

RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE 20/2007

The Foremost Inter-Disciplinary Defence E-Bulletin

突破 *Revolucionario* *Revolutionary* *Merevolusikan* *Revolutionär* *Kraantikari*

26 October 2007

Contemporary Conflict

- Disagreements in Hamas Camps Laid Bare
- DR Congo refugees flee to Uganda
- Sudan to Announce Darfur Cease-Fire
- Trillion-dollar war: Afghanistan and Iraq set to cost more than Vietnam and Korea

Counter-Terrorism

- 22 charged over 'al Qaeda network'
- Five held in France over Iraq fighter network
- Attack on Bhutto convoy was Al Qaeda's style, governor says
- Jail 'hardening' terror convicts

Defence Strategy

- India for expanding defence ties with Russia: Antony
- Gates Sees No Imminent Turkish Attack
- Think 'anticipatory self-defense'
- Pro-IDF forum says data shows that by 2025, half of youth will dodge draft
- Little Progress at NATO Missile Talks

Defence Technology

- Gates Credits Russian Military Ideas
- Air Force: F-16 crashes up due to human error
- Will MRAPs become white elephants?

Energy Security

- Labour's plan to abandon renewable energy targets
- Energy crisis looming as threat to humanity: experts
- Surrendering our future
- Fuel demand hit by economic woes

Military Operations

- NATO to Lease 20 Helicopters to Fill Afghan Shortfall
- S Korea extends Iraq deployment
- Lankan Air Force pounds LTTE position in Vavuniya
- Army repels new PKK attack, kills more than 30 terrorists

Nuclear Proliferation

- Different face, same policy
- Chen rejects remark on nuclear weapons
- Analysis: Sanctions Haven't Slowed Iran
- Skeptical US lawmakers question nuclear envoy on NKorean disarmament deal

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

[Disagreements in Hamas Camps Laid Bare](#)

Associated Press – 21 October 2007

Four months after the Hamas takeover of Gaza, the usually hidden arguments between the group's rival camps were unexpectedly laid bare, when a well-known pragmatist said seizing control by force was a mistake and had caused great hardship. Hamas hard-liners, however, still appear to have the upper hand. In a five-page letter posted Sunday on a Web site affiliated with Hamas' rival, Fatah, former Hamas government spokesman Ghazi Hamad wrote that the takeover was a "serious strategic mistake that burdened the movement more than it can bear." Hamad wrote that Gaza "became isolated, besieged, in a narrow strip" and that "people's suffering increased." In an interview Sunday, Hamad declined to acknowledge the letter or reiterate some of the harshest phrases. However, he said that Gaza's situation was "terrible" and that Hamas should make another attempt to forge a joint government with Abbas. Hamad said he was expressing his personal views.

[DR Congo refugees flee to Uganda](#)

BBC – 22 October 2007

The United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) says 8,000 people have crossed into Uganda to escape the latest fighting in eastern Congo. The villagers were caught in crossfire as the Congolese army moved against the forces of renegade General Laurent Nkunda and other militias. Like Nkunda, the leader of the Mai Mai militia also rejected a government ultimatum to disarm. More than 370,000 people have been displaced since the start of the year. It is the third time in recent months that large numbers of people have fled to Uganda because of renewed fighting. The UNHCR says the refugees are trying to remain close to the frontier so they can return home as soon as possible.

[Sudan to Announce Darfur Cease-Fire](#)

Associated Press – 23 October 2007

Sudan will announce a cease-fire at the start of talks with rebel groups on Oct. 27 aimed at ending the conflict in Darfur, the country's U.N. ambassador said Monday. Ambassador Abdelmahmood Abdalhaleem Mohamed said the government decided to declare a cease-fire at the opening session to help promote the success of the talks in the Libyan city of Sirte, the hometown of the country's leader Moammar Gadhafi. "On that day ... we will declare a cease-fire so that we can give the negotiators a chance to get out with an agreement on cessation of hostilities and cease-fire in the first round of the talks," he told *The Associated Press* in an interview. "So this will be a good confidence-building measure when all parties agree to a cease-fire, which we are going to announce on the 27th," Mohamed added. Earlier this month, the U.N. special envoy to Darfur, Jan Eliasson, called on the Sudanese government and rebel factions to begin the peace talks with a cease-fire agreement and urged both sides to make concessions.

