



Earth Intelligence Network

Public Intelligence in the Public Interest



Week: 25 – 31 December 2006

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

You may not be interested in reality, but reality is interested in you.

Threat Summary

Inter-State Conflict continues apace, with an Israeli pretext attack and a US supporting attack on Iran being the major threat we face in the very near term. The US appears unwilling to believe the warning it has received about Iran possibly having a [nuclear ambush](#) planned. Rather than address the details available in the longer summary and the individual reports, this week we want to highlight the wisdom of Philip Allott, whose book, *The Health of Nations: Society and Law beyond the State* (Cambridge, 2002) is one of perhaps four major revolutionary works without which we cannot manage our world and its future. The author suggests that the Congress of Vienna, the current law of nations, and the dehumanization of state to state relations, isolating the internal affairs and inhumanities of state from global public morality and indignation, are the greatest travesty in human history. We agree. Click on the book title to read our entire review. We need a new approach to global governance, one that combines the early views of Richard Falk with the more current views of J. F. Rischard, whose book *HIGH NOON: 20 Global Problems, 20 Years to Solve Them* (Basic, 2003), remains the easiest to understand and most useful guide to preserving our families, our fortunes, and our planet. The war metaphor does not work, it is unaffordable, and it is high time we began waging peace for prosperity.

Terrorism methods are migrating into insurgent and opposition groups, with bombings showing a disconcerting resurgence. The US continues to waste tens of billions of a dollars on fingerprint-level database building instead of first understanding the ten threats, twelve policies, and eight challengers, then devising a long-term global strategy that is sustainable, and finally devising the near, mid, and long-term inter-agency solutions necessary to eradicate the ten threats, harmonize the twelve policies across all legitimate nations, and practice enlightened engagement with the eight challengers so that together we can help them by-pass industrial era mistakes and costs. From the White House to the Assistant Secretary level, the US Government has lost its mind. Everyone else: running in place..

Poverty could well be in the RED with the recent realization that when one uses a parity-adjusted dollar (or less), in absolute terms this translates to about 20 cents per day (or less). Globalization continues to concentrate wealth at two levels—within individual countries, where corrupt elites are looting their commonwealths and leaving both the middle class and the blue collar class as well as the working poor a quarter century behind them—and between the developed countries, with their increasing obesity as well as hunger (including in the USA) and the rest of the world where globalization has left undernutrition and malnutrition worse for over a billion people. All Nations, but the USA especially, lack a calculus for understanding the Return on Investment (RoI) in poverty eradication, in part because they lack an appreciation for *Ecological Economics*, *Natural Capitalism* or *Capitalism 3.0*, and *The Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid*..

Environment this week finds a huge ice shelf broken free from Canada (it took the mainstream media a week to notice), with the accompanying comment that the ice shelves in the far north of Canada have decreased by as much as 90% since 1908...one reason the Bush Administration, not exactly a friend of the environment, has admitted that our beloved polar bears are facing extinction. Asian cities are now five times more polluted than Paris, London, and New York, in part because no effort has been made to help them leap-frog over antiquated industrial-era building and transportation practices. Helping Asia avoid the industrial era's reliance on oil, chlorine (*Pandora's Poison*), and "free" [water, our most precious resource](#), is one lever for saving the Earth. The other is precautionary—the US Army's biodefense laboratory is vastly more likely to unleash a pandemic upon the Earth than it is to offer timely affordable solutions for natural pandemics or deliberate attacks in the offing.



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Civil War is best appreciated through specific sites such as that of the [International Crisis Group](#). There are over 100 such internal wars going on, all of them with considerable implications for making the ten threats worse, the twelve (largely incoherent) policies more expensive, and the costs to all of failures by the eight challengers very likely terminal to the planet. Water scarcity and poverty breed civil war, genocide, and crime. There are not enough guns on the planet to keep dictators in power for much longer—this is an [Unconquerable World](#), so we can plan for peace or anticipate our extinction.

