



Contemporary Conflict

- [Mullen: U.S. Focus Moving to Afghanistan](#)
- [Holbrooke Says Afghan War 'Tougher Than Iraq'](#)
- [Hamas 'set for truce with Israel'](#)
- [Suicide bomber kills 30 in Iraq](#)

Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism

- [Deadly attacks hit Afghan capital](#)
- [Pakistan admits India attack link](#)

Diplomacy & Defence Strategy

- [North Korea cuts all links with South Korea](#)
- [China reiterates sovereignty in South China Sea](#)
- [Taiwan: Closer China ties fortify sovereignty, says President Ma](#)
- [Dispute mounts over key U.S. base in Kyrgyzstan](#)
- [Singapore, Indonesia working out details of border agreement signing ceremony](#)
- [China to control import-export of technologies with potential military application](#)
- [Japan urged to immediately cease action on Diaoyu Islands](#)
- [Cambodia, Thailand agree border troop withdrawal](#)
- [U.S. Can Ship Afghan Aid Through Russia, Kremlin Says](#)
- [Taiwan must keep strong military, says President Ma](#)
- [No thaw yet in U.S.-China military ties - U.S. admiral](#)
- [Russia's Defense Ministry to get over \\$111 bln in next 3 years](#)
- [U.S. Mulls Methods of Engaging Iran](#)
- [Obama begins cyber security review](#)

Defence Acquisition and Technology

- [China's Unusual Deals Working to Grow African Arms Presence](#)
- [Indonesia: Russia Officially Delivers Three Sukhoi Aircrafts](#)
- [Russian arms exports to China may drop significantly](#)
- [Russian Arms Trade Sets New Record: Medvedev](#)
- [RI to purchase Russian submarine](#)
- [France to sell military jets, weapons to Kuwait](#)

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



Non-Traditional Security

- [Somali pirates 'free arms ship'](#)
- [China Health Ministry 'Puzzled' By Bird Flu Cases](#)

Military / Peacekeeping / Humanitarian Operations

- [Japan: MSDF hands tied on antipiracy tour](#)
- [Indian submarine, Chinese ship in standoff near Somalia, says Chinese media](#)
- [Singapore: SAF in 5-nation military exercise](#)

WMD Proliferation

- [China to Continue Nuclear Weapon Expansion](#)
- [India signs IAEA inspections pact key to atom trade](#)
- [US warns North Korea against "provocative" missile test](#)
- [Iran's missiles: Don't go ballistic](#)
- [Pakistan's disgraced nuke scientist freed by court](#)
- [India Open to Global Nuclear Weapons Ban, Official Says](#)
- [US & Russia: Satellites collide in space](#)

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Mullen: U.S. Focus Moving to Afghanistan](#)

Defense News – February 9

The chairman of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff said Feb. 9 the United States was still "not done" in Iraq but that the military's primary focus was now the war in Afghanistan.

"You have turned it around in Iraq," Adm. Mike Mullen told several hundred soldiers at the Fort Drum Army base in New York state.

"A year or two ago, we were not in a situation where it looked like we could succeed. Now we are," said the admiral, referring to the U.S. surge of troops credited in part for improved security in Iraq.

But he added: "We're not done in Iraq."

"Al-Qaida is still there, still a problem, although greatly diminished."

Mullen said he was hopeful the number of U.S. troops in Iraq could be reduced over the next few months but that more forces would be needed in Afghanistan to fight a spreading insurgency.

"Our focus is shifting from Iraq to Afghanistan," he told enlisted men and women of the 10th Mountain Division, which has deployed large numbers of soldiers to Iraq.

"It's gotten worse in Afghanistan. Violence is up. The Taliban is back. More than anything else, there's a governance issue which is not going well."

The admiral said while he anticipated more troops would be sent to Afghanistan as requested by the commander of U.S. forces there, it was unlikely the force would surpass a total of about 66,000 - nearly double the roughly 36,000 now deployed there.

"From my perspective right now I don't see U.S. growing a force well beyond the 20,000 to 30,000 [additional troops] for Afghanistan," he said.

Officials have said the military has prepared for the possible deployment of three combat brigades, about 10,000 to 12,000 soldiers, to Afghanistan.

Mullen's comment indicated the U.S. presence in Afghanistan would not expand to a level similar to the force in Iraq, where about 144,000 troops are deployed.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)



révolutionnaire

04/2009

30 JAN 09– 12 Feb 09

He said military means alone could not defeat the insurgents in Afghanistan, but that like Iraq ensuring security for the population was a vital precondition to other efforts by the State Department and other agencies.

"The military side of this [is] a necessary condition without which success cannot be generated," he said.

Mullen said that Afghanistan in some ways presented a "tougher fight than Iraq," citing complex tribal politics and Al-Qaida safe havens along the border with Pakistan.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Holbrooke Says Afghan War 'Tougher Than Iraq'](#)

The New York Times – February 10

The war in Afghanistan will be “much tougher than Iraq,” President Obama’s special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan said at a security conference here on Sunday.

“There is no magic formula in Afghanistan,” the envoy, Richard C. Holbrooke, warned an audience of European policy makers and military planners. “There is no Dayton agreement in Afghanistan,” he added, referring to the peace accord he negotiated to end the war in Bosnia. “It’s going to be a long, difficult struggle.”

Mr. Holbrooke was part of a high-level American delegation at the annual Munich Security Conference over the weekend. The group, led by Vice President Joseph R. Biden Jr. and including Gen. James L. Jones, the national security adviser, and Gen. David H. Petraeus, the head of the United States Central Command, did not paint a rosy picture of the situation in Afghanistan.

The American view of Afghanistan’s problems differed from that of the country’s president, Hamid Karzai, who also spoke Sunday.

While Mr. Karzai acknowledged the security problems, he said that great progress had been made, from roads to schools to health services. In an address that at times sounded defensive, he said Afghanistan was neither a “narco-state” nor a “failed state,” as critics have labeled it.

Mr. Karzai called again for reconciliation with Taliban forces “who are not part of Al Qaeda, who are not part of terrorist networks, who want to return to their country.” He also criticized NATO over the number of civilian casualties it has caused in the course of battling the insurgency.

An opinion survey published Monday said that, among Afghans, support for the Karzai government and the presence of American forces was still high, but falling. The poll, commissioned by three broadcasters -- the BBC, ABC News of the United States and ARD of Germany -- tested opinion among 1,500 Afghans divided equally between men and women in all 34 of Afghanistan’s provinces. Most respondents said the Taliban represented the biggest danger to their country.

American officials at the Munich conference questioned the gap between Mr. Karzai’s presentation of reality and what they see as the facts on the ground. The pervasive corruption in the country is viewed as a central reason that the Afghan leader has fallen out of favor with the Obama administration. Mr. Karzai faces an election in August.

General Petraeus’s comments, on the other hand, were greatly anticipated. He is widely credited for the improved security situation in Iraq, where he was the senior commander during the troop increase known

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

as the surge. Expectations are running high that he can repeat the success of that strategy in Afghanistan.

General Petraeus spoke of the need for outposts and patrol bases in the provinces. “You can’t commute to work” when conducting counterinsurgency operations, he said Sunday. “A nuanced appreciation of local situations is essential” to understanding “the tribal structures, the power brokers, the good guys and the bad guys, local cultures and history,” he said.

“There has been nothing easy about Afghanistan,” said General Petraeus, adding that he “would be remiss if I did not ask individual countries to examine very closely what forces and other contributions they can provide” ahead of the elections in August. He said needs included not only ground forces but also an array of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, military police officers, special operations, cargo and attack helicopters and more. Mr. Obama is planning to send as many as 30,000 additional troops to try to turn the tide in the war against insurgents.

Some NATO allies have been slow to contribute additional forces.

In his comments, General Jones was critical of the effort to stabilize the country thus far. “The international coordination was spotty at best,” he said. “We tended to focus too much on the military reconstruction part, which was important but not the only thing that should have been done.”

The Americans were not alone in their calls for a more robust effort. Radek Sikorski, the foreign minister of Poland, called Afghanistan a test for NATO, and emphasized that the security situation had to improve immediately. “If this year we don’t turn the tide, it’s going to be much harder later on,” he said.

Britain’s defense secretary, John Hutton, made what may have been the harshest comments directed at the alliance’s prosecution of the war, accusing NATO of an obsession with bureaucracy. “What I want from NATO is more of a wartime mentality,” he said.

In an interview on Saturday, Vice President Biden expressed sympathy for Mr. Karzai for the challenges he faces in governing Afghanistan. “Karzai has an incredibly difficult job,” he said.

“Do I think — me speaking, Joe Biden — think he could do more? Yes. Do I understand why from his perspective he might think he couldn’t do more? Yes. Does there ultimately over the next year have to be a change in appointing strong governors? Having a police force that is free of corruption? Cracking down more on the corruption within his own government? The answer is yes. Yes, all of the above has to occur.”

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS’ faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Hamas 'set for truce with Israel'](#)

BBC News – February 12

A long-term truce between the Palestinian militant group Hamas and Israel may be announced within days, Hamas officials said in Cairo. Border crossings would reportedly be re-opened and a ceasefire would be called for 18 months under the Egyptian-brokered deal. Israel and Hamas called unilateral truces at the end of Israel's offensive against Gaza last month.

US envoy George Mitchell recently urged the sides to extend their ceasefire. There was no immediate Israeli reaction to Thursday's announcement by Hamas officials.

'Obstacles removed'

Moussa Abu Marzouk, a deputy leader of Hamas, said the truce would be announced within 48 hours.

