



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

GLOBAL REALITY: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

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

Threat Summary

	<p>Inter-State Conflict. Taliban rules. Iraq in chaos, China wins. Israel preparing for war with Syria.</p> <p>Proliferation. Libya has not received promised help, why should Iran? Chile going nuclear.</p>
	<p>Poverty. UN says 25-50% medicines are fake. 820M starving. 200M in India go to bed hungry.</p> <p>Infectious Disease. Cheap anti-malaria pill, & drug-resistant malaria emerging. Cote d'Ivoire mystery.</p> <p>Environment. Gangotri Glacier in India vanishing. New molecule can prevent ozone hole. E-waste.</p> <p>Civil War. Arabs ask Iraq to defuse the civil war. Zimbabwe a police state. Sudan, Yemen, Somalia.</p> <p>Genocide. Chad rejects UN military, will accept gendarme/police force. Serbia cleared, many upset.</p> <p>Transnational Crime. Colombia ceding to Mexico primary role for delivery of drugs into the US.</p>
	<p>Other Atrocities. European mercenaries earn \$10K/month, Peruvian mercenaries \$1K/month.</p> <p>Terrorism. Threat down-graded. Saudi Arabia-Iran claim desire to avoid Sunni-Shi'ite global war.</p>

Policy Summary

	<p>Diplomacy. China, Iran, India, Russia displacing US. Malaysian success story. Iraq neighbors meet.</p> <p>Security. US lacks intel on Horn of Africa. Food safety crisis looming. 100,000 UN peacekeepers.</p> <p>Society. TV a major cause of poor eating habits. Walter Reed scandal expands nationally.</p>
	<p>Education. See links, nothing substantive for the summary. This is a growing global catastrophe.</p> <p>Immigration. See links, nothing substantive for the summary</p> <p>Education. See links, nothing substantive for the summary.</p> <p>Health. Massachusetts & California innovating, pandemics lurk, nationalization could be good or bad.</p> <p>Water. Caspian Sea conference. World Bank funding for water projects no more than \$105M.</p>
	<p>Debt. Being dropped, rolled into Economy, beginning now Health will be added as a separate topic.</p> <p>Economy. See links, nothing substantive for the summary.</p> <p>Energy. 19% growth in US emissions by 2020. Sunlight produces hydrogen from water. More facts.</p> <p>Justice. Canada backs away from draconian measures while India retains its anti-insurgency laws.</p>
	<p>Agriculture. See links, nothing substantive for the summary.</p> <p>Family. Fifth Catholic diocese declares bankruptcy in face of 140 lawsuits for sexual abuse by priests.</p>

Major Player Summary

	Iran. Kurdish encroachment. DNI downplays nuclear (2015 vice “months”). Sunni Summit worrying.
	Venezuela. Buying 11 submarines, largest fleet south of US
	<p>Brazil. \$100B in foreign reserves. Respecting UN sanctions. Crime crippling, 40 murders per 100K.</p> <p>China. Water scarcity in face of high temperatures. Expanding military. Islamic discontent down.</p> <p>India. Exporting low-cost nuclear reactors. Increased defense spending. More train bombings.</p> <p>Indonesia. 1000 troops to East Timor border. Bombing in Maluku first in months. Re-radicalization.</p> <p>Wild Cards. Cheney confronts Pakistan, blown off. Afghan opium, at all-time high. Guatemala risk.</p>
	Russia. Weapons experts grow to \$8B in 2007 from \$6.5B in 2006. Closing thousands of casinos.

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

↗ Alert	Nigeria, Timor-Leste
↘ Deteriorated	Pakistan, Somalia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Yemen
↗ Improved	Burundi, North Korea

International Crisis Group

↘ deteriorated	• steady	↗ improved	↗ ALERT
----------------	----------	------------	---------



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

Threats

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

Poverty

[news list|forecast](#)

- The UN says 25% to 50% of the *medicines* used in *developing* countries now are *fakes*.

