Iraq, Israel/Occupied Territories, North Korea, Philippines, Serbia, Somalia, Sri Lanka
↑	Improved	Haiti, Northern Ireland (UK)

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4476&l=1>



Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

Threats		see <i>daily</i> items on the web at
Summary		http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?THREATS
Poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UN observes that indigenous business is essential to progress in the developing world; for that, <i>broadband</i> is as necessary as <i>electricity</i> and <i>water</i>. Broken promises -- Five years after assurances of cheap drugs at Doha, the US "at the behest of the <i>pharmaceutical</i> industry is uniquely guilty of seeking ever higher levels of <i>intellectual property</i> protection in developing countries." 	
Infectious Disease	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diseases will take new geographic and demographic patterns - "There is a need for the re-orientation of health structures to incorporate <i>climate change</i>." 	
Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given <i>education</i> construction is the largest building sector in the US (and elsewhere), a few greener rules there could make a big bottom-line difference on <i>energy</i> use. Scientists call for a ban on a destructive practice -- "Scientific evidence has been mounting that <i>deep-sea bottom trawling</i> ... can do long-lasting damage to the ecosystems." The American National Academy of Sciences finds <i>deforestation</i> stabilized or reversed in Vietnam, Spain, India; <u>worsening</u> in Brazil, Indonesia, Nigeria, Philippines. Nature fights back -- elephants in north-east India facing increasing <i>human encroachment</i> have gained a taste for rice beer and are going berserk on drunken rampages, killing villagers. 	



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

Inter-State Conflict

✍ Afghanistan

Five million hearts and minds in Afghanistan need aid -- **UN World Food Program** says it has received only a third of the donations it needs to feed the Afghans. **Pakistan** says no less than a **Marshall Plan** is necessary in Afghanistan. **NATO** says aid and reconstruction is central to winning Afghanistan -- "there is a clear consensus we cannot win this purely militarily." The new police chief in southern Afghanistan has a theory -- "First of all, we must establish our *law*. The *Taliban* are very few, so if there is law ... there will be no support for them."

Iraq

It's now official -- Henry **Kissinger** says "Military victory is no longer possible in Iraq". War is not Iraq's only problem -- "Iraq's engineers, doctors and scholars are fleeing the country in large numbers" -- a *brain-drain* that will long outlast the conflict. **Syria** offers Iraq support to curb violence -- with its own variant of the *Baathist* movement, it is in a unique position to make a positive contribution in Iraq. President **Bush** is cool the idea of asking **Iran, Syria** to help on Iraq. [*Interpretation*: Real *Neocons* don't negotiate.] **Syria** says it will use 'all available means' to regain *Golan Heights* just as the Powers turn to Syria with help on **Iraq**. Iraqi authorities ordered the arrest Harith al-Dari, head of the *Muslim Clerics Association* and an outspoken defender of the *Sunni* minority. **Turkey** warns against Iraq breaking apart -- there will be "a 'New Era of Darkness' if Iraq is allowed to split apart." [*Interpretation*: This is reference to the spectre of an independent *Kurdistan*.]

Palestine

The **Organization of Islamic Conference** has determined to "break the **Israeli-imposed** siege" on *Gaza*, and has called for war crimes action against Israel. Prime Minister **Blair** is correct on the central place of the *Israel-Palestine* issue in Mideast politics, but it is not the whole story -- there is still **Syria** and *Golan*, and *factionalism* for which Palestine is at present a *unifying* issue in the *Arab* world.

Chad has declared a *State of Emergency* in response to **Sudanese** killings in eastern regions of *Ouaddai, Wadi Fira* and *Salamat*.

India reiterates its rejection of **China's** claim to a disputed border area -- although NOT going to war is the current fashion, the India-China border dispute is no less intransigent. [*Interpretation*: China needs a clearway to **Pakistan**, India needs one to *Central Asia*.]