"We have agreed to the truce with the Israeli side for one year and a half [in return] for the opening of all six passages between the Gaza Strip and Israel, and the halting of all military activity and aggression," he was quoted as saying by the Egyptian state news agency Mena.

Hamas, he added, would first have to consult with other Palestinian factions. Taher al-Nono, a member of Hamas's negotiating team in Cairo, was earlier quoted by Reuters as saying that the deal would be announced within three days. "Most of the obstacles that prevented us from reaching an agreement were resolved," he said.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[Suicide bomber kills 30 in Iraq](#)

BBC News – February 13

At least 30 pilgrims have been killed by a female suicide bomber south of Baghdad, Iraqi police say. At least 25 people were also injured in the attack in Iskandiriya, 40km (25 miles) south of Baghdad.

The blast targeted Shia pilgrims, many of whom have been travelling south to the city of Karbala to take part in an annual religious ceremony. It is the third day of attacks on Shia pilgrims, with dozens killed in Baghdad and Mosul. The Iskandiriya attack happened despite increased security along the route. Most of the dead were women and children, Associated Press news agency reported.

Hundreds of thousands of Shia have been converging on Karbala in recent days, to celebrate Arbaeen - the end of symbolic mourning for the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, whose shrine is in the city.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Deadly attacks hit Afghan capital](#)

BBC News – February 11

In one attack, two suicide bombers detonated explosives at an office responsible for prisons in the north of the capital. Attackers also targeted the justice ministry and education ministry in the centre of the city. The Taliban have said they carried out the attacks. A spokesman said they were in response to the treatment of Taliban prisoners in Afghan jails. More than 50 people are reported injured, officials say.

The attacks come in the week the new US envoy for Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard Holbrooke, is expected to visit Kabul. The international forces in Afghanistan condemned the attacks as "callous and indiscriminate".

Taliban warning

Seven attackers took part in Wednesday's co-ordinated assault. Four gunmen tried to enter the justice ministry. Two were killed outside but the others managed to get in, the BBC's Ian Pannell in Kabul reports.

At one point the justice minister was locked inside his office under armed protection. He told the BBC he was safe but was unable to leave. The two attackers who entered the building were killed in a gunfight. A senior source said a number of police officers had also been killed. There was constant gunfire as police scaled the building with ladders to enter through windows. Student Assadullah Jagdalak was inside the justice ministry and said he hid under a table when he heard shooting outside the building.

"Security guards started shooting and then the attackers responded by killing other security guards. One got inside the building and started shooting, one guy got upstairs," he said.

A number of people were also killed and injured in the attack on the prisoner affairs department.

In the third incident, the attacker tried and failed to get inside the education ministry and set off an explosive belt after being shot.

Salim Hayran, who works at the ministry, told the BBC: "After I heard the firing I could see from my window people running and the security guards everywhere."

The commander of Nato's International Security Assistance Force, Gen David McKiernan, condemned the attacks.

"Once again the Taliban have displayed that they have no respect for Afghan citizens or any desire to see a peaceful future in Afghanistan," he said.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



Our correspondent says there had been a warning that the Taleban were planning a high-profile attack.

He says the attack follows a number of similar assaults last year and comes at a time when President Hamid Karzai is offering to sit down and start peace talks with the Taleban.

The incident comes after US military chief Adm Mike Mullen said more American troops were needed urgently in Afghanistan.

US President Barack Obama is expected to announce soon how many extra US troops could be sent to Afghanistan, and has called for Nato reinforcements.

Mr Holbrooke is expected in Kabul later this week, after his visit to Pakistan. Before he left for the region, he said Afghanistan would be "much tougher" to solve than Iraq and that he had "never seen anything like the mess we have inherited".

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Pakistan admits India attack link](#)

BBC News – February 12

A senior Pakistani official has admitted for the first time that last year's attacks in the Indian city of Mumbai were partly planned in Pakistan. Interior Ministry chief Rehman Malik said that a number of suspects from the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group had been held and may be prosecuted. India's foreign ministry described it as a "positive development".

Tensions were high after Delhi said 10 gunmen from Pakistan were involved in November's attacks that killed 173.

Pakistan denied any responsibility in the immediate aftermath of the attacks, but later admitted that the sole gunman captured alive was one of its citizens.

'Mastermind'

On Thursday Mr Malik told a news conference that legal steps had begun against eight suspects which could lead to prosecutions. "Some part of the conspiracy has taken place in Pakistan. We have lodged an FIR [first information report] into the case," he told a news conference in Islamabad.

He said six of the suspects "are now in custody" while two others remain at large. It is not clear when the suspects were arrested - Pakistan said in January that 71 suspects had been detained. Arrests began in early December.

"The attackers left from Karachi on a boat hired from Balochistan [province]," Mr Malik said. "An e-mail claiming responsibility for the attack was sent by Zarrar Shah of the Lashkar-e-Taiba."

Mr Shah was arrested at a Lashkar camp in December in Pakistani-administered Kashmir by security forces. Another man arrested at the time was Zaki-ur-Rehman Lakhvi, described as Lashkar's chief of operations. Mr Malik named Hamad Amin, a Karachi resident currently in Pakistani custody as the mastermind behind the attacks.

The BBC's Syed Shoaib Hasan in Islamabad says this is the first time the Pakistani authorities have acknowledged the full extent of the charges made by the Indian government.

Our correspondent says it is also the first time a serving Pakistan government official has acknowledged that a foreign terror plot was hatched in Pakistan - an admission that could hold serious implications for the country's security establishment.

'Surprised India'

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

India's foreign ministry welcomed Pakistan's admission. "We would expect that the government of Pakistan take credible steps to dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism in Pakistan," it added in a statement.

There is genuine surprise in India at what is seen by some as a major turn-around by Pakistan, the BBC's Sanjoy Majumder in Delhi says. Top Indian officials are now meeting to examine the information that has been handed over before determining their next move. India has in the past consistently accused Pakistan of not doing enough to arrest those behind the attacks. Thursday's remarks by Mr Malik follow two months of rising tensions between India and Pakistan.

The Indian government has demanded that Lashkar-e-Taiba leaders be extradited, while Pakistan has insisted any prosecutions would take place on its soil. Delhi has also suggested that what it calls Pakistani "state elements" were involved, something Islamabad has consistently denied.

Islamabad also derided the contents of a dossier which Delhi said contained evidence to support its case. Officials said they had also shut several schools run by a charity linked to Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Earlier this week Pakistan said it wanted to prosecute suspects in the Mumbai attacks but needed more evidence from India to do so.

Islamabad's decision to acknowledge links between Pakistan and the attacks on Mumbai is to some extent the result of pressure from the West and the fear of increasing tension with India, the BBC's defence and security correspondent Rob Watson says.

And although Western countries are likely to view it as positive, they are generally very sceptical about the commitment of Pakistan's security establishment to get to grips with violent Islamic extremists based on Pakistani soil, he adds.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[North Korea cuts all links with South Korea](#)

Telegraph – January 30

The decision by Pyongyang to nullify all military and political accords, including declaring the maritime border between the countries "void", increases the prospect of an armed confrontation on the Peninsula, where over a million soldiers face each other along the Demilitarised Zone that divides the countries.

North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea blamed the South for Pyongyang's decision to sever all links, claiming that the agreements between the two countries were "dead documents".

The neighbours last clashed militarily in June 2002, when they fought a deadly gun battle along the disputed maritime border in the Yellow Sea.

Pyongyang remains angry over South Korean President Lee Myung-bak's decision last year to cut the amount of economic aid given to the North, until progress was made on disarmament.

The Six-Party talks aimed at ending North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons have been stalled since last August.

Analysts believe the North's leader Kim Jong-il, who is thought to have recovered from the stroke he suffered in August, is waiting to see the approach of new US President Barack Obama towards the rogue state.

The North, which has long used its nuclear capability as a way of extracting economic aid and concessions from the US and South Korea, wants to establish diplomatic relations with Washington in a bid to end years of global isolation, as well as pressuring the South into abandoning its tough stance on economic aid.

In response to the North's cutting of ties, Seoul said its armed forces have been on alert since earlier this month, but urged Pyongyang to reduce tensions by agreeing to talks.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[China reiterates sovereignty in South China Sea](#)

China Daily –February 4

China reiterated Tuesday its sovereignty over Huangyan Island and the Nansha Islands in the South China Sea.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu, in response to Philippine territorial claims over the islands, said: "China possesses indisputable sovereignty over Huangyan Island, the Nansha Islands and adjacent waters."

The Philippine legislature reportedly approved legislation stating that those islands were within the country's jurisdiction.

Jiang said that under the joint efforts of the parties concerned, the situation in the South China Sea was stable overall.

China hoped the countries involved would in practice abide by the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, and not take actions that might complicate or expand disputes, she said.

The spokeswoman called for concerted efforts of the parties concerned to safeguard the peace and stability of the South China Sea.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Closer China ties fortify sovereignty: Ma](#)

The China Post –February 4

President Ma Ying-jeou said yesterday that the normalization of bilateral relations between Taiwan and China has contributed to the consolidation of Taiwan's sovereignty and enabled the country to make significant gains in foreign relations and national defense.

Speaking at the 2009 Taiwan Businessmen in China Lunar New Year Reception held in Tainan, Ma asserted that closer ties with China have allowed Taiwan to play a more active role in the international arena and played a vital role in Taiwan's economic structure.