Brazil, India, US and **EU** will meet in London and Geneva in a few days to try to restart the moribund *Doha Round* of **WTO** negotiations.

The **EU** has allocated 135M Euros for *food programs* in *Africa* -- the funds, channeled through **WFP**, will assist around 12.5 million of the 820 million starving people. Nearly half of **Indian** children below three are *underweight* and more than 200 million people in India go to bed hungry every day.

Infectious Disease

[news list|forecast](#)

- Health authorities in **Cote d'Ivoire** are investigating a yet *unknown disease* that started to kill people in northern Cote D'Ivoire in December 2006; *animals* have also died.

French drugmaker *Sanofi-Aventis* will launch a cheap [around \$1] *anti-malaria* pill in 10 *African* countries in April 2007, other countries following. *Drug-resistant malaria* is now widespread -- "99% of *malarial parasites* had mutated to resist *chloroquine*, the standard drug used treat malaria."

Japan is investigating a possible link between *Tamiflu* and *suicides* -- "*Roche has been defending its drug since last year, when reports first surfaced in Japan of 'Tamiflu suicides'*".

Environment

[news list|forecast](#)

- ↓ Another major glacier -- *Gangotri Glacier* in **India** -- is shown to be shrinking rapidly (in glacial terms) threatening downstream populations with future lack of melt *water*.

Some steps are being taken but most dead electronic equipment still ends up as *eWaste* in *landfills* or is shipped offshore to *pollute the environment* in *poor countries*. *Technology Review* from MIT discusses uses of *methane* which is second only to CO2 as a problematic greenhouse gas and at present is often allowed to escape-- *A Practical Use for Waste Methane*. The new field of "*computational chemistry*" has designed a molecule to crack *fluorocarbons* and prevent the "*ozone hole*" effect.

The UN Secretary-General says *climate change* is as dangerous as war -- "*the danger posed by war to all of humanity ... is at least matched by the climate crisis and global warming*." Expert scientists tell the UN that tens of billions are needed to combat *global warming* -- the challenge "to which civilization must rise" involves *mitigation* and *adaptation* and is the largest challenge in human history. "*Two starkly different futures diverge from this time forward*." says a UN-sponsored *expert group*.

Brazilian police arrested 18 people, including *environmental protection agents*, accused of allowing *illegal logging* in the *Amazon* rain forest. **Kenyan** *Nobelist* urges *environmental conservation* be not forgotten for the long-term common good.

Former Next US President **Al Gore** will speak at the *Sustainable Operations Summit* -- the invitation-only event will bring together leaders from the nation's largest corporations, cities and states, universities, school districts and healthcare organizations. Although there are many life-and-death spending priorities in *Africa*, a **The Inuit** of northern **Canada** tell the 34-nation **Inter-American Commission on Human Rights** that **US carbon emissions** have violated their *basic human rights*.

