



# **RÉVOLUTIONNAIRE 25/2008**

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**05 December 2008**

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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.

## CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT

### [Sri Lankan troops, rebels clash near Tiger HQ](#)

*Reuters* – November 25

Sri Lankan troops and Tamil Tiger rebels clashed again on Tuesday in driving monsoon rains, with soldiers probing the edge of the guerrillas' headquarters town after three bloody days of combat, the military said.

Sri Lankan soldiers ambushed and killed two rebels on Tuesday on the northern Jaffna Peninsula, the military said. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters also killed two soldiers in an anti-personnel mine explosion, both sides said.

With LTTE leader Vellupillai Prabhakaran due to give a rallying cry at his annual Heroes' Day speech on Thursday, the army is fighting toward Kilinochchi -- a strategic and symbolic prize for the army -- from the west, north and south.

"Soldiers are trying to negotiate the earth bund (mound) south of Kilinochchi, and are probing the defences," military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanyakkara said. Units are 5 km west and and less than 2 km southwest, he said.

Soldiers ambushed and killed two rebels in Kilali south of a rebel defence line the army seized last week, he said. Kilali is on the thin neck of the Jaffna Peninsula, and long one of the LTTE's strongest defences to the north of Kilinochchi.

Troops on patrol killed four LTTE in Horowpatuna, a northern area away from the battlefield, Nanayakkara added.

TamilNet on Tuesday released pictures provided by the LTTE of a battle on Sunday in which it said 43 soldiers were killed.

One photo showed two rebels standing over the bodies of six dead men in military fatigues, while another showed what TamilNet said was an LTTE fighter firing a machine gun.

Independent verification is difficult because both sides limit media access to the war zone.

## EASTERN TROUBLES

Tuesday's clashes followed a bloody weekend in which both sides said they killed scores during battles to capture Kilinochchi, the separatist rebels' self-declared capital 330 km north of the capital Colombo.

Talk is rife that President Mahinda Rajapaksa will use the battlefield successes -- the most by any government in the 25-year war -- to call early elections and counter criticism about the country's ailing economy.

Rajapaksa in January threw out a 2002 ceasefire with a pledge to defeat the group that has fought since 1983 to create a separate state for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils. The LTTE has subsequently landed on U.S., EU and Indian terrorism lists.

On Tuesday, Human Rights Watch accused the government of failing to stop rights abuses by breakaway Tigers with which it had allied to capture Eastern Province from the LTTE last year.

"Killings and abductions are rife and there is total impunity for horrific abuses," Human Rights Watch's Asia Director Brad Adams said in a statement.

The government has long acknowledged problems exist with the breakaway TMVP party including a rift between its leaders, but said Human Rights Watch had totally ignored acts by the LTTE, itself accused of rights abuses for years.

"They attribute everything to the TMVP and it's uncertain. It is categorically what Human Rights Watch reads as abuses by the government or quarters close to the government," Human Rights Ministry Secretary Rajiva Wijesinghe told Reuters.

#### [Afghan Leader Criticizes U.S. on Taliban](#)

*The Wall Street Journal* – November 27

Afghan President Hamid Karzai blasted the U.S. and its NATO allies for failing to defeat the Taliban, insisting for the first time that Afghans need a firm deadline to end the war.

Setting such a deadline seems unlikely with President-elect Barack Obama seeking to boost the number of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan. But without one, Mr. Karzai said, his government had no choice but to explore a negotiated settlement with the Taliban.

"This war has gone on for seven years; the Afghans don't understand any more how come a little force like the Taliban can continue to exist, can continue to flourish, can continue to launch attacks," Mr. Karzai told a visiting United Nations delegation Tuesday. His office released a transcript Wednesday.

After the Taliban fell from power in Afghanistan in late 2001, the U.S. backed Mr. Karzai's rise to power, and he has enjoyed Washington's support since then. But with elections set for next year, Mr. Karzai has stepped up his criticism of the international role in Afghanistan in an apparent bid to shore up his support

among conservative -- and increasingly disaffected -- Afghan tribes, and to deflect mounting criticism at home and abroad from people who say his government is weak and corrupt.

Neither the U.S. Embassy nor spokesmen for North Atlantic Treaty Organization forces in Afghanistan responded to requests for comment about Mr. Karzai's remarks.

Mr. Karzai's strident tone adds another layer to the challenges facing Mr. Obama, who has said Afghanistan will be among his top foreign-policy priorities. Among plans being considered by Mr. Obama is one to send as many as 20,000 U.S. soldiers to Afghanistan next year to reinforce the 32,000 already there.

In his remarks, Mr. Karzai said for the first time that Afghans needed a clear timeline for the war and couldn't tolerate an open-ended campaign. "If there is no deadline we have the right to another solution for peace and security, which is negotiations," he said.

The Afghan president has repeatedly called for negotiations, last week going so far as to offer Taliban leader Mullah Omar safe passage to attend talks -- an offer that was promptly rejected by the Taliban.

U.S. and other Western policy makers have said that talks with some elements of the Taliban are needed. But they are looking to engage relatively moderate Pashtun tribes that form the Taliban's grassroots support. Few in the U.S. or Europe want to make any sort of deal with the group's leadership, or believe such an agreement can be struck.

To the U.N. group, Mr. Karzai criticized everything from what he called a "parallel" government being created by foreign security and aid agencies to the number of civilians killed by U.S. and NATO forces. He said those forces have taken the fight "to the villages of Afghanistan where there were no terrorists."

U.S. and NATO commanders say the Taliban is using villagers as human shields.

Mr. Karzai also blamed Afghanistan's endemic corruption in part on foreign contractors who "contract, then subcontract, and then another subcontract and then perhaps another subcontract." The process "means immense possibilities of major corruption."

In one of the few positive notes, Mr. Karzai said relations with Pakistan, where the Taliban and al Qaeda have taken over wide swaths of territory in Pakistan's Northwest, have improved considerably since President Asif Ali Zardari took office in September.

Mr. Zardari's predecessor, Pervez Musharraf, a former general who came to power in a 1999 coup, won Washington's backing after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks but was frequently accused by Afghanistan and Western governments of not doing enough to combat Islamic militants.

[Malaysia to pull out from truce monitoring team](#)

*The Manila times* – November 28

Malaysian peace monitors, who are part of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) in Mindanao, would leave the country on Sunday after the government rejected the demands of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) to lift arrest warrants issued against three fugitive rebel commanders.

But 18 Monitoring Team members from Libya, Brunei and Japan would remain in Mindanao to ensure that the ceasefire agreement between the Moro and the government continues to hold amid the volatile security situation in the southern region, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Hermogenes Esperon Jr. said.

“We welcome the decision of Libya, Brunei and Japan to stay behind for as long as necessary even without a formal renewal of the mandate of the IMT,” Esperon said in an interview.

However, a Palace official who requested anonymity expressed dismay over the Malaysian pull out, saying it was so quick and was days ahead of the expiration of the international team’s mandate.

“They [Malaysians] are applying their usual tactics to pressure the government into agreeing to what the MILF wants. But we cannot compromise,” the Palace official said.

In a statement Thursday, Malaysian Foreign Minister Rais Yatim said his government is suspending its participation in the international team effective November 30.

“Malaysia is prepared to consider its future participation in the IMT, when there is progress in the peace process and a formal request is made by both the peace panels [of the government and the MILF],” Rais said.

He added Malaysia remains supportive of the peace process and hopes both sides opt for dialogue and negotiations in resolving the peace problem in Mindanao.

Esperon said the government is banking on the commitments of Brunei and Libya to increase its contingent of ceasefire monitors even without Malaysia, which used to head the international team.

Brunei, with 10 monitors, would effectively be the head of the international team, followed by Libya with six and Japan with two.

Libya has committed to send 25 more peacekeepers while Brunei 30 more men.

The MILF Central Command demanded the lifting of the arrest warrants against its three fugitive commanders who attacked Central Mindanao in August, that left at least 60 civilians. It was a precondition to the extension of the Monitoring Team.

The three MILF commanders are Umbra Kato, Abdullah Macapaar alias Bravo and Aleem Pangalian. They led the attacks after the Supreme Court halted the signing of an agreement on territory with the government.

### [33 Afghan rebels killed](#)

*World Press* – November 29

Afghan and coalition troops have killed 33 militants in fighting in southern Afghanistan, the US-led coalition said in a statement.

The battle took place in the southern province of Helmand, about 150 kilometres west of Kandahar, Afghanistan's main southern city.

The soldiers had been on patrol in the volatile Nad Ali district on Friday when they were ambushed, it said in a statement.

"ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) and coalition forces returned fire primarily with small-arms fire and limited close-air support, killing 33 militants," it said.

Nearly 70 000 mainly Western soldiers are stationed in Afghanistan to help fight an insurgency led by the Islamist Taliban, who were in government between 1996 and 2001.

### [Congo rebel chief threatens 'war'](#)

*BBC News* – November 29

Rebel leader General Laurent Nkunda has threatened war unless the government of DR Congo holds a new round of talks.

He was speaking after a meeting with UN envoy Olusegun Obasanjo in the rebel-held eastern town of Jomba.

Troops loyal to Gen Nkunda have been battling government forces in North Kivu province since August, forcing 250,000 people to flee their homes.

Two weeks ago Mr Obasanjo negotiated a ceasefire, but renewed fighting has since broken out.

"If there is no negotiation, let us say then there is war," Gen Nkunda told reporters.

"I know that (the government) has no capacity to fight, so they have only one choice - negotiations," he said.

"We asked for a response as to where, when, and with whom we are going to do these talks. For us, we propose Nairobi and for the mediator we proposed chief Obasanjo," Mr Nkunda said.

Government ministers this week rebuffed the possibility of direct negotiations with the rebel leader, calling for him to return to an earlier peace pact signed in January.

### **Advancing peace**

Emerging from his one-hour meeting, Mr Obasanjo avoided questions but said: "We have advanced the course of peace."

Mr Obasanjo - Nigeria's former president - is on his second visit to the region in two weeks.

He has been trying to broker direct talks between Gen Nkunda and Congolese President Joseph Kabila, but so far these have not taken place.

The UN envoy is travelling with former Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa, who is representing the African Union.

"I'm going to listen to him," Mr Mkapa said ahead of the meeting with Gen Nkunda.

"I want to know how he thinks we can get the restoration of peace, stability and unity in this country."

### **Truce violated**

A ceasefire declared by Gen Nkunda has halted battles with government troops and brought nearly two weeks of relative calm.

But his men have continued attacking Congolese and Rwandan militia allies of the government, sending thousands of refugees fleeing east into Uganda.

Gen Nkunda says the ceasefire does not apply to operations against foreign militia.

On Thursday, the rebels took the border town of Ishasha, about 120km (75 miles) north of regional capital Goma.