“Taiwanese entrepreneurs know better than the government if they should go invest in China,” said Ma, but it was the government's responsibility to provide an efficient platform to facilitate logistics operations and protect Taiwanese investment in China.

Surrounded by the biggest economies in the world, Taiwan is in an economically vital strategic position in Southeast Asia that better ties with China could help Taiwan exploit.

“Across the Pacific lies the United States, which is the biggest economy in the world today, and not far from us to the north is Japan, the second biggest economy in the world. The third largest global economic entity is located just across the Taiwan Strait,” Ma said.

The president suggested, however, that Taiwan has not been able to make good use of its advantageous position in the area due to political conflicts and constraints.

“The most important job of my administration is to eliminate all obstacles that limit Taiwan from taking advantage of its geographical advantages and achieving steady and prosperous economic development,” the president asserted.

Ma said that although the normalization of bilateral ties with China has not gone as smoothly as expected, the launching of the “direct three links” has increased the “bargaining chips” of Taiwanese investors in China amid the global economical downturn.

“The air and sea transportation sectors have not been the only beneficiaries of the launch of the links,” Ma said. “The recent economic cooperation between the two sides has also given Taiwanese investors in China a chance to re-evaluate their method of operations.”

The president also rebuffed accusations that his administration has tilted excessively toward China at the expense of Taiwan's sovereignty and that the United States and Japan share the same concerns.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

He said the economic liberalization policies adopted by the government are aimed at improving Taiwan's investment environment and boosting the country's economic development.

In addition, Ma said, the improved cross-strait relations has been universally welcomed by all of Taiwan's allies around the world.

Asked why Taiwan was not mentioned during the recent dialogue between the United States and China, Ma said that, "no news is good news," adding that it is normal that Taiwan wasn't mentioned.

"If Taiwan is mentioned and discussed all the time, it would be bad for Taiwan's investment environment," said Ma.

Ma also said Taiwan's goal is to seek peace and stability in the area, and that the exclusion of the "Taiwan issue" in the recent dialogue between the U.S. and China is the best proof that improved ties are accepted and welcomed by all parties.

According to Ma, the improvement and normalization of cross-strait ties is the best way to restore mutual trust with the U.S. government.

"The U.S. government approved arms sales to Taiwan last September due to Taiwan's determination to become a problem solver instead of a troublemaker on cross-strait issues," he said.

Since the Kuomintang (KMT) returned to power last May, Ma's administration has committed itself to improving relations with Beijing and forging links across the Taiwan Strait, particularly on the economic front.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Dispute mounts over key U.S. base in Kyrgyzstan](#)

International Herald Tribune — February 4

A day after the president of Kyrgyzstan announced plans to close a key United States military base in his country, potentially jeopardizing NATO supply lines to Afghanistan, U.S. diplomats and military officials in the region said Wednesday that the base was still operating and negotiations on its future were continuing.

But the Kyrgyz government said it had already approved a law to end its cooperation with Washington, and its Parliament will vote on it Friday. A statement released Wednesday argued that the U.S. mission in Afghanistan had outlasted its original goals, saying that the terrorist threat "has been removed," and that NATO air strikes in Afghanistan have caused an unacceptable rise in civilian casualties.

President Kurmanbek Bakiyev announced the decision to close the facility on Tuesday during a visit to Moscow to seek financial support. The closure would be a victory for Russian leaders, who saw the base as an U.S. attempt to assert control in the region. And by eliminating a vital refueling and transport point for NATO forces, it would present a blunt challenge to President Barack Obama's highest foreign policy priority: the war in Afghanistan.

In a statement Wednesday, the United States Embassy in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan, said it had not received a formal notification of the decision, and that discussions with Kyrgyz authorities are continuing. If Parliament approves the law, Kyrgyz authorities must give Washington 180 days' notice before closing the base, according to the original treaty, which was signed in 2001 by Bakiyev's predecessor.

The move could disrupt a fragile détente between Moscow and Washington that emerged after Obama took office. Afghanistan has been seen as a jumping-off point for cooperation between the United States and Russia, which is wary of the spread of Islamic extremism.

"It's an extremely serious point, because the premise of American policy is that there is a common interest here," said Stephen Sestanovich, a senior fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, which is based in New York. "If they're trying to tell us otherwise, that message will get through."

The question of supply lines to NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan has become increasingly acute with attacks on the centuries-old route from Pakistan over the Khyber Pass.

On Tuesday, Taliban militants blew up a bridge, forcing the suspension of road shipments. According to The Associated Press on Wednesday, militants then torched 10 trucks stranded in Pakistan as a result of the destruction of the bridge.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

The uncertainties surrounding the supply lines have added urgency to U.S. and NATO efforts to secure alternative supply lines through Central Asia.

This is not the first time United States officials have rushed to forestall expulsion from the base at Manas. During negotiations this summer, the State Department spokesman Sean McCormack said the United States would pay more than \$150 million in assistance and compensation for the base this year. At the time, a government statement said the United States had contributed more than \$850 million to support democracy, economic development, aid projects and security in the Kyrgyz Republic since its independence from the Soviet Union.

At a news conference in Moscow on Tuesday, Bakiyev complained about a 2006 incident in which a U.S. serviceman had shot a Kyrgyz truck driver on the base, and said Washington had ignored his requests for more money.

"Eight years have passed," he said. "We have repeatedly raised with the United States the matter of economic compensation for the existence of the base in Kyrgyzstan, but we have not been understood."

Bakiyev arrived in Moscow under intense pressure to ease economic troubles in Kyrgyzstan, which is heavily in debt to Russia and dependent on remittances from migrant workers. President Dmitri Medvedev said Russia would extend a \$2 billion loan and \$150 million in aid to Kyrgyzstan.

Andronik Migranyan, an analyst at a Kremlin-backed think-tank based in New York, said the United States presence in Central Asia was supposed to be temporary. If the U.S. side makes concessions - on missile defense and NATO enlargement, in particular - Russia may be willing to support U.S. aims in Afghanistan, he said.

"This needs to be viewed from a wider context," said Migranyan, of the Institute of Democracy and Cooperation. "The American government is involved in many things that Russia does not like, and this is something of a bargaining chip."

But others saw it as a blunt projection of Russian power in its neighboring countries - and in the world.

"The fact that a rather little country has decided to take the payoff is intriguing," said Paul Quinn-Judge, a Central Asia expert with the International Crisis Group, a nongovernmental organization that seeks to resolve deadly conflicts. "But what is really striking is that the Russians seem to be at this point tightening the screws and trying to get D.C.'s attention in the nastiest possible way."

Kyrgyzstan's close relations with the United States have long unsettled Russia and China, which both have military interests in the region.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



révolutionnaire

04/2009

30 JAN 09– 12 Feb 09

In 2005, the country appeared to move further into Washington's orbit after a popular uprising, supported in part by the United States, toppled the corrupt and increasingly authoritarian government of Askar Akayev, sending the president fleeing across the border. The bloodless coup was part of a wave of popular revolts, known as colored revolutions, that remain a source of anger and suspicion among Russian officials, who consider them Washington-hatched schemes meant to undermine Russia's influence in the region.

Similar uprisings in Georgia and Ukraine ushered in governments that quickly sought to shut out Moscow's influence in favor of stronger ties with the West. Kyrgyzstan, however, has often sought to strike a balance among Washington, Moscow and Beijing. The government has allowed Russia to maintain a military base on Kyrgyz soil and is a member, along with China, Russia and three other Central Asian countries, of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a security alliance.

Upon his election in 2005, Bakiyev vowed to pursue an independent foreign policy, saying that Kyrgyzstan would not be "a place for the fulfillment of someone else's geopolitical interests."

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[Singapore, Indonesia working out details of border agreement signing ceremony](#)

Channel NewsAsia – February 3

Singapore is pleased that it has been able to resolve its long-standing maritime border dispute with Indonesia. A brief statement from Singapore's Foreign Affairs Ministry says details of the signing ceremony are being worked out.

Both sides had recently reached an agreement over their maritime boundary in the western segment of the Singapore Strait, after over three years of negotiations. It involves the area around Indonesia's Nipah Island, in the Riau Islands, nearest to Singapore.

Indonesia's President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono said on Monday that the settlement will ensure Indonesia's economic development in the area and ensure economic cooperation with Singapore and Malaysia, which also shares a maritime border in the Riau Islands.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[China to control import-export of technologies with potential military application](#)

People's Daily Online –February 4

To ensure national security and the public interest of society, as well as fulfilling international obligations such as nonproliferation, anti-terrorism and counter-narcotics, China will strictly control imports and exports of items and technologies that can be used for both civilian and military purposes, an official from the Ministry of Commerce said on February 2.

Zhang Ji, Director General of the Department of Mechanic, Electronic and Hi-Tech Industry, said that since the 1990s China has established relatively perfect legal systems regarding the control of imports and exports of dual-use items and technologies. It has also published seven rules and regulations and nine department regulations as supplementary measures, realizing the preliminary transformation from administrative management to legal management.

Zhang said the "Guideline on Internal Export Control Mechanism for Enterprises Engaged in Dual-Use Items and Technologies" issued by the Ministry of Commerce on August 29, 2007, is another important measure the Chinese government has imposed in the field of export control.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[Japan urged to immediately cease action on Diaoyu Islands](#)

China Daily – February 5

China urged Japan on Thursday to immediately cease action concerning the Diaoyu Islands issue, noting that the actions, aimed to strengthen control over the islands, are infringement to China's territorial sovereignty.