[Trillion-dollar war: Afghanistan and Iraq set to cost more than Vietnam and Korea](#)

The Independent – 24 October 2007

President George Bush will have spent more than \$1 trillion on military adventures by the time he leaves office at the end of next year, more than the entire amount spent on the Korean and Vietnam wars combined. There are also disturbing signs that Mr Bush is preparing an attack on Iran during his remaining months in office. He has demanded \$46bn (£22.5bn) emergency funds from Congress by Christmas and included with it a single sentence requesting money to upgrade the B-2 "stealth" bomber. By wrapping his request in the flag of patriotism, the President has made it very difficult even for an anti-war Congress to refuse the money. He was accompanied by the family of a dead US marine when he made the request for funds on Monday. The House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, has attacked the President's priorities saying: "For the cost of less than 40 days in Iraq, we could provide health care coverage to 10 million children for an entire year." "The President is happy to put the military spending on the national credit card," said Steve Kosiak, a vice-president of the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, an independent, military policy research institute, who said that the \$1trn figure will soon be passed. The full amount requested for this fiscal year is now \$196.4bn. The US is on course to spend a total of \$806bn fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, more than on any war it has fought since the Second World War. With interest payments this tops \$1trn. Despite their expense, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq are less of an economic burden (at 4.2 per cent of GDP) than earlier wars. The 1990-91 Gulf War cost \$88bn, the Korean War cost \$456bn (12.2 per cent of GDP) and the Vietnam War, \$518bn (9.4 per cent of GDP). By comparison the Second World War cost more than 40 per cent of GDP.

COUNTER-TERRORISM

[22 charged over 'al Qaeda network'](#)

CNN – 23 October 2007

A Spanish judge indicted 22 suspected Islamic terrorists Tuesday, charging them with recruiting and sending fighters to Iraq, including one who killed Italian troops there in a suicide attack in 2003, according to a copy of the indictment viewed by CNN. A court source said the suspects managed to send four fighters to Iraq. It notes the suicide attack on Nov. 17, 2003, by a man identified as Bellil Belgacem "against Italian troops that left 18 people dead and various others wounded," in Nasiriya, Iraq, the indictment said. Eighteen of the 22 suspects are charged with membership in a terrorist group. The others face the lesser charge of collaborating with a terrorist group. All but two of the suspects are either in custody or out on bail. The defendants aimed to establish their network in Spain, Belgium, Holland, Turkey, Morocco, Syria and Iraq, with "the precise aim of sending people to Iraq to join the terrorist activity directed by al Qaeda, to attack vital military and civilian, public and private targets," the indictment says.

[Five held in France over Iraq fighter network](#)

Reuters – 23 October 2007

Five men suspected of being part of a network helping militants travel to Iraq were arrested in southern France on Tuesday, a police source said. The source said police were investigating their level of involvement in the network, which was also the target of a police operation in February when several arrests were made in Paris, Belgium and near the French town of Toulouse. One of the latest suspects was suspected of having given members of the network combat training, the police source said. French anti-terrorist police believe the network sent three people to Iraq. Two were arrested in Syria, the transit country, and the third has disappeared but may have been killed in Iraq. Several networks of this type have been dismantled in France since the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

[Attack on Bhutto convoy was Al Qaeda's style, governor says](#)