His Tutsi-dominated forces say they are attacking Rwandan Hutu fighters, some of whom are accused of taking part in the 1994 Rwandan genocide, in which some 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus were slaughtered.

On Friday, the UN began an operation to relocate people from camps near the front line.

Some 65,000 people displaced by fighting have been living only a few hundred metres from fighting positions in Kibati, near Goma.

The UN is trying to transfer people to safer locations west of Goma.

[Vietnam reasserts sovereignty over disputed islands](#)

*Intellasia* – November 29

Vietnam possesses sufficient historical evidence and a legal basis to confirm its indisputable sovereignty and sovereignty rights over the Hoang Sa and Truong Sa archipelagos, as well as Vietnam's waters and continental shelf, Foreign Ministry spokesman Le Dung said on November 27.

Replying to questions regarding the China National Offshore Oil Corp (CNOOC)'s announcement on November 25 of a US\$30 billion project on oil and gas exploration and exploitation in deep-sea areas in the East Sea, spokesman Dung said that Vietnam pays attention to and is closely monitoring this news.

He said: "All activities conducted on Vietnam's waters and continental shelf without its consent are violations of its sovereignty and national interest and completely valueless."

He said Vietnam would look to solve any dispute through peaceful negotiations on the basis of respect for international law, the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the 1992 Manila Declaration on the East Sea, and the Declaration on the Code of Conduct between Parties in the East Sea signed by Asean members and China on November 4, 2002.

While actively promoting peaceful negotiations to seek basic and durable solutions to disputes, all involved parties should respect the status quo and refrain from actions that would further complicate the situation, he said.

[Nigeria: Death Toll in Jos Riot Rises to 350](#)

*All Africa* – November 30

The Plateau State Government has ordered security operatives comprising men of the Nigerian Army, Air Force, and Mobile Police to 'shoot on sight' anybody fomenting crisis or defying the curfew order imposed on the state capital, Jos. The order was the government's latest response to end the riot in Jos, which death toll, as at yesterday evening, had risen to 350.

Giving the order yesterday morning following fresh killings that started at the Tinna Junction and Mando areas of the city, the state Governor, Da Jonah Jang, said the state government would not sit back and watch thugs wreck more havoc on innocent citizens.

THISDAY also gathered that security operatives yesterday intercepted about 500 men armed with weapons on their way to Jos. THISDAY could not however independently verify the figure.

The arrest was a sign that the warring groups are regrouping.

Jang also said his action was informed by his on-the-spot assessment of the situation, particularly in the affected areas.

He lamented that having gone round the city to ascertain the extent of damage, the loss of lives and property and the gory sights of destruction that trailed the city, he had no alternative than to give the order. The Governor however, appealed for calm saying "government is on top of the situation".

Addressing journalists at the Press Centre in Jos, officials of the Nigerian Red Cross Society said the society had deposited 150 corpses of victims of the riot at the Central Mosque.

However, unconfirmed reports say the death toll had risen beyond the figure given by the Society. Agence France Press (AFP) reports that 381 bodies were yesterday placed in a mosque in Jos. The Associated Press (AP) also reported that bodies with fresh wounds arrived at the city's main mosque for quick burial in keeping with Islamic precepts. Many Christians have also lost their lives as what started as post-election violence takes a religious colouration.

Citizens who had fled their homes are taking refuge in National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) command, Recos, NDLEA Regional Academy Central Mosque, Macalashi Jumat, ECWA Church, Apata, University of Jos Senior Staff Quarters, and Rukuba Army Barracks.

The Director of Press to the Governor, James Mannok said over 500 rioters have been arrested with weapons and stolen items. He said they are being quizzed by

the Police. He said more security personnel have been deployed from neighbouring states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to bring the situation under control.

THISDAY also gathered after going round the city yesterday that the level of damage to lives and properties is enormous. Thousands of new cars at various car-stands, and many houses along Zaria road were razed. Churches and Mosques were also torched in Chobe Junction. Also, corpses were being evacuated from the streets by members of the Red-cross, and the Police. A few corpses still litter the streets in Katako area of the city.

Residents living in hot spots like Bauchi road, Ali Kazaure, Recos, Angwa rogo and Gengere were ordered by the state government to remain indoors 24 hrs, while those in other parts of Jos and Bukuru are to comply with the dusk to dawn curfew.

The fresh outbreak of crisis followed the declaration of election results which gave victory to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the entire 17 local government areas.

Reacting to the crisis, the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) in a press briefing denied the report that it was its group that started the attack.

The state's CAN chairman, Most Rev. Ignatius Kaigama, said "We were taken aback by the turn of events in Jos. We thought it was political, but from all indications it is not so. We were surprised at the way some of our churches and property were attacked and some of our faithful and Clergy killed.

"The attacks were carefully planned and executed. The questions that bog our minds are why were churches and Clergy attacked and killed? Why were politicians and political party offices not attacked if it were a political conflict? Why were the business premises and property of innocent civilians destroyed? We strongly feel that it was not political, but pre-meditated act under the guise of elections".

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) als appealed for restraint to all inohabitants of Jos, the Plateau state capital, over the recent crisis that engulfed parts of the city.

Making the appeal in Kaduna, CAN's National General Secretary, Engr. Samuel Salifu who spoke to reporters said the association is deeply worried over the local government crisis which he said has been turned into a religious crisis by certain groups and individuals.

Salifu said: "CAN is sick and tired of these type of repetitive crises that keep happening in Jos, Bauchi, Kano, Maiduguri, Zangon Kataf, Kaduna and host of

other places in Nigeria with attendant loss of lives and properties. We are calling on all the people of the state to be calm and also calling on the state government to promptly put a stop to the killings and burning and find a way of addressing future issues before they degenerate into killings."

He also accused government and politicians of always being responsible for most crises in the country by saying that when certain state governments and politicians fail to have their way or want to get cheap popularity, they resort to playing the religious card which most often results into crises.

Also reacting to the fresh crises, some citizens blamed the government, and Plateau Independent Electoral Commission (PLASIEC) for announcing the results of the election at the height of the crisis. They noted that the commission should have allowed the situation to calm down a little.

Also, a non-governmental organisation, Human Right Writers Association (HURIWA), yesterday blamed the Jos riots, on the failure of security intelligence by all relevant security agencies in the country. The group also canvassed that severe punitive measures be meted out to the masterminds of the violence to serve as effective deterrence while the police commissioner in state and the state Director of the State Security Service (SSS) be sacked for alleged dereliction of duties.

In its own reaction to the crisis, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) faction led by Major-General Muhammadu Buhari (rtd) has called for the declaration of emergency rule in the state over the raging crisis, while also blaming the incident on Jang who it said was desperate to win the Jos North Local Government election at all cost.

Also, the Action Congress (AC) has called for the cancellation of the Plateau council polls, since the perceived rigging of the elections is the main cause of the violence that has now left over 300 people dead and hundreds wounded or displaced in the Jos North local government area. In an interview with THISDAY in Abuja, the Secretary of ANPP Presidential Council, Engr. Buba Galadima called for the declaration of emergency rule in the state over the continued killing and maiming of people by thugs perceived to be armed by the state government.

According to Buba Galadima, "We feel bad that election ANPP won has been denied it again. It was denied because the national secretariat of the party has been compromised and its members are therefore left without any sense of direction.

"In view of the continued killing, we call on the federal government to declare a state of emergency in the state before it is too late. Military men should be drafted to the state to dislodge those in uniform allegedly armed by the state

government. We equally call for the cancellation of the result of the council election since cancel election was the main issue."

Buba Galadima said that information received by the Buhari Organisation shows that the biggest Motor Company in Jos, named Femma Motors was burned down with over 100 vehicles parked at the garage. Also the auto shop of Ibrahim Saleh Hassan, son of Alhaji Saleh Hassan, former national chairman of the Democratic Party of Nigeria (DPN) was burned down.

The Buhari group also called on government to set up an independent Judiciary Enquiry Panel to investigate the cause of the crisis.

Also in a statement issued in Abuja Saturday by its National Publicity Secretary, the Action Congress (AC) Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the party also condemned the government's gross insensitivity in going ahead to release the results of the elections, especially that of the Jos North that precipitated the crisis, even as the smoke was yet to clear from the ruins of the violence.

[Sri Lanka army 'in fresh advance'](#)

*BBC News – December 1*

Sri Lanka's military says it has recaptured a key northern town near the Tamil Tigers' Kilinochchi stronghold.

They say that troops took Kokavil, 20km (12 miles) south of Kilinochchi, on Sunday, 18 years after it was seized by the insurgents.

The army said its fall meant the rebels had lost "another bastion".

The pro-rebel TamilNet website has accused the air force of dropping cluster bombs at a camp for internally displaced people.

Military spokesman Brig Udaya Nanayakkara did not give casualty details in relation to the fall of Kokavil and there has been no comment from the rebels.

Correspondents say the capture of the town is the latest indication of the government's supremacy in the Sri Lankan war, in which the rebels have been forced to abandon large tracts of land and retreat further and further into their north-eastern heartland.

A statement on the defence ministry website said that 18 years ago Kokavil was defended by Lt Saliya Upul Aladeniya, the last officer in charge of the isolated camp, who defended it for a month with only two platoons and no reinforcements before it was overrun by rebels in July 1990.

In separate skirmishes, army snipers killed three rebels in the northern Jaffna peninsula on Sunday and Monday, a defence ministry statement said.

TamilNet meanwhile says the air force carried out "indiscriminate" and "genocidal" cluster bombing on a camp for displaced people in the north.

It says that three civilians, including a child, were killed in the weekend raid and says that at least 17 people - including women and children - were injured.

"We are living in constant fear not knowing when the bombers will strike again, and where we should run," a resident of the camp told TamilNet.

There has been no comment from the government on the issue.

Last week the army said that the capture of Kilinochchi was imminent.

Kilinochchi is the rebels' de facto capital in the north and troops have been attacking it from three directions for more than a week.

The defence ministry also said last week that its soldiers were closing in on Mullaitivu, where the rebels are believed to have concentrated their forces following recent army advances elsewhere in the north.

The rebels have been fighting for a separate homeland for Tamils in the north and east since 1983 and 70,000 people have died in the violence.

On Thursday the Tigers' leader Velupillai Prabhakaran said that the government was living in "dreamland" if it expected outright military victory.

## **TERRORISM & COUNTER-TERRORISM**

[Mumbai attacks: 60 hours of chaos, carnage](#)

*World Press* – November 29

For three nights, a small group of young but highly-trained Islamic militants managed to transform India's economic capital into a war zone, killing indiscriminately and hunting foreign hostages while holding off crack commandos.

Indian security officials said at least a dozen attackers slipped into Mumbai by sea in two small dinghies on Wednesday evening, having been dropped off near the coast by a larger ship.

Indian media and intelligence sources said other militants may have already been pre-positioned in the city, including in two targetted luxury hotels, along with stockpiled arms and ammunition.