The Diaoyu Islands and adjacent islets have been Chinese territories since ancient times, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said in response to a question at a routine press conference. She noted that China holds indisputable sovereignty over the islands.

"Any actions from Japan to strengthen the actual control over the islands are infringement to China's territorial sovereignty, which is illegal and invalid, and should be stopped immediately," Jiang said.

According to Japanese media reports, the Japanese coastguard has stationed PLH (patrol vessel large with helicopter) on the islands, saying the action was aimed to defend against "invasion" from Chinese marine survey ships.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Cambodia, Thailand agree border troop withdrawal](#)

Reuters – February 6

Cambodia and Thailand agreed Friday to withdraw the remaining troops on their disputed border to avoid a repeat of last year's armed clashes near a 900-year-old Hindu temple. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, speaking to reporters after meeting Thai Defense Minister Prawit Wongsuwan, said they agreed to jointly demarcate the jungle-clad area where four soldiers died in a firefight last October.

"There will be no more military confrontation in that area," Hun Sen said, adding the two neighbors would work together to develop the area for tourism.

"I told the Thai delegation that this is an historic moment. We have solved the problems today so there will be no troubled legacy for our next generations," Hun Sen said. Prawit, who was accompanied on the trip by Thailand's top military brass, told reporters: "Everything is OK. No problems."

One Thai and three Cambodian soldiers died in last year's exchange of rifle and rocket fire, which both sides accused the other of starting.

The Preah Vihear temple, or Khao Phra Viharn as it is known in Thailand, sits on an escarpment that forms the natural border between the two countries and has been a source of tension for generations. The International Court of Justice awarded it to Cambodia in 1962, but the ruling did not determine the ownership of 1.8 square miles (4.6 sq km) of adjoining scrubland, leaving considerable scope for disagreement

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[U.S. Can Ship Afghan Aid Through Russia, Kremlin Says](#)

The New York Times – February 6

Russia's foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, said Friday that Russia had fast-tracked approval of a plan to allow the United States military to ship nonlethal equipment across Russian territory to Afghanistan. "We gave our consent, literally, in 24 hours," he said. "We expect our American partners to provide a concrete request with the quantity and description of cargo. We shall grant the relevant permission as soon as it happens."

Russia has emphasized its desire to cooperate with the United States and NATO in Afghanistan since the announcement on Tuesday that Kyrgyzstan, a close Russian ally, will close the Manas air base, a critical link in supplying the war effort in Afghanistan. Losing access to the base is a serious setback to President Obama, who hopes to increase the number of troops in Afghanistan.

Both Russian and Kyrgyz officials have said Russia played no role in the decision to close the base. But it was announced in Moscow, just as Russia promised Kyrgyzstan \$2.15 billion in aid, and American officials concluded that Russia had encouraged the move.

Though Washington scrambled to dissuade Kyrgyz officials, the national security chief, Adakhan Madumarov, said Friday, "The fate of the air base is sealed."

Competing interests shape Russian policy on Afghanistan. The Kremlin is eager to ensure stability in the region out of fear that the heroin trade and Islamic extremism could spread across its borders. But many Russians also feel deep frustration at the presence of the United States military in former Soviet republics.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Taiwan must keep strong military: Ma](#)

Taipei Times – February 6

Despite the thaw in cross-strait relations, President Ma Ying-jeou (馬英九) yesterday said the armed forces must stay alert and strong. Describing China as a “very peculiar and complicated factor,” Ma said it posed both threats and opportunities. Minimizing the threat and maximizing the opportunity required skill and art, Ma said.

“Taiwan has no choice but to do so because it is the only way to pursue Taiwan’s best interest,” he said. “The armed forces must not let their guard down. We are not afraid of a war, but we aren’t looking for one. We hope to prevent war, but we do not hesitate to fight [if attacked].”

To that end, the country must strengthen its defense capabilities and maintain a strong military, he said while attending a medal decoration and promotion ceremony for high-ranking military officials at the Presidential Office yesterday morning.

Ma said the purpose of national security was to strive for peace, not for war. The government’s defense policy is to consolidate national security and its cross-strait policy aims to maintain safety in the Taiwan Strait and advance regional peace, he said.

Compared with the Korean Peninsula, which is plagued by the issue of Pyongyang’s nuclear program, Ma said the Taiwan Strait was relatively stable and he was certain the nation’s allies were happy to see the cross-strait detente.

Ma said his government would take a Taiwan-centric approach and act in the best interest of the public. He said he hoped both sides of the strait would put aside their differences to create a win-win situation. A strong army has helped protect Taiwan, Kinmen and Matsu over the years, Ma said. He said he would push to realize his campaign promise to replace the conscription system with a professional military, which he said would promote structural efficiency and cultivate quality soldiers.

Ma yesterday decorated former chief of the general staff Hou Shou-yeh (霍守業) with the Order of Blue Sky and White Sun with Grand Cordon. Hou has been appointed as one of Ma’s military strategy advisers.

While some media questioned Hou’s qualifications for the honor, Presidential Office Spokesman Wang Yu-chi (王郁琦) said Hou deserved the award because of his outstanding contribution.

Wang said Hou had been recommended for the honor by the Ministry of Defense. Since the medal was introduced in 1929, it has been awarded to more than 200 people, including dictator Chiang Kai-shek (蔣

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)



révolutionnaire

04/2009

30 JAN 09– 12 Feb 09

介石), president Chiang Ching-kuo (蔣經國) and late general Ho Ying-chin (何應欽).

At a separate setting last night, Ma said Taiwan's recent diplomatic achievements showed that the government's policy of *modus vivendi* was the way to end the nation's diplomatic woes.

"Over the past eight months, my administration has on many occasions made the impossible possible, especially in regards to cross-strait relations, national defense and foreign relations," Ma said, citing the US' approval in October of a US\$6.4 billion arms deal with Taiwan and a visit in November by Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait Chairman Chen Yunlin (陳雲林).

Ma said Taiwan's accession to the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement and its inclusion in the WHO's International Health Regulations proved "that indeed we can safeguard this country's sovereignty and dignity while seeking rapprochement with mainland China."

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[No thaw yet in U.S.-China military ties - U.S. admiral](#)

Reuters –February 6

The head of U.S. forces in the Pacific said on Thursday China had made no overtures to revive dialogue with the U.S. military since President Barack Obama took office but he was optimistic ties would improve.

China broke off high-level contacts with the U.S. military in October after the United States agreed a \$6.5 billion arms sale to Taiwan, which Beijing considers a renegade province.

"I have seen no change since the new administration came in," Navy Admiral Timothy Keating, the head of U.S. Pacific Command, told Reuters in an interview at the Pentagon.

"We do have ongoing dialogue with ... certain folks in China," Keating said. "We would much prefer it to be a more formal, a more regular and a more frequent dialogue than it is right now and that's what we're working to achieve."

The United States has repeatedly called on China to explain the intentions behind the modernization of its armed forces and large increases in its military budget in recent years.

Beijing has stated it is committed to a "peaceful rise" alongside its rapid economic development and rejected U.S. accusations it has not been transparent.

Keating said the United States wanted to encourage "responsible behavior" by China. He said he was heartened by Chinese participation in international anti-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia. Chinese vessels were in contact with U.S. Navy ships there, he said. "There is ongoing dialogue at the tactical level so we are encouraged by that," Keating said.

"We think that there are ways for China to integrate into naval coalitions, to help with humanitarian disaster relief, so as to reflect a willingness to cooperate and collaborate," he said. "I'm optimistic about it."

U.S. and Chinese military officials exchanged visits throughout 2007 and 2008 until the Taiwan arms deal was announced, said Keating, who visited China twice as Pacific Command chief. He said he hoped such contacts could resume as part of a return to more dialogue with the Chinese military.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[Russia's Defense Ministry to get over \\$111 bln in next 3 years](#)

RIA Novosti — February 10

Russia's federal budget stipulates the allocation of over 4 trillion rubles (\$111 billion) on defense spending in the next three years, a senior Defense Ministry finance official said on Tuesday.

"The Russian Defense Ministry's budget for 2009 and for the planned period of 2010-2011 is primarily aimed at creating a fundamentally new army for the 21st century," Deputy Defense Minister for Financial and Economic Work Lyubov Kudelina said.

Defense spending is projected at a level of 1,376.5 billion rubles (\$38.3 billion) in 2009, 1,379.5 billion rubles (\$38.4 billion) in 2010 and 1,476.7 billion rubles (\$41 billion) in 2011, Kudelina said in an interview with the *Krasnaya Zvezda* military newspaper.

As in previous years, defense spending will not exceed 3% of the country's gross domestic product and will stand at 2.7% in 2009 compared with 2.6% in 2008, the official said.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[U.S. Mulls Methods of Engaging Iran](#)

Global Security Newswire – February 10

The United States is considering how to overcome decades of tension with Iran in an attempt to win Tehran's cooperation on its nuclear work and other issues, U.S. President Barack Obama said yesterday (see [GSN](#), Feb. 9).

"My national security team is currently reviewing our existing Iran policy, looking at areas where we can have constructive dialogue, where we can directly engage with them," Obama said in his first White House press conference. "My expectation is that in the coming months we will be looking for openings that can be created where we can start sitting across the table, face to face; of diplomatic overtures that will allow us to move our policy in a new direction."

The United States and other Western powers have expressed concern that Iran's uranium enrichment program could produce fuel for a nuclear weapon, but Tehran has insisted the effort is strictly intended for civilian energy production while consistently refusing to halt it.

