

GLOBAL CHALLENGES: THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Destabilizing Threats, Stabilizing Policies, and Global Powers at a Glance

Threat Summary

	Environment. Gore gets Nobel; climate change more deadly than vehicles. Need four-part strategy..
	Inter-State Conflict. Taliban outdoes NATO in IO; US SecDef forceful on Irregular Warfare growth.
	Proliferation. Pentagon notes 43% rise in 2005 of suspicious foreign contacts with US arms dealers.
	Poverty. All aid to Africa negated by spending on armed conflict—arms trade equals assured poverty.
	Infectious Disease. Uganda and India open up AIDS and malaria medical factory. Polio hits Nigeria.
	Civil War. UN lacks helicopters; Somalian ministers condemn government, teachers quit Zimbabwe.
	Genocide. Armenian genocide finally recognized by House, Turkey demands denial of history.
	Transnational Crime. Burmese opium production soaring, second only of Afghanistan.
	Other Atrocities. Forced labor and sex in South Africa; political killings in Philippines. Priest to jail.
	Terrorism. Oxford declares War on Terror a disaster. Singapore leads in reeducating radicals.

Policy Summary

	Diplomacy. US chooses Ethiopia over “terror-loving” Eritrea. Costa Rica split over free trade.
	Security. US defense industry in decline. UN warns of more natural disasters. Internet wide open.
	Society. US has less violent crime, while nooses turn up here and there. Caribbean vote in US election.
	Economy. See links.
	Education. See links.
	Energy. Is Achilles’ heel of Argentina, Brazil, Chile. Ecuador wants all the wind-fall profits.
	Health. US deaths of women in childbirth ten times higher than Ireland, down there with Belarus.
	Immigration. Mexican president trying to shame US, as over 2000 arrests are made in Los Angeles.
	Water. Biofuels cause water shortages. 50 of 421 rivers in Philippines are dead. Central Asia down..
	Agriculture. See links.
	Family. See links.
	Justice. Alberto Gonzales finally figures out he might need a defense lawyer for lying to Congress.

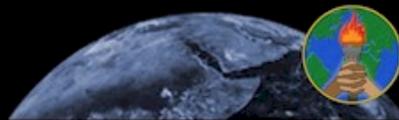
Major Player Summary

	Iran.
	Brazil. Iraqi and Palestinian refugees migrate in. Lula da Silva will stand down, run again for 2011.
	China. Dam project displacing millions more. Petitioners’ village shut down.
	India. Intelligence malaise, politics. Nepal could draw landowner militia in. Joins US pipeline team.
	Indonesia. Highest possible marks for Indonesia’s anti-terror work, from Australian foreign minister.
	Russia. Kazakhstan equal to Russia as a center of gravity for the rising Eurasia “bloc.” Putin clan war.
	Venezuela. Opens pipeline to Colombia. Spending heavily on poor, taxing luxuries. Satellite base.
	Wild Cards. Turkey holding US hostage, plans to attack Kurds. India, Brazil, South Africa summit.

World Crises - from monthly assessments by [International Crisis Group](#) at 01 October 2007

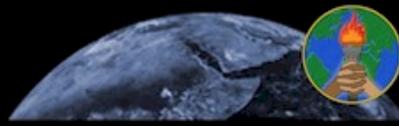
↘	Alert: Democratic Republic of Congo
↓	Deteriorated: Bangladesh, Burundi, DR Congo, Georgia, Guatemala, India (non-Kashmir), Iraq, Philippines, Somalia
↑	Improved: Sierra Leone, Turkey
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unchanged: Afghanistan, Algeria, Azerbaijan, Basque Country (Spain), Belarus, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Comoros Islands, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Indonesia, Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mali, Moldova, Myanmar/Burma, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Niger, Nigeria, North Caucasus (non-Chechnya), Northern Ireland (UK), North Korea, Pakistan, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Solomon Islands, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Syria, Taiwan Strait, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen, Zimbabwe