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

	<p>The governors of <i>Arizona, California, New Mexico, Oregon</i> and <i>Washington</i> state say they will develop regional targets related to <i>climate change</i>.</p>
<p>Inter-State Conflict news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Everyone in Afghanistan is a Taliban” says an Afghani government minister; Taliban - the former allies of the US -- is <u>not</u> a dirty word in Afghanistan; and it is not the same as “<i>terrorist</i>”, or “<i>al Qaeda</i>”. The British Foreign Secretary has expressed sympathy with Pakistan’s difficulty in controlling its <i>border</i> region and supports <i>fencing</i> appropriate stretches -- “<i>responsibility to strengthen control over the movement of Taliban fighters across the Pakistan-Afghanistan border lay on all coalition partners</i> ...” Britain says it is switching to more holistic tactics to undermine the Taliban -- “<i>We can’t kill our way out of this problem.</i>” [Dust of those <i>Malay Emergency</i> files!] <p>The new DNI has told the <i>Senate Armed Services Committee</i> that <i>sectarian violence</i> in Iraq has become “<i>self-sustaining</i>”. Secretary of State Rice warns Congress not to interfere in the detail of the Iraq war. [Secretary of State Rice seems to suggest that the Iraq adventure is no concern of Congress.] Who Won in Iraq: the Iraqi People [by Jalal Talabani, president of Iraq] is one in a <i>Foreign Policy</i> series called <i>Who Won in Iraq</i>; other “answers” are ... China, Old Europe, Israel, the “<i>Clash of Civilizations</i>” theory, ...</p> <p>The <i>Jerusalem Post</i> says Prime Minister Olmert has told defense heads to prepare Israel for <i>war</i> with Syria. [A gratuitous reminder that the two <i>Semitic</i> tribes, Israel and Syria, are in constant high preparedness for war.]</p>
<p>Civil War news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Arab League -- which happens to have a largely <i>Sunni</i> constituency -- says Iraq must take responsibility for defusing its <i>Sunni-Shi’ite</i> conflict. <p>After many months of bruising negotiation, President Bashir of Sudan agrees (with reservations) to a plan that would eventually see 22,000 UN peacekeepers in Sudan. The <i>al-Houthi Shi’ite</i> rebels of Yemen say they are fighting their own fight and deny accusations they are backed by Iran or Libya. As violence returns to Somalia; some have nostalgia for the brief <i>Islamist</i> rule that brought the first effective governance in 16 years.</p> <p>Now with <i>jamming</i> of <i>foreign radio broadcasts</i>, Zimbabwe step-by-step consolidates itself as a <i>police state</i>.</p>
<p>Genocide news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Chad again rejects a UN military force -- it will accept only a <i>gendarme/police</i> force on its <i>border</i> with Sudan’s Darfur. A UN weekly update says “<i>concerns for stability in southern Sudan run high</i> ...”</p> <p>Thousands in <i>Sarajevo</i> protest against the ICJ decision that cleared Serbia of direct genocide -- “<i>with the verdict like this, Serbia will remain a factor of destabilization in the region in the future</i>”.</p>
<p>Other Atrocities news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Egypt wants an investigation of a claim that an Israeli Special Forces reconnaissance unit killed 250 Egyptian <i>prisoners of war</i> during the <i>Six Day War</i>.</p> <p>The UN says there is significant increase in the use of <i>mercenaries</i> by western firms -- <i>European mercenaries in dangerous areas may receive \$10,000 per month; Peruvians doing the same job are paid \$1,000</i>. The US and Germany lead in the export of electro-shock <i>stun guns</i> to states where they are known to be used for <i>torture</i>.</p> <p>An ICC prosecutor has accused a former Sudanese minister of <i>crimes in Darfur</i> --</p>
<p>↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT</p>	



