



Public Daily Brief



Week: 27 November – 03 December 2006

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threats Summary

Inter-State Conflict, Proliferation, and Terrorism in the RED. Iraq now worse than a civil war, with violence and corruption hand in hand. Afghanistan will be a NATO failure absent a new coalition including the Taliban. Other conflicts (over 20) continue apace around the world.

Poverty, Environment, Civil War, Transnational Crime in the ORANGE. Food security remains an issue across over 20 countries experiencing mass starvation, Ethiopia is but the latest to attract attention. Public power in Bolivia forces land reforms, we can expect much more reform as publics around the world realize they can take back the power from corrupt elites and predatory “bandit” corporations. China is in crisis bordering on Red (see also Water) with pollution of air, land, and water being a major factor. Antiquated sewage systems around the world, from Russia (where they are on top of the “clean” water pipes) to the Great Lakes and most especially to New York City (built in the 1920’s), threaten urban plagues. Civil War is rife in many countries, but Iraq, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Lebanon, and Sierra Leon stand out (as well as the Congo, mentioned last week). Religious proxy wars have replaced the Cold War—Iran stands against Saudi Arabia, and America may well be on the wrong side of this conflict. Transnational crime continues to enjoy both thorough penetrations of law enforcement such as in Colombia, and enormous technical sophistication used to steal electronically.

Infectious Disease and Genocide in the YELLOW. AIDS is achieving Henry Kissinger’s desire for eugenics, but striking at the working population more so than the young and old, hence likely to create more poverty, plagues, and other instabilities—86 million likely to be lost to the work force by 2020, up from 28 million last year (2005). Genocide (at least 17 active campaigns today) continues to be beneath public notice, with the exception of Darfur where virtually no progress is being made. Kurdish-Turkmen conflict could evolve into virtual genocide. Botswana is a genocide in the making.

Other Atrocities in the BLUE. The most exciting aspect of “Other Atrocities” is that justice is now emerging for those who have been the victims of war criminals and dictators. Henry Kissinger is under subpoena in four countries and cannot travel without first considering whether he might be arrested; varied countries, most recently Uruguay and Argentina, are now beginning to prosecute

Policies Summary

Diplomacy, Immigration, Security, Social Security, and Water in the ORANGE. US diplomacy continues to be shallow and inept, narrowly focused and full of platitudes without substance (e.g. changes in US behavior or budgets for soft power solutions). The visit by Dick Cheney to Saudi Arabia is construed by some as admission that the Secretary of State Condi Rice is a figure-head, and that the neo-conservatives may be planning a last ditch confrontation using Israel and Saudi Arabia against Iran. Not discussed below are public warnings to Congress about a potential Israel attack on Iran, and the potential for Iran to destroy a US carrier and a US amphibious ship with Russian-built super-sonic Sunburn missiles that can zig-zag at 2.2 Mach and carry a nuclear warhead. The days of US “big stick” diplomacy are over, and the Middle East is where the US may lose its super-power aura. US illegal immigration is out of control and likely to be made worse by any amnesty program sponsored by the thin democratic majority. This is a global problem exacerbated by radical Muslims as well as Hasidic Jews and Opus Dei Catholics, and needs a global response. US electronic security is in disarray, social security continues to lack progress, and water is both a major source of domestic crisis in China and the US mid-west as well as elsewhere, and also a potential source of water wars, e.g. in the Middle East, between China and



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India, and between Turkey and Iraq.

Debt, Economy, Energy, and Justice are in the YELLOW. All are verging toward Orange but appear to be below the public consciousness line, even when Lou Dobbs at CNN focuses on the insanity of current practices in America (most Americans below the upper middle class do not appear to watch CNN). However, the USAF has reduced its energy use since 1985 (a big part of this may be many fewer airplanes and many fewer flying hours), and it is clear that focused policies can do great good.

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. This is, however, a Western bias. In my personal view, Iran and Venezuela are in the Yellow verging on the Blue for the simple reason that they are both in touch with reality. Iran is central to peace in the Middle East and a diminution of the radical Wahabbist influence world-wide, and Venezuela is central to economic reform that redistributes land and wealth while eliminating the onerous burdens of predatory capitalism and corrupt elites across the undeveloped world. The US continues to lie to itself and to its public, and this is not very helpful.

Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, and Wild Cards are in the YELLOW. Brazil may be on the verge of realizing that it can lose its tourism industry overnight to the out-of-control crime that pervades all of its cities and the countryside. China is verging on Orange with respect to a complete lack of safe drinking water, and increased corruption attendant to Chinese capitalism. India may well be the most complex country on the planet, with a mix of progress and chaos within its borders and on its borders like no other. Not discussed below, but very important, Indonesia has volunteered to field peacekeeping forces to unstable Muslim areas—if joined by Malaysia, another success story for Islamic states seeking to be well-governed under religious precepts but without fanaticism, a Muslim Treaty Organization (MTO) could well be a very important advance. On another positive note, both Iran and Uzbekistan appear to have avoided being destabilized by Afghanistan and Iraq in the case of the former, Afghanistan alone in the case of the latter. Pakistan is in great turmoil and continues to develop military capabilities including missile-capable submarines that could fall into the hands of radical elements hostile to Christianity and the West. On another positive note, there is increased recognition that sponsoring education for minorities in their own language is a very viable means of increasing stability as well as opening up possibilities for self-sustaining prosperity.

Russia continues to be a major power, and despite its difficulties with China (illegal immigration turning the Russian East into a Chinese suburb) and the West (spies and lies) as well as its internal difficulties with oligarchs and criminals as well as states publishing the files of former KGB collaborators and also distancing themselves even further from even the most indirect “alliances” with Russia. Russia is a European, predominantly white and orthodox Christian—it is a strategic mistake of major importance to allow Russia to be assailed by China and by crime. This is also a good place to emphasize that we

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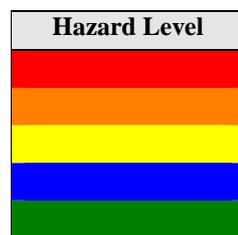
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World Crises [based on monthly assessments by <i>International Crisis Group</i>]		
↗	Alert	Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Lebanon, Somalia
↓	Deteriorated	Azerbaijan, Bolivia, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, Tonga
↑	Improved	Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Senegal

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4557>



Change Codes
↓ Deteriorated
• Steady
↑ Improved
↗ Alert

Threats		see daily items on the web at
Summary		http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?THREATS
Poverty	• The UN and EC are helping upgrade Ethiopia's <i>food security</i> information system – "to support production systems in various areas of the country." In Bolivia , the opposition-controlled Senate has bowed to public demonstrations and President Morales' sweeping <i>land reforms</i> have become law.	
Infectious Disease	↓ By 2020, losses to the labor force of some of world's poorest nations due to the AIDS are likely to reach 86 million people a year, compared to an estimated 28 million for 2005.	
Environment	↓ China is now quite candid: "China is dangerously near a crisis. The country's enormous <i>environmental debt</i> will have to be paid one way or another." A Chinese <i>airline</i> has calculated that it takes a liter of fuel to flush the toilet at 30,000 feet and is urging passengers to go to the bathroom before they board. <i>Air pollution</i> is now a foreign affairs issue in southeast Asia; the <i>First Governmental Meeting on Urban Air Quality Management in Asia</i> will be held on 13 to 15 December 2006. Many cities in the <i>Great Lakes</i> region have antiquated systems for collecting and treating sewage and regularly release <i>untreated sewage</i> into local waterways." <i>Livestock</i> – heavy producers of <i>methane</i> -- are one of the most significant contributors to today's most serious environmental problems – "Urgent action is required to remedy the situation." Australian research finds <i>carbon dioxide</i> emissions have doubled since the 1990s - - "To have four years in a row of above-average carbon dioxide growth is unprecedented." The proponent of " <i>Gaia</i> " says only 80% of us are doomed -- "A hot Earth couldn't support much over 500 million."	
Inter-State Conflict	↗ Secretary-General Annan says Iraq's unrest is " <i>worse than civil war</i> " -- "some Iraqis were right to think that they were worse off than under former President Saddam Hussein." More material is confirming the possibility of a <i>Sunni-Shia proxy war</i> in Iraq between Saudi (and US) interests and Iran . <i>Iraqi Special Forces</i> (and advisors) report capturing a cell responsible for <i>IED</i> attacks around <i>Baghdad</i> . <i>Bombs</i> in three parked cars in a <i>Shi'ite</i> area kill 51, one of the most lethal single events in Iraq's daily not-a-civil-war. In Iraq, <i>corruption</i> is the 'second insurgency' costing \$4bn a year -- <i>oil smuggling</i> is rampant; one third of <i>rebuilding</i> contracts under criminal investigation. As Iraq deteriorates, Iraqis are getting more of the blame. [We	



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break it: You own it?] A classified **Marine Corps** intelligence report says the **US** and **Iraqi** troops "are no longer capable of militarily defeating the insurgency in **al-Anbar**". **Iraq** seeks to formalize arrangements with the **UN Security Council** for foreign troops in Iraq, and calls again for dipping into Iraq's oil revenue to cease.