Obama criticized Iranian leaders for "their development of a nuclear weapon or their pursuit of a nuclear weapon" as well as for allegedly funding militant groups across the Middle East and directing "bellicose language" toward Israel.

"It's important that even as we engage in this direct diplomacy, we are very clear about certain deep concerns that we have as a country, that Iran understands that we find the funding of terrorist organizations unacceptable, that we're clear about the fact that a nuclear Iran could set off a nuclear arms race in the region that would be profoundly destabilizing.

"There are going to be a set of objectives that we have in these conversations, but I think that there's the possibility, at least, of a relationship of mutual respect and progress.

"If you look at how we've approached the Middle East ... it indicates the degree to which we want to do things differently in the region. Now it's time for Iran to send some signals that it wants to act differently as well and recognize that even as it has some rights as a member of the international community, with those rights come responsibilities," Obama said (Diane Barnes, *Global Security Newswire*, Feb. 10).

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad today said his country would join discussions with the United States as part of an emerging international "era of dialogue," the Associated Press reported.

"The Iranian nation is ready for talks (with the U.S.) but in a fair atmosphere with mutual respect," Ahmadinejad said, noting that the sides could discuss nuclear disarmament among other issues.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

"If you really want to fight terrorism, come and cooperate with the Iranian nation, which is the biggest victim of terrorism so that terrorism is eliminated," he said. "If you want to confront nuclear weapons ... you need to stand beside Iran so it can introduce a correct path to you" (Ali Akbar Dareini, Associated Press/[Washington Post](#), Feb. 10).

Former top Iranian nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani yesterday encouraged the United States to present Iran with its Middle East proposals through diplomatic channels, AFP reported.

"If they believe in some plan, they should present it through diplomatic means. Diplomacy was created for that," Larijani said. "If Iran feels that there really exists a firm decision to solve the problems of the region, if it feels the change in the United States is a strategic change and not tactical, and that talks with Iran would help national interests and those of the region, Iran could examine it." "Talking about negotiations should not be a juggling game in the media," he said (Agence France-Presse/[Google News](#), Feb. 9).

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday said it would finish building Iran's Bushehr nuclear power plant by an established deadline, RIA Novosti reported. The facility's construction has hit several delays since Russia agreed in 1998 to complete it.

"I want to stress once again the readiness of the Russian side to complete the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant within the set timeframe. I believe that after the shipment of nuclear fuel for the electric power plant that took place last year, the Iranian side should have no doubts on this score," Russian Foreign Ministry official Alexander Maryasov said. Asked Thursday whether the site could begin preliminary operations in 2009, Maryasov said: "Yes. We are moving according to schedule."

Iran and Russia were discussing issues related to completing and starting the plant as well as various technical, economic and commercial considerations, he added. German firms began work on the Bushehr plant in 1975, but the United States disrupted the project by restricting sales of sensitive technology to Iran after its 1979 Islamic revolution ([RIA Novosti](#), Feb. 9).

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Obama begins cyber security review](#)

BBC News – February 10

A review of how well the US thwarts spies and malicious hackers has been started by President Barack Obama. The wide-ranging review is set to last 60 days and takes in all the "plans, programs and activities" of official US cyber security efforts. The end result will be a strategy to improve the way the US defends itself against net-borne threats. While campaigning, President Obama likened net risks to the threat of nuclear or biological attack.

National security

"The national security and economic health of the United States depend on the security, stability, and integrity of our nation's cyberspace, both in the public and private sectors," said John Brennan, assistant to the president for counterterrorism and homeland security, in a statement. Mr Brennan said he was sure that US critical infrastructure could be protected without trampling on privacy rights and civil liberties.

The Bush administration was widely criticised for ignoring safeguards on snooping by its intrusive monitoring of phone and net traffic in the name of stopping terrorism.

The Obama cybersecurity review is being co-ordinated by Melissa Hathaway, who co-ordinated cyber-monitoring for the director of national intelligence under George Bush.

The review comes in the wake of several incidents pointing to the growing problem of cybersecurity.

In September 2008, the US Government Accountability Office, which audits official strategies, warned that for years the Department of Homeland Security had "yet to fully satisfy its cybersecurity responsibilities."

In November 2008, a congressional panel warned that China had stepped up the computer-based espionage it carried out against the US. The panel said China was stealing "vast amounts" of sensitive information from US computer networks. In December 2008, a report produced by the Commission on Cybersecurity said: "Cybersecurity is now one of the major national security problems facing the United States."

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[China's Unusual Deals Working to Grow African Arms Presence](#)

Defense Industry Daily — February 1

In July 2008, "[Africa: The Next Defense Market Opportunity?](#)" looked at projected trends, and discussed the reasons behind China's resurgent status as an arms vendor to those states. UPI Asia's recent "[China expanding African arms sales](#)" offers additional details.

In 2008, the point was underlined by sales like the deal with Zimbabwe for 12 K-8/JL-8 jet trainers and light attack aircraft, but a number of deals are reportedly pending with various countries. These reportedly include everything from K-8 Karakorum jets and FC-1/JF-17 fighters, to WMZ-551 wheeled APCs, artillery, and of course the usual set of small arms and ammunition deals. One of the challenges that the July 2008 Forecast International report had discussed is the region's economic weakness, but UPI Asia notes that China has a solution. Zambia has used its copper resources to pay China in a number of military deals, Kenya has been negotiating with China to trade fishing rights for arms, and similar deals are under discussion elsewhere.

While China's economy has cooled as a result of the global recession, long-term, secure access to the resources needed to supply its growing economy is one of the regime's top strategic priorities. Africa is poor by policy, but the continent has rich resources of oil and key industrial metals. This Chinese arms thrust is one component of a unified strategy that bundles weapon sales and economic ties. Other building blocks include soft-power approaches, and a key component block was added recently with the launch of a PLAN hospital ship. Few countries own dedicated hospital vessels, which can serve in quasi-diplomatic goodwill roles, or function in their traditional role as high-capacity medical support for amphibious assaults.

A combination of arms sales, naval activities, and economic ties is promising, but it will also require other forms of local relationship-building and military presence, in order to give China the full range of tools for influencing African regimes. Oddly, none of these sales, deal structures, or strategic considerations were even mentioned in a [recent SIPRI analysis](#) of China's stepped-up deployment of peacekeeping troops. Troops whose chosen missions appear to have a strong focus on African operations.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[Russia Officially Delivers Three Sukhoi Aircrafts to Indonesia](#)

Indonesian Department of Defense – February 2

Russian Ambassador for Indonesia Alexander Ivanov on behalf of the Russian government and Rosoboronexport officially handed over three Sukhoi SU-30MK2 aircrafts to Department of Defense Secretary General Lieutenant General Sjafrie Sjamsoeddin on behalf of the Indonesian government at Sultan Hassanuddin Airbase in Makassar on Monday (2/2). The aircrafts arrived between December 26th 2008 and January 17th 2009. They have undergone test flight by Russian pilots at Sultan Hasanuddin Airbase. With the additional three Sukhoi, TNI AU now has seven Sukhoi aircrafts. The other three Sukhoi SU-27SKM aircrafts will arrive in August 2009. The aircrafts will replace the A-4 Skyhawks that are based at Sultan Hassanudin Airbase 11th Air Squadron in Makassar, South Sulawesi.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Russian arms exports to China may drop significantly](#)

RIA Novosti – February 4

Russian arms sales to China could shrink from 40% to 10%, the head of a state-controlled arms exporter said on Wednesday.

In the past several decades Russia has been selling Su-27 and Su-30 fighters, Varshavyanka-class diesel submarines, and air-defense systems to China, among other types of weapons and equipment.

Rosoboronexport's general director Anatoly Isaikin did not say exactly when the Chinese share was expected to drop, stressing, however, that Russia was unfazed by the prospect.

"After all, sales volumes [across the world] are still high," he said in an interview with *Nezavisimaya Gazeta*.

He said Russia's cooperation with Beijing "is reaching a fundamentally new level - the development of dual-purpose products with high-tech components."

Isaikin said Russia had signed the first military contract this year for the delivery of more than 100 engines for the Chinese J-10 fighter.

He added that China would continue to buy military transport aircraft, fuel tankers, and aircraft engines from Russia, and was also interested in air-defense system and naval systems.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Russian Arms Trade Sets New Record: Medvedev](#)

Defense News – February 10

Russia's arms trade hit a new record in 2008, said President Dmitry Medvedev, who called on the government to aggressively seek new markets and diversify supplies.

"The overall revenue was over \$8,350 million, which is \$800 million more than last year," Medvedev said Feb. 10 at the meeting of the Russian government's Commission on Military Technical Foreign Cooperation here.

According to the Federal Service on Military Technical Cooperation, Russia earned \$7.4 billion in 2007 by selling arms, spare parts and services, while the previous year it netted \$6.46 billion.

Sales of heavy fighter jets accounted for about one-third of 2008's \$8.35 billion in revenues, said Konstantin Makiyenko, a defense industry analyst with the Center of Analysis of Strategies and Technologies, a think tank here.

In 2008, Russia exported about 40 of Sukhoi's Su-30 fighters to Algeria, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and Venezuela, Makiyenko said.

Medvedev told commission members that the arms contracts they sign with foreign clients "should be based on the real capacities of our defense industry," so that deliveries of contracted goods and services are not delayed.

"We also need to enter markets where we are not present traditionally and where we are present, but not to the necessary extent," he said.