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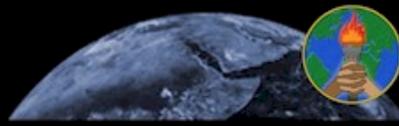


Threats		<i>see daily items with links to full stories on the web at PDB-Threats</i>
Poverty <small>news list forecast</small>	↓	<p><i>All aid to Africa over last 15 years negated by £150bn [\$284B] spent on armed conflict, says report</i> -- an Oxfam-IANSA-Saferworld report documents how conflict continues to drive the economies in several African regions backwards - only comprehensive regulation of the international arms trade can turn things around.</p> <p><i>see: Proliferation</i></p> <p>Niger has one of the world's largest reserves of uranium but little to show for it except environmental damage, health problems and a widening poverty gap; <u>71% illiteracy</u> and <u>60%</u> live on <u>less than \$1 a day</u> -- <i>Uranium - blessing or curse?</i></p> <p><i>Democracy "hijacked" by graft-ridden Nigerian politicians</i> -- "Crooked politicians have 'hijacked' democratic institutions in Nigeria by recruiting thugs and 'godfathers' to prop up their careers ..."</p>
Infectious Disease <small>news list forecast</small>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasizing the need for wider immunization, not less: "<i>69 children in the north have caught the paralyzing disease from others who had already been immunised</i>" -- <i>Vaccine-linked polio hits Nigeria.</i> <i>Uganda opens first AIDS, malaria drugs factory</i> -- a Ugandan 50% joint-venture with Indian pharmaceuticals giant Cipla: "<i>Our objective is first to be self-sufficient, then we can look at selling elsewhere.</i>"
Environment <small>news list forecast</small>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Norwegian Nobel Committee characterized <i>former next president Gore</i> as "the single individual who has done most" for Climate Change awareness -- <i>Gore, U.N. Body Win Nobel Peace Prize.</i> The new Forest Carbon Partnership Facility developed by the World Bank would pay developing countries hundreds of millions of dollars for protecting and replanting tropical forests -- <i>World Bank fund to pay for protecting forests [Interview].</i> <i>Are we asking the wrong questions about global warming?</i> -- no single quick answer: "<i>More likely a workable solution would be a multifarious approach implementing changes in global patterns of fuel consumption, carbon output, emissions, and energy usage.</i>" <i>Climate change deadlier than car accidents</i> -- climate change is additional to other complex environmental issues such as fine-particle pollution that presently shorten life expectancy by <u>almost a year</u>.
Inter-State Conflict <small>news list forecast</small>	↓	<p><i>Ex-Commander Says Iraq Effort Is 'a Nightmare'</i> -- retired Lt Gen Sanchez is the <u>most senior war commander to join a growing crowd of retired officers</u> who harshly criticize the administration's conduct of the war.</p> <p>"To get trains running again inside Iraq would bring a huge economic boost to the area" -- railways and covered drainage are signs of high civilization but neither has been restored in Iraq -- <i>Iraq insurgency: Defending the railroads.</i> [with train photos]</p> <p>Secretary of Defense Gates continues to be the only one keeping his head on the burning deck; "<i>Success will be less a matter of imposing one's will and more a function of shaping behavior of friends, adversaries, and most importantly, the people in between</i>" -- <i>Gates Says Military Faces More Unconventional Wars.</i></p> <p><i>NATO handicapped by its "stone age" media skills in Afghanistan</i> -- the Taliban simply have better Madison Avenue skills; "<i>by that time, we have totally lost the media battle.</i>"</p>
Civil War	↓	<p><i>In Somalia, "22 ministers said the government of Prime Minister Ali Mohamed Gedi</i></p>