The siege was finally ended 60 hours later, with at least 195 dead and 295 wounded.

Among the first targets was the Chhatrapati Shivaji railway station, where at least two men unleashed automatic weapons fire and lobbed grenades into a crowd of travellers in the main waiting hall.

They left behind a pile of nearly 50 bodies - and images of their own calm, composed faces caught by security cameras.

Evading capture as Indian security forces rushed to the station, the gunmen then attacked a charitable hospital for women and children, the Cama Hospital, shooting indiscriminately.

Again police responded, including the head of Mumbai's Anti-Terror Squad (ATS), Hemant Karkare, who was shot dead outside the hospital along with two other senior officers.

"They took weapons out of their sacks, lobbed three grenades and began shooting at anything that moved with their automatic weapons," Johana, a 24-year-old French tourist.

Another group used a hijacked police vehicle for drive-by shootings, before moving on to the main targets - symbols of Mumbai's wealth and multicultural character.

The objectives were two luxury hotels - the Taj Mahal, one of Mumbai's most famous landmarks, and the Oberoi/Trident - plus a Jewish centre and hostel for Israeli visitors.

The first sign guests and staff at the Taj had of the coming assault was the sound of gunshots and blasts from the hotel's swimming pool area.

Once inside, the gunmen began rounding up hostages.

"They were very young, like boys really, wearing jeans and T-shirts," one British hotel guest said of the attackers.

"They said they wanted anyone with British and American passports."

The militants then made for the upper floors of the hotel, shooting at anyone in their way.

"It was really terrifying," said Brooke Satchwell, a 28-year-old Australian actress who hid inside a cupboard.

"There were people getting shot in the corridor. There was someone dead outside the bathroom."

With the attack in motion, an unknown group calling itself the "Deccan Mujahedeen" said it was responsible.

The gunmen in both hotels had the better of initial clashes with the security forces, who struggled to respond to the multiple hostage situations.

Downtown Mumbai resembled a war zone.

It was then the turn of army commandos to move in and battle the militants in the hotels floor by floor, room by room.

Throughout the day, Indian news channels switched endlessly from location to location as gunfire and explosions were heard, fires broke out and traumatised hotel guests made sporadic escapes to safety.

In the evening, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh addressed a stunned nation on television, vowing a tough response and warning "neighbours" who harboured militants - a clear reference to arch-rival Pakistan.

As night fell again, Mumbai was under a security lockdown with the areas around the hostage sites cordoned off by the army.

Frequent reports that all the gunmen had been flushed out were repeatedly scotched by fresh gunfire and the sight of special forces units running into the hotel buildings.

As dawn broke on Friday, the focus switched to the office-residential complex housing the Jewish centre, as masked commandos abseiled onto the roof from a hovering helicopter.

They killed two gunmen - only to find five dead Israeli hostages, including a US-based rabbi and his wife. The couple's son Moshe, who turned two on Saturday, was rescued from the attack by their nanny.

For the first time, the Indian government directly blamed arch-rival Pakistan for the militant attack.

"According to preliminary information, some elements in Pakistan are responsible," Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said.

A number of Indian officials suggested the militants were from the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba - notorious for a deadly assault on the Indian parliament

in 2001 that almost pushed India and Pakistan to war.

Pakistani Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said his country had "nothing to do with the attacks in Mumbai," and Pakistan's foreign minister appealed to India not to get "sucked" into a blame game and put the arch-rivals on a dangerous path to confrontation.

The other five-star hotel that was attacked -- the Oberoi/Trident - was finally declared clear of militants late on Friday, with scores of trapped guests rescued and 24 bodies found.

But in the historic Taj Mahal hotel, the battle raged through the night in a cacophony of intense gunfire and large explosions.

Shortly after dawn, commandos killed the last three remaining gunmen, ending the devastating episode.

"We said there were three terrorists... and we have got three bodies," said JK Dutt, head of India's National Security Guard.

A total of 195 people are confirmed to have been killed and 295 others wounded. Twenty-two foreigners were killed, included the Israelis, five Americans, two French nationals, two Australians, two Canadians, a German, a Japanese, a British Cypriot, an Italian, a Singaporean and a Thai.

Eleven militants were confirmed dead and one captured. Around 15 security personnel were also killed.

### [Is this the Age of Celebrity Terrorism?](#)

*Chatham House Comment* – November 28

Quite apart from the scores murdered and the hundreds injured, what the Mumbai terrorists really wanted was an exaggerated and preferably extreme reaction on the part of governments, the media and public opinion. In these terms, the attackers received as much attention as they could possibly have hoped for, and the Mumbai outrage can only be described as a very significant terrorist success.

The attack received saturation coverage in the world's media from the outset. Almost within minutes, television screens showed harrowing scenes of pools of blood where people had died or been injured, hotels ablaze, Indian army snipers firing at distant targets, and CCTV images of the attackers. Especially disturbing, hostages and survivors reported that certain nationalities had been identified by their passports and taken away for execution.

No matter how obscure, every detail of this multi-point, sustained attack was soon being pored over by terrorism experts, trying to fit the carnage in Mumbai into one template or another. So the speculative and often tendentious questioning began. What were the 'tactics' of the terrorists? What weapons did they have (reporters seem to love the way 'Kalashnikov' rolls off the tongue), and where could they have got them? How much planning and preparation would have been necessary for a 'military-style operation' of this sort? Who were the terrorists - where were they from (Pakistan? Were some of the gunmen British?), and what did they want? Who was the 'mastermind' behind the attacks? And did the attacks have the 'hallmarks' of an 'al-Qaeda-style' operation; was it all part of the 'global jihad' against the West?

This is precisely how terrorism is meant to work. The terrorist's action must always be complemented by the target's reaction in order to complete the scene. How the attack is carried out, and what is done to whom, matters no more (and often rather less) than the way the attack is received, and the impact accorded to it. The impact has indeed been instant and extensive, reaching into the worlds of politics, business and even sport, and on all levels - internationally, regionally and nationally in India.

But for all the horror of the Mumbai attack, there might have been much less to it than first met the eye, and a hasty and exaggerated response might have played more of a part, and given more meaning to the attack than it should. Nobody appears to have heard of the Deccan mujahidin - perhaps because they have never existed. Perhaps it wasn't so difficult after all to plan and execute this attack: small arms and hand grenades are not hard to find; boats are scarcely specialised equipment; and Mumbai is a vast, open city with more than enough soft targets. Perhaps we don't know enough about where the perpetrators are from, because they could have come from almost anywhere? The terrorists were willing to show their faces on CCTV: was this suicide for martyrdom (as in New York and Washington in 2001, and London in 2005), or suicide for celebrity (as in Columbine in 1999 and Virginia Tech in 2007)? And perhaps so little is known of the terrorists' cause, because they simply didn't feel the need to have one.

The attack in Mumbai was obviously planned - but 'military-style planning' (whatever that means) is probably not necessary for the mass murder of unarmed and unsuspecting civilians going about their business in crowded railway stations and restaurants. This could also have been a plan which had a large gap where 'mission', 'cause' or 'vision statement' ought to have been. But no matter; the terrorists might have assumed, quite correctly as it happens, that the world's media and the terrorism analysis industry would very quickly fill in any gaps for them.

The character of modern terrorism is widely understood to have been shaped by a mid-nineteenth century idea known as the 'propaganda of the deed'; a strategy for political change in which the message or cause is contained within, and

expressed by the violent act. In a novel twist, the Mumbai terrorists might have embarked on 'propaganda of the deed without the propaganda', in the confident expectation that the rationalisation for the attack - the 'narrative' - would be provided by politicians, the media and terrorism analysts. If so, then Mumbai could represent something rather different in the history of terrorism, and possibly something far more disturbing even than 'global jihad'. Perhaps we have come to the point where casually self-radicalised, sociopathic individuals can form a loose organisation, acquire sufficient weapons and equipment for a few thousand dollars, make a basic plan of action and indulge in a violent expression of their generalised disaffection and anomie. These individuals indulge in terrorism simply because they can, while their audience concocts a rationale on their behalf.

Welcome to the age of celebrity terrorism. The invitation to the world's D-list malcontents reads as follows: no matter how corrupt your moral sense, how contorted your view of the world, how vapid and inarticulate your ideas, how talentless you are and how exaggerated your grievance; an obsessive audience will watch your every move and turn you into what you most want to be, just before your death.

#### [Pakistani Link Boosts Tensions](#)

*The Wall Street Journal* – December 1

Indian-Pakistani tensions rose in the aftermath of the deadly terrorist assault in Mumbai, and India's top security official resigned amid recriminations over failure to prevent the attack.

On Sunday, with corpses still being pulled from the Taj Mahal Palace & Tower hotel, India named Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram Home Affairs minister, after Shivraj Patil stepped down from the job to take "moral responsibility" for not stopping the attacks. Prime Minister Manmohan Singh will add the finance duties to his responsibilities.

The death toll in the attacks that began Wednesday stood at 174, revised down from 195, as it was determined that some bodies had been counted twice. Among the known dead were six Americans and a dozen other foreigners. Authorities said the toll might rise as a search of the ornate Taj hotel continued.

Nine of the 10 terrorists were killed, though police didn't rule out the possibility others could be at large. The one captured, a 21-year-old Pakistani named Ajmal Qasab, told authorities he had ties to a Pakistani militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, according to a senior Mumbai police officer. That group, listed as terrorist by the U.S., has long fought an Islamic insurgency in Kashmir, which is divided between India and Pakistan.

"Lashkar-e-Taiba is behind the terrorist acts in the city," said Rakesh Maria, joint police commissioner, who added that Mr. Qasab told police the group had intended to hit more targets during their attacks. "The terrorists were from a hard-core group in the L-e-T" and had trained in one of its camps in Pakistan, Mr. Maria said, according to the Associated Press. A previously unknown group called Deccan Mujahideen has claimed responsibility; it's not clear what, if any, ties it might have to Lashkar-e-Taiba.

A U.S. counterterrorism official also said signs pointed to Lashkar-e-Taiba. A U.S. team is in Mumbai to aid in the investigation. President George W. Bush asked Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice to visit India this week in a show of solidarity. In a phone call Sunday to Indian Prime Minister Singh, Mr. Bush pledged to put full U.S. support behind the investigation.

Pakistan's government has condemned the attacks, and India has requested intelligence sharing to get to the bottom of them. Pakistan Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani canceled an overseas trip to deal with the aftermath of the attacks, and plans a national-security conference on Tuesday to draw up a common strategy to deal with tension with India.

Nonetheless, the apparent Lashkar-e-Taiba connection has aggravated tensions between the neighbors, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947 and now are both nuclear-armed. Pakistan backed off a pledge made Friday to send the chief of its Inter Services Intelligence agency to New Delhi. It now appears likely a lower-ranking ISI official will visit instead.