Genocide this week includes two Red (Iraq, Sudan), three Orange (Chad, Ethiopian Anuak, Zimbabwe) and two Yellow (Burma or Myanmar, Uzbekistan) at [GenocideWatch](#) with a total of 18 countries in mass killing stage and 45 countries (inclusive) sanctioning politicides or genocides.

Transnational Crime is not receiving the coverage it merits. The [ILLICIT](#) economy is at least \$2 trillion a year against \$5 to 7 trillion a year, and growing. When combined with the [Off the Books](#) economy and corporate tax avoidance as well as legalized tax avoidance and [sub-standard minimum wages and benefits](#) achieved through the corruption of most elected representatives of the people, we speculate that We the People are being cheated of half the tax revenues due to the government and necessary to provide for education, infrastructure, waging peace, and social security including comprehensive health care for all, and a special focus on the liberation of women worldwide. Legitimate successful governance is not possible without the eradication of these four crimes against humanity: organized crime, illegal and legal but corrupt tax avoidance and poor wages, and off the books subsistence economies that reflect the failure of national, state, and local governments.

Infectious Disease saw a major positive development with the introduction of the VScan rapid test kit that appears to be a single-use, accurate, cost effective test for screening over six major scourges of the world. Lacking however is a genuine commitment, especially in the USA, to preventive care as well as alternative cures, and to a massive investment in the eradication of disease so as to protect and enhance indigenous productivity. The acceptance of disease as a form of natural population control is both [mis-guided and reprehensible](#).

Other Atrocities should probably be in the YELLOW but most atrocities are simply not reported, from the disappearance of individuals kidnapped for body parts, to those kidnapped for the slave and sex trade. There is however a growing global meme to the effect that universal justice is possible, and that ultimately those responsible for high crimes and misdemeanors will be brought to justice, even if it is post-mortem justice.

Policy Summary

Diplomacy remains in the RED due largely to continued US blundering US diplomacy continues to lack a strategy as well as a strategic understanding of how the ten threats, twelve policies, and eight challengers must be managed as an integrated whole. From Central Asia, where the US faces expulsion and perhaps isolated massacres as well, to Africa and Latin America where China is making huge inroads, to the world of Islam, where Malaysia, Iran, India, and Pakistan are in the process of a global Islamic Free Trade Area that can be used for both good and bad ends, while sponsoring Islamic economic forums in direct contrast to Davos, the US diplomatic scene is as ineffective and ugly as we have ever seen. Particularly disgraceful is the utter collapse of US Public Diplomacy, and the absolute oblivious of the current Administration to understand that a 100-year global free online education project, with a massive global peace education corps, is the only way that we can prevail over the global jihad that leverages the billions who have been oppressed and looted by [predatory Western interests](#) and the [corrupt dictators \(45 of them\)](#) that the West used to loot the Earth for the very few.

Security shows minor promise at the operational level, but fails to satisfy. The state-based fusion centers in the United States should not have had to emerge willy-nilly with a wide variety of non-



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interoperable technologies, databases, and protocols, as well as mixed levels of understanding and training. The UK initiative to shut down cell phones in prisons tells us just how bad prisons have become as centers for both recruitment and leadership. Around the world, the twin concepts of capture and torture continue to dominate security thinking, and we are therefore destined to fail. Until security can address root causes, implement coherent policies (for example, not admitting to citizenship or even residency those who refuse to emancipate their women or accept the rule of local law), and embrace global sharing of information, then General Tony Zinni's analogy remains active: the slow cobras will be killed by the stings of tens of thousands of killer bees, many willing to commit suicide *en passant*.

Social Security moved further toward disaster with the official declaration by the Comptroller of the United States that this Nation is **insolvent**. OSS.Net had to push the story, one the mainstream media continues to ignore. In a positive development, the first global "super-union" may be imminent. Nothing could be more helpful to countering global terrorism than a super-union able to enforce labor standards including minimum wage, the emancipation of women, and universal health care.

Immigration, while not much in the news, is now being addressed by state and local governments who see the failure of federal and national governments. Should this trend continue, the 27 secessionist movements in the USA (such as the **Vermont Second Republic**) may gain force, for it makes no sense to pay federal taxes for a federal military and law enforcement monster with 20 heads that fails to address the simple matter of border security and citizenship rights.