The number of **UN peacekeepers** is at a record high -- at the end of October 2006 there were nearly 81,000 military and police and 15,000 civilians, the highest number ever.

Civil War

✍ The ambush of an **Ethiopian** convoy is the first reported hostilities between **Somali Islamists** and Ethiopian troops. A report given to the **Security Council** says **Iran** is one of seven [*elsewhere*: ten] countries breaking a **UN arms embargo** on **Somalia**; Iran wanted *uranium* in return.

Genocide

• A military tribunal in **Rwanda** has convicted a *priest* living in France *in absentia* of delivering hundreds of innocent children, women and men to *militias* to be killed. After months off stalemate, **Sudan** has agreed in principle to allow a *joint African Union and UN peacekeeping* force into *Darfur*.

Other Atrocities

• As medical workers in **Congo** now reach areas in the east of the country long cut off by conflict, the scale of atrocity is becoming clear. Confirming the barbaric nature of their national character, **Japan** begins its annual *whale* slaughter.

Proliferation

• One of the *Axis of Evil* advises another to play nicely -- **Iran** calls for nuclear-free *Korean Peninsula* [*Interpretation*: Iran means both North and South Korea.] The **French** are the first to *search* a **DPRK** ship under **SC Resolution 1718**, at the island of *Mayotte* in the Indian Ocean. The **US** last year provided nearly half of the *weapons* sold to militaries in the developing world.



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

Terrorism

- *Washington Post* reviewed a new book, the well-told story of [a pseudonym] who penetrated *al-Qaeda's* training camps in **Afghanistan** in the mid-1990s as a spy for **France's** intelligence services. In **Afghanistan** – *al-Qaeda* operative Abu Nasir al-Qahtani [aka Mohammad Jafar Jamal al-Kahtani], who escaped custody from *Bagram* in July 2005, has reportedly been captured near *Khost*.

The **UK** says *al-Qaeda* seeking **nuclear** materials for attacks -- "We know the aspiration is there. We know attempts to gather materials are there, we know that attempts to gather technology are there."

A top-dollar **Rand** study suggests what the knowledgeable were saying five years ago, that **ideology** is *al-Qaeda's* Achilles' heel -- "attacking the ideological underpinnings of global **ihadism**" is the only chance of progress. Another top priced intelligence report revealed *al-Qaeda* is alive and well exactly where it was birthed and nourished by US support 20 years ago, in western **Pakistan**. The **Combating Terrorism Center** at West Point are tracking **ihadist / salific ideas** on the internet to the sources of the next generation of activists.

Israel has discovered **explosives belts** with "unusually large amounts of **liquid explosives**" that escape most standard detectors.

Philippines police intelligence claim **JI** militants in *Mindanao* and *Sulu* are seeking **suicide bombers** from *Java* and *Sulawesi* after failing to find local recruits.

Transnational Crime • [nothing significant to report]

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ⚡ ALERT

Policy Summary see *daily items on the web at*
<http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?POLICY>

Agriculture • [nothing significant to report]

Debt • [nothing significant to report]

Diplomacy

- 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 *Old Europe*."

International Relations Center presented a well documented essay on a much-mentioned phenomenon -- the rise and possible decline of the **Neoconservatives**. But rumors of the **Neocon** death may be highly exaggerated -- where are the new ideas? President **Bush** is surely replacing his advisors, but with those his father used. *New York Times* said that for **evangelicals**, supporting **Israel** is 'God's Foreign Policy' -- "God maintains his Old Testament covenant with the **Jewish** people and thus commands Christian believers to help protect their 'older brothers'."

Prime Minister **Blair** uses "disaster" in reference to **Iraq** on the new *al-Jazeera* 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 ...

The **Maoist** guerillas in **Nepal** are negotiating to join the government, but they remain on U.S. **terrorism list**.

Economy • [nothing significant to report]

Education • The 'School of the Future World Summit' in Philadelphia says the goal is to create "**well-rounded** members of tomorrow's **work force**".