In **Afghanistan**, the nexus of **opium** growing and **Taliban** insurgency makes it impossible to attack one without encouraging the other. An **Afghan** district has made its own deal with the **Taliban** -- another elder said: "For four months we had fighting in **Musa Qala** and now we have peace. What is wrong with it, if we have peace?" **Pakistan** advises that the **Taliban** are winning in **Afghanistan**, **NATO** is bound to fail; don't send more troops; negotiate to form a new coalition. [This comment was later denied; but it seems it was put about in a deniable manner.] The **Afghan** National Army's 201st Corps, a 600-man battalion, has become the nation's first **commando** unit.

Islamists in **Somalia** ambush an **Ethiopian** convoy with a remote **IED** -- war-like exchanges bring war closer.

The **Egyptian** Intelligence chief **Omar Suleiman** is mediating a solution to the **Israeli** **hostage** standoff in **Gaza** -- "The process will come to a conclusion very soon".

Civil War

✎ It's official, at **NBC** anyway -- "armed, militarized factions fighting for their own political agendas can now be characterized as **civil war**." -- Iraq has a civil war. **Iraq** and **Iran** say they have reached agreement on **security** -- "This visit was 100 percent successful. Its result will appear soon." The vital **Shi'ite** bloc of **Muqtada al-Sadr** says the Prime Minister's meeting with President **Bush** is "an act of provocation to the **Iraqi** people" and suspends participation in the Iraqi government.

Attempted assassination of senior officials and stubborn words on both sides indicate **Sri Lanka** is again on the brink of full-scale civil war. The **Sri Lanka** rebel chief says an **independent** state is now the only option. -- "We therefore ask the international community and the countries of the world that respect justice to recognize our freedom struggle."

Cambodia vows to end **arms** flow to **Tamil Tigers** -- Cambodian Prime Minister **Hun Sen** has asked **Sri Lanka** to trust Cambodia that no more weapons would enter Sri Lanka. Indian journalists ask "Has **Pakistan**'s *Inter Services Intelligence* setup shop in Colombo? South India would be a deliciously close and accessible playground for the Pakistanis, wouldn't it?"

In **Sudan** hundreds have been killed in **north-south** fighting bad even by Sudanese standards. The **UN** has evacuated staff after south **Sudan** clashes [Includes detail on this conflict over the oil-rich South, separate to the **Darfur** conflict.] Rebels are operating in the **Central African Republic** adjoining **Sudan**'s **Darfur** and eastern **Chad** - three sites of chaos within gunshot of each other. **UN** food stockpiles in **Chad** have been looted -- "The loss of our main stockpiles for the eastern region and the restrictions on our staff because of continuing insecurity are jeopardizing fragile lifelines."

The **Arab League** chief calls the **Lebanon** crisis "serious" [A **Sunni-Shi'ite proxy war** may already be underway.]

In **Cameroon**, killing of two students highlights the bitter differences between **Francophone** authorities and **Anglophone** dissidents. The **Angolan** government hopes the peace process with the **Front for the Liberation of the Enclave of [province of] Cabinda** (FLEC) will continue to completion. **UNICEF** warns of escalating violence in northeastern **Uganda** -- "Of late the Ugandan military has been carrying out lethal offensives against armed warriors following several attacks by the warriors on the military and civilians." **Sierra Leone** is a tinderbox; it will only take one spark; Sierra Leone was supposed to be a 'nation-building' success story."

Genocide

↓ The **Sudanese** government continues to give only grudging agreement to any attempt to insert a credible peace-keeping force but has agreed to an **African Union Darfur** force for six more months. **Japan** is to provide \$30M in emergency humanitarian aid for displaced persons in the **Darfur** region.