Pakistan President Asif Ali Zardari on Saturday warned India against an "overreaction." Also Saturday, a senior Pakistani security official said that if Pakistan felt threatened by India, troops would be diverted from the struggle against al Qaeda and the Taliban and deployed on the Indian border.

The six American victims identified included Rabbi Leibish Teitelbaum, a Brooklyn, N.Y., native who had moved to Jerusalem several years ago, according to New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg's office. Another victim, Bentzion Chroman, was identified by the AP as a dual national of the U.S. and Israel. The two were among victims found at the Chabad House (also called the Nariman House), a Jewish community center run by the Orthodox Chabad-Lubavitch sect.

Two others killed at the center were a 29-year-old New York rabbi, Gavriel Noach Holtzberg, and his 28-year-old Israeli wife, Rivka. Killed at Mumbai's Trident Hotel were Alan Scherr, 58, of Faber, Va., and his 13-year-old daughter, Naomi, who were followers of a transcendental-meditation group.

Other foreigners believed to be among the dead included Germans, Canadians, Israelis and nationals from Britain, Italy, Japan, China, Thailand, Australia and Singapore.

Mr. Singh's Congress Party-led coalition government faces mounting criticism for failing to prevent or quickly end the attacks. On Sunday, there were large demonstrations on the streets of Mumbai, both to express unity and sympathy for the victims and to voice outrage at the perceived shortcomings of the government in handling the attacks.

Mr. Patil, the Home Affairs minister who stepped down, had come under fire after a spate of bombings in recent months, including blasts in New Delhi, Jaipur and the state of Assam. The ministry, with responsibility for law and order, also presides over the nation's borders, including the coasts. At least some of the Mumbai attackers arrived by sea, commandeering a fishing vessel in the Arabian Sea, Indian officials say.

The government was aware of a maritime threat. Defense Minister A.K. Antony had talked about the threat of terrorists using a sea route to enter at least six times in the past two years, a Defense Ministry spokesman confirmed.

Among several measures the government is now expected to pursue to shore up defenses is forming a federal antiterrorism task force. The government also is considering putting units of the National Security Guard commandos in individual cities.

In taking over the finance ministry, Prime Minister Singh will inherit issues that include a slowing economy amid the global financial crisis. Indeed, the worsening economic outlook appeared set to dominate political discourse in India before the Mumbai attacks.

Mr. Singh spent five years as finance minister from 1991 to 1996, introducing large-scale economic change that helped open up India's economy and spawn a boom. He is expected to push fiscal stimulus. "Manmohan Singh as Finance minister will be able to address the current economic crisis well," said Adi Godrej, managing director of the Godrej Group conglomerate.

In installing Mr. Chidambaram as Home Affairs minister, Mr. Singh named one of his closest allies and someone trusted by business.

['Pakistan in no way responsible' for Mumbai attacks: Zardari](#)

*The Nation* – December 3

Asif Ali Zardari denied his nation was involved in last week's deadly attacks on Mumbai, India, and told on Tuesday he's seen no evidence that a suspect in custody is a Pakistani national as Indian officials claim. "I think these are

stateless actors who have been operating all throughout the region," Zardari said on CNN's "Larry King Live" in an interview set to air Tuesday night. "The gunmen plus the planners, whoever they are, stateless actors who have been holding hostage the whole world." Zardari confirmed he is willing to have Pakistani security officials participate with India in a joint investigation. "The state of Pakistan is in no way responsible," Zardari told King. "... Even the White House and the American CIA have said that today. The state of Pakistan is, of course, not involved. We're part of the victims, Larry. I'm a victim. The state of Pakistan is a victim. We are the victims of this war, and I am sorry for the Indians, and I feel sorry for them." Asked about the suspect in custody, Zardari said: "We have not been given any tangible proof to say that he is definitely a Pakistani. I very much doubt it, Larry, that he is a Pakistani." He said Pakistan is looking into the allegation, but added, "Like I said, these are stateless individuals. ... We've had incidents the past two days in Karachi where we've lost more than 40 to 45 people, hundreds injured. These are stateless actors who are moving throughout this region." "I am definitely going to look into all the possibility of any proof that is given to us," Zardari said. "At the moment, these are just names of individuals. No proof, no investigation, nothing has been brought forward." If proof of the individuals' involvement is provided, he said, "We would try them in our courts, we would try them in our land, and we would sentence them." Indian authorities said the suspect in custody was trained by Lashkar-e-Tayyiba. Zardari said that Lashkar-e-Tayyiba is a "banned organization" in Pakistan and around the world. "If indeed they are involved, we would not know," he said. "Again, they are people who operate outside the system. They operate like -- al Qaeda, for instance, is not state-oriented. They operate something on that mechanism, and ... I've already offered India full cooperation on this incident, and we intend to do that." "I'm firmly committed to fighting terrorism per se," he said. "That's why we are fighting them every day, Larry." Asked about the possibility of Indian military strikes against terrorist camps in Pakistan, Zardari said: "I would not agree with that because this is a time to come together and do a joint investigation and look at the problem in the larger context. We have a larger threat on our hands ... it's a threat throughout the region. So that would be counterproductive." Pakistan and India, both nuclear powers, have a tense relationship and have fought three wars since the subcontinent was divided in 1947. On whether the Mumbai attacks could trigger a fourth war, Zardari said: "Larry, democracies don't go to war. All those wars you're talking about did not take place in any democracy. They all happened in the times of dictators. ..." "The whole nation of Pakistan is united to ... becoming friends with India," he said.

[Rice hints at Al Qaeda involvement: India determined to act 'decisively'](#)

*Dawn* – December 3

In an escalation towards an uncertain denouement, India warned Pakistan on Wednesday that it would use any means to thwart cross-border terror attacks on its territory. And visiting US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice hinted that last week's massacre in Mumbai could have an Al Qaeda hand.

“Whether there is a direct Al Qaeda hand or not, this is clearly the kind of terror in which Al Qaeda participates,” she told a press conference during the one-day visit here. “We are not here to jump to the conclusion that who is responsible,” Ms Rice said.

As she spoke India’s Defence Minister A.K. Antony met the chiefs of India’s armed forces and urged security measures to watch out against an aerial attack by militants. Indian news agencies said Mr Antony asked the armed forces chiefs to be prepared to counter and prevent a repeat of 9/11-type of attacks carried out by Al Qaeda.

Congress president Sonia Gandhi, meanwhile, also used an election rally in Uri, near the Line of Control in Kashmir, to warn Pakistan. “We have striven to have good relations with our neighbours. But this should not be construed as our weakness. India has a history of giving sacrifices. If provoked we can give a befitting reply to our detractors,” she declared.

Ms Rice and Indian Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee focussed their comments on Mumbai and its possible fallout.

“The response of the Pakistani government should be one of cooperation and of action,” Ms Rice said at an evening news conference with Mr Mukherjee. But she also urged India to exercise restraint. “Any response needs to be judged by its effectiveness in prevention and also by not creating other unintended consequences or difficulties.”

In an apparent reference to President Asif Ali Zardari’s characterisation of the Mumbai attackers as ‘stateless’ actors, Ms Rice added that even if “non-state actors” had carried out the killings, it would still be Pakistan’s responsibility to take “direct and tough action” against them.

“I have said that Pakistan needs to act with resolve and urgency, cooperate fully and transparently,” she told reporters. “That message has been delivered and will be delivered to Pakistan.”

Mr Mukherjee who said on Tuesday that “no one is talking about military action,” appeared to have shifted from that assurance. Instead, with Ms Rice by his side, he said: “The government of India is determined to act decisively to protect India’s territorial integrity and the security of its people.”

He said he had “informed Dr Rice there is no doubt that the terrorist attacks in Mumbai were perpetrated by individuals who came from Pakistan and whose controllers are in Pakistan”.

He said there was a design to strike at the developmental, scientific and

economic activity of the country, a reference to a series of attacks on Indian cities this year.

[Mumbai Attack Is Test of Pakistan's Ability to Curb Militants](#)

*New York Times* – December 3

Mounting evidence of links between the Mumbai terrorist attacks and a Pakistani militant group is posing the stiffest test so far of Pakistan's new government, raising questions whether it can — or wants to — rein in militancy here.

President Asif Ali Zardari says his government has no concrete evidence of Pakistani involvement in the attacks, and American officials have not established a direct link to the government. But as Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice landed in the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, on Thursday morning, pressure was building on the government to confront the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba, which Indian and American officials say carried out the Mumbai attacks.

Though officially banned, the group has hidden in plain sight for years. It has had a long history of ties to Pakistan's intelligence agencies. The evidence of its hand in the Mumbai attacks is accumulating from around the globe:

¶A former Defense Department official in Washington, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that American intelligence analysts suspect that former officers of Pakistan's powerful spy agency and its army helped train the Mumbai attackers.

¶According to the Indian police, the one gunman who survived the terrorist attacks, Muhammad Ajmal Kasab, 21, told his interrogators that he trained during a year and half in at least four camps in Pakistan and at one met with Mohammad Hafeez Saeed, the Lashkar-e-Taiba leader.

¶And according to a Western official familiar with the investigation in Mumbai, another Lashkar leader, Yusuf Muzammil, whom the surviving gunman named as the plot's organizer, fielded phone calls in Lahore from the attackers.

Many of the charges against Lashkar originate from investigators in India, which has a long history of hostility with Pakistan. The United States shares an interest with India in shutting down Pakistani militant groups that pose threats to its soldiers in Afghanistan.

Today, Lashkar-e-Taiba, whose name means "army of the pure," operates openly in Lahore. Its militant wing, Western officials say, has used camps in Pakistani-controlled Kashmir and Pakistan's tribal areas to change from a group once focused primarily on Kashmir into one now determined to join the ranks of a global jihad. The Mumbai attacks, which included foreigners among its targets, seemed to fit the group's evolving emphasis.

The 63-year-old Mr. Saeed lives in a large compound that includes a cream-colored mosque that faces on to a bustling commercial street. A sign outside says Center of Qadsisiyah, a triumphant reference to the place where the Arabs defeated the Persians in the seventh century.

A spokesman for Mr. Saeed, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, denied in an interview on Wednesday that Mr. Saeed was involved in the Mumbai attacks, and described the Indian demand that he be turned over along with 19 others as “propaganda.”

“India wants him because he exposes India on Kashmir and on water closure,” Mr. Mujahid said, referring to Pakistani complaints about India cutting off water sources to Pakistan.

The group’s public face, Jamaat-ud-Dawa, runs Islamic schools and charity works and maintains a 75-acre campus about 15 miles north of Lahore, at Muridke, he said. Since 9/11, he added, “The scene has changed and the relationship is not so good with the establishment.”

According to Western intelligence officials, Lashkar was formed in 1989 with the assistance of Pakistan’s powerful Inter-Services Intelligence agency, with Mr. Saeed as its head collaborator.