Water wars continue to proliferate and worsen. Israel continues to steal water from the Arab aquifers while refusing to lessen its agricultural drain on regional water—Israeli agriculture consumes 50% of the water while producing less than 5% of the Israeli gross national product. A global water authority is long over-due, as water is a more precious resource than oil. We admire the concise **overview** by Peter, Editor of **Global Water Intelligence**. We must strive to produce public intelligence on all threats, policies, and challengers. What the industry reports will not admit, however, is that corruption is being used to buy the privatization of water around the world; and the desire for near term profit is leading to such ludicrous demands as claiming that the rainfall cannot be harvested by the indigenous Indians, and that their water conservation practices learned over centuries must be "overcome" as they must learn to use more water so the "owner" can charge more and profit more. As we have reported previously, harvesting the rainfall in Africa would meet all of Africa's water needs. There is an urgent need for a global authority and for an end to the treatment of water, and **the oceans**, as an economic lottery.

Debt should really be in the ORANGE given the **insolvency of the U.S. Government**, but Britain has finally discharged its war debt from the Second World War, and there is a growing realization among both citizens and governments that they cannot be indebted to "central banks" that are owned by a handful of individuals. We anticipate a major collapse of the US stock market as well as the US financial system, and hope that this will lead to a global restructuring of capitalism that includes a focus on localized production and lending, resiliency, transparency, and an end to all national debts over the next quarter-century. That is an achievable goal.

Economy continues to be very troubling and could soon move into ORANGE. The US continues to be the sucking chest wound in the global economy, in part because industrial-era metrics are positive, but do not reflect the information-era and global realities that Natural Capitalism must demand, to wit, the adoption of the "True Cost". On a positive note, Amazon's ScanBack that now uses bar code information photographed by a cell phone to help individuals compare prices at the point of sale could soon be used to provide detailed True Cost information including water content, fuel content, and sweatshop labor content as well as tax avoidance and criminal findings history. For the economy to survive there needs to be a massive reduction of water and fuel subsidies, a grass roots appreciation of the True Cost of any product or service, and a major spike in localized agricultural and energy



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production as well as the eradication of “[Big Box Swindle](#)” chains such as [Wal-Mart](#).

Energy could well turn toward ORANGE in the near future. While there are a few positive developments, not least of which is the restricted by open valuation of solar power and especially concentrated solar power, as the renewable resource for the coming century, but the meme National Capitalism is taking hold and some companies, but certainly not Exxon, are beginning to focus on surviving beyond the 25-50 year timeframe. Exxon is doing two-page print media spreads bragging that it is reducing fuel consumption per car over the next 25 years. This idiotic and pointless claim avoiding coming to grips with the raw facts that if we do not help China and India as well as all others get a grip on the triangle between green urban areas friendly to human and bicycle traffic, hybrid cars ideally shareable, and public transport including long-haul rail, then we are toast in 50 years. Exxon, of all companies, has the most to gain from a strategic understanding of the how all ten threats, twelve policies, and eight challengers must be addressed in a holistic manner. On this point Dean Jeffrey Garten of Yale is correct in his premise, articulated in *The Politics of Fortune* (Harvard, 2002), that national security is too important to be left to the government, but his premise is valid only if business has a bigger brain and accepts the dual memes of “True Cost” and “Big Box Swindle.”

Justice saw Saddam Hussein hung by the Shi’ites he repressed for decades, but in a manner that could incite the Sunni-Shi’ite war for the soul of Islam foretold by Howard Bloom in *The Lucifer Principle*. In our view, Justice for the next century demands a 100-year plan for global free education in all languages, combined with a massive commitment to a global Marshall Plan, combined with very selective and very ruthless executions of specific transnational criminal leaders, dictators that refuse to step down, and terrorist recruiters and practitioners. Again, Bloom provokes reflection with his [Global Brain](#).

Agriculture remains beset by unsound subsidies and an unwillingness to examine water and disease issues.