Chaos in **Iraq** is hiding another conflict -- between **Kurds** and **Turkmen** in the north.



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	<p>Dispossession of the "<i>Bushmen</i>" in Botswana may be a genocide case in-waiting.</p> <p>Unlikely to improve relations with Russia, Ukraine has made it law that Stalin's farm collectivization was a Ukrainian genocide.</p>
<p>Other Atrocities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under populist governments in Uruguay and Argentina, investigators are turning over old stones to prosecute crimes dating back to the region's 1970s <i>dictatorships</i>. The Israeli Shin Bet chief and a UN commissioner met secretly to discuss Israeli "<i>assassinations</i>" (extra-judicial killings). Chechen and Russian security forces are accused of acting "with impunity" in Chechnya. Augusto Pinochet has been charged with <i>murder</i> and is expected to be placed under <i>house arrest</i>. [He soon thereafter had a heart attack.]
<p>Proliferation</p>	<p>↓ A report shows that Russian arms trade with the developing world continues to grow. Another report said the world has 640 million <i>guns</i> and <i>missiles</i>.</p> <p>The security of Congo's uranium is worrying some diplomats -- "For quite some time there have been suspicions that Iran has been trying to exploit the chaos in Congo and purchase uranium via middlemen."</p> <p>Litvinenko [poisoned in London] allegedly masterminded an FSB operation of <i>smuggling nuclear material</i> -- "The operation would have been one of the last carried out by Litvinenko while still an FSB officer, in a unit tackling organised crime and smuggling."</p> <p>Five Russians were detained with portable SAMs -- four <i>Strela 2M</i> heat-seeking missiles, small enough to pack in a <i>suitcase</i>, were seized from criminals in Adler, just south of the resort city of Sochi.</p>
<p>Terrorism</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better late than never, Rand says look at <i>past experience</i> for guidance in the "War on Terror". [Whether this includes the <i>Malay Emergency</i> is not clear.] Some commentators propose a NATO extended to include the <i>Pacific Rim</i> as the best world-wide organization to tackle terrorism. What makes a <i>Muslim radical</i>? -- A <i>Gallup World Poll</i> of 9,000 interviews in nine Muslim countries finds "radicals" are often richer and better educated. [article contains many statistical graphics] Significant Terrorist Incidents, 1961-2003: A Brief Chronology -- a useful inventory of terrorist incidents from the State Department, starting with "First U.S. Aircraft Hijacked, May 1, 1961". http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ho/pubs/fs/5902.htm Saudi authorities have added more to the thousands of <i>al Qaeda</i> sympathizers they have arrested since the 2003 suicide attacks on expatriate estates in Riyadh. An Egyptian court sentences 10 members of <i>One God and Jihad</i> for the Sinai bombings. A Balkan-based <i>Islamist</i> network has been uncovered -- "Bosnian and Macedonian citizens living in Italy were in close contact with alleged terrorists in the Balkans and other European countries, notably Austria." Abu Hafs, "one of the most notorious terrorists in the region", bin Laden's "top <i>Caucasus</i> representative", is one of five "rebels" killed in Dagestan by Russian agents. The Organization of the Islamic Conference is to set up an international <i>Zakat</i> [Charity] Council [If successful, a transparent method for collecting and distributing Islamic charitable monies may displace some questionable Islam financing.] A US judge strikes down parts of the <i>Executive Order on Terrorism</i> -- "federal anti-terrorism laws put <i>charities</i> and individual donors at risk of prosecution for providing benign assistance to foreign groups... " German lawmakers approve a new "anti-terror" <i>database</i> -- "The database is designed to help investigators track down suspects by consolidating police and intelligence service data in one place starting next year." Los Alamos National Laboratory has conditioned <i>bees</i> to detect traces of a range of <i>explosives</i>. Rear Adm. Joseph Walsh, the commander of the 25 US attack submarines in the Pacific, says the primary targets of American submarines are terrorists, particularly those in <i>Southeast Asia</i>. For the first time, <i>female</i> activists have been mentioned in connection with alleged JJ-related groups in the Philippines.



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Pakistani intelligence agency has freed 5 men from dozens missing in recent years, following **Supreme Court** examination of alleged *illegal detentions*. UK intelligence reports foreign *ihadis* increasingly out in the open in *North Waziristan* [**Pakistan**].