Russia's massive arms sales to Venezuela in the past several years were branded by Russian officials as a breakthrough into the traditionally U.S.-dominated arms market.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[RI to purchase Russian submarine](#)

The Jakarta – February 9

The government is set to purchase Russian-made submarine, a legislator said Monday as quoted by Antara state news agency. “There’s always been a plan to purchase submarine and I’ve surveyed a few submarine workshops in Moscow, Russia. This submarine is to display our naval strength and also anticipate any armed conflicts,” deputy speaker of the House of Representatives’ Commission I on political, security and foreign affairs Yusron Ihza said Monday.

He added that due to the global economic downturn, the purchase would be made in stages. “It’s not necessary to own many submarines since they are expensive, just three state of the art units suffice to safeguard the integrity of our waters,” Ihza said. He said the country’s economic power needed enhancement as it correlated to the country’s defense and security.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS’ faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[France to sell military jets, weapons to Kuwait](#)

International Herald Tribune – February 11

France is in discussions to sell combat jets, frigates and an anti-missile defense system to Kuwait, the French president said Wednesday, the latest effort to raise his country's profile in the Middle East.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy said the two countries would also consider updating their defense pact and cementing "a strategic partnership," during his brief visit to the oil-rich Gulf state.

"Defense ministers are in deep discussions," and will try to reach agreement on the weapons deal by the end of the year, Sarkozy told reporters in Kuwait City.

He said Kuwait was considering buying up to 28 Rafale jets, multi-role combat aircraft made by Dassault Aviation in France. He provided no information about the cost of the jets or any of the other weapons.

France signed a defense pact with Kuwait after the 1991 Gulf War; France was a member of the international coalition that freed Kuwait from a seven-month Iraqi occupation.

Kuwait is still rebuilding its military, which was devastated by the Iraqi invasion.

Sarkozy said France also would open a military base with air force and navy capabilities in the neighboring United Arab Emirates in April "to help (maintain) stability in the area."

The French base in Abu Dhabi would be one of only a few run by Western powers, including the United States, in the oil-rich region, and would allow French defense contractors to showcase their hardware.

Kuwait is a major U.S. ally and is host to a large American military base.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Somali pirates 'free arms ship'](#)

BBC News—February 5

The pirates seized the Kenya-bound MV Faina and its crew in September 2008. They initially demanded a ransom of \$20m (£14m), but reports suggest that a figure of \$3.2m was agreed following months of negotiations. The MV Faina was the highest-profile vessel held by pirates. The intended destination of its cargo was disputed.

The Kenyan government says the tanks, rocket launchers and small arms on board belong to it, but the manifest suggests the arms were heading for South Sudan.

'Counting the haul'

Gunmen took control of the MV Faina and its crew of 20 on 25 September 2008 as it headed for the Kenyan port of Mombasa. It has since been moored off the town of Harardhere, along with a number of other vessels seized by the pirates.

The US navy said a ransom appeared to have been dispatched on Wednesday and Mikhail Voitenko, said to be a spokesman for ship owner Vadim Alperin, later said that the pirates were "counting the haul".

Early on Thursday groups of pirates began leaving the vessel, reports from Harardhere said. Representatives of the pirates then told journalists that the ship had been freed. "We have released MV Faina. There were only three boys remaining and they delayed the release for one hour, but now the ship is free," one of the pirate leaders, Sugule Ali, told AFP news agency by phone. "No huge amount has been paid, but something to cover our expenses," he added.

Victor Shapovalov, the father of a senior officer on the ship, told the BBC Ukrainian Section that relatives did not have direct communication with the ship. "We have direct contacts with other people," he said. "[The crew] are alive, but whether they are in a good health, that is a big question." "I think that the negotiations lasted very long time - four months. But of course I am very happy with the result," he said.

Cargo of weapons

The Russian captain of the ship died shortly after the seizure - apparently of a heart attack. The rest of the crew - 17 Ukrainians, two Russians and a Latvian - were healthy and safe, a statement from the Ukrainian presidency said, and the ship would head to Mombasa under the protection of the US navy.

A number of warships from foreign navies had been diverted to the area to monitor the situation, in part to ensure that the cargo of weaponry did not get into the hands of Somali insurgents.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



révolutionnaire

04/2009

30 JAN 09– 12 Feb 09

Once the ship is under way, the focus is likely to shift to its cargo of weapons and its final destination, says the BBC's Peter Greste in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. The Kenyan government would be highly embarrassed to be found supplying arms to South Sudan, analysts say.

It was Kenya that helped broker an end to the civil war between South Sudan and the government in Khartoum in 2005. Somali waters are among the most dangerous for pirate activities in the world.

Last year pirates in the area collected an estimated total of \$50m (£35m) in ransom. But a recent BBC investigation has found that it costs as much again to negotiate and deliver these ransoms.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[China Health Ministry 'Puzzled' By Bird Flu Cases](#)

Reuters – February 10

China's Health Ministry is puzzled by eight human cases of bird flu in January which appeared independent of any known case in birds, a spokesman said on Tuesday. Five Chinese died from H5N1 in January in far-flung regions without any reported presence of the virus in birds on the mainland. Dead birds that washed up in Hong Kong tested positive for the H5N1 strain this month, leading experts to question whether bird flu is widely present but undetected in China. "We see the result, but not the cause. We don't know where it has come from, but people have been infected. When people are infected, in theory it should be present in birds," spokesman Mao Qunan told reporters.

Later on Tuesday, the Ministry of Agriculture said there had been an H5N1 outbreak among poultry in Hotan, in the far western region of Xinjiang, which had killed 519 birds. Authorities have culled another 13,218 birds and the outbreak is under control, the official Xinhua news agency said. China has reported one case of bird flu detected through sampling this winter, in eastern Jiangsu province. China conducts random sampling and culls birds when the virus is found. Last week, the Agriculture Ministry defended its vaccination campaign as having successfully prevented widespread incidence of bird flu. The Ministry of Health has also urged hospitals to increase efforts at early detection and testing for bird flu, Mao said.

Some people may be genetically more susceptible to bird flu than others, he added. The mother of one of this year's victims, a toddler who has recovered, died of pneumonia shortly before her daughter took ill. But the woman was never tested for bird flu. While H5N1 rarely infects people, experts fear it could mutate into a form people could easily pass to one another, sparking a pandemic.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[MSDF's hands tied on antipiracy tour](#)

The Japanese Times –January 29

With Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada's orders to prepare the Maritime Self-Defense Force for dispatch Wednesday, the government has officially given the green light to an antipiracy mission around the Horn of Africa.

The Defense Ministry will now collaborate with the Japan Coast Guard and the transport ministry to map out how to handle the assignment, which will be based on a maritime police-action provision.

The ministry is reportedly considering sending two destroyers with helicopters to escort in groups Japanese vessels traveling through the area.

The key questions now are whether the MSDF can be effective working under the police-action provision and how long it will take to pass a new bill to enable them to properly conduct antipiracy activities.

Talks on sending forces to the region first took place in October, when deliberations in the Diet on extending the MSDF's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean touched on the piracy off Somalia.

According to the Foreign Ministry, the number of pirate attacks near Somali shores rose to 111 cases in 2008, up from 44 incidents in 2007.

The trend has increased sharply since last summer, with about one attack reported every other day between October and December.

Japanese tankers, crew members and foreign vessels operated by Japanese companies have also fallen prey to pirates.

In April, the oil tanker Takayama came under attack off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden, and Somali pirates left bullet holes in the 150,000-ton ship's hull.

A chemical tanker from Panama that was being managed by a Japanese company was less fortunate in November, when it was captured by pirates and its South Korean and Filipino crew taken hostage. The crew members were released after two months of captivity.

In theory, it is the coast guard's duty to provide protection for Japanese vessels at sea. But the government was quick to acknowledge the coast guard's limitations and opted for the MSDF to provide support.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

However, without any laws to govern actions against pirates, the MSDF dispatch will at first be based on the maritime police-action provision in the Self-Defense Forces law.

The provision, originally created to patrol Japan's shores for foreign intruders, will seriously limit the use of weapons by MSDF personnel.

Until a permanent antipiracy bill can be submitted and passed by the Diet some time in late spring, the destroyers will be unable to protect vessels under attack unless they are Japanese or are carrying Japanese crew members.

The only two other dispatches of the MSDF under the provision were in Japan's waters — in 1999, when two North Korean vessels were spotted near the Noto Peninsula in Ishikawa Prefecture, and in 2004, when a Chinese nuclear submarine was spotted near the Sakishima Islands in Okinawa.

The Japan Ship Owners' Association last month handed a report to Hamada, calling the Gulf of Aden a pivotal region whose safety could "deeply effect the economy and the lives of Japanese citizens."

The association said in a statement that escorting ships by the destroyers would "likely have an effect against pirates," even if their capabilities are limited.

But some experts question whether the dispatch of the destroyers will have any effect on curbing Somalia's pirates.

"It seems Japan is trying to avoid being left off the bus," said journalist Tetsuo Maeda, a former professor at Tokyo International University.

Tokyo is trying to catch up with the United States, the United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia, Russia and Spain in sending ships to the region, but the dispatch of the MSDF is inconsistent with the nature of the police-action provision and also very likely to be ineffective, he said, without noting China also sent warships.

Maeda, an expert on SDF issues, suggested Japan take an approach similar to its actions in the Malacca Strait, where Tokyo effectively provided patrol ships and training sessions for local patrolmen.

Reports of piracy in the notorious region have decreased to one-eighth compared with 2004, according to statistics by the International Maritime Bureau.