Education remains mired in industrial-era rote learning, failing to migrate to serious games and online access.

Family remains absent from global, national, and local governance. In the USA, 25% of those polled expect the second coming of Christ in 2007; even more expect another terrorist attack within US border. We would observe that Lee Kuan Yew of Singapore, one of the greatest leaders of our time, correctly describes the Family as the foundation for legitimate governance, good order, and community prosperity. The failure of the US Government to have a sustainable sound family policy as well as a sustainable sound citizenship-immigration policy, is a major part of its loss of global power.

Challenger Summary

Iran is the clear winner from the USA’s fumbling in the Middle East. Iran could move to the RED if Israel and the US attack it without legitimate cause, and Iran pulls off a nuclear ambush.

Venezuela remains out of the headlines as the US adopts a more reserved and pragmatic approach, but we anticipate the Venezuela will join with China, Cuba, and Russia in rapidly developing regional educational, energy, security, and trade initiatives that could see the US lose much of what it has gained over the past 100 years of virtual dominance of the region.

Brazil begins a second term with its popular President promising to focus on economic reform. Transnational and local crime will be grave obstacles.

China is stressed by water shortages and drug use but it has \$1 trillion in cash reserves to apply to its problems, and its military appears to be innovating faster than the US military, with important reflections on the value of global strength in depth. China, Iran, Pakistan, and Russia, and to an extent India, are highly likely to support the expulsion of the US military from the Central Asian region.



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India is, like the other challengers, a major power in its own right, but more ethnically and religiousness complex than others. We are reminded by India that Hindus and Buddhists are willing to massacre one another, not only Christians and Muslims and Jews. The US appears to be arming Pakistan without regard to the very high probability that Pakistan could become another Iran and join with Afghanistan and Iran and a large portion of Iraq to create a Shi'ite/Taliban Muslim Crescent threatening to all others and especially to Middle Eastern oil, which could be claimed as a sacred reserve for Islam, wreaking havoc on a Western economy unwilling to change fast.

Indonesia was out of the news this week, until very late when it lost both an airliner and a ferry.

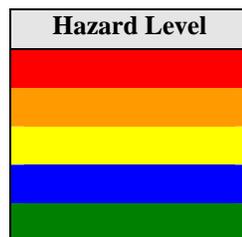
Wild Cards include the extraordinary Saudi fatwa against the Shias, who are considered worse than infidels, but instead heretics seeking to overthrow Sunni Islam from within. One wonders if the US Information Operations folks will have enough influence to inspire a global review, a global strategy, and a mid-term outcome in which we help all the violent Muslims kill one another while we educate and emancipate all the others.

Russia is being denied G8 membership for using energy as a political tool, which strikes us as disingenuous. Europe and the US have to come to grips with the fact that the world is at a tipping point, and the one thing they have in abundance—smart people and lots of processing power—will only save them if they use them and rapidly establish a global strategy for leveraging all information in all languages all the time, and in the process, devise a strategy that eliminates the ten threats, harmonizes the twelve policies, and engaged the eight challengers in the most constructive and mutually-beneficial manner possible. Neither German arrogance nor American idiocy is going to have one whit of influence on the Russians or anyone else.

World Crises (extracted from **monthly** assessments by *International Crisis Group*)

↗ Alert	Lebanon
↘ Deteriorated	Basque Country (Spain), Bolivia, Egypt, Fiji, Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia, Sudan, Turkmenistan
↗ Improved	Guinea

[International Crisis Group](#)