Al-Qaeda in Iraq has issued a statement denouncing the **Pope's** visit to **Turkey** condemning the "crusader campaign" against *Islam*.

Shining Path rebels in **Peru** say rumors of the group's demise are exaggerated; they vow to keep up attacks.

Transnational Crime

- In **Colombia**, special forces and other troops were used to transfer 59 *paramilitaries* to a *maximum-security prison* fearing an escape plot. It is claimed former director of **Colombia's** FBI (**DAS**) ordered information compromising agents of the **US DEA** be leaked to *drug traffickers*. A comprehensive report from **Amnesty** details connections in **Colombia**, from the intelligence service to the legislature, with army-backed *paramilitaries* accused of atrocities.

Technology observers say "It is clear that *malware* is increasingly being released by professional and organized criminals." There are now fewer "*hackers*" than high-stakes thieves.

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ⚡ ALERT

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

Agriculture • [nothing significant to report]

Debt • [nothing significant to report]

Diplomacy

↓ 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"

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.

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".

Even **Cuban** dissidents ask the US to lift travel and aid *restrictions* -- *anti-Castro groups* say restrictions "in no way help" their struggle.

Newly elected President of **Ecuador** **Rafael Correa** has reiterated his plan to end the **US** military's use of *Manta* airport for *counter-narcotics* 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 *Horn of Africa* region."

Economy

↓ Wars are wearing down **US** military gear at cost of about \$2 billion a month -- **Vietnam** cost \$650 billion (in today's money); the "**War on Terror**" including Iraq has cost more than \$500 billion so far, a quarter of it in simple wear and tear.

A weakening **US** economy may hit global growth, "But a strong performance from **Europe** and **Asia** will offset US weakness."

Education • [nothing significant to report]

Energy

- A case study shows *methane digesters* can have a significant effect on the economics of a *dairy farm*, the quality of life of its neighbors and on the pollutants a farm produces.

Angola, with output of 1.4 million barrels a day, joins 11-nation **OPEC**.

The **USAF** has reduced its energy use by 30% since 1985 and is the top purchaser in the US of *renewable energy*.

Family

↓ President **Bush's** contribution to *World AIDS Day* is to use the "A"-word [*abstinence*].



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	<p>US research by Columbia University and others reveals that success of <i>abstinence</i> in cutting teen pregnancies is a “myth”.</p> <p>The <i>Los Angeles</i> Roman Catholic archdiocese settles 45 <i>sex abuse</i> cases for \$60M and still faces more than 500 lawsuits .</p> <p>A commentator observes large fertile families of fundamentalist <i>Hasidic Jews</i> with little loyalty to the US may affect US politics.</p>
Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US Senator Biden says "Unless the political dynamics change in Mexico and U.S. employers who hire <i>illegal immigrants</i> are punished, illegal immigration won't stop."
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
Security	<p>↓ “National Intelligence Director Says He’ll Stay On” -- [A baffling item about the DND <i>not</i> resigning.] The DHS Chief of Staff John Wood resigns for undisclosed reasons, and FEMA gets a <i>Chief Information Officer</i>, Tony Cira -- [rearrangement of the deck-chairs?] The Pentagon intelligence chief is to step down -- "Dr. Cambone decided that now is a good time for a change to enable him to spend more time with his family."</p> <p>A technical writer asks if it true the FBI can activate cell phones remotely for <i>eavesdropping</i> -- software, firmware, or an urban legend?</p> <p>Revealed that US security agencies are “secretly” assigning <i>travelers</i> terror <i>risk ratings</i> -- another good idea; and another sure battle between the Administration and Congress.</p> <p>A <i>cyber- attack</i> has disabled the Naval War College -- "After the attack, the Defense Department raised its information warfare awareness level to Information Condition 4 (INFOCON 4)."</p> <p>NATO is advised to revive a <i>Cold War</i> exercise to counter global energy threats -- "In the coming decades, the most likely source of armed conflict in the European theatre and the surrounding regions will be <i>energy scarcity</i> and manipulation."</p> <p>The US reminds the world it has a national <i>space</i> policy and <i>space arms control</i> policy -- “Freedom of action in space is as important to the United States as air power and sea power.”</p>
Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to report]
Water	<p>↓ Although China denies some details, a plan to build a <i>hydro-plant</i> on the <i>Yarlung Zangbo</i>, the headwaters of India’s <i>Brahmaputra</i>, may have international implications.</p> <p>A Turkish dam on the upper reaches of the Tigris will cut water flowing to Iraq by 50% -- a profound disaster.</p>