International Herald Tribune – 23 October 2007

The explosions aimed at the opposition leader Benazir Bhutto last week resembled attacks by Al Qaeda and their allied Pakistani militants and were the work of two suicide bombers, the provincial governor said in an interview. Ishrat ul Ebad Khan, the governor of Sindh Province, said investigators had found the heads of two men that were not claimed by relatives and almost certainly belonged to the bombers. The explosions, detonated close to Bhutto's fortified truck as supporters flocked to welcome her home after eight years of self-imposed exile, were the deadliest of more than 50 suicide attacks in Pakistan in recent years. The governor said the death toll had risen to 140, and included a couple with their 1-year-old child who had come on a motorbike to see Bhutto's procession through town. More than 500 people were wounded, he said. The Pakistani police have said that a grenade caused the first, smaller explosion Thursday night, and that a lone suicide bomber caused the second, larger blast. But Ebad said the police had found no traces of a grenade and had since pieced together the head of a second man

[Jail 'hardening' terror convicts](#)

BBC – 23 October 2007

Al-Qaeda prisoners in UK jails are being hardened instead of reformed, top Whitehall sources have told the BBC. A major programme of radicalisation is underway in prisons, targeting vulnerable young men and preaching violent jihad, it has been claimed. The BBC's Frank Gardner said sources claim Islamist convicts are undergoing the same process IRA members did at the Maze prison in Northern Ireland. Ministers hope to tackle the problem by training prison imams, he added. Frank Gardner, the BBC's security correspondent, said that senior Whitehall sources told him that convicted al-Qaeda inmates and their associates are using prison to build up networks and address books, making contacts with other prisoners who have supplied false documents and even weaponry. Sources add that among 9,000 Muslim prisoners in England and Wales, a small hard core are devoted to recruiting other young men to extremism. One government

official said that they see prison as an extension of Jihad: if kept together they form a cell, but if dispersed they seek to spread their beliefs. In an effort to counter this growing phenomenon, prison imams have been given specialist training. Efforts are being made to identify those prisoners most susceptible to extremism and mentor them on their release.

DEFENCE STRATEGY

[India for expanding defence ties with Russia: Antony](#)

The Hindu – 18 October 2007

India is committed to further upgrading and expanding defence ties with Russia, but is concerned over delays in Russian supplies and problems in product support, according to Defence Minister A.K. Antony. Speaking at the opening of the 7th session of the Indo-Russian Inter-governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation here on Wednesday, Mr. Antony, who co-chairs the IGC for India, voiced confidence that defence ties between the two countries “would grow stronger in the years to come.” The Minister expressed the hope that the session would give further impetus to “the existing strong relationship” between the two countries in the defence sphere and help to resolve ongoing problems such as providing life-long product support to Russian-made weapon systems and delays in modernisation of the Gorshkov aircraft carrier for the Indian Navy. At the same time, he praised the “unique” character of the defence cooperation between India and Russia. “Russia is the only country with which we have elaborate institutionalised arrangements,” he said.

[Gates Sees No Imminent Turkish Attack](#)

Associated Press – 22 October 2007

Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Sunday it appears Turkey's military is hesitating before launching a major incursion into northern Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish rebels responsible for a deadly attack on Turkish soldiers. "I didn't have the impression that anything was imminent," Gates told reporters after meeting for about 30 minutes with his Turkish counterpart, Vecdi Gonul, at a hotel in Ukraine's capital. "I told him that restraint should not be confused with weakness," Gates said. "I thought that a major cross-border operation would be contrary to Turkish interests as well as our own and that of Iraq. I told him we should work together on this, that we were very mindful of the PKK terrorists." PKK refers to the Kurdistan Workers Party, which has been attacking Turkish forces for years from havens inside northern Iraq. U.S. officials say they have little hard information on the PKK's exact locations. In separate remarks to reporters, Vecdi said he told Gates that Turkey expects "tangible action" by the American military to constrain the PKK in Iraq, although he would not spell that out in detail.