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

	<p>"51 cases against former interior minister Ahmad Muhammad Harun and janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb ..."</p> <p>The Japanese are again killing thousands of dolphins in an annual hunt. [The Japanese reveal again the darkness at the heart of their national soul.]</p>
<p>Proliferation news list forecast</p>	<p>↑ President Gadhafi of Libya doesn't hold much hope DPRK or Iran will renounce nuclear weapons because he has still not received what Libya was promised by the Powers for renouncing his weapons programs.</p> <p>Russia wants Israel to join the NPT -- "a nuclear-free zone will become possible only when all countries in the region, including Israel, join the NPT ..."</p> <p>A senior DPRK nuclear negotiator has arrived in the US for talks -- talks at this senior official level may signify real progress.</p> <p>Chile announces plans to research nuclear energy -- Chile currently imports <u>72%</u> of its energy in the form of petroleum, gas and coal.</p>
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anarchist terrorism by pretext: 50 of 100 arrested after violent street clashes in Denmark were foreigners who traveled to Copenhagen for the confrontation. <p>In what may prove to be landmark diplomacy (or a useless scrap of paper) Saudi Arabia and Iran declare neither want Sunni-Shi'ite rivalries abroad in the world.</p> <p>During the annual border disputes officials meeting India gave Bangladesh a list of 176 "terrorist training camps" in Bangladeshi territory; Bangladesh says none exist.</p> <p>The UK Foreign Secretary still sees a solution in Afghanistan, a civil solution -- "given alternative livelihoods, men the Taliban paid to fight for them would turn elsewhere."</p> <p>A Christian-leaning source depicts the threat the Muslim Brotherhood poses to the US -- America's Islamist Threat. A comprehensive survey of cyber-jihad -- Cyberspace as a Combat Zone: The Phenomenon of Electronic Jihad</p> <p style="text-align: center;">-0-</p> <p>[note: After a reappraisal of the real and actual hazard of Terrorism in the context of the other threats, the hazard-level has been down-graded.]</p>
<p>Transnational Crime news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operation across several US states netted more than <u>\$45 million</u> in cash and tons of cocaine, heroin and marijuana related to a Mexican cartel. Another report observed that "Colombian narcotics organizations have ceded more and more of the transportation and distribution of drugs to Mexican organizations ..."
<p>Policy see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Policy</p>	
<p>Agriculture news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
<p>Diplomacy news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pakistan declares that NATO forces do not have authority for hot pursuit into Pakistan. Some warn the US daily nagging of Pakistan may undermine its government -- any regime change in Pakistan would not be the kind the US would like. <p>A group of UK tourists who went missing in northern Ethiopia are said to be held by Eritrea, but Eritrea denies this. [Why a group of "tourists" including diplomats and divers were wandering the wilds of a dangerous region of Ethiopia is not yet known.]</p> <p>Algeria says its cooperation with the US against Islamic militancy is "profitable" but</p>

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ✎ ALERT



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

it will never agree to a *US military base* on its territory.

The **US** says **Malaysia** is "*a success story in the Muslim world*". The glorious Islamic era can be revived, says **Malaysian** Deputy Prime Minister -- Datuk Seri **Najib Tun Razak** depicts the real "*Caliphate*" as an abode of learning, not violent jihad.

The new *New World Order* will see **India** and **China** in major roles -- "*This tectonic shift will pose a challenge to the US-dominated global institutions that have been in place since the 1940s.*" -- *The New New World Order*.

The **Iraq** "*Neighbors Summit*" will, God willing, be a landmark meeting because it allows the **US**, **Iran** and **Syria** to sit down together without significant loss of face.

The **British Council** will close 15 offices in *Europe* and increase activity in **Yemen**, **Pakistan**, **Bangladesh**, **Uzbekistan** and other *Islamic* states.

Recent **India-China-Russia** three-way meetings highlight the potential strength of that bloc as a balance to **US** influence -- "*we are talking of an increasingly globalised India and China, and Russia which is sitting on huge energy reserves.*"

Economy

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

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

Education

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

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

Energy

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

- The much delayed report by the **White House Council on Environmental Quality** shows an unacceptable medium-term situation, a 19% growth in **US emissions** by 2020.

India notes "*many countries*" are against the proposed *India-Pakistan-Iran pipeline* due to their "vested interests" and urges formation of *Asian energy consortiums*. The meeting of major *south Asian* nations on 05 March hosted by **India** will examine potential for cooperation in the energy sector.

Japanese interests will soon start drilling in **Canada's permafrost** for *methyl hydrate*, a controversial energy source that needs significant energy input to recover. Malaysia is clearing 1,000ha of [ecologically important] *mangrove swamp* to make way for *palm oil* industrial zones -- the darker side of palm oil, until now a darling of alternative fuel possibilities.

Cellulosic alcohol (fuel from *grass* and *wood chips*) could be big in the next 10 years -- if the government helps at first. A team at **Arizona State University** is working to improve *fuel cell* fundamentals such as *membrane* design and *operating temperature*. In early demonstration ... a promise-filled technology that uses *sunlight* to produce *hydrogen* from *water* -- *U.S. funds hydrogen experiment*. **Cuba** has opened an experimental *wind farm* -- the six 180-foot windmills produce about 1.8GW. Waste *rice husk* in Sri Lanka could produce 20MW of electricity and reduce pressure on forests for *firewood*.