↓ deteriorated	• steady	↑ improved	⚡ ALERT
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Challengers		<i>see daily items on the web at</i>
Summary	http://meta2.com/PDB/pdbDetail.asp?CHALLENGERS	
Brazil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The <i>Miami Herald</i> says President Lula is “wrapped in <i>secret intelligence</i> scandal” which seems little more than a re-elect-the-President cell in the Workers Party. <p>Brazil is to boost <i>security</i> at Rio’s airport after several attacks on tourists buses coming from the airport.</p>	
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> China’s EPA says 90% of China’s <i>groundwater</i> -- the source of 70% of <i>drinking water</i> -- are <i>polluted</i> or overexploited. Vice Minister of Water Resources has admitted <i>water supplies</i> are insufficient to meet the needs of economic development -- China needs an additional 30 billion cubic meters of water annually. One instance among many: “Villages Battle Lead, Zinc Poisoning” -- “<i>All of the drinking water available to the 3,000 people in our village is polluted, and the fish have all died.</i>” <p>The youngest person on <i>Forbes</i> magazine list of China’s 400 richest people gets a life sentence for <i>fraud</i>. A former top Communist Party leader in Fushun (Liaoning Province) is sentenced to 14 years in <i>prison</i> for <i>selling official posts</i> and taking <i>bribes</i>. An <i>activist</i></p>	



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dedicated to increasing awareness of **AIDS** in China has been persuaded during detention by Chinese authorities to cancel a *conference*.

China commemorates *International Day of Solidarity with Palestinians* -- "As a true friend of **Palestine**, China will continue support the *righteous cause of Palestinian people* and play a constructive role in the *Mideast* peace process."

Argentina and China have recognized they have reached "a mature stage" in their *strategic relationship*.

India

- India is facing an unprecedented agrarian crisis as it goes from net *grain* exporter to net importer.

The King of **Jordan** visited, the first state visit by Jordan.

India's *economy* beat expectations by growing at a rate of 9.2% in the July-September quarter of 2006. **India** plans to source more *oil* and *gas* from Russia, a tenuous alternative to the Middle East - "*Sakhalin* to *Mangalore*, a new silk route, a route of more than 5700 nautical miles."

India's space odyssey - from bullock cart to moon rocket -- a good backgrounder on India's ambitions in *space*.

http://www.indianmuslims.info/news/2006/november/28/features/indias_space_odyssey_from_bullock_cart_to_moon_rocket.html

E-learning [computer literacy] *kiosks* are planned -- 'By the end of 2007 we will set up more than 5,000 kiosks in *villages*.'

The Indian authorities in **Jammu and Kashmir** will recover 100,000 hectares of *unlawfully occupied land* starting in January 2007.

India is certain that **Pakistan**-based groups (with official or unofficial assistance of the **ISI**) are using **Bangladesh** and **Nepal** to train operatives for attacks in India. India continues (as does **Pakistan**) *missile-on-missile* development -- "The aim of the exercise is to test the missile's ability to provide an *air-shield* cover to important Indian metros against hostile attacks."

There have been deaths in *rioting* by *dalits*. [If the protests are handled badly, disaffection among dalits ("*outcaste*" people) could have serious social consequences.]

The serious *insurgency* continues in the eastern state of **Jharkhand** (part of **Bihar** until 2000) with 14 policemen killed by a *bomb*. Repeating moves of *dalits* in other parts of India, and immensely confronting to *Hindu nationalists*, 600 alienated poor villagers in **Jharkhand** are rejecting traditional religion and converting *Christianity*. **Bihar**'s Chief Minister expressed little confidence in *state security* agencies; they are "zero".