[Think 'anticipatory self-defense'](#)

Jerusalem Post – 22 October 2007

Today, Israel's core plan for active defense against future Iranian nuclear missiles remains the Arrow anti-ballistic missile program. Although this plan is sound as part of a much broader security strategy, it wouldn't suffice in the case of a nuclear Iran. This plan must be augmented by improved Israeli deterrence and by corollary preparations for defensive first strikes against relevant Iranian hard targets. A possible Israeli-Iranian "balance of terror" should not be compared to US-Soviet deterrence during the Cold War. A presumed balance with Iran could never assure the required rationality of decision-makers in Teheran. Moreover, terrorist proxies instead of missiles could deliver Iranian nuclear weapons and materials. This fact underscores Jerusalem's critical need to maintain and codify appropriate preemption options. All deterrence logic rests on the key assumption of rationality. An Iran that might value certain religious expectations more highly than its own national survival could well be immune to threats of nuclear retaliation. Even assuming foreign sources are right about Israeli capabilities, faced with this improbable, but entirely conceivable prospect, Israel cannot depend upon even a "perfect" combination of nuclear deterrence and ballistic missile defense. If the Arrow Missile Defense System were 100% efficient in its expected reliability of interception, even an irrational Iranian adversary armed with nuclear and/or biological weapons could be kept at bay without defensive first strikes or threats of massive retaliation. After all, were Israel's reported nuclear deterrent neutralized by a fanatical Iranian enemy willing to risk a massive counter-city Israeli reprisal (a suicide-bomber writ large), any first-strike by Teheran could still be blocked by the Arrow. This sounds better in theory than in practice. In the real world of international conflict, ballistic missile defense (BMD) could not attain such needed levels of reliability. No BMD system, even the successfully tested Arrow, can be leakproof. Yet, where the warheads upon an enemy's missiles would be nuclear, no level of leakage could be tolerable.

[Pro-IDF forum says data shows that by 2025, half of youth will dodge draft](#)

Jerusalem Post – 23 October 2007

A forum of reservists and parents with children serving in the IDF released alarming statistics on Monday claiming that by 2015 a mere 53 percent of Israeli youth will enlist in the IDF. According to the report, which is based on demographic data provided by the Central Bureau of Statistics, by 2025 more than half of Israeli youth will not serve in the IDF. The report was based on the continued growth in the ultra-Orthodox sector of society that does not serve in the military, and was composed under the assumption that the percentage of non-haredi draft-dodgers remains the same as this past year. The IDF rejected the report, and in a statement released by the Spokesperson's Office said it predicted that in 2025, 29% of male youth will not enlist in the military, only a 4% increase from 2007. The statement said that it was impossible to predict how many draft-dodgers there would be in 2025.

Little Progress at NATO Missile Talks

Associated Press – 25 October 2007

NATO appeared to make little progress Thursday in narrowing differences with Russia over U.S. plans to install missile defenses in eastern Europe, even after the U.S. offered to delay activating the bases until there is proof of a threat from Iran. "We cannot agree on what was offered to us, and are sticking to our position," Russian Defense Minister Anatoly Serdyukov told reporters after talks with his NATO counterparts. However, he said talks would continue. "It seems to me that the Americans are starting to better understand our concerns and we welcome that," Serdyukov said. Underscoring the continuing tensions, two Russian strategic bombers neared the Dutch coastal resort where the ministers were meeting, on an unusual practice run that could be interpreted as a signal to NATO, the Norwegian military said. Lt. Col. John Espen Lien, a Norwegian military spokesman, said two Tu-160 strategic bombers, flew a highly unusual course near the Norwegian coast and between Britain and Denmark before turning back some 120 miles northwest of the Netherlands. "It could have been a coincidence, but there is also a chance that it was a signal," Lien told The Associated Press. Russia has routinely been sending bomber flights from its northern bases in recent months in what is broadly seen as a demonstration of its military power 16 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union left it with few resources. NATO officials in Noordwijk said the Russian planes remained in international airspace and were not considered threatening.