How far that relationship extends today remains a topic of intense debate, Western officials said. Critics in Pakistan of the ISI maintain that the intelligence agency still protects Lashkar.

Though established as a proxy force to fight India in Kashmir, Lashkar has since turned itself into a transnational group, officials say. Today it has cells in Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Pakistan’s tribal areas, and a few of its fighters have even turned up in Iraq, officials said.

Whether the group has come under the influence of Al Qaeda is uncertain.

“We’re not saying there’s a direct hand in it but you have to think there’s some learning going on, emulation going on, there are influences or contacts of some kind,” a senior American official said.

India security officials say that while Lashkar remains active in Indian-administered Kashmir, violent militant activities there have fallen significantly in recent years.

Accounts from the captured gunman in Mumbai as well as those from a former Lashkar fighter who spoke with The New York Times provided glimpses of its recruitment methods and how the Mumbai attacks were planned.

According to Rakesh Maria, the chief of the crime branch of the Mumbai police, the surviving gunman, Mr. Kasab, came from a village called Faridkot, in Punjab. The son of a laborer, he dropped out of school after fourth grade and moved to Lahore to join an older brother and make a living as a day laborer.

There, he told investigators, he was recruited into Lashkar.

One of the camps he attended was in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistani-administered Kashmir, where Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the Lashkar affiliate, did relief work after a big earthquake in 2005.

There were roughly 25 people, sometimes more, in each camp, said Deven Bharti, a police commissioner in Mumbai. Whether some of them were being prepared for other attacks on other targets, in India or elsewhere, is not known. "We can't rule it out," Mr. Bharti said.

Mr. Kasab received training in handling arms, navigating the sea and survival techniques. He was shown Google Earth maps and video images of his targets. At one of the sessions, he told interrogators, Mr. Saeed, the Lashkar leader, gave a motivational speech, covering a host of pan-Islamic grievances from Palestinian territory to Iraq to Kashmir.

A GPS navigational device was found on the boat that the gunmen used to get close to Mumbai, before killing its captain and abandoning it in the Arabian Sea. The GPS device showed that they left Karachi on Nov. 23.

He knew only limited information about his conspirators, Mr. Bharti said. He did not know whether there were plans to attack other targets. "He was only a foot soldier," Mr. Bharti said.

He was given an AK-47, a pistol, grenades and 5,400 rupees, about \$110. The police said they were still looking into whether they had collaborators who helped them plot the attack beforehand, or during the day of the siege. The police dismissed earlier reports that they had rented rooms earlier and positioned weapons.

Mr. Bharti said that the information Mr. Kasab had provided so far had checked out, including his most recent tip: that he and a partner, Ismail Khan, had abandoned a bag with a 17-pound bomb at Victoria Terminus, also known as Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus, the railway station where they began their killing spree. The police recovered the bag on Wednesday.

But much remains unclear or unknown about him. A strict practice among the trainers of Lashkar-e-Taiba, the former Lashkar fighter told *The Times*, was a

system of changing the names of the members every few months, so that everyone had layers of names that were discarded over time.

That system was intended to make it very difficult to identify members of Lashkar-e-Taiba, and is a likely explanation why Pakistani investigators have had little luck in finding Mr. Kasab's family in Faridkot.

The former fighter, who comes from the tribal areas of Pakistan, said he joined Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2000, stayed for eight months, then switched to another group, Jaish-e-Muhammad, for "ideological reasons."

He said that retired Pakistani Army officers impressed with Lashkar's ideology joined its ranks as volunteers. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he did not want to be identified to his former associates.

According to the former fighter, some members of Lashkar moved to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, particularly the Mohmand region, close to the city of Peshawar.

The group focused on waging war against India, he said, but was also committed to wider goals, among them the creation of an Islamic state in south and central Asia.

At its start in 1989, Osama bin Laden was widely reported to have been a financial supporter. Since 2002, Lashkar trainers have worked closely with Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, according to Seth Jones, an expert on militant groups at the RAND Corporation who has spent time in Afghanistan.

Their presence has increased in Afghanistan in the last year, Mr. Jones said. "They have had small numbers of fighters embed with local Afghan units on the ground such as the Taliban to gain combat experience and improve their tactics, techniques and procedures," he said.

Lashkar was banned under strong American pressure in 2002. Since then, Mr. Saeed disassociated himself from Lashkar, said his spokesman, Mr. Mujahid. Lashkar was now an "operational wing" to fight in Kashmir — its fighters no longer under Mr. Saeed's control.

Asked if he knew the operational commander of Lashkar, Mr. Mujahid waved his hand dismissively, and said he was in Kashmir.

He also denied even knowing the name of Mr. Muzammil, the man identified by the Indian authorities as the person in charge of the Mumbai operation.

"Everyone who was interested in Kashmir, went to Kashmir," he said. "They are doing there what they have to do."

## **DIPLOMACY & DEFENCE STRATEGY**

### [Brazil rejects US interference in South American Defence Council](#)

*Brazil Sun* – November 20

Brazil has rejected possible US interference in the South American Defence Council which will be formed next year.

'It is not necessary for South America to import the US model and the region is capable of creating its own defence system,' Brazil's Defence Minister Nelson Jobim told reporters Thursday after the 5th International Security Conference in Rio de Janeiro.

The South American Defence Council will be formed among the member countries of the South American Union of Nations (Unasur) in early 2009 following the ratification of the Unasur members.

Jobim said US Defence Secretary Robert Gates had asked him about the council during his recent visit to the country, to which he answered that 'the South American defence system is our own problem.'

The formation of the Defence Council would be the headstone of a region-wide military alliance that, according to Jobim, would not be the classical military alliance as it would not involve operational units.

The formation of this alliance has caused concern in Washington as it would be the region's first military alliance that explicitly does not want the involvement of the US.

### [EU developing 'militarised' space policy which could trigger 'arms race'](#)

*Telegraph* – November 21

The European Space Agency is accused of developing technology to dominate the "high ground" of space, including a multimillion pound EU Satellite Centre in Spain.

The Transnational Institute, a Dutch think-tank, said: "EU-financed communication and spy satellites are slowly becoming reality and in the long term the inclusion of space-based missile defence and other more offensive uses of space are real options for an increasingly ambitious EU military space policy."

The report said French ambitions for the "militarisation of space" have led to arguments with Britain - particularly over Galileo, the much-delayed European global positioning system.

President Nicolas Sarkozy of France, who currently holds the Presidency, said in June that space agenda was one of his priorities.

Next week, ministers from all ESA member states will meet in The Hague to implement a new European space policy which identifies military "security" as a priority.

Galileo would be vital in any European deployment of the sort of GPS-guided artillery now being used by the US in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2002, the EU approved the £2 billion satellite network to break strategic dependence on America and seize the lead in space technology.

Galileo was designed to end dependence on America's Global Positioning System, a network of 24 satellites controlled by the American defence department which can be cut off in war or even used as a tool of pressure.

At the time, it was said that Galileo would create 150,000 jobs, generating £7 billion in annual revenue for European companies from 2008.

British demanded a statement in 2002 to describe Galileo as a "civilian" project that would not threaten the cohesion of Nato.

However, author of the new report Frank Slijper, an economist and arms trade specialist, said: "While Galileo is generally presented as a genuinely civilian programme, it now appears highly militarised.

"The public denial of these important capabilities shows how much Brussels and many European capitals are afraid to tell the public that Galileo is to become an extremely important tool in future warfare by European military forces," he said.

#### [Japan, Russia vow concrete steps to end island dispute](#)

*Japan Today* – November 23

The leaders of Japan and Russia pledged Saturday to take concrete steps to resolve a territorial dispute, saying they wanted normal ties after a row that has endured for decades.

Russia and Japan have never signed a peace treaty to formally end World War II due to Tokyo's claims over four islands which Soviet troops seized in 1945 off Japan's northern island of Hokkaido.

Prime Minister Taro Aso, who took office in September, raised the island dispute in his first talks with Russian President Dmitry Medvedev on the sidelines of a summit of Asia-Pacific leaders in Lima.

“We have to define the border otherwise this problem will remain an element of destabilization in the region,” Aso told Medvedev at the start of the meeting.

“I know you’re a lawyer so you know about this. I would like to normalize Russian-Japanese relations.”

Medvedev replied: “There are no unresolvable problems. You see the delegations here. Let them do something useful and make an effort.”

While not revealing specifics, a Japanese government official said the two leaders ordered government officials “to begin concrete work.”

“President Medvedev said he has no intention to leave the resolution of the issue to the next generation,” the official said.

Medvedev said “although resistance by bureaucrats exists around the world, we can resolve the issue with the leaders’ goodwill,” according to the Japanese official.

The two countries agreed to launch “intensive, political dialogue on leaders’ level” between the two countries, including a visit by Russia’s powerful Prime Minister Vladimir Putin to Japan early next year.

“I like such frank dialogue,” Medvedev was quoted by the Japanese official as telling Aso. “I want to hold such dialogue quite often.”

The dispute over the islands, whose Japanese residents were expelled from their homes, has clouded over relations between the two countries whose trade level remains low for neighbors.

Japan has also been alarmed by what it believes is a rise in intrusions by Russian forces into its air and maritime space.

In an effort to forge personal ties, Aso, a self-proclaimed comic book geek, presented Medvedev a remote-controlled doll of Japan’s popular animation character Doraemon as he knew Medvedev’s son is a big fan of the earless robot cat.

Aso and Medvedev also called on North Korea to clarify steps it would take to denuclearize under a six-nation aid-for-disarmament pact.

Both Russia, which traditionally maintains close ties with Pyongyang, and Japan are members of the six-way talks, which also involve the two Koreas, China and the United States.

Japan has tense ties with North Korea, in part due to the communist regime's kidnappings of Japanese civilians in the 1970s and 1980s to train its spies.

[Pakistan won't be first in nuclear strike](#)

*Associated Press* – November 23

Pakistan's president has assured rival India he would not be the first to use atomic weapons in any future conflict and proposed the idea of a nuclear-free South Asia.

Pakistan's nuclear doctrine, unlike India's, does not contain a clause saying the country will not use its weapons first in conflict.

It was not clear if President Asif Ali Zardari's comments, made Saturday during a video conference question-and-answer session organized by The Hindustan Times newspaper of India, represented a formal change in policy.

Asked by a student whether Pakistan was prepared to say it would not use a nuclear weapon first, Zardari said: "Most defiantly, I am against nuclear warfare altogether," he said.

The moderator then asked the question again, pointing out to Zardari that his earlier answer was a "headline." Zardari again replied, "Definitely."

Zardari proposed the idea of a nuclear-free South Asia, saying he could persuade lawmakers to support such a plan, the reports said.

"I am sure I can get my parliament to agree with that, straight on. Can you say the same?" he asked those in attendance, which including government and business leaders.

He gave no more details on the idea, which Pakistan — six times smaller than India — has proposed before.