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NATO chief said NATO's brief could extend to <i>energy security</i> -- "the free flow of energy" is "an important element in NATO's strategic concept". It's all good news for the first retail release of a <i>hydrogen car</i> in 2008 by <i>Honda</i>; California Governor Schwarzenegger promotes a '<i>Hydrogen Highway</i>' to fuel it. DoE has been forced by a NY District Court decision to improve <i>energy efficiency</i> standards for key household electrical devices. Rand says "<i>Renewable resources</i> could produce 25% of US electricity and motor vehicle fuel by 2025 at little or no additional cost".
Family	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Stone Age babies buried with love" said a report -- the graves of three infants who died 27,000 years ago reveal "<i>family values</i>" are not restricted to place, time, or religion.
Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amnesty ungenerously describes the plan to build a \$125M "Legal Compound" at <i>Gitmo</i> as "a permanent homage to its failed experiment in second class justice."
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Economist took a down-to-earth look at "spying" -- in spying <i>budgets</i> are more important than <i>gadgets</i> ... Spies know little more than good <i>journalists</i> ... and fast cars and faster women are in short supply. The Senate again expressed concern at <i>data-mining</i> projects -- the system is "capable of data-mining huge amounts of information about everyday events to discern <i>patterns</i> that look like <i>terrorist</i> planning."
Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The USDA will not use the word <i>hungry</i>; it says of 12% (35 million) in the US ... Let them eat euphemism - "very low <i>food security</i>" A prototype <i>hospital emergency</i> facility in Washington that could expand its areas to handle 10 times the regular number of patients in disaster needs funds to continue design. [<i>Interpretation</i>: A 10-factor is not impressive when "disaster" may call for a thousand-fold requirement.] Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt expressed opposition to negotiation on Medicare drug prices. [<i>Opinion</i>: Is Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt paid by big pharmaceuticals to take such a position?]
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A <i>desalination</i> plant officially opened in <i>Perth</i> [Western Australia]; it will provide 17% of Perth's water from the <i>Indian Ocean</i>. <i>Peoples Daily</i> gave a detailed review of the new <i>National Development and Reform Commission</i> policy on the <i>price basis</i> of China's water. UNEP says that in <i>Africa</i> [all of it?] "<i>rainfall harvesting</i> is more than adequate to meet the needs of the current population several times over" - management is the key.

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	⚡ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------

Challengers see *daily items on the web at*
 Summary <http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?CHALLENGERS>

Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Lula says both he and Venezuelan President Chavez are "victims of prejudice from people who ruled our countries for centuries and centuries."
---------------	--



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

China

- China holds *information warfare* -- "We want the troops participating in the drill to know, that defeat in information techniques means defeat in actual combat." A *Song-class* diesel-powered attack *submarine* and surfaced within torpedo and missile range of a *US fleet* before being detected.
The *Uyghur* Group, *Eastern Turkestan Liberation Organization* (Sharq azat Turkistan), joins the *Islamic Party of Eastern Turkestan* on *Kazakhstan's* list of proscribed organizations.
Penalties for *smuggling* more than 10 artillery shells (and other *armaments*) have been increased. Chinese police reported a crack down on IPR -- *intellectual property* investigations rose by more than 30 percent in the first ten months of 2006. [From a very low base.] There are thought to be thousands of *protests* each year across China – one reported (over *land seizures*) is one of the few with some information available.
China admits taking the *organs* of *executed prisoners* for *transplants* ... but only with prior consent."
An FTA between China and **India** will be discussed during President Hu's state visit – it would involve 2,400 million people.

India

- India test-fired a *Prithvi nuclear-capable* 180 mile missile into the Bay of Bengal.
Sonia **Gandhi**, the "ideological lodestar" of the ruling coalition says India should not seek to be a *superpower* -- "Why shouldn't we be looking at ourselves as a global force for peace, progress and stability."
India is 11GW short on its target of an extra 41GW *electricity* generating capacity in the 10th 2002-2007 *Five-Year Plan* but hopes to add 70GW by 2012.
A senior Indian officer confirms the military's desire to "clearly demarcate" present positions before any demilitarization of the *Siachen Glacier*.