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<p>news list forecast</p>	<p>government has <i>failed to meet the needs of the Somali people</i>" -- <i>22 Somali Ministers Demand No-Confidence Vote on Government</i>.</p> <p>In Zimbabwe, the <i>school system</i> halts as <u>15,200 teachers</u> migrate to neighboring countries -- <i>Schools close as hordes of teachers resign</i>.</p> <p><i>Southerners suspend work in Khartoum government</i> -- the Sudan People's Liberation Movement has just over a <u>quarter of government posts</u>, including the <u>foreign</u> and <u>humanitarian affairs</u> ministries. A sad contemptible truth: "<i>But we just don't have the helicopters we need to operate in Darfur</i>," says Under-Secretary-General for <i>UN Peacekeeping Operations</i> Jean-Marie Guehenn -- <i>Darfur Mission May Be Hampered By Lack of Choppers</i>.</p>
<p>Genocide news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Congress-White House disagreement is not about whether or not the Armenian mass deaths are genocide but about how important Turkey is to the US -- <i>Panel Labels Armenian Killings Genocide</i>. <i>see: Wild Card (Turkey)</i>
<p>Other Atrocities news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "<i>South Africa is really at the cusp of addressing forced labour and commercial sex trafficking within its own borders</i>" says a visiting US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer -- <i>'Human trafficking a serious problem in SA'</i>. • <i>Philippines vows to act faster on political killings</i> -- "<i>we've heard these orders in the past. It's actually part of their work. So, we're challenging the justice department to prosecute and convict even one human rights violator.</i>" • A conviction and <u>life sentence</u> for a former police chaplain Catholic priest is indicative of the Church's complicity with 1976-83 <i>anti-leftist military regime</i> -- <i>Argentine "Dirty War" priest gets life sentence</i>. • Two <i>militia leaders</i> in the middle of the real world of <i>child soldiers</i> and <i>'blood diamonds'</i> are sentenced to modest terms of prison -- <i>Sierra Leone jails pro-govt militia chiefs</i>.
<p>Proliferation news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>US says illegal weapons exports growing</i> -- "<i>a Pentagon report noted a 43% increase in 2005 in what it described as suspicious foreign contacts with U.S.-based defense companies</i>" [<i>Comment: These are "illegal" exports in the sense they are a concern to US security; in contrast the US [and UK] has no concern for regulation of the international arms trade as such; see: Poverty</i>]
<p>Terrorism news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The US is looking at a Singapore program that <i>ideologically</i> re-educates Muslim "<i>extremists</i>"; "<i>a counseling program that employs Muslim clerics to rebut extremist views of detainees has steadily reduced their numbers ...</i>" -- <i>U.S. Tries Rehab for Religious Extremists</i>. • The UN definition recognizes terrorism is a <i>means</i> used by a range of parties throughout history from "<i>freedom fighters</i>" to mad-dog "terrorists"; but India says it's these means that disrupts civil society irrespective of motive, terrorism has no excuses -- <i>India wants clear signal to be sent to terrorists</i>. • The Basque separatist ETA is reported to have stolen goods from a chemical factory that would enable them to deploy <i>chemical weapons</i> in attacks -- <i>ETA 'preparing for chemical weapon attack': police</i>. • In Pakistan, the <i>north-west tribal areas</i> saw "<i>some of the fiercest clashes in the Afghan border area since Islamabad joined the US-led 'war on terror' in 2001</i>" -- <i>Pak bombs wreck anti-British firebrand's mosque</i>. Western <i>intelligence</i> continues to claim a clear picture of Pakistan's part in world-wide <i>Islamic militantism</i>; "<i>unlike</i>



Iraq, where foreign fighters plunge quickly into combat, recruits in Pakistan are more likely to be groomed for missions in the West" -- Terrorists in training head to Pakistan.

A former head of **Pakistan's ISI** [state security] says **bin Laden** could hide more easily in a city than in a *remote tribal region* -- *Bin Laden better hidden in city than a cave, says intelligence expert.*

US Treasury cites 3 Saudis over aid to Abu Sayyaf -- "these three **terrorist financiers** were instrumental in raising money to fund terrorism outside of **Saudi Arabia**". [Comment: This is peculiar -- of all Muslim groups in the **Philippines**, *Abu Sayyaf* is the least **ideological**, in recent years becoming little more than a criminal **kidnap** gang.]