Change Codes	
↘	Deteriorated
•	Steady
↗	Improved
↗	Alert



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Threats	<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-THREATS</i>
Poverty news list forecast	<p>↓ US aid to African countries has tripled and is now around \$4 billion a year.</p> <p>The “dollar” a day (and less) that is average income of much of the world is a “parity-adjusted” (PPP) dollar; in absolute terms this is about 20 cents per day -- <i>globalization</i> has left <i>undernutrition</i> and <i>malnutrition</i> all but intact, or worse, for over a <u>billion</u> people.</p> <p>In Guatemala, "the social stage set by the war still prevails" -- over 60% still live in <i>extreme poverty</i>.</p>
Infectious Disease news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The <i>VScan</i> rapid test kit just released is said to be a single use, accurate, cost effective, test for the screening of <i>HIV 1&2</i>, <i>Hepatitis B&C</i>, <i>TB</i>, <i>Dengue</i>, <i>West Nile</i>, <i>Malaria</i>, ...
Environment news list forecast	<p>↓ A huge <i>ice shelf</i> breaks has broken free in Canada's far north -- "Ice shelves in Canada's far north have decreased in size by as much as 90% since 1906."</p> <p>Reflecting rapid (19th century style) industrialization, <i>Asian</i> cities are the now most polluted worldwide -- "The metropolitan centres of this continent have pollution levels that are <u>five times higher</u> than those of <i>Paris</i>, <i>London</i> and <i>New York</i>."</p> <p>The US Army's expanded <i>biodefense</i> laboratory which hosts the world's deadliest organisms is itself not without <i>risk</i> and has alarmed environmentalists.</p>
Inter-State Conflict news list forecast	<p>↗ The sudden collapse of the <i>Islamists</i> in Somalia is just as baffling as the order brought so rapidly to much of the country. Some saw the events in broader geopolitical terms, "<i>a deeply stupid war in Africa ... The Ethiopian invasion is illegal, unjustified and deeply, deeply stupid, but it has Washington's strong support. From the same folks who brought you Iraq...</i>"; another observed "<i>it may be difficult for the government, increasingly unpopular outside Baidoa, to hold on to the towns the Ethiopians have helped them take.</i>"</p> <p>Saddam Hussein was <i>executed for crimes against humanity</i> ... with feeling -- "One of the execution party calls: 'Long live Mohammed Bakr Sadr!' 'Go to hell,' Saddam seems to respond". As the <u>3,000th</u> US soldier is killed in Iraq, <i>US peace groups</i> held a rally -- "<i>We don't believe it's a protest. We believe it's a memorial honoring these soldiers.</i>" The “old Iraq strategy” is said to live on in the continuing US Weekly Progress Report -- the expensive 30-page Wednesday report still reflects the old much-disputed goals and measures of progress. Remarkably, UK forces attacked <i>Jamiat</i> police station in Basra [Iraq], killed seven, and demolished it, highlighting a murky world of <i>death squads</i> and ingrained factionalism --the police station was “the center of ‘criminal enterprise’ and a symbol of oppression for the city's residents”.</p> <p>Israel permitted (perhaps with feeling) Egypt to ship arms to <i>Fatah</i> in Gaza.</p>
Civil War news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Despite early signs of the outbreak of relative peace, a Congo militia defied a call to free <i>hostages</i> -- "<i>We are not optimistic, even as we are pushing for negotiations</i>" says military spokesman for the U.N. peacekeeping mission (MONUC). <p>The Chadian government and the <i>United Front for Democratic Change</i> have concluded a <i>peace treaty</i> in Tripoli.</p>



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Genocide news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The UK arrested and held four Rwandan genocide suspects.
Other Atrocities news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A former leader of the <i>Argentine Anticommunist Alliance (AAA)</i> has been arrested in Spain on an Argentinean warrant.
Proliferation news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> US federal authorities removed <i>cesium</i> from a site in New England -- to date the <i>domestic source recovery program</i> has recovered enough radioactive material to make over 1,400 potent dirty bombs from over 500 facilities. <p>The US reported that (known) nuclear trafficking world-wide has <u>doubled</u> in 5 years -- but only "a handful" involved weapons-usable nuclear materials.</p>
Terrorism news list forecast	<p>↓ To the surprise of all, a series of bombs (7 or 8) were set off in Bangkok [Thailand] in the final hours of 2006 -- the post-coup administration were quick to say it was more likely the work of political opponents than southern Muslim insurgents.</p> <p>A large car bomb exploded at Madrid's Barajas airport [Spain] and a Basque group claimed responsibility in phone warnings -- "If the blast does turn it to be the work of ETA it might spell the end of the truce."</p> <p>Dept. of Homeland Security issued a Fact Sheet, on <i>National Special Security Events</i>. Alarming perhaps, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has decided to keep the decade-old design rules for new nuclear plants and facilities and make them fulfill security requirements for today's threats "later". The US is moving to build a terrorist fingerprint database -- a massive database may be able to build links between incidents [prints on bomb parts, weapons, etc].</p> <p>Canada's Human Security Center says armed conflicts and coups are down since 1963 but terrorism and violence against civilians is up <u>three-fold</u> since 2000.</p>
Transnational Crime news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Colombia, unknown gunmen killed a former drug-related militia boss -- extrajudicial killing of extrajudicial killers ...
<p>↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT</p>	
<p>Policy <i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-POLICY</i></p>	
Agriculture news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Debt news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Britain finally discharged its War Debt from the second world war – it has repaid a total of \$7.5B, including interest.
Diplomacy news list forecast	<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 "a major positive element of international politics." 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>