Indonesia

- There is outrage in some **Australian** quarters that Indonesia has allegedly released 60 involved in various *bombing* attacks for lack of evidence or early in the terms of imprisonment.
Eight years after *Reformasi*, there is still a two-tier justice system – there is inexplicable inaction against the elites -- **Suharto**, Suharto's son, **TNI** in **East Timor**, **BIN's** implication in murder of an outspoken critic .
Indonesia's city residents are told to stay home during the visit by President **Bush** [a veiled reference to protest] -- with Javanese politeness, locals are told "It is dangerous. Suspicious movement can lead to being shot in the leg ... "
The new *Australia-Indonesia Agreement on the Framework for Security Cooperation* allows the possibility of Australian *uranium* sales to Indonesia.

Iran

- Mohammad Mesbah-Yazdi, considered an extremist even by fellow mullahs, may be Iran's next *Supreme Ruler*.
Seymour Hersh says a **CIA** assessment finds no firm evidence of an Iranian *nuclear* weapons program but Vice-President **Cheney** discounts this.
Suddenly the **US** administration is willing -- in principle (is 'broadly ready') -- to discuss the **Iraq** situation with Iran.
Another story says "Iran is training the next al-Qa'eda leaders" [*Interpretation*: Western intelligence continues to leak the belief that *Shia* Iran can overcome many *ideological* and strategic differences to cultivate a new generation of *Sunni al-Qa'eda* leaders, at best a temporary and problematic marriage of convenience.]



Public Daily Brief



Week: 13 – 19 November 2006

Russia	<p>↓ Georgia, already a member of WTO, threatens to block Russia's membership unless customs arrangements [and other relations] with Russia improve.</p> <p>A leading Russian critic of Putin's regime, a defector who was FSB station chief in London, is <i>poisoned</i> in London.</p> <p>Russian <i>oil wells</i> are blown up in <i>Chechnya</i>, but it is uncertain whether it is the work of Chechen rebels or <i>organized crime</i>.</p> <p>President Putin has announced the intention to develop <i>strategic deterrence</i> that can "destroy any potential aggressor whatever updated systems of weapons he has".</p> <p><i>Countercurrents.org</i> published an intelligent discussion by an Indian diplomat on the likely implications of the <i>mid-term elections</i> on US-Russian relations.</p> <p>Russia has 14 GLONASS GPS satellites, will launch another 3 during 2006, and will have 24 by the end of 2009.</p>
Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Chavez, facing election in two weeks, continues photo opportunity <i>building projects</i> in the poor barrios where 244,000 dwellings have already been built.
[wild-card]	<p>↓ Pakistan has destroyed 60 more "terrorist camps" in Balochistan. [<i>Interpretation</i>: Pakistan's Balochi "separatist" movement should not be confused with the overflow of the Afghan conflict on the western border but there is overlap around <i>Quetta</i>.] Another major bicycle IED hit a market in the capital of Balochistan. An investigation revealed no militants killed in an attack on a <i>madrassa</i> in the north-west but it cost the Pakistan government significantly in local good-will. South Waziristan authorities have targeted five <i>sub-clans</i> for a range of <i>security</i> offences. The law establishing a department of religion was passed in Pakistan's North-West Frontiers Province (NWFP) assembly by a majority of 66 to 30.</p> <p>Turkey has broken military ties with France following the French bill making it a crime to deny the <i>Armenian "genocide"</i>.</p> <p>Protests in Bangladesh by the <i>Awami League</i> opposition over an electoral dispute have blocked main roads and rail lines.</p>
<p>↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ⚡ ALERT</p>	

.oOo.