Fact-boxes by *Reuters*:

- [Comparing renewable and fossil fuel prices](#)
- [Selected national biofuels targets](#)
- [Some national renewable energy targets](#)

Family

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

- Before trial begins of 140 suits relating to *sexual abuse*, the **Diocese of San Diego** declares *bankruptcy*, the fifth diocese in the nation to file for bankruptcy protection under similar circumstances.

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

Health news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Massachusetts</i> continues with its "landmark insurance initiative designed to require health coverage for all Massachusetts". Governor Schwarzenegger of <i>California</i> proposes extending the state <i>Medicaid</i> program to include working families earning less than twice the federal poverty level.
Immigration news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • [nothing significant to summarize but see links to stories in this topical area]
Justice news list forecast	<p>↓ Following investigation, the International Commission of Jurists has called on India to withdraw its "draconian" <i>anti-insurgency laws</i>. Kenyan religious leaders call for the disbanding of the Kenyan <i>anti-terror unit</i> – they say the unit is "operating illegally with the sole intention of harassing Muslim faithful." Following Canada's Supreme Court nullifying a <i>counter-terrorism</i> measure, the parliament has now declined to extend other provisions. The EU creates an agency for fundamental rights -- a good start says <i>Amnesty</i>, but despite its name the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights at presents steers clear of issues such as <i>public security</i> suspension of <i>habeas corpus</i>.</p> <p>Human Rights Watch says there are still some <i>secret CIA prisoners</i> missing -- "The <i>CIA program</i> – and the civilian leaders who created it – have inflicted tremendous harm on the reputation, moral standing, and integrity of the United States."</p>
Security news list forecast	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DHS has issued proposed regulations that set standards for state <i>driver's licenses</i> to meet the requirements of the <i>REAL ID Act</i>. DHS has increased funding for <i>emergency management programs</i> that address the priorities set out in the <i>DHS Interim National Preparedness Goal</i>. <p>Observers note that an SOCOM [<i>US Special Operations Command</i>] better answers the modern array of non-conventional threats but "<i>direct and indirect activities must be carefully synchronized to be most effective</i>". The US admits it lacks <i>intelligence</i> on the Horn of Africa -- "<i>this is an area that ... has the fewest analysts, the most junior analysts, and the ones with ... the least experience on the ground.</i>" DNI has relieved Norman Bailey of his post as <i>Cuba 'mission manager'</i> -- reports differ on whether the post itself has been dissolved. The Defense Intelligence Agency is seeing a 'mushrooming' use of various <i>web 2.0 technologies</i>.</p> <p>The National Nuclear Security Administration has given the management of Los Alamos National Laboratory its final warning for <i>safety violations</i>.</p> <p>Although some say there is a "<i>food safety crisis on the horizon</i>", FDA food safety inspections have dropped to almost half of the 2003 figure.</p> <p>As <i>peacekeeping forces</i> hit a new record of 100,000, the UN continues moves to restructure peacekeeping into two departments -- <i>Operations</i> and <i>Field Support</i>.</p>
Society news list forecast	<p>↓ The US Army fired the commander of <i>Walter Reed Hospital</i> -- appalling conditions at <i>Walter Reed</i> have been blamed on "failure of leadership". President Bush ordered a review of <i>service members' care</i> and the Army Secretary resigned over exposure of the shameful treatment of wounded veteran's. But <i>Time</i> asked why the only general who was trying to fix the problems was fired; what of the ones who actually stuffed it up?</p> <p>Harvard researchers at the <i>American Heart Association's 47th Annual Conference</i> say <i>excessive TV viewing</i> among young children is linked to <i>poor eating habits</i>. President Bush acknowledges that <i>New Orleans</i> is still pretty much a mess and</p>