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	<p>Critics of US foreign policy could not let Saddam pass without comment – “a dictator created then destroyed by America” said <i>The Independent</i> - “Who sold him the components for the chemical weapons with which he drenched Iran and the Kurds?” Other critics linked US overt (and covert) support for Somalia’s war-lords as a general proclivity for “gangsterism” -- 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> - - “We are all witnessing the coming of a new era ... an era when the humiliation of <i>Islamic world</i> will end”.</p>
<p>Economy news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ The Pentagon is seeking \$100B more for the “war on terror” -- the request is 45% more than Congress provided for 2006.</p> <p>Audits found problems with arrangement between departments of Interior and Defense which “routinely violated rules designed to protect U.S. Government interests”.</p>
<p>Education news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “<i>San Francisco</i> is in its sixth year of a weighted student formula and school choice and is the highest performing urban district in the state.” The <i>New York Times</i> condemned “bumping” less-effective teachers on into schools that can least afford them -- “a long and shameful history of dumping its least effective, least qualified teachers into the schools that serve the neediest children.” <p>A British MP writes “the writing is on the wall – computer games rot the brain” -- “...only the twitching of their hands showing they are still conscious. These machines teach them nothing. They stimulate no ratiocination, discovery or feat of memory.”</p>
<p>Energy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More compelling documentation emerges that the best use of solar power is as concentrated solar power (using mirrors/lenses to focus the suns energy onto high-efficiency collectors). <p>About a fifth of Europe’s gas imports from Russia are threatened by a price dispute between Russia and Belarus.</p> <p>California’s governor is seeking \$95M for green research -- importantly much of the investment is in “basic” research, the riskiest and most rewarding.</p> <p>Algeria has become the sixth biggest provider of US oil.</p>
<p>Family news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A poll reveals that 25% of the US population expects the second coming of Christ during 2007; even more expect a terrorist attack in the US. <p>A Roman Catholic archbishop in the populous south Philippines has endorsed, as much as he dares, government “family planning” programs.</p>
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Iraqis “from all three leading religious communities and all ethnic groups” volunteered in large numbers to execute Saddam. An EU spokesman said hanging Saddam was “barbaric” and suggested pardon and reconciliation was a better course. [It of course is <i>idiocy</i> to suggest that a pardon is a deterrent to those who would perpetrate crimes against humanity.]
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK is moving to implement cellular phone jamming in prisons because it has



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proven impossible to stop phones (like drugs) getting into prisons -- "if the technology works it will make mobiles in prisons useless."

The 43 regional *Fusion Centers* -- a "network of networks" mark "a new era" of opportunity for law enforcement. Charles **Allen, b** at DHS, is working hard to develop a new niche in the US intelligence community -- "...it can take as long as five years to recruit, mentor, train and develop the talents of a good *intelligence officer*." DHS felt obliged to use jesuitical argument to avert charges of *racial profiling* in the "border terror scoring" aspects of its *Automatic Targeting System*.