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY

Gates Credits Russian Military Ideas

Associated Press – 13 October 2007

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told students at an elite Russian military academy Saturday that much of the inspiration for the U.S. military's modernization in the 1980s came from Moscow. In a rare appearance for a Pentagon leader at the Military Academy of the General Staff, Gates outlined the history and implications of U.S. military transformation, saying they are relevant to Russia as it seeks to professionalize its army in an era where the dominant security threat is Islamic extremism. He said the seeds of U.S. combat successes in the 1991 Gulf war were sown a decade earlier with an infusion of new ideas on using modern technologies to fundamentally change the nature of warfighting. "What is less well known _especially in America — is that much of the original thinking on these matters was done by the Soviet military as far back as the 1970s when officers wrote about what was then called a `military technical revolution,'" he said.

[Air Force: F-16 crashes up due to human error](#)

MSNBC – 22 October 2007

In the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, there were 10 “Class A” F-16 accidents — crashes that resulted in death, loss of the aircraft or damage of more than \$1 million. (An 11th F-16 crash was counted separately as a combat loss by the military because the pilot was strafing enemy trucks at the time.) The total was up from nine the previous year, five the year before that and just two the year before that. The number of crashes has gone up even though the total number of hours flown has dropped steadily over the past five years. The rate of Class A accidents this year — 3.18 per 100,000 hours flown — was the highest since 2001, when it was 3.85 because of a rash of engine failures. The Class A accidents last fiscal year include crashes that happened during training in the United States and Italy. The total also includes several crashes that happened during sorties in Iraq while the pilots were not engaging the enemy. One expert said that it may be that as the Iraq war drags on, the stress of combat is taking a toll on the 1,300 F-16s in the U.S. fleet, and their pilots.

[Will MRAPs become white elephants?](#)

The Christian Science Monitor – 26 October 2007

After a slow and controversial start, the military is furiously trying to get enough Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected vehicles, or MRAPs, into Iraq. In fact, it is Defense Secretary Robert Gates's biggest priority when it comes to protecting troops in Iraq. But as his department scrambles to provide enough bomb-resistant vehicles, with plans to have as many as 1,500 MRAPs there by the end of the year, concern is emerging that the massive vehicles will become tomorrow's white elephant. There is no question that the vehicles save lives: The up-armored trucks with their V-shaped hull protect troops from all but the largest types of explosive devices, allowing them often to walk away from some attacks that they would not have probably survived in up-armored Humvees, which are far more common in Iraq. Yet in and outside the Pentagon, the concern is that such heavy investment in the expensive vehicles this late in the game comes with a greater price. The fear is that the average \$800,000-per-unit cost and 22-ton weight of some of the vehicles may undermine military missions beyond Iraq. Even during the current counterinsurgency, insulating US troops from the local population in these vehicles runs counter to the kinds of tactics US troops are typically employing in Iraq. Marine Commandant Gen. James Conway supports the MRAP and said Monday the program "was the right thing to do." But thinking ahead, the Corps' top general is concerned that his service's traditional missions could be hindered by the costly and heavy truck that is virtually impossible to transport easily. General Conway also believes the truck is contributing to the Corps losing its "expeditionary flavor." "Can I give a satisfactory answer to what we're going to be doing with those things in five or 10 years? Probably not," he told a group Monday at the Center for a New American Security, a new think tank in Washington.

ENERGY SECURITY

[Labour's plan to abandon renewable energy targets](#)

The Guardian – 23 October 2007

Ministers are planning a U-turn on Britain's pledges to combat climate change that "effectively abolishes" its targets to rapidly expand the use of renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power. Leaked documents seen by the Guardian show that Gordon Brown will be advised today that the target Tony Blair signed up to this year for 20% of all European energy to come from renewable sources by 2020 is expensive and faces "severe practical difficulties". According to the papers, John Hutton, the secretary of state for business, will tell Mr Brown that Britain should work with Poland and other governments sceptical about climate change to "help persuade" German chancellor Angela Merkel and others to set lower renewable targets, before binding commitments are framed in December.