Rand recommends the **US** should seek to "shape the **cell-phone** environment in ways that favor authorities" [not miscreants] -- *Cell phones key to info war vs. insurgents.*

The result of a **nuclear detonation** remains largely localized - other **CBRN agents** can be more devastating -- *Bioterror book warns of hazards: What's missing?.*

"The **SITE Intelligence Group** told the *Washington Post* that **techniques used to gain intelligence on al-Qaeda** had been made *ineffective and worthless* by **White House interference**" -- *Report - Al-Qaeda is rising again.* Also: "The leak alerted al-Qaida to the firm's surveillance of a channel it had been using to pass along messages and advance warning of attacks ..." -- *White House denies mishandling al-Qaida tip-off.*

The think-tank **Oxford Research Group** says the '**War on Terror**' has been a disaster; Western strategy since 9/11 has failed to extinguish the threat from Islamism extremism and has fuelled it -- '*War on terror' has been a 'disaster': British think tank.*

Transnational Crime
[news list|forecast](#)

- *Burmese opium production soaring* -- "in 2007 cultivation in **Burma** rose by 29% and production was up 46%. **Burma** is the world's second largest opium producer after Afghanistan".

Policy

Agriculture
[news list|forecast](#)

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

Diplomacy
[news list|forecast](#)

- *Costa Ricans narrowly back free trade with US* in a **referendum** "that has split the **Central American nation like no other issue in decades**", 52% backed **CAFTA**.
 The **US** throws its support behind (**Christian**) **Ethiopia** despite evidence it is far from the good-guy of the **Horn of Africa** -- *US stands by Ethiopia, bashes 'terror-loving' Eritrea.*

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]

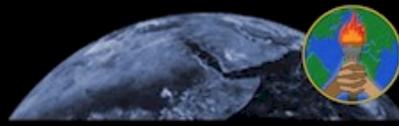
Energy
[news list|forecast](#)

- "Energy is the Achilles' heel of the governments in **Brazil, Argentina and Chile**" -- *Energy Crunch Threatens South American Nations.*
Ecuador issues foreign oil decree -- President **Correa** says the 50% of windfall oil profits made law last year is not enough, and the state should now receive 99%.
 More on the harder, but better, course of **cellulosic ethanol** -- *POET to present at Cellulosic Ethanol Summit.*