The style of the new CIA director, Gen. Michael **Hayden**, is markedly more hands-on than his predecessor -- "*The Monday meeting is in our Ops Center, just to kind of give the week the right flavor, a stand-up meeting . . . designed to be short and move on.*" [This contrasts with languid Wednesday meetings never attended by the Director.] DOD is moving to confront targeted phishing (*spear phishing*) attacks on its personnel -- "*attempts have been made against all ranks in all services in all geographic locations.*" The US **military** is quietly transforming its *global deployment* with new-think notions as "*forward operating sites*" and "*cooperative security locations*". The Dept. of State issued the *Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) global threat assessment OSAC's Top 10 Overseas Security Trends for the U.S. Private Sector in 2006*.

The \$54M+ *Integrated Weapons of Mass Destruction Toolset* will move on to the next stage of development -- when complete, it will provide access to data on response and assessment in *CBRN* situations to first-responders and others.

The **Unabomber's secret code** -- described by the NSA as one of the more sophisticated codes it had ever seen -- has been cracked.

The **Australian** (approximate) equivalent of *MI5* -- **ASIO** -- has created a *Counter-Espionage and Foreign Interference Division*. [No-one said "China".]

Social Security
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

↓ The birth of the first global "*super-union*" is imminent -- for some a terrifying rebirth of the 1920s *International Workers of the World (IWW)*; for others an obvious free-market development.

Murders are up in New York and several other US cities in 2006 -- "*police departments tend to take credit when the murder toll goes down. When crime goes up, it will be interesting to see whether they will accept responsibility.*"

The *work-to-retirement ratio* is a terror for all Western governments -- when German Chancellor Otto von Bismarck instituted the first state-run retirement program, the ratio of work years to retirement-years stood at 27:1; it is now 2:1.

Proponents of *universal medical coverage* (as in countries such as **Australia**) say "*Although some people still insist that Social Security is headed for serious trouble, it's our health care system that is truly broken.*"

Water
[news list](#)[forecast](#)

• **Israeli** analysts observe that the price of **Syria's** cooperation in the *Middle East* are likely the water resources that Israel also needs -- "the *Golan water-shed* is the source for more than 55% of Israel's *fresh water* " [The item includes excellent *graphic* of regional water politics.]

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT



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Challengers see *daily items with links to full stories on the web at* [PDB-CHALLENGERS](#)

Brazil

[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]

China

[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- Police have seized nine tonne of *drugs*, and arrested 12,000 dealers in south-west China -- 80% of all drugs seized in 2006 has been in *Yunnan* Province and that is twice the total seized for all of China in 2005.

Among six major *military exercises* during the year, the Sep 2006 *China-Tajikistan* military exercise in Kulyab was the first time the **PLA** cooperated with the army of another nation. China issued a *white paper* on *national defense* -- "the White Paper indicates that a revolution in military affairs is developing in depth worldwide." **Russia** announces it "will cooperate with China on *space* projects, but will not transfer *sensitive technologies* that could enable Beijing to become a rival in a future space race." China is to build the first *high temperature gas cooled reactor*, a 200kW reactor in Shidaowan (*Shandong* Province) using largely *home-grown technology*.

Major **US** and *European* corporations object to proposed new Chinese *labor laws* ... because they give workers too much. Almost half of China's *poverty-stricken* villagers live in "*ethnic*" *regions*. [As accompanies *autonomy* movements in many parts of the world, China's minority areas are markedly poorer than the rest of China.]

China is officially not hiding the fact that the country faces *water shortages* and other dire consequences such as *grain shortages* from *global warning*. China is looking to transmute some of its \$1 trillion *cash* reserves into *reserve resources*.

China's *internet* users are increasingly using *fake identity numbers* – this innocuous use is a trend that may be worrying for the government.