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

	<p>promises remain unfulfilled. Amid bipartisan progress towards self-sufficiency and an emphasis on <i>education</i> and <i>skills</i>, some dysfunctions remain due to fear and loathing of the very word “welfare”.</p> <p>The first <i>on-line parliamentary vote</i> in the world has been held; in Estonia.</p>
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iran, Russia, and Turkmenistan met in Tehran to discuss shared issues concerning the <i>Caspian Sea</i>. <p>The World Bank is providing around \$105M for <i>water management projects</i> in 13 Indian states.</p>
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<p>↑ Brazil feels safe from international "turbulence" with over <u>\$100B</u> in <i>foreign reserves</i> for the first time ever.</p> <p>Obedient to the <i>UN sanctions</i> now placed on Iran, Brazil has banned exports of <i>nuclear know-how</i> to Tehran.</p> <p><i>Rio de Janeiro</i> has a high <i>homicide rate</i> of around 40 per 100,000 inhabitants -- one town in the interior, the "homicide capital of Brazil", has a rate of 165 per 100,000.</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ China opens the <i>Yangtze hydroelectric dams</i> due to dire <i>drought</i> downstream -- Chinese <i>water</i> balancing act, among <i>development, ecology, and daily needs</i>, is becoming more difficult. <i>High temperatures</i> have left five million Chinese short of water; <i>crops, animals, and humans</i> are all affected. China's equivalent of a parliament -- Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference -- convened for its annual meeting and will need to work hard to form long-term answers to China's competing <i>demands for resources</i> and <i>growing inequality</i>.</p> <p>The US Department of Defense has notified the US Congress of the possible sale of 218 Medium Range <i>air-to-air missiles</i> and 235 <i>Maverick missiles</i> to Taiwan. China warns the US against such a sale. [<i>"Strategic ambiguity"</i> is again under test.]</p> <p>The Communist Party cautions <i>reformers</i> not to get ahead of reality -- "<i>we are still far away from advancing out of the primary stages of socialism.... We must stick with the basic development guideline of that stage for 100 years.</i>" Broadcast media in China is given notice of what the government expects -- "<i>news reports and entertainment should promote socialist loyalty and soothe tensions as the country</i>". A murmur that may grow into an irresistible force -- Tiananmen Mothers urge China to debate the 1989 <i>protest deaths</i>: "<i>This is a disgrace for the entire Chinese nation and for humankind</i>". The perceived success of China's proactive approach of containing <i>Islamist</i> discontent and separatism in Xinjiang Autonomous Region -- "<i>reshaping society from the bottom up</i>" -- may have application elsewhere.</p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India is planning to export <i>low-cost nuclear reactors</i> -- "the Kaiga-3 nuclear power reactor in Karnataka, developed by Indian engineers, achieved criticality early this week". India's <i>defense spending</i> has increased almost 8% over last year to around \$20B, almost half of that as <i>capital outlay</i> on new systems. The <i>telemedicine</i> sector poised for a big growth in India; and may become a growth Indian <i>export</i> throughout the world, of particular benefit to the <i>developing</i> world. India moves to get depth in its <i>IT industry</i> by encouraging <i>chip fabrication</i>. <p>Signifying an impasse with solving the recent <i>train bombing</i>, police have increased the <i>bounty</i> for information -- "<i>the bombs used appeared to be of low-intensity but</i></p>

↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ✎ ALERT



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

	<p>they were <i>'highly sophisticated in their circuitry'</i>."</p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A bomb blast at the port of Ambon in Maluku in Indonesia's far east is the first reversion to violence in many months. <p>Indonesia has deployed 1,000 troops to the East Timor border -- "<i>the deployment was to anticipate possible penetration of East Timor rebels led by Maj. Alfredo Reinado</i>"</p> <p>Indonesia's legislature is backing measures for "<i>de-radicalization</i>" -- <i>de-radicalization is urgently needed to improve the people's awareness of terrorism and ensure an understanding of religion and their teachings.</i>"</p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fighting between Iranian security forces and Kurdish insurgents in the country's northwest has increased in recent weeks. Iran is certain there are "foreign devils in the Iranian mountains", that the US has ramped up support for Iran's dissident minorities. <p>DNI's assessment that Iran may have nuclear weapons by <u>2015</u> is in stark contrast to Israel's (and fellow-travelers) assessment that Iran will be armed within "months". A senior Iranian diplomat visited Beijing "to discuss Tehran's nuclear standoff as China repeated its position that the conflict should be resolved through negotiation." Russia's "NATO", the Collective Security Treaty Organization, says air-strikes will not stop any Iranian nuclear program and would further destabilize Central Asia. Some said it is an intentional Pentagon tactic with Iran to maintain "the impression that the United States is ready to go to war".</p> <p>Iran will issue a new banknote -- the highest denomination currency in circulation, 50,000 Rials -- celebrating advances in atomic science.</p> <p>A good checklist of talking-points for the blindly anti-Iran [Iran as baby-eater] position -- The Negotiations Hoax</p> <p>The Islamic summit in Islamabad was said to worry Iran -- whether or not the Islamabad meeting was intended to be Sunni-only, that's what it in fact was. Iran and Sudan held talks in Khartoum.</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moscow's mayor Yury Luzhkov has started a move to close many of the 2,000 gaming halls and casinos that were opened in Moscow in recent years; some will be converted to public libraries. <p>Russian weapon exports have grown from \$6.5B in 2006 \$8B in 2007.</p>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • President Chavez calls John Negroponte a "professional killer" in his continuing charm offensive against the US and refers to John Negroponte's time as US ambassador to Honduras. Venezuela refused to sign the OAS counter-terrorism declaration, pointing to the US protection of a man accused of bombing a Cuban jetliner in 1976. Venezuela is planning to buy 9 more submarines -- "<i>Venezuela will have 11 submarines, the largest fleet in South America, followed by Peru with six, Brazil 5, Colombia and Chile 4, Argentina 3 and Ecuador 2.</i>" <p>Funded and encouraged by Venezuela, Bolivia continues its plans to export raw coca products -- "<i>just like in the past we used coca for the benefits of humanity, now we'll industrialize it. We don't have evil ends in mind.</i>"</p>
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ During the visit by Vice-president Cheney, it is said President Musharraf was confronted with "compelling" CIA evidence that Afghan fighters have bases in</p>
<p>↓ deteriorated • steady ↑ improved ↗ ALERT</p>	



Week: 26 February – 04 March 2007

Pakistan; deputy director of the CIA was flown to Pakistan to personally present the evidence. **Pakistan** reiterates that it will not accept dictates from others about the tribal areas -- "*We don't accept dictation from any side, any source.*" **Pakistan** police arrest 5 *militants* as they tried to plant a *bomb* on a *railway track* to blow up a train in *Hyderabad*; they are alleged to be connected to 39 bomb attacks. **Pakistan** test-fired a short-range *nuclear-capable missile* -- the *Hatf-II Abdali* has range of 200 km (125 miles) and is capable of carrying all types of war-heads.

President **Musharraf** efforts to convene an *Islamic* consensus on the *Middle East* and Iraq has led old fault-lines to re-emerge – **Pakistan** is a favored friend of the *Sunni* and *Arab Gulf states*, *non-Arab Shi'ite Iran* is not.

Afghan opium production has hit a new high -- most of the recent \$10B in assistance was spent on *security* rather than encouraging opium growers to turn to *alternative* sources of income.

Algerian security forces repulsed ten simultaneous attacks on police positions east of *Algiers*, probably the work of *Salafist Group for Preaching and Combat (GSPC)*.

Pakistan is set to help **Sri Lanka** raise an *Armored Brigade* but observers say the unsuitability of armor to Sri Lanka suggests *corrupt* deals.

Prensa Latina says **Guatemala** has become "*ungovernable*" -- "*this confirms a crisis in the entire security apparatus, with severe consequences.*"

Turkey plans to construct a *nuclear power plant* in 2007.

In **South Africa**, although the program of *land "redistribution"* so far has been under a "*willing buyer, willing seller*" policy but there are ominous hints this may be about change as a population grows impatient with the government.

20070305w

.oOo.

↓ deteriorated

• steady

↑ improved

↗ ALERT