Predominantly Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan have fought three wars since they were created in the bloody partition of the Indian subcontinent at independence from Britain in 1947.

The stakes got much higher after both tested nuclear weapons in 1998.

[Another changing of the guards for Burma's junta](#)

*Mizzima* – November 24

An official within Burma's Ministry of Information has hinted there has been a changing of guards within the top ranks of the country's military authorities during the last quarterly meeting held in the capital city of Naypyitaw.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said there have been a few changes among the ranks of the military leaders during the last quarterly meeting, but declined to give details, saying the government will soon make a public release of the reshuffle.

"There have been some changes and promotions of military personnel, but we cannot say anything at this movement," the official said.

Burma's military leaders regularly hold quarterly meetings, the most recent one ending last Saturday, at which they reportedly discussed matters and issues facing the military and conducted a reshuffling within the ranks. In the previous quarterly meeting, held in June, the junta reshuffled nearly 100 positions.

"This time there are some changes in the military, because they [the junta] have to strengthen the Army, so three Major Generals have been promoted to Lieutenant Generals," said Win Min, a Burmese analyst based in Thailand.

However, Win Min said the reshuffling was insignificant and the quarterly meeting, which is the last for 2008, focused more on the junta's planned election for 2010.

"I think this time there will be less changing within the Ministries, they will do that in the next meeting," Win Min iterated.

The last reshuffling in the top brass of Burma's Army was in June, which gathered members of the State Peace and Development Council, powerful military commanders and heads of Bureau of Special Operations (BSO).

However, sources told Mizzima that retired BSOs, such as Major Generals Maung Bo, Ye Myint and Kyaw Win, were seen at the most recent meeting, proving that they are still members of SPDC's upper echelon.

Sources told Mizzima that the head of the junta, Senior General Than Shwe, wants to keep them in the mix in order to handle ceasefire groups, and particularly due to their role in persuading the nearly one-and-a-half dozen mainly ethnic rebel groups to disarm.

"Than Shwe and his generals may become members of a defense commission; something along the lines of the Chinese model," said a source in Naypyitaw of the potential political landscape following the 2010 election.

The junta has been preparing for such offices in the post-2010 era by requisitioning some Defense buildings in the capital.

Sino-Burmese-based analyst Mya Maung said the recently concluded meeting

aimed primarily at preparations for the 2010 general election.

"For the 2010 election, the generals are focusing on security, home affairs and the police department," said Mya Maung.

Burma's rulers have announced that they will hold a general election as part of their roadmap to democracy and will allow the winning party to assume power and form a government.

But it has also maintained strict vigilance over opposition activists in the run-up to the election by arresting and sentencing activists to long prison terms. Additionally, the junta has also stepped up security measures in several towns and cities across the country where pro-democracy activists had led mass demonstrations in August and September 2007.

According to Mya Maung, in preparation for the general election, the junta is likely to change several positions within the military – with some personnel retired and others sent into the civilian government. Police units might also be transformed into paramilitary outfits.

"They [junta] are enhancing police forces for the suppression of any kind of protest that might erupt, while the military will be maintained to sustain the fight against ethnic rebels," Mya Maung said.

He said the junta has thus far expanded at least 16 to 18 battalions of police across the country, with over 400 policemen in each battalion.

However Htay Aung, a researcher at the Network for Democracy and Development (NDD), based in Thailand, said the junta during the recent quarterly meeting was likely to have discussed only a few important things such as the 2010 general election and the recent maritime boundary issue with Bangladesh.

"I think they [the junta] would have discussed important things such as the 2010 election, and the recent oil crisis between Bangladesh, and also about the economic crisis," Htay Aung explained.

It is likely that the junta decided who would form political parties for the 2010 election and who would remain in the distinct military apparatus, Htay Aung said.

However, he said changes within the military ranks in the quarterly meeting are normal and have little overall significance on the military structure.

[S. Korea, China Open Military Hotlines](#)

*Defense News* – November 24

South Korea and China opened military hot lines between their navies and air forces Nov. 24 to help prevent accidental clashes at sea and airspace, the Ministry of National Defense here announced.

The 24-hour telephone hot lines began operating immediately after working-level representatives from both militaries signed a related memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the end of a meeting in Beijing, it said in a news release.

"The opening of hot lines will help upgrade the military ties between South Korea and China, as well as to help meet the goal of developing a 'strategic cooperative partnership' as agreed upon in the bilateral summits in May and August," said the release.

The establishment of military hot lines was first agreed upon at talks between the defense chiefs of the two countries in April last year in Beijing as part of confidence-building measures. But the Chinese government had failed to meet agreed deadlines several times since then.

Under the MoU, a naval hot line links the South Korean Navy's 2nd Fleet Command, some 70 kilometers south of Seoul, to China's northern naval fleet command in Qingdao, while an air force hot line connects the 2nd Master Control Reporting Center (MCRC) in Daegu, about 300 kilometers southeast of Seoul, with an air command in Jinan, Shandong Province, according to the release.

South Korea is the only nation to have such official hot lines with China's Navy and Air Force command headquarters, said Lt. Col. Moon Sam-heon, chief of the ministry's Northeast Asia policy division. It is unknown whether China has naval and air force hot lines with North Korea, which remains technically at war with South Korea.

The naval hot line is expected to help reduce tension in the West Sea, or Yellow Sea, where disputes between the two neighboring countries have occasionally arisen over illegal fishing activities by Chinese fishermen, ministry officials said.

An estimated 150 to 200 Chinese vessels engage in illicit fishing in the crab-rich waters, they said.

The Air Force hot line, for its part, will help with the exchange of information on the infiltration of any unidentified aircraft over the Korean Peninsula, they added.

The South Korean Air Force has operated a communications hot line with its Japanese counterpart since 1997, and the Navy established a hot line with Russia in 2000, they said.

[Russia's new presence in Latin America](#)  
*Christian Science Monitor* – November 24

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev's visit this week with Venezuela's leftist leader Hugo Chávez is the first ever for a Kremlin leader to this oil-rich nation. And the meeting – part of a Latin America tour that includes stops in Brazil and Cuba – is kindling concerns that a resurgent Russia is aiming to revive its cold-war era presence in America's backyard.

The meeting is expected to coincide with joint naval exercises off Venezuela's coast, led by the Russian nuclear-powered warship, Peter the Great, and comes as the two powers announce that Russia will help Venezuela build a nuclear reactor.

Both nations insist their focus is economic, but geopolitics are also at play.

Mr. Medvedev's tour is both a rebuke for US actions in Eastern Europe and a chance for leaders critical of the US, such as Mr. Chávez, to tilt global politics against Washington. The falling price of oil may force both to scale back their plans. But as Chávez offers a gateway for Russia into Latin America, particularly for arms deals, the ties pose a challenge to the US and to President-elect Barack Obama.

"It's a statement of changing geopolitics globally," says Johanna Mendelson Forman, a Latin America specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "It's not a serious military threat, but there are political implications."

Venezuela is already Russia's biggest new arms client, with contracts worth \$4.4 billion since 2005. Purchased items include 54 helicopters, 24 Sukhoi fighter jets, and 5,000 Dragunov sniper rifles, says Rocio San Miguel, a defense analyst in Caracas.

#### Russia to help build nuclear plant

At the meeting this week, the two leaders are expected to firm up plans for even more sophisticated hardware,. That could include details for deals on submarines and the nuclear reactor in Zulia State, which Chávez reiterates is for peaceful purposes. "Brazil has several nuclear reactors, as does Argentina. We will also have our own reactor," he said.

Chávez has long claimed a need to protect himself from a possible US invasion, following a coup in 2002 that briefly removed him from power and that he alleges was backed by the US. Ms. San Miguel says that some of the purchases are justified, especially since the US has banned technology and arms sales to the nation. "I support updating arms systems," she says. But equipment such as

submarines could spell trouble if neighboring countries balk. "Some things intended to protect Venezuela," she says, "could bring more threats to Venezuela."

It is unclear how the plunge in oil prices will affect both nations' abilities to fulfill their promises and plans. The Venezuelan defense budget, for example, was 5.17 percent of the country's total budget in 2008; in 2009, it has increased only to 5.35 percent, says San Miguel, despite plans to spend billions of dollars on Russian equipment.

Still, some are concerned about the budding friendship with Russia, which Chávez has visited three times this year alone, as well as other nations, such as Iran or Syria. "There is no justification, no concrete threat, for that amount of arms purchases," says retired Vice Admiral Mario Ivan Carratu Molina, a critic of Chávez. "We could be turning Venezuela into a strategic point for all those against the West."

Medvedev's tour also includes a stop in Brazil and a visit to Cuba, where the first presidential visit to its former cold-war ally in eight years is seen as an attempt to restore trade and military ties that have been strained since the fall of the Soviet Union. Russia, according to its state media, announced this month a loan of \$335 million for Cuba to purchase Russian goods and services. That compares with \$300 million in trade for all of 2007.

Moscow contends that interest in Latin America is mostly business, not unlike China's interest in the region's abundant raw materials. In fact, the impetus for Medvedev's tour was the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) meeting in Peru over the weekend. But Yevgeny Bazhanov, vice rector of the official Diplomatic Academy in Moscow, says the political benefits cannot be denied in the wake of Russian outrage at US plans to install a strategic missile shield in Poland, encouragement for Ukraine and Georgia to join NATO, and support for the brief Georgia war in August. "This is our measured response to American hegemonism in our region," says Mr. Bazhanov. "If the US insists on doing these things, it must expect that we will respond."

Fertile ground for Russia's embrace

Russia finds fertile ground in Latin America, which has traditionally resented its dominant northerly neighbor.

"Latin America has long felt the effects of overbearing American influence and, as a result, most countries of the region share Russia's nonsupport for the idea of the unipolar world idea," says Vadim Teperman, an expert with the official Institute of Latin America in Moscow. "As Russia's relations with the US and the European Union worsen, Russia is on the lookout for new partners."

Ms. Forman says she believes that leaders might scale down their plans – or at least their fiery rhetoric – with Mr. Obama, whose worldwide popularity so far has soared.

Still, the US will have to find a way to address Russia and China's increased ties to Latin America, she says. Since 9/11, Latin America has fallen to new lows on Washington's agenda.

The US has played down concerns about the fortified friendship between Russia and Venezuela. But a byproduct is more arms in circulation, and many observers say that cannot be good news. "If Venezuela buys arms, then Brazil does. If Brazil does, then Peru does," says Mr. Carratu Molina. "It is a dangerous circle."

[India, Myanmar to expand security cooperation](#)

*Thaindian* – November 24

India has urged Myanmar, a gas-rich southeast Asian country, to push the democratic process even as the two nations agreed to expand security cooperation to combat insurgent groups and arms smuggling. "Both countries stressed the need for greater vigilance at the border and agreed to enhance security cooperation to combat insurgent groups and arms smuggling," the external affairs ministry said in a statement here Monday, after the two-day Foreign Office consultations between the two countries.

Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon held two-day talks with Myanmar's Deputy Foreign Minister U. Kyaw Thu at Yangon that ended Sunday.

The talks covered a broad spectrum of bilateral issues, including security and border issues, trade and economic cooperation and cooperation in cross-border developmental projects, IT, energy, power and education and training.

They also reinforced the decisions taken at a joint trade committee held in October that included converting India-Myanmar border trade into normal trade, opening of a border trade point at Avakhung in Nagaland, and expanding the existing border trade items from 22 to 40. India has also announced the waiver of the ban on wheat export to Myanmar for 950 tonnes.

"Both sides expressed willingness to enter into an arrangement for long-term purchase of pulses from Myanmar," the external affairs ministry said.

Under increasing international pressure to use its influence to persuade the junta rulers in Myanmar to pursue democratic reforms, the Indian side also pushed for expediting the process of national reconciliation in Myanmar, official sources said.

India is encouraging Myanmar to pursue political reforms according to the roadmap unveiled by the Myanmar leadership years ago.

India's energy ties with Myanmar are growing. The two countries recently signed an agreement on the development of Tamanthi and Shwezay hydropower projects on the Chindwin River in Myanmar.

Other energy projects include the renovation of the Tahtaychaung Hydropower Project, construction of transmission lines, replacement of transformers damaged during Cyclone Nargis, supply of biomass gasifiers and solar lamps.

[Lao, Cambodian leaders discuss opportunities](#)

*Vientiane Times* – November 25

Border demarcation, transport and electricity purchase agreements were on the agenda of a meeting between Lao Prime Minister Bouasone Bouphavanh and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Vientiane yesterday.

The Cambodian leader is in Laos for five days to attend the fifth Cambodia , Laos and Vietnam Summit and explore opportunities for cooperation between the three countries.

Yesterday the two prime ministers discussed their commitment to continue demarcating their shared border and the possibility of opening more border checkpoints to facilitate cross-border trade.

Mr Bouasone suggested officials from both countries meet to talk about Laos using a seaport in Sihanoukville in Cambodia 's Khampong Saom province. This was agreed to in 1995, but no action has been taken since then.

He also informed Mr Hun Sen about a power grid which has been established in Khong district in Champassak province and reaches the Cambodian border. He said the two countries should discuss the possibility of Cambodia purchasing electricity from Laos .

Mr Bouasone described past cooperation between the two countries as effective and said this visit would further enhance Laos and Cambodia 's relationship.

Mr Hun Sen arrived in Vientiane with his wife and delegation yesterday morning and was greeted by Lao Minister of Public Works and Transport, Mr Sommath Pholsena, and a number of high ranking officials.

He was officially welcomed at the National Assembly, where he was met by Mr Bouasone, deputy prime ministers, and other ministers and officials. The two leaders listened to the national anthems of Cambodia and Laos before inspecting an honour guard of the Lao People's Army.

In addition to meeting with each other, both prime ministers also witnessed the signing of an agreement on investment protection between Lao Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, and his Cambodian counterpart, Mr Hor Namhong.

Mr Bouasone hosted a dinner reception for Mr Hun Sen at the Lao Plaza Hotel in Vientiane last night.

Mr Hun Sen is scheduled to meet with President Choummaly Sayasone at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane today.

He will also attend the Cambodia , Laos , Vietnam Summit at the Lao International Cooperation and Training Centre, where he will deliver a speech tomorrow.

Mr Hun Sen is scheduled to leave Vientiane for Cambodia on Friday.

[Singapore: No to cluster bomb pact](#)

*Strait Times* – November 25

Singapore will not sign an international agreement to ban cluster bombs but has imposed an indefinite moratorium on their export, officials said on Wednesday.

More than 100 nations have adopted the Convention on Cluster Munitions and are due to sign it in Oslo next month.

The agreement would prohibit the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions, which the United Nations has said 'cause human suffering both during conflicts and long after they have ended'.

Singapore said a blanket ban on cluster munitions is impractical because many countries see the need to use them for legitimate self-defence, a joint statement by the foreign and defence ministries said.

'Singapore remains committed to the responsible use of cluster munitions for self-defence and will continue to work with members of the international community to find a comprehensive solution to the humanitarian problems caused by its irresponsible and indiscriminate use,' the statement said.

It added that its immediate moratorium on exports of the bombs will ensure they will not be transferred to others who might use them irresponsibly and indiscriminately.

'Through this imposition, we help stem the proliferation of cluster munitions,' it said.

Singapore has one of Asia's most modern armed forces.

Major producers and stockpilers of cluster bombs, the United States, Russia, China, India, Israel and Pakistan, did not attend talks which led to the adoption of the Convention's text in May.

Dropped from planes or fired from artillery, cluster bombs explode in mid-air to randomly scatter hundreds of bomblets, which can be three inches (eight centimetres) in size.

Many cluster bomblets can fail to explode, posing a danger to people trying to resume their lives after war.

[ASEAN & MERCOSUR officials meet to discuss how to enhance co-operation](#)  
*Channel NewsAsia* – November 25

Foreign Affairs Minister George Yeo led the Singapore delegation to the inaugural ASEAN-MERCOSUR Ministerial Meeting on Monday in Brasilia, Brazil.

MERCOSUR is the fourth largest trading bloc in the world after EU, NAFTA and ASEAN.

Its full members include Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela.

The meeting in Brasilia was attended by ministers and officials from ASEAN and MERCOSUR countries and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat.

Views on a range of global issues, including the ongoing financial crisis, food and energy security, and climate change were exchanged at the meeting.

Ways to enhance ASEAN-MERCOSUR co-operation in areas such as trade and investment, people-to-people ties and other areas of mutual interest were also discussed.

[Senior U.S. Official Doubts Conventional Global Strike Value](#)  
*Global Security NewsWire* – November 26

A senior U.S. defense official last week cast doubt on the national security value of proposed conventional weapons capable of hitting targets anywhere around the world on short notice (see [GSN](#), Nov. 7).

"When you start escalating up that [procurement] ladder and buying long-range delivery systems that cost tens -- approaching a hundred million dollars for one weapon, those are national decisions that need to be taken carefully," said John Young, the undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics.

Though no official cost estimates have been released for "prompt global strike" arms, their price tags are anticipated to be fairly steep. For example, it could take roughly \$600 million for the Army to develop and build 16 Advanced Hypersonic Weapons by 2013 (see [GSN](#), Dec. 21, 2007).

The Defense Department is investing nearly \$82 million this fiscal year to explore Air Force and Army technologies for weapons that could launch like ballistic missiles and then glide at hypersonic speeds to far-flung endpoints thousands of miles away.

Top Pentagon officials argue the capability is necessary for hitting fleeting targets like terrorist leaders or rogue nations, without having to resort to long-range nuclear arms.

"It's a very important capability to give future presidents additional options for this prompt global strike requirement that we don't have today for terrorists transferring nuclear material, a ballistic missile launch, or perhaps a space-control [antisatellite] launcher," Rear Adm. Stephen Johnson, director of Navy Strategic Systems Programs, said at a Senate hearing in March.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates alluded broadly to the conventional prompt global strike concept in a [speech](#) last month, saying his department seeks "to reduce our emphasis on nuclear weapons for deterrence and provide the president more non-nuclear deterrence options and responses to potential crises."

However, speaking at a Nov. 20 breakfast session with reporters, Young questioned whether the price tag for the new weapons would justify their benefits.

"There are a lot of people who think we ought to have this in our arsenal," he said at the event, sponsored by the Center for Media and Security. "I'm not sure I want to argue all day with them. But I do think it is a very expensive capability that I'm not sure all the rest of the elements of our structure are prepared to support."

Young specifically questioned whether a U.S. president would have enough confidence in the intelligence available to support such an attack. Critics have said the use of a future prompt-strike missile, potentially based on sketchy information about a target, could lead to unintended deaths and harm to U.S. interests abroad (see [GSN](#), May 28).

The defense acquisition chief also doubted whether the military chain of command could act quickly enough to disable or destroy an ephemeral target. Pentagon leaders have said the weapons should be able to launch within an hour of an attack order, and flight times would be measured in minutes.

"You have to convince yourself you have all the elements to support that," Young said, noting this confidence would be necessary even if just a small number of such weapons were built. "Do you have a command authority; and a chain of command; and quality and timeliness of intelligence to let you target that and all those things?"

The Pentagon initially proposed equipping 24 Trident D-5 missiles with conventional warheads, and fielding the weapons aboard the same stealthy submarines that carry look-alike nuclear missiles.

Congress has rejected that idea on the basis that it could introduce a dangerous level of international "ambiguity" between conventional and nuclear strikes. Lawmakers argued that Russia or other nuclear powers might mistake the conventional Trident's launch as a nuclear salvo and unleash a devastating response (see [GSN](#), Dec. 13, 2007).

Though Congress has attempted to kill the so-called Conventional Trident Modification program, Young said he would never consider any initiative truly "dead" because industry or service advocates would continue to push for them.

"My experience in the Pentagon is ideas never die, they just get new labels or different things like that," he said. "To the extent that there's an advocacy that has a voice, that voice will find its way as far as it can. So I wouldn't tell you it's dead."

This year, Pentagon advocates of the conventional Trident technology have repackaged plans for continued research, development and flight testing under a variety of other program names (see [GSN](#), [July 17](#) and [April 3](#)). However, in the Fiscal 2009 Defense Appropriations Act, Congress zeroed all funds related to submarine-launched, conventional missile concepts.

In August, top strategic combat commander Gen. Kevin Chilton assigned the Air Force to coordinate all the Pentagon's prompt global strike technology development efforts (see [GSN](#), Sept. 3). The move is widely expected to make that service's concept for the mission, the Conventional Strike Missile, a leading candidate for the first conventional prompt global strike weapon to be fielded.

Chilton hopes to get an initial missile on alert, with two spares available, in 2012. This fiscal year, the Air Force and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency are expected to conduct two initial flight tests of developmental technology for Conventional Strike Missile.

Ultimately the weapon is expected to pair space boosters with a hypersonic "payload delivery vehicle" capable of dispensing a kinetic energy projectile against a target. Upon nearing its endpoint, the projectile would break up into dozens of lethal fragments, according to defense officials.

Young said his skepticism about cost-benefit trade-offs applies to all technology concepts proposed for prompt global strike.

The weapon options under consideration, he said, are "probably going to end up being as or more expensive" than conventional Trident, which was estimated to cost approximately \$503 million. "If I had to spend that much money on even a small number of weapons, I ought to convince myself I have all the command and control authority and intelligence apparatus to exercise that way," Young said.

[Russia and Brazil heads push ties](#)

*BBC News* – November 26

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev is ending a visit to Brazil, holding talks with President Lula on boosting trade and technical co-operation.