[Energy crisis looming as threat to humanity: experts](#)

ABC News (Australia) – 23 October 2007

Energy poses one of the greatest threats facing humanity this century, the world's leading academies of science warned, highlighting the peril of oil wars and climate change driven by addiction to fossil fuels. Nations must provide power for the 1.6 billion people who live without electricity but still wean themselves off energy sources that stoke global warming and geopolitical conflict, the scientists demanded. "Making the transition to a sustainable energy future is one of the central challenges humankind faces in this century," they said. Their report, *Lighting the Way: Toward A Sustainable Energy Future*, is published by the InterAcademy Council, whose 15 members include the national science academies of the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Brazil, China and India. It was authored by a 15-member panel whose co-chair was American 1997 Nobel Physics laureate Steven Chu. "Overwhelming scientific evidence shows that current energy trends are unsustainable," the report said bluntly. Its authors sounded a special alarm over the surge in the building of conventional coal-fired power plants in China and other developing countries, as such infrastructure will doubtless be entrenched for decades to come. "The substantial expansion of coal capacity that is now under way around the world may pose the single greatest challenge to future efforts aimed at stabilising carbon dioxide (CO₂) levels in the atmosphere," the report warned.

[Surrendering our future](#)

The Guardian – 25 October 2007

When Britain and Germany raced to scale up their aircraft industries for war in the 1930s, the British competed rather well. Recovering from a late start, we rapidly produced machines capable of winning the Battle of Britain. Today, the two nations are on the same side in a different battle, but Germany alone is mobilising as fast as it did 70 years ago. Our common enemy is global warming, and it is already at our gates. But while our German allies are turning out the renewable energy equivalents of Messerschmitts by the

factory-load, Britain is again slow to spring into action. Worse, as we learned yesterday, officials responsible for UK mobilisation have told the prime minister it is impossible for us to build modern-day Spitfires in any number. We should instead oppose European targets set recently for such mobilisation and join other laggards in order to persuade the Germans to scale back their own efforts. On Tuesday one of the main architects of Germany's renewable energy policy, Hans-Josef Fell, was in London to give a press conference on peak oil. In this issue lies another, related imperative for nations like Germany and Britain to be mobilising for renewable energy as if for war. A group of German scientists, the Energy Watch Group, has completed the latest in a crop of studies showing that oil is depleting far faster than previously estimated, and that a global energy crisis is imminent. Renewable energy and energy efficiency are the only technologies that offer any hope of staving this off in time. Fell spelt out Germany's success with renewables. In 2000, when he and other parliamentarians pushed through a law to fast-track renewables markets, such sources contributed 6% to the national electricity mix; the target was 12% by 2010. Three years ahead of the target, they are approaching 14% - and have created 200,000 jobs in the process. International investment patterns tell the story. Some \$1 trillion, globally, will go into energy this year, and more than \$100bn of that will be invested in renewables. Renewables make up just 2% of the global mix, excluding large hydropower schemes, and yet about a tenth of global energy investment now flows into them. Renewables companies are lining up to be quoted on stock exchanges, and those already listed have strong share prices. But as things stand, only a tiny proportion of this investment bonanza is heading into Britain.