India

[news list](#)[forecast](#)

- Two alleged *Lashkar-e-Toiba* men were detained at Delhi railway station -- "*The LeT operatives were planning to plant the explosives in the busy market, next to the railway station, and leave by the same train to Chennai The IEDs were in the form of toy cars.[and a duck]*" India's **Intelligence Bureau** warns of an "influx from West Asia" of activists to *Mumbai* and rural *Maharashtra*. A *Naga* rebel leader will get "Z-plus" *close personal security* as he returns to Nagaland from peace talks in New Delhi -- "*The violent insurgency in Nagaland has claimed around 25,000 lives since Independence in 1947.*" Police have killed a leader of the *Maoist* movement in *Andhra Pradesh* the most active of the 13 of India's 28 states where Communists have an ongoing insurgency. Indian authorities claim "huge success" against Maoists in 2006 in Andhra Pradesh.

Indian Americans are trying to stop a **US missile** sale to **Pakistan** -- "*Another Indian American warned that even if a small percentage of these weapons fall into the hands of the Taliban, it can wreak havoc*"

A *Hindu nationalist* -- one of the two intransigent sides in the dispute -- says "Back channel diplomacy with *Islamabad* [**Pakistan**] is going to be disastrous for us".

The *Tehran Times* [**Iran**] ran an item saying the **US** is using **India** to keep **China** at bay -- "*Washington's willingness to jeopardize other important relationships indicates just how central the containment of China is to U.S. strategic policy.*"

Indonesia

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- The quiet early *release* of the only suspect in the *poisoning* -- possible by the security



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	agency BIN -- of an activist has annoyed some.
Iran news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The US is baffled why Iraq has released (and expelled) two Iranians captured by US forces -- "One ... was the third-highest-ranking official of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards al-Quds Brigade, the unit most active ... outside Iran." <p>The parliament of Iran voted to reconsider ties with IAEA -- "<i>The bill was quickly approved by the Guardian Council ...</i>" A respectable study shows that Iran may need nuclear power after all -- the National Academy of Sciences [US] concludes "<i>It therefore seems possible that Iran's claim to need nuclear power might be genuine...</i>"</p>
Russia news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A German minister has said Russia has "no chance" of full G8 membership -- "<i>Russia's use of energy as a political tool has led to strong opposition in some countries, particularly the US, to making Russia a full G8 member.</i>" <p>Russian forces have left Georgia for the first time in 200 years.</p>
Venezuela news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
wild-card news list forecast	<p>↓ Senior Pakistani officers say they are 'back to square one' in their fight against international terrorist groups after the release of dozens of militants by Pakistani courts. [A policeman's certainty and legal proof are two different things, as they probably should be.]</p> <p>Reporters San Frontiers report that at least 81 reporters were killed in 2006, the highest toll in more than a decade, with Iraq the deadliest, followed by Mexico.</p> <p>Libya announces three-day mourning period for the death by execution of Saddam Hussein -- support for Saddam due to the Palestine issue should not be underestimated.</p> <p>A Saudi cleric issues a venomous fatwa against Shias -- for fundamentalist Sunnis, the Shia school are worse than infidels -- they are heretics. [This is a schism that should be understood rather than exploited.]</p> <p>At last, soldiers who really run the army -- senior NCOs from Pakistan, Afghanistan and the US -- compare notes at meetings in Pakistan as part of an NCO exchange program.</p> <p>An earthquake near Taiwan severed several major trunk cables severing internet (and phone) connection to most of east Asia -- "The issue here is parallelism. You've really got to have multiple paths. You can't lay all the cables in the same place."</p> <p>Pushed to petulance by criticism from all quarters for inaction, Pakistan has offered to fence and mine the Afghan-Pakistan border -- but Afghanistan says [pointedly] "<i>Fencing or mining the border is neither helpful nor practical. ... The border is not where the problem lies</i>" and the UN says mining the border "<i>would only add to civilian casualties in a region already littered with unexploded ordnance.</i>"</p> <p>A Vatican cardinal not unacquainted with Opus Dei warns a popular bishop in Paraguay not to stand as a political candidate -- "... <i>he is the only figure who can unite the opposition to defeat the conservative Colorado Party, which has been in power for about 60 years.</i>" [It is said the bishop left the priesthood at about the time of the warning.]</p> <p>A car bomb in Peshawar [Pakistan], capital of North West Frontier Province, is</p>



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likely to be the work of Islamists.

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT

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