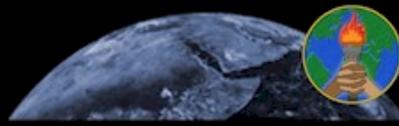
Family
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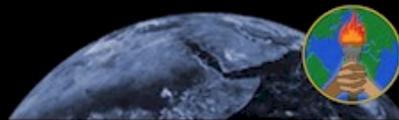
<p>Health news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in 4,800 US women <i>die</i> from <u>complications of pregnancy or childbirth</u>, the same as Belarus, <u>ten times higher</u> than the country with the best results, Ireland -- <i>U.S. maternal death rate higher than Europe's: report.</i>
<p>Immigration news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Feds Nail Over 1,300 Criminal Aliens and Immigration Fugitives</i> says <i>The Conservative Voice</i> -- "during the two-week operation in the Los Angeles area, which concluded last week, ICE officers located and arrested 530 immigration violators". <p>Mexican President Felipe Calderon maintains his campaign to "shame" the US: "The world is open in new ways," he said. "We are building fences instead of bridges" -- <i>Mexican leader critiques U.S. border fence.</i></p>
<p>Justice news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberto Gonzales hires defense attorney -- "investigators are looking into allegations that Gonzales lied to lawmakers and illegally allowed politics to influence hiring and firing at the department".
<p>Security news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the Internet is now a cornerstone of strategic infrastructure, the US seeks to protect it from attack and deny its use to "terrorists"; but "exactly how the government expects to deny the Internet to terrorists isn't spelled out" -- <i>U.S. Government Seeks To Deny The Internet To Its Enemies.</i> <p>The TOPOFF-4 exercise will stress communication between "top officials" but <i>Time</i> says it could also include real media and real civilians -- <i>The Trouble with Terror Drills.</i></p> <p>The UN says authorities must prepare mitigation strategies for more extreme and more frequent natural disasters resulting from climate change; "Disaster risk reduction is a key part of the global response to climate change" -- <i>UN urges preparedness for more frequent disasters.</i></p> <p>If information warfare [cyberwar, e-war, ...] is to become common, rules of engagement are needed; "for example, assume the hackers in the Estonia case were indeed operating from Russia but had <u>no ties</u> to the government or military" -- <i>E-war rules of engagement.</i></p> <p>Death by giant's disease: US size guarantees it will run out of sufficient resources to maintain its present posture -- <i>21st Century Warfare Will Outstrip the Capabilities of Our Declining Defense Industrial Base.</i></p> <p>"Computer and behavioural scientists at the University of Buffalo are developing automated systems that track faces, voices, bodies and other biometrics" that may assist in the identification of "terrorists" -- <i>US developing system to detect possible terrorists.</i> [Comment: Israel has used behavioral techniques for many years.]</p>
<p>Society news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ Dark forces toy with the US psyche: The U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the Hempstead Police Department locker room, Columbia University, and near 9/11 Ground Zero are just some places a dozen or so nooses have turned up -- <i>Noose Found Near Ground Zero.</i></p> <p>In the US "the good news is that there is considerably less violent crime than there was 15 years ago. The challenge is to pick up on <u>what contributed to the decline</u>" -- <i>Survey shows shift in violence.</i></p> <p>"The United States says Cuba's system is antidemocratic because it doesn't allow direct multiparty elections for president. Cuba retorts that in America, the candidates who raise the most money usually win" -- <i>In Cuba, Democracy a Block at a Time.</i></p>



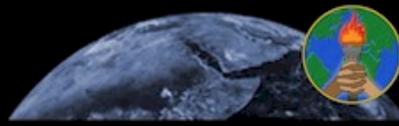
	<p>A view on <i>'the Caribbean Vote'</i> in the coming US elections -- The Caribbean Vote [Commentary].</p>
<p>Water news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finally ... it's a headline -- Biofuels plans may cause water shortages. <p>But ...a study says careful choice of <i>crops</i> -- <i>sorghum, batata, cassava</i> -- keeps China's <i>biofuel</i> plans realistic -- Chinese biofuel 'will not stress water resources'.</p> <p>Agitating for a Central Asian Water-Management Framework -- "the region could be headed for a <i>socio-economic catastrophe</i> if a <i>regional accord</i> on water usage is not worked out soon".</p> <p>In the Philippines "even the environment department has acknowledged that <u>50 of the 421 rivers</u> in the country can be considered '<i>biologically dead</i>' because of <i>pollution</i>" -- Water quality in RP declining -- Greenpeace.</p> <p>See: China</p>
<p>Challengers</p>	
<p>Brazil news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A further small number of Palestinian refugees who have been repeatedly relocated have <i>migrated</i> to Brazil -- Second Group of Iraqi Refugees Arrives in Brazil. <p>"Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva ruled out trying to change the Brazilian <i>constitution</i> so that he can run a third time to the presidency of Brazil in 2010" -- Lula Admits Running for a Third Term as Brazil's President in 2014. [<i>Comment</i>: Lula will stand back for the 2007-2010 term and then stand again for President; which is perfectly lawful.]</p>
<p>China news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 17th Party Congress is flagged as coming at a <u>critical</u> time in China's development but -- as with all such meetings anywhere -- most of the outcomes will be already known to some -- Chinese Communist Party to Hold Congress. <p>The system of <i>petitioners</i> visiting Beijing to seek remedy for local grievances is ancient but the area where they gather has now been <u>cleared</u> ahead of the Party Congress -- Beijing shuts down "petitioners' village".</p> <p>Already <u>1.4 million people</u> have been moved to make way for the construction of the Three Gorges Dam, many of them more than once; now a <u>further 3 million</u> will be moved -- Dam Project to Displace Millions More in China.</p> <p><i>see: Water</i></p>
<p>India news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> India's <i>external security agency</i>, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) is suffering malaise and beset with continual feuding over <u>administrative</u> (rather than operational) issues -- Playing politics with intelligence. <p>Cover-up games intelligence agencies play -- "bunglings and opaqueness shrouding the agencies has led some former intelligence officials to call for parliamentary oversight".</p> <p>Stability in Nepal is important to India, and continues to be elusive; the <i>Maoists</i> have lost much of their influence in the countryside, and are unpopular in the cities, which seems to be why they wanted November's <i>elections</i> put off -- Is Nepal's democracy in danger?</p> <p>There are fears the Ranvir Sena, a powerful <i>anti-Maoist private army</i> raised by <i>rich landlords</i> in Bihar, may involve itself in Nepal against the Maoists there -- Nepal fears incursion of Bihar's private army. [see map]</p>