[Fuel demand hit by economic woes](#)

Reuters – 26 October 2007

Economic woes are posing a greater threat to U.S. oil demand growth than soaring fuel prices by slowing commercial transport and discretionary travel. The primary cause is the U.S. housing slowdown, which has battered activity in energy-intensive lumber, construction and shipping industries, along with other businesses related to home building, energy analysts and economists said. "We're not really seeing this at the pump. It is more commercial and industrial behavior," said Eric Kalamaras, head of energy research at Wachovia. "The wild card is, how long will this last?" Total U.S. petroleum demand so far this year is up just 0.2 percent over the same period a year ago, while gasoline demand over the past four weeks ran at negative 0.5 percent after a weak summer driving season, according to government data. "It was a trend we witnessed all summer and it continues into the autumn months," said Eric Wittenauer at A.G. Edwards. The halt in energy demand growth comes as the United States faces a severe slowdown in the housing market, putting pressure on manufacturing, trucking, construction and a variety of other industries related to home building.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

[NATO to Lease 20 Helicopters to Fill Afghan Shortfall](#)

Bloomberg – 22 October 2007

NATO will lease about 20 transport helicopters to fill a gap in the Afghanistan mission and relieve an overstretched U.S. unit, alliance officials said. Negotiations over a leasing contract are in the final stages, three NATO officials told reporters under condition of anonymity today. The non-combat helicopters would be used to shuttle equipment and ammunition around the Afghan battlefields. The leasing arrangement would be unusual for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, reflecting the strain on allied armed forces as the Afghan war heads into the seventh year with the radical Taliban movement far from vanquished. "Pressures on troop numbers in all of our nations are exceptionally high," John Colston, NATO assistant secretary general for defense policy and planning, said at a news conference in Brussels today. NATO's 41,000 troops are battling to hold ground seized from the Taliban in the south and east of Afghanistan, with Canada and the Netherlands weighing full or partial pullouts unless other allies send more combat troops.

[S Korea extends Iraq deployment](#)

BBC – 23 October 2007

The South Korean government has said it will keep troops in Iraq for a further year, in a move likely to enhance relations with the US. The soldiers will stay in Iraq until the end of 2008 - but their numbers will be halved to 600, President Roh Moo-hyun said in a televised address. He said US ties were a priority, with talks on dismantling North Korea's nuclear facilities at a key stage. The move must be passed by parliament, where there is set to be fierce debate. Despite being pro-government, the United New Democratic Party - the country's largest party - has indicated that it will oppose extending the Iraq mission. But the main opposition Grand National Party is expected to back the extension.

[Lankan Air Force pounds LTTE position in Vavuniya](#)

The Hindu – 25 October 2007

Sri Lankan Air Force fighter jets on Thursday pounded an LTTE base in the island's embattled north as the government vowed to continue operations against the Tamil Tigers following the deadly rebel attack on the Anuradhapura air base that left 33 people dead. "The SLAF targeted a LTTE location which was identified as a threat to the Forward Defence Line at Periyathampane in Vavuniya in north," a defence ministry statement said here. "The air sorties were carried out in the morning following information from ground and air surveillances that were conducted for long period," it said, adding the LTTE sustained "severe" damages due to the air strike. Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wicramanayake said that two MI-24 helicopters, one beach aircraft, three small PT-6 aircrafts, one K-8 aircraft and One ML helicopter were destroyed by the LTTE during their attack on the Anuradhapura air base on Monday that left 13 soldiers and 20 rebels dead. One Bell 212 aircraft was destroyed by accident near the base in

which two army officers and two other officers lost their lives, Wicramanayake told Parliament.

[Army repels new PKK attack, kills more than 30 terrorists](#)

Today's Zaman (Turkey) – 26 October 2007

The military said it thwarted an attack by a large group of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorists yesterday on an army outpost at the Iraqi border and killed more than 30 in the group. The General Staff said in a statement that more than 30 terrorists were “rendered ineffective” in the clashes, which it said took place on Tuesday. The report increased the number of PKK members killed since Sunday, when a deadly attack on a military unit left 12 soldiers dead, to at least 64, according to military figures. The statement said a “large group of terrorists” had been spotted near a military outpost in the district of Şemdinli close to the border with Iraq and fired on them with tanks, artillery units and other heavy weaponry. In a statement posted on its Web site, the military said the troops kept firing as they advanced toward Iraqi territory. “The terrorist group was pursued by [arms] fire as it fled into Iraqi territory. Intelligence gathered from regional and other sources revealed that more than 30 terrorists were rendered ineffective,” it said. Search operations in the region are continuing, it also added. The statement came amid reports that the Turkish warplanes and ground troops have attacked PKK targets inside northern Iraq in “hot pursuit” operations following Sunday’s deadly attack by the PKK. The planes and troops involved in the attack returned, and more such operations are expected to take place in the coming days, but there has been no large-scale operation as of yet.

NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION

[Chen rejects remark on nuclear weapons](#)

The China Post – 21 October 2007

President Chen Shui-bian yesterday dismissed allegations that the government was planning to develop nuclear weapons. "Taiwan currently does not have any nuclear weapons, and the DPP government will not develop nuclear weapons," said Chen. He said the allegations about Taiwan developing nuclear weapons were spread by "someone with ulterior motives." "The person who made up the story is completely neglecting national security and the national interest. I hope this person can stop saying such dangerous things," the president said. Chen was referring to allegations made by Kuomintang Legislator Su Chi, who on Friday claimed that Chen had ordered the military's Chungshan Institute of Science and Technology (CIST) to develop nuclear weapons and nuclear warheads.

[Different face, same policy](#)

Al-Ahram Weekly (Egypt) – 25 October 2007

Since Mahmoud Ahmadinejad took office in 2005, six of his cabinet members, including the central bank chief, ministers of oil, social affairs and vice-president, have resigned. The resignations, though indicative, attracted little international attention. The resignation of national security chief and top nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani on Saturday, however, caused international shock. Iran's sensitive nuclear programme is at the centre of world attention amid increasing reports that the Islamic republic might be the target of a US military strike. Iran promptly insisted on Sunday that its policy in the nuclear crisis with the West would not change, amid fears his successor would take an even tougher line. Larijani's successor, Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Jalili, is a hardliner and a close confidante of the president, and is believed by analysts to share Ahmadinejad's unrelenting refusal of offering any concession to the West.

[Analysis: Sanctions Haven't Slowed Iran](#)

Associated Press – 26 October 2007

Economic sanctions in place for decades haven't stopped Iran from pursuing nuclear ambitions the Bush administration says are a cover for a nuclear bomb or, if administration allegations are true, from funding terrorism across the Middle East. So why would the sanctions announced Thursday — a big dose of more of the same — cause Iran to change its behavior? The latest sanctions might actually make Iran dig in more, analysts said. "It is unlikely to directly affect Iranian behavior on the nuclear side," said Robert Hunter, a Middle East expert and senior adviser at the Rand Corp. "It is a symbolic message to Iran and everyone else that the U.S. is deadly serious." The United States has had only mixed results using sanctions as a foreign policy tool in the past against countries like Iran, Cuba and North Korea.

[Skeptical US lawmakers question nuclear envoy on NKorean disarmament deal](#)

International Herald Tribune – 26 October 2007

U.S. lawmakers from both political parties criticized the Bush administration for a North Korean nuclear disarmament accord, saying a rush to achieve a foreign policy success could lead to a bad deal. At a House of Representatives hearing Thursday, the lead U.S. envoy to six-nation nuclear talks, Christopher Hill, defended a U.S. pledge to take North Korea off a list of countries that sponsor terror, despite suspicions that North Korea may be helping Syria develop a nuclear program. But Hill, an assistant secretary of state, frustrated lawmakers by refusing to discuss a Sept. 6 incident in which Israeli warplanes struck a target in Syria. Western news media have quoted unidentified U.S. officials as saying the strike hit some sort of nuclear facility linked to North Korea. Syria has said an unused military building was hit. Instead, Hill provided general assurances about the U.S. commitment to stop the spread of nuclear weapons: "We cannot be reaching a nuclear agreement with North Korea if at the same time they're proliferating. It is not acceptable."