"Japan played a key role in reducing the pirates in the Malacca Strait. Taking the same approach with Somalia is far more influential than dispatching inept MSDF ships," Maeda said.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Indian submarine, Chinese ship in standoff near Somalia: Chinese media](#)

Zee News –February 4

An Indian submarine and two Chinese warships on an anti-piracy mission were recently locked in a tense standoff in the waters off Somalia, Chinese media reports said on Wednesday.

The Indian Navy said none of its submarines were in the area.

In a rare reporting of the incident, Qingdao Chenbao, a Chinese daily, said the Indian submarine "stalked" the Chinese warships and they were "locked in a tense standoff for at least half an hour" after which the Indian submarine was forced to surface.

The submarine and the two warships were involved in several rounds of manoeuvring during which both sides evidently tried to test each other's sonar systems for weaknesses. The incident occurred Jan 15 in the waters near the Bab Al-Mandab Strait.

An Indian Navy spokesperson told reporters in New Delhi that "no Indian submarine surfaced in the area".

The Chinese report, which first appeared Tuesday, had been picked up by numerous mainland Chinese websites a day later. Chinese warships have been patrolling in the waters off the Gulf of Aden, one of the world's busiest sea routes, to prevent piracy attacks.

China has not officially commented on the incident, which reportedly ended when the Indian vessel left without further confrontation.

The Chinese ships had picked up sonar signals of an unidentified submarine, which the Chinese Navy identified as a submarine armed with around 20 torpedoes belonging to the Indian Navy, the South China Morning Post said in its report on the incident.

The submarine moved into deeper waters but was tracked by an anti-submarine helicopter, cornered and forced to surface. The submarine had been trailing the Chinese ships since they entered the Indian Ocean on its way to the Gulf of Aden, the paper said.

The waters around the Gulf of Aden have turned extremely hazardous for commercial shipping following attacks by Somalia-based pirates. India is among several countries, including the US, Britain, France, Iran, South Korea and China, that have sent warships to patrol the sea lanes in the area to prevent attacks by pirates.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[SAF in 5-nation military exercise](#)

AsiaOne News – February 4

The Singapore Armed Forces (SAF), together with the Royal Thai Armed Forces, the United States Pacific Command, the Japanese Self-Defence Force and the Indonesian National Defence Forces, will be participating in Exercise Cobra Gold from February 4 to 17 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

In addition to the full participating countries, representatives from another 19 countries will also be involved in this year's exercise. Chief Guards Officer, Brigadier-General Tung Yui Fai, will lead a 107-member SAF delegation to participate in this year's exercise.

SAF personnel will undertake the role of staff planners for the Combined Joint Task Force, alongside their Thai, US, Japanese and Indonesian counterparts.

Exercise Cobra Gold is a series of annual multilateral exercises that focuses on peace support and civilian evacuation operations.

The SAF's participation in the field training exercise phase will contribute towards enhancing the interoperability between participating armed forces.

In addition, under the Medical Civil Assistance Programme, an SAF medical team will join teams from Thailand and the US to provide medical and dental services to the locals in Chiang Mai.

Exercise Cobra Gold promotes mutual understanding, friendship and professionalism among the personnel of the participating armed forces.

The SAF sent observers to the exercise from 1993 to 1999 and became a full participant in 2000

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[China to Continue Nuclear Weapon Expansion](#)

Global Security NewsWire — February 2

China plans to continue bolstering its nuclear forces to maintain the nation's strategic deterrence, two generals stated yesterday in a journal affiliated with the Communist Party of China (see [GSN](#), Jan. 26).

"We will accelerate the building of our nuclear and conventional combat strength," said Gen. Jing Zhiyuan, who commands China's nuclear forces as head of the Second Artillery Corps, and Gen. Peng Xiaofeng, the corps' political commissar. "We will strengthen the buildup of combat systems and improve the training of high-quality personnel."

The article appeared in *Qiushi*, a journal used by communist leaders to publish their views, Agence France-Presse reported (Agence France-Presse/[Spacewar.com](#), Feb. 2).

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[India signs IAEA inspections pact key to atom trade](#)

Reuters — February 2

India signed a pact on Monday opening up its civilian nuclear plants to U.N. inspections, a condition of a U.S.-led deal allowing it to import nuclear materials and technology after a three-decade freeze. It will be required to open up 14 of 22 reactors to inspections by 2014 under the deal with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the U.N.'s non-proliferation watchdog.

India's next step will be to specify which reactors will come under inspection, an Indian government official said. IAEA oversight was stipulated when the 45-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group agreed in September to lift a ban on nuclear trade with India, imposed after its first nuclear test in 1974 and for its refusal to join the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

India, Pakistan and Israel are the only countries never to have signed the NPT.

Washington pushed through the NSG "waiver" because this was indispensable to implementing its own nuclear cooperation pact to supply India with nuclear technology.

U.S. officials said the deal, a major plank in former U.S. president George W. Bush's foreign policy, would forge a strategic partnership with India, help it meet rising energy demand and open up a nuclear market worth billions of dollars.

Disarmament advocates complained that it undercut the NPT, meant to prevent the spread and production of nuclear weapons.

After its first nuclear test in 1974, India conducted a series of nuclear tests in 1998, prompting rival Pakistan to follow suit within weeks.

ARMS RACE

Critics fear Indian access to foreign nuclear materials could allow it to divert domestic supplies to its bomb programme and drive Pakistan into another arms race.

India, which relies on imported oil for some 70 percent of its energy needs, says the nuclear supply pact will help feed energy demands in its expanding economy, while helping combat global warming linked to fossil fuel emissions.

It could bring in around \$27 billion in investment over the next 15 years, says the Confederation of Indian Industry, and is expected to double nuclear power's share in India's electricity grid to 5-7 percent in the next two decades.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)



révolutionnaire

04/2009

30 JAN 09– 12 Feb 09

Companies have been jumping in to benefit from the deal. France signed a nuclear cooperation agreement with India last year, and Russia is building two 1,000-megawatt reactors in Tamil Nadu.

An Indian delegation was in talks last week about an "Additional Protocol" agreement with the IAEA, which would give inspectors more information on India's nuclear-related exports, imports and source material, an agency official said.

Before the U.S. Congress approved the deal in October, the Bush administration had to certify that India had made "substantial progress" towards adopting the Additional Protocol. This would give inspectors wider access to India's nuclear programme but not as much as in states that have signed the NPT.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[US warns North Korea against "provocative" missile test](#)

Channel NewsAsia – February 4

The United States warned North Korea on Tuesday that any testing of its longest-range missile would be seen as "provocative," amid signs the reclusive Stalinist state could be preparing a launch.

"North Korea's missile activities and, you know, missile programmes are a concern to the region. There's no secret there," said State Department spokesman Robert Wood.

"And a ballistic missile launch by North Korea would be unhelpful and, frankly, provocative."

Earlier, a US counter-proliferation official said there were signs that "the North Koreans are preparing for a Taepodong-2 launch", in a move which would heighten spiralling tensions with South Korea and in the region.

"Whether it will carry out the launch or not is entirely unclear, as is the timing for a possible launch," said the official, who spoke to AFP on condition of anonymity.

A source quoted by Seoul's Yonhap news agency said US and South Korean intelligence agencies had recently spotted a train carrying a long cylindrical object believed to be a Taepodong-2 missile which is theoretically capable of hitting the United States.

Launch preparations were likely to be completed in a month or two at a new west coast site, the source said. South Korea's defence ministry and National Intelligence Service refused to comment.

Japan's Sankei Shimbun newspaper said spy satellites had detected a large container capable of housing a missile being delivered to the site at Tongchang, about 40 kilometres (25 miles) south of the border with China.

The paper said frequent truck movements had been spotted at the site and launch preparations could be completed in one or two months for what could be a remodelled version of the Taepodong-2.

The missile has a maximum range of 6,700 kilometres (4,150 miles), meaning it could theoretically target Alaska.

Analysts said the North was trying to push the new US administration of President Barack Obama back to the negotiating table and to strengthen its bargaining position.

Nuclear disarmament talks with the North, involving the US and four regional powers, are deadlocked over how the communist state's atomic disclosures should be verified.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Reports of the planned launch also come amid rising tensions with Seoul. The North announced on Friday that it was cancelling all peace accords with its neighbour and on Sunday warned of a possible military conflict.

Ryoo Kihl-Jae, of the University of North Korean Studies, told Yonhap that Pyongyang was angling for a quicker dialogue with Washington amid frayed ties with Seoul.

Baek Seung-Joo of the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses said there would be a significant time gap between preparations and any launch.

"North Koreans seek warmer ties with the Obama administration, not strained relations, at the beginning," he told AFP. Baek said the North wanted to get the attention of the US administration and gain the upper hand in upcoming negotiations with it.

North Korea staged an atomic test in 2006 and is thought to have enough plutonium for six or so bombs. Experts differ on whether it has miniaturized a bomb that could fit on a missile. "I don't think the North Koreans are yet capable of producing a sophisticated nuclear warhead device to fit on a long-range missile," Baek said.

North Korea sparked regional alarm in 1998 by launching a shorter-range Taepodong-1 missile over Japan from its east coast launch site at Musudan-ri.

In July 2006 it launched a Taepodong-2 missile from there, but US officials said it failed after about 40 seconds.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Iran's missiles: Don't go ballistic](#)

International Herald Tribune — February 4

Iran demonstrated its growing missile capabilities on Tuesday when it launched a satellite into orbit. But this should not force Europe and the United States to rush decisions on deploying a missile defense system in Europe.