The Indo-Bhutan border was sealed after a bombing in **Bhutan** set by the *United Liberation Front of Asom* (ULFA), or another group. A *bomb* hidden in a hollowed out piece of bamboo was found at Jagiroad *railway* station in **Assam**'s Morigaon district. Two alleged *Jaish-e-Mohammed* terrorists have been arrested at Old Delhi Railway Station with 2kg *RDX* and cash. There are increasing pockets of "terrorist" activity in **Uttar Pradesh** -- "*recent trend demonstrated involvement of technically qualified or tech savvy youth for terrorists activities*." A range of groups in **Tamil Nadu** have protested against the five-day visit to India by **Sri Lankan** President Mahinda **Rajapakse**'s. India releases two senior **Nepalese** insurgents from jail following an improving situation in neighboring Nepal.

[Assessment: ↓ For any other country; • business-as-usual for India]

Indonesia

- [nothing significant to report]

Iran

- Iran says it has uncovered a **Canadian** "*den of spies*". Iran says it is "ready to put its expertise, in different fields, including *nuclear energy* technology, at the disposal of **Algeria**". **Tajikistan** and Iran have eased *visa* regulations. The **US** opposes the *Georgia-Iran pipeline*. [The **US** is relentless in trying to isolate Iran.]

"The Iranian nation is ready to help you (the **US** with **Iraq**) on condition that you resume



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	<p>behaving in a just manner and avoid bullying and invading."</p> <p>Iran's Ethnic Groups, Council on Foreign Relations - an authoritative backgrounder. http://www.cfr.org/publication/12118/</p>
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Against the advice of the Bulgarian intelligence head, names of KGB collaborators are to be published. <p>Former acting Russian Prime Minister Yegor Gaidar is seriously ill, possibly <i>poisoned</i> and possibly in a way linked to death of Litvinenko.</p> <p>Russia now has 31 <i>reactors</i> at 10 nuclear power plants, accounting for 16% of Russia's <i>electricity</i> generation, and is planning 42 more reactors.</p> <p>An <i>espionage</i> trial in Canada's trial has highlighted Russian post-Cold War networks -- "We have known that vigorous intelligence efforts are being made by Russia. If anything, the pace has stepped up."</p>
Venezuela	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Even enemies of President Hugo Chávez concede he has been <i>re-elected</i>, but say the battle is not over. <p>The first two Russian SU-30 jets have landed in Venezuela. President Chavez unveils an <i>auto plant</i> funded by Iran -- "Within five years, our Iranian brothers will have given us all the technology and knowledge so that all the components are manufactured here in Venezuela." Speaking of his links with Venezuela's Chavez and Cuba's Castro, Bolivia's President Morales told the <i>Handelsblad</i>: "They call us the <i>axis of evil</i>, but we are the <i>axis of humanity</i>." Rafael Correa has been elected President of Ecuador, joining other left-leaning leaders in Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, Chile and Venezuela.</p> <p>Venezuela arrests the leader of "<i>Hezbollah Latin America</i>"; distinct from the authentic Hezbollah and a strange blend of <i>Jihadism</i>, <i>Marxism</i>, and <i>Liberation Theology</i>.</p> <p>The US has appointed a <i>mission manager</i>, Norman A. Bailey, for the new "one-stop shop for the intelligence community on Cuba and Venezuela".</p>
[wild-card]	<p>↓ Brussels (the EU) has dashed Turkish hopes of joining the EU for the foreseeable future -- "Turkey and its friends in the EU had hoped for a less severe form of punishment after Ankara refused to open its ports and airports to <i>Greek-Cypriot</i> shipping."</p> <p>Pakistan has arrested over 150 <i>Balochi</i> Nationalist Party members in a (perhaps unwise) escalating confrontation with Balochi nationalists. The Supreme Court in Pakistan has given the Attorney General two weeks to account for 21 missing "terrorist" <i>detainees</i>. Four <i>bombs</i> have destroyed 36ft of the Taftan-Quetta <i>railway</i> track in <i>Balochistan</i> [Pakistan]. Pakistan has successfully launched a medium range (700km) <i>ballistic missile</i> <i>Hataf 4</i> (<i>Shaheen-I</i>).</p> <p>A Pakistani editorial says that the surrounding region is risk from instability in Afghanistan, except for Iran -- "The first nation that protected itself against the blowback was Iran.... The second state that staved off the seduction of Afghanistan successfully was Uzbekistan."</p> <p>Heads of State at the CIS Summit put reform -- and relevance -- at the top of the agenda.</p> <p>The <i>OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities</i> is encouraging moves for education in ethnic minority languages throughout <i>Central Asia</i>.</p>
<p>↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ⚡ ALERT</p>	

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