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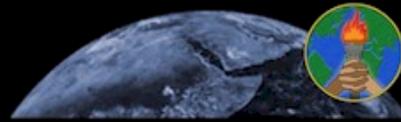


	<p><i>China accuses India of 'violating' border agreement in Sikkim</i> -- "Indian government sources had said that Chinese army personnel kept on transgressing at certain places along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in an attempt to assert their claim on certain Indian territories." [see map]</p> <p>Chief of <i>International Atomic Energy Agency</i>, (IAEA) Mohammad El Baradei sees no official objection to the US-India nuclear deal, nor anything in it that would restrict India's options; "France gets 78% of their energy requirements from nuclear power, in India it is <u>only 2%</u> and this needs to be enhanced" -- <i>El Baradei: Nuke agreement with US will not affect India's foreign policy.</i></p> <p>India still claims interest in joining the Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) gas pipeline project which the US opposes, but now (also) expresses intention to join the (US-backed) Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline -- <i>India decides to join TAP pipeline project.</i></p>
<p>Indonesia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On the anniversary of the Bali bombings, Australia's foreign minister has unalloyed praise for Indonesia's efforts against extremism; "<i>the Indonesians have done an excellent job</i>" -- <i>Terror threat in SE Asia 'has lessened'</i>. <p>However ... Since the 2002 Bali attack more than <u>400 members</u> of Jemaah Islamiah have been arrested across four countries but <u>small extreme splinter groups</u> remain -- <i>Splinter groups pose new terror threat, says expert.</i></p> <p><i>see: Iran</i></p>
<p>Iran news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Indonesian speaker hails Iran-Indonesia ties</i> -- "Indonesia, as the chair of the UN Security Council, will do its best to pay due attention to the issues of the Islamic world, particularly the Islamic Republic of Iran". <p><i>New Iranian air base inaugurated near Afghan border</i> -- "meant to boost the presence of Iran's air force in the <u>eastern</u> part of the country. Most of the country's <u>12 air force bases</u> are currently situated in the <u>west</u> ",</p> <p><i>Is Bolivia Cozying Up to Iran?</i> -- "they are pragmatic: When Iran offers a billion dollars, Bolivia's going to accept. <u>It does not mean the beginning of the next cold war</u>".</p>
<p>Russia news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The head of FSB [successor to KGB] says that some, particularly Britain, are still up to the old Cold War games of destabilization; "<i>politicians thinking in the categories of the Cold War still retain their influence in a number of Western nations</i>" -- <i>Spy Chief: West Wants to Split Russia.</i> <p>More detail on complex happenings in Russia's power elite -- <i>Infighting among Putin's siloviki escalates to a 'clan war'</i>.</p> <p><i>Russia successfully tests short-range missile interceptor</i> -- "the launch had been conducted to assess the possibility of extending of the service life of interceptor missiles on combat duty <u>around Moscow</u>".</p> <p>Three summits in the Tajik capital, Dushanbe -- Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) and the Eurasian Economic Community (EurAsEC) – confirm the vitality of the bloc with two "centers of gravity", Russia and Kazakhstan -- <i>Three post-Soviet summits. Gendarme of Eurasia: Moscow takes a closer look at former Soviet republics</i> – "Saturday's summit of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) in Dushanbe passed blueprints which are likely to turn this assembly into <u>a real military and political bloc</u>".</p>