Instead, a prudent assessment of Iran's missiles, and the important difference between its long-range and medium-range missile capabilities, should determine the best missile defense response.

The Bush administration sought to place 10 missile interceptors in Poland in order to defend both Europe and the United States against potential Iranian missile attacks. During the presidential campaign, Barack Obama supported missile defenses in Europe if they were proven to work.

But beyond just working, interceptors should be deployed in a way that offers the best defense against Iran's long-range and medium-range missiles.

Tehran has not yet tested long-range missiles that can strike the United States. In theory, by 2012 to 2015, when the interceptors were scheduled to be deployed in Poland, Tehran could build a few intercontinental missiles - perhaps derived from North Korea's Taepodong-2 missile - that can reach the United States. The 10 interceptors in Poland would be sufficient, but not entirely necessary, to tackle this threat, because interceptors in Alaska can also counter these missiles.

By contrast, Tehran has built dozens of short-range and medium-range single-stage missiles that can reach neighboring states and Israel. Tehran's satellite launching rocket is probably derived from these medium-range missiles, and demonstrates that Iran can now build two-stage missiles. Such multiple stage missiles would be capable of striking Europe, and Tehran could build many of these missiles in the next decade. This large number of medium-range missiles would overwhelm the 10 interceptors in Poland.

To counter this, Washington would have to place a larger number of interceptors in Poland, but this would begin to undermine Russia's nuclear deterrent, straining ties with Moscow.

Thus a different missile defense architecture for Europe, with interceptors in Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania or Albania (which would not undermine Moscow's deterrent), combined with interceptors based on Aegis-equipped warships in the Mediterranean Sea, would likely provide a better way to counter any future Iranian missile threat to Europe.

The United States, Russia and other European states should also pursue diplomatic options.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

An arms control dialogue that secures an Iranian pledge to renounce building and testing new missiles would considerably reduce this threat. Flight test bans, for example, can be easily monitored. Monitoring capabilities such as the Azeri radar station would help.

In June 2007, U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert Gates welcomed then-Russian President Vladimir Putin's offer to use this station. Any Iranian satellite launches could also be monitored to affirm that they are only derived from medium-range missiles rather than from any new long-range missile.

The new U.S. administration has an opportunity to take a new approach with Russia on missiles and missile defense. Though Russia was said to have backed down last week from threatening Poland with short-range missiles, the Russian Foreign Ministry quickly declared that deployment is still linked to whether the U.S. deploys interceptors in Poland.

Washington should not let Moscow's threats dictate U.S. missile-defense plans. Rather, the Obama administration should thoroughly assess ballistic missile proliferation as it plans missile defense responses, and should consider missile defense cooperation with Moscow based on mutual interests to counter real missile threats.

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Pakistan's disgraced nuke scientist freed by court](#)

Google News—February 7

Abdul Qadeer Khan, a scientist who helped Pakistan develop a nuclear weapon and allegedly leaked atomic secrets to North Korea, Iran and Libya, was freed from years of de facto house arrest Friday after a high court ruling.

A smiling Khan emerged from his house and addressed reporters face-to-face for the first time since 2004 but indicated he would not be talking about Pakistan's secretive atomic program and about who else was involved in leaking its secrets around the world.

"We don't want to talk about the past things," he said as the guards who have enforced his long isolation stood aside for a throng of TV crews and journalists.

Khan, the architect of Pakistan's nuclear program, took sole responsibility in 2004 for leaking the nuclear secrets but was immediately pardoned by former President Pervez Musharraf and placed under de facto house arrest. The government insists neither it nor the Pakistani military was aware of his activities.

The 72-year-old, who has suffered a string of illnesses, began agitating for an end to the restrictions after last year's ouster of Musharraf. Over the past year, he had been allowed to occasionally meet friends outside his house and has often spoke to reporters over the phone.

In response to an appeal by his lawyers, the Islamabad High Court declared Khan "a free citizen" on Friday. The court said other details of the order were confidential.

Government prosecutor Amjad Iqbal Qureshi said the court order was the result of a compromise and that "security measures" for Khan would remain, suggesting that authorities may still limit his movement. The government has never said that Khan was under house arrest, maintaining he was being held for his own security.

Khan hailed the order as a "good judgment."

"At least I have got my freedom. I can move around," he said.

A pariah in the West, Khan is lionized by conservatives and Islamist hard-liners for making Pakistan the world's only Muslim nuclear power and is a hero to many ordinary citizens. One of his first visitors Friday was a senator from the country's conservative Jamaat-e-Islami party, who was seen leaving Khan's house.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



révolutionnaire

04/2009

30 JAN 09– 12 Feb 09

Pakistan's government has long regarded the nuclear proliferation issue and Khan's alleged involvement a closed case.

In telephone interviews last year, he complained he had been made a scapegoat and said the army had known all about at least one incident of proliferation — a claim swiftly denied by Musharraf.

Asked Friday what the international community would think of his release, Khan struck a typically defiant tone.

"Are they happy with our God? Are they happy with our prophet? Are they happy with our leader? Never," he said. "I don't care about rest of the world. I care about my country. (President Barack) Obama cares about America, not about Pakistan or India or Afghanistan."

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.



[India Open to Global Nuclear Weapons Ban, Official Says](#)

Global Security Newswire – February 10

India said Friday that it could accept a potential worldwide nuclear weapons ban, the Indo-Asian News Service reported (see [GSN](#), Jan. 5). "If this conference succeeds in not merely addressing the issue of nuclear reductions but also [devising] pathways to their elimination, this might well be the transforming moment for the global community," M.K. Narayanan, national security adviser for the nuclear-armed state, said at an international security conference in Munich.

"Nonproliferation cannot be an end in itself, and has to be linked to effective nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disarmament and nonproliferation should be seen as mutually reinforcing processes. Effective disarmament must enhance the security of all states and not merely that of a few," Narayanan said. "Even today, India is perhaps the only nuclear-weapons state to express its readiness to negotiate a nuclear weapons convention leading to global, nondiscriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons" (Indo-Asian News Service/[Times of India](#), Feb. 7).

[<< Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). *The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies* (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.

[Satellites collide in space](#)

International Herald Tribune – February 12

For decades, space experts have warned of orbits around the planet growing so crowded that two satellites might one day slam into one another, producing swarms of treacherous debris.

It happened Tuesday. And the whirling fragments could pose a threat to the International Space Station, orbiting 346 kilometers, or 215 miles, up with three astronauts on board, though officials said the risk was now small.

"This is a first, unfortunately," Nicholas Johnson, chief scientist for orbital debris at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, said of the collision.

It happened some 788 kilometers above northern Siberia. Two communications satellites - one Russian, one American - cracked up in silent destruction. In the aftermath, military radars on the ground tracked large amounts of debris going into higher and lower orbits.

"Nothing to this extent" has ever happened before, Johnson said. "We've had three other accidental collisions between what we call catalog objects, but they were all much smaller than this."

The communication satellites, he added, "are two relatively big objects."

The American satellite was an Iridium, one of a constellation of 66 spacecraft. Liz DeCastro, corporate communications director of Iridium Satellite, based in Bethesda, Maryland, said that the satellite weighed about 545 kilograms, or 1,200 pounds, and that its body was more than 3.6 meters, or 12 feet, long, not including large solar arrays.

In a statement, the company said that it had "lost an operational satellite" on Tuesday, apparently after it collided with "a nonoperational" Russian satellite.

"Although this event has minimal impact on Iridium's service," the statement added, "the company is taking immediate action to address the loss." The company's hand-held phones can be used anywhere around the globe to give users voice and data communications.

Johnson said the Russian satellite was presumably nonfunctional. Officials at the Russian Embassy in Washington could not be reached for comment.

Johnson said the U.S. military's tracking radars had yet to determine the number of detectable fragments. "It's going to take a while," he said. "It's very, very difficult to discriminate all those objects when they're really close together. And so over the next couple of days we'll have a much better understanding."

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

At a minimum, Johnson added, "I think we're talking many, many dozens, if not hundreds."

The debris could threaten the space station and its astronaut crew, he said.

"There are actually debris from this event which we believe are going through space station altitude already," he said. The risk to the station, Johnson added, "is going to be very, very small." In the worst case, he said, "We'll just dodge them if we have to. It's the small things you can't see that are the ones that can do you harm."

In Houston, International Space Station controllers have often adjusted its orbit to get out of the way of speeding space debris, which can move so incredibly fast that even small pieces pack a destructive wallop.

John Yembrick, a NASA spokesman in Washington, said the agency now judged the risk of collision with the speeding fragments to be "very small." The threat, he added, is defined and acceptable.

Johnson, who works at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, said the new swarms of whirling debris might also eventually pose a threat to other satellites in an orbital chain reaction.

"What we're doing now is trying to quantify that risk," he said. "That's a work in progress. It's only been 24 hours. We put first things first," meaning the station and preparing for the next shuttle mission.

<< [Return to the Contents Page](#)

Articles from subscriber only sites are available on request. *Révolutionnaire* is edited by [Ho Shu Huang](#), [Kalyan M. Kemburi](#), and [Ong Weichong](#), with contributions from [Bernard Loo](#) and [Joshua Ho](#). [The Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies](#) (IDSS) is a key research component of the [S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies](#) (RSIS). It focuses on security research to serve national needs. IDSS' faculty and research staff conduct both academic and policy-oriented research on security-related issues and developments affecting Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Its research agenda presently comprises the following programmes: Maritime Security, the Revolution in Military Affairs, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Contemporary Islam, Indonesia and China.