	<p>Ahead of his visit to Iran, President Putin has been informed of an assassination plot awaiting him but this has been condemned as misinformation by security services; <i>"the services had relied on information received from several sources outside the country, the agency [Interfax] said"</i> -- <i>Putin told of 'assassination bid'</i>.</p>
<p>Venezuela news list forecast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Police cars, helicopters, radio stations, health clinics and fertilizer -- the deep pockets of Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez benefit leftist allies and the poor from Bolivia to Nicaragua" -- <i>Venezuela's Chavez spends heavily to help allies.</i> <i>Venezuela, Colombia open pipeline</i> -- "the initiative is part of Venezuela's plans to use Colombia's gas for four to seven years. At the end of the period the country intends to <u>redirect the flow</u> by exporting gas to Colombia". <i>Ambitious technological project ... Venezuela's own satellite base in Guarico</i> -- the proposed Simon Bolivar Satellite "is a Venezuelan project for humanity and their benefit". <i>Venezuela's Chavez on moral crusade</i> -- in his program to create the 'New Man', President Chavez is loading luxury goods, tobacco and alcohol with disincentives -- beer trucks selling alcohol on the streets will be seized.
<p>Wild Cards news list forecast</p>	<p>↓ "Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has given his country's armed forces permission to launch a cross-border operation against Kurdish rebels in Iraq" -- <i>Turkey approves cross-border operations.</i> Turkey has repeatedly threatened an incursion to eradicate the PKK's northern Iraqi bases unless the United States and Iraqi authorities clamp down first" -- <i>Turkish tanks ready to roll into Iraq in hunt for rebel hideouts.</i></p> <p>The US realizes that the PKK issue – now together with the action in US Congress on the emotive Armenian genocide – may cost vital use of Turkish airspace; "events have triggered more detailed planning for the curtailment or closure" of access to Turkey -- <i>U.S. military looking at alternatives in case Turkey cuts access.</i> Turkey's posture is unambiguous; "If this resolution passed in the committee passes the House as well, <u>our military ties with the U.S. will never be the same again,</u>" says Turkish Chief of Staff General Buyukanit -- <i>Turkish Warning: "Never The Same Again".</i></p> <p><i>see: Genocide</i></p> <p>A step-by-step account by a Berkeley academic of unexpected progress of the Latin American "red tide" in Ecuador; <i>"Never before has the theory that it is the people who make history been so certain"</i> -- <i>Ecuador's Popular Revolt: Forging a New Nation.</i></p> <p>Preparatory to Benazir Bhutto's planned return to Pakistan, the government has agreed to withdraw international arrest warrants; "the government will withdraw red notices issued through Interpol against former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her spouse" -- <i>Red notices to be withdrawn: govt.</i></p> <p>More on the ideological ambiguities within Pakistan's security community; "many officers of Pakistan's covert security agencies remain emotionally committed to jihad and hostile to the US role in the region" -- <i>How ISI agents play double role in Pak.</i></p> <p>"It was quite a shock for some Russians in a rural backwater of the Urals recently to see <u>lorry-loads of Chinese troops</u> go by"; the new Russian-Chinese détente including military exercises was unimaginable decades ago -- <i>The Sino-Russian embrace leaves the US out in the cold.</i></p> <p><i>India, Brazil, South Africa to hold summit this month</i> -- each is a pivotal nation in</p>

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its own continent; and **Brazil** and **South Africa** are members of the *Nuclear Suppliers Group*.

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