The two leaders agreed that the world's four major emerging markets - their nations, India and China - should hold their first summit next year.

Mr Medvedev flies next to Venezuela for talks with President Hugo Chavez.

His visit to Caracas coincides with the start of joint naval exercises by Russian and Venezuelan forces.

At their talks in Rio de Janeiro, President Medvedev and President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva expressed their view that the "BRIC" countries - Brazil, Russia, India and China - should hold their first summit in Russia in 2009, Reuters reports.

"The financial crisis, which we haven't started and we are not to blame for, affected the global economic situation and we are forced to react," Mr Medvedev told reporters.

"We agreed with President Lula that we will co-ordinate our efforts with Brazil in fighting the crisis and creating a new global financial architecture."

The BRIC nations formed part of the G20 summit in Sao Paulo earlier this month, which brought together finance ministers and central bank presidents from the world's 20 major economies.

Brazil and other emerging-market nations do not feel that under the current set-up they have sufficient representation within bodies like the IMF and the World Bank.

## Timing

Mr Medvedev's talks in Brazil form part of a Latin American tour aimed at boosting Russia's presence and trade ties in a region of considerable strategic importance to the US.

The timing of Mr Medvedev's tour is significant, coming during the transition period between the Bush and Obama administrations in the US, says BBC diplomatic correspondent Jonathan Marcus.

The Russian president's aim is to show Washington that if the US does things in Europe near Russia's borders which Moscow does not like, then Russia can pursue its own policies in a region long seen by Washington as its backyard, our correspondent says.

Russian warships, including the nuclear-powered cruiser Peter the Great, sailed into Venezuelan waters on Tuesday, greeted by a 21-gun salute.

Military co-operation is likely to be high on the agenda of Mr Medvedev's talks with President Chavez.

Russia is already a major arms supplier to Venezuela, with contracts worth some \$4.4bn (£2.39bn).

During his visit to Caracas, Mr Medvedev could sign an accord under which Russia would help Venezuela build a nuclear energy plant in the state of Zulia.

The two countries already co-operate closely on energy matters, with their state-owned energy companies embarking on joint enterprises.

### [US command adjusts its strategy](#)

*Taipei Times* – November 30

The US Pacific Command, which controls US forces from the west coast of North America to the east coast of Africa, has fashioned a subtle revision in its strategy of reassuring friends and deterring potential enemies, notably China and North Korea.

The new strategy, approved this month by the command's leader, Admiral Timothy Keating, is "based on partnership, presence and military readiness." Earlier versions were more assertive, saying "it is a strategy rooted in partnership and military preeminence."

In his cover letter authorizing the new strategy, Keating said "it underscores the fundamental importance of sustained and persistent cooperation and collaboration in times of relative peace to mitigate situations that could lead to

conflict and crisis.”

Many Asians and some Americans have accused the US of going it alone and failing to consult with allies and friends, smacking of what some would call “unilateralism.” In his 15 months as the Pacific commander, Keating has sought to dispel that image and to stress collective action.

At the same time, the admiral said the emphasis on security cooperation “does not signal a departure from our primary responsibility to fight and win.”

Even so, he said, the Pacific Command would accentuate a posture intended to “preclude the necessity for combat operations.”

Officers at the command’s headquarters said the revised strategy was aimed at several audiences:

First, the officers of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Air Force throughout the Asia-Pacific region, some of whom apparently believe that conflict with China is likely, maybe inevitable.

“The command wants to make sure that everyone understands that it is not inevitable,” one officer said.

Second, US government agencies other than the Department of Defense. An undercurrent rumbling through the armed forces contends that the State Department, Agency for International Development, Treasury and other agencies are leaving too many non-military tasks, such as reconstruction in Iraq, to the military.

Third, allies such as Japan and Australia and partners such as Singapore. Another undercurrent represents fears that the US may reduce its forces in the Asia-Pacific region or even withdraw. The strategy seeks to reassure everyone that the command will be “an engaged and trusted partner committed to preserving the security” of the region.

Fourth, known adversaries such as North Korea and potential opponents such as China.

“Deterring conflict on the Korean Peninsula continues to be a priority,” the strategy says.

It points to a “maturing US-China military-to-military relationship” while acknowledging that “tension remains across the Taiwan Strait.”

Taiwan, of course, is the most likely cause of war between China and the US. Beijing contends that Taiwan is part of China and has threatened to use military

force to conquer it. The US insists that the fate of Taiwan be determined peaceably and in accord with the wishes of the people.

The revised strategy calls for a “whole-of-government approach,” asserting that security in the Asia-Pacific region “demands a high degree of coordination, integration and unity of effort” within the Pentagon and across other departments and agencies.

The document applauds Australia and Japan for joining the US “in developing a trilateral partnership dedicated to improving security in the region.”

It further points to trilateral cooperation among the US, South Korea and Japan, which may be no more than a diplomatic nicety as the Japanese disdain the Koreans and the Koreans distrust the Japanese. The US tries to deal with each even handedly but rarely do they work together.

Among the strategy’s more striking pledges is the Pacific Command’s commitment to freedom of movement, particularly through the Straits of Malacca and South China Sea. More ships sail through that passage in a year than through the Suez and Panama canals combined. The document flatly states that the command will not “tolerate disruptions to global supply chains or threats to lines of communication and commerce.”

On China, the Pacific Command has sought for more than a decade to assure the Chinese that the US is not out to contain or repress China. At the same time, Pacific commanders have cautioned the Chinese not to underestimate US military power in the Asia-Pacific region nor the willingness of the US to use it.

Even with the emphasis on partnership, the strategy concludes on an assertive note: In the Asia-Pacific region, the command is to be the “pre-eminent warfighter.”

#### [Obama Outlines Security Aims; Gates Will Stay as U.S. Defense Chief](#)

*Defense News* – December 1

U.S. President-elect Barack Obama today announced he will keep Robert Gates on as defense secretary; appoint Sen. Hillary Clinton, D-N.Y., as secretary of state; and name retired Marine Corps Gen. James Jones to be his national security adviser.

During a late-morning event in Chicago, Obama also announced he will make Susan Rice, one of his top foreign policy advisers during his run for the White House, the next U.S. ambassador to the United Nations. Obama also formally announced Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano as his pick to head the Department of Homeland Security and Eric Holder as attorney general.

Obama said he and his team agree America must always field the strongest military on the planet. But as each of his new appointees came to the lectern to speak, a common theme emerged: the need to balance America's military might with "all other tools" of U.S. power and influence, including diplomatic, economic and other instruments.

The event offered the Obama administration's first official description of its national security and foreign policy priorities, which include: "responsibly" ending the Iraq war, ramping up the fight in Afghanistan, fighting extremists, dealing with global climate change, restoring America's leadership on international interests, addressing "persistent poverty" and taking on challenges along with other nations.

Since word of who would compose the senior posts of what the Obama camp has called his "national security team" leaked late last week, some have questioned the individuals' ability to work together and without stagnation-causing infighting.

Asked about such views during his press briefing, Obama said none of his picks would have accepted his job offers unless they felt they could work with the others.

Obama told reporters he expects the team of high-profile figures will be able to hold vigorous policy debates - as opposed to "groupthink" he said has stifled past administrations' foreign and national security policy efforts - because they possess a "shared core vision" for how to keep the United States safe and advance its interests around the globe.

While the members of his team will "vigorously debate" the shape of future U.S. foreign and security policies, Obama bluntly said he will set policy.

"The buck stops with me," he said.

Many political experts have questioned Obama's pick of Clinton, against whom he waged a sometimes heated race for the Democratic presidential nomination.

The president-elect said that he began mulling ways he and his former campaign trail rival could work together soon after he secured the Democratic nomination. After his Nov. 5 win over Republican Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., Obama said it soon became clear that Clinton would be a strong choice to head the State Department.

Obama said there was no "light bulb moment" when something went off in his mind to ask his former opponent to take the job. Instead, he said he realized for some time that Clinton would be an "effective advocate for [a] well-rounded" foreign policy.

Clinton, he said, "will demand respect in every capital" city around the world. Her coming nomination, he said, "is a signal" to U.S. allies and foes that he intends to "restore American diplomacy."

And the soon-to-be nominee for the job promised to give her "full attention" to helping Obama mend U.S. relations with other nations and tackle a long list of global challenges.

The president-elect said he is "pleased" that Gates accepted the offer to stay on as defense secretary, saying the incumbent has earned the respect of world leaders and members of Congress for his "pragmatism."

Gates, and the other members of the "national security team," Obama said, were picked not for their party affiliation but for their abilities. Obama promised on the campaign trail to include a Republican in his Cabinet. But so far, Gates, a registered Independent nominated by a Republican president, is the closest thing to such an appointment.

In a short statement, Gates said he is "honored" Obama asked him to stay on, and called his stint as a wartime defense secretary "the most gratifying experience of my life."

Defense sources say it is likely Gates will stay on for about a year, mainly to oversee issues related to Iraq, such as the conduct of the conflict, the status of forces pact with Baghdad and the beginnings of a withdrawal plan.

Jones will bring decades of national security and diplomatic expertise to the West Wing. He was the 32nd commandant of the Marine Corps from July 1999-January 2003, and was U.S. European Command chief from 2003 until 2006. He is the chairman of the Atlantic Council in Washington.

Obama said that experience makes him "uniquely qualified" for the post. Jones said he is "deeply humbled to have been selected, and endorsed an emphasis on using "all elements" of U.S. power - not just the military.

Some experts have charged that the Bush administration has too often used military tools when other instruments were better suited for those challenges.

Rice was assistant secretary of state for African Affairs during the Clinton administration, and is on leave from her post as a senior fellow at the Washington-based Brookings Institution. During her time at the think tank, she has focused on a range of foreign policy issues, including failing states, global poverty and transnational security threats, according to her Brookings bio.

She said she intends to "rededicate" Washington to working on global challenges along with world organizations like the United Nations, which her future boss called an "indispensable and imperfect" organization.

On Iraq, Obama said the status of forces agreement, which the Iraqi parliament recently approved, "puts us in the right direction" for ending the U.S. operation there.

He said he still believes a 16-month withdrawal "is the right timeframe," but also said he will be meeting with Gates and U.S. military commanders on how best to proceed in Iraq.

Obama said protecting U.S. forces and ensuring an Iraqi government is in place that can competently run the nation when America's presence there is drawn down are his top priorities.

### [Cluster Bomb Ban to Be Signed in Oslo](#)

*Defense News* – December 1

Some 100 countries will ban the use of cluster bombs with the signing of a treaty Dec. 3 in Oslo but major producers such as China, Russia and the United States are shunning the pact.

The treaty, agreed upon in Dublin in May, outlaws the use, production, transfer and stockpiling of cluster munitions which primarily kill civilians.

"It's only one of the very few times in history that an entire category of weapons has been banned," said Thomas Nash of the Cluster Munitions Coalition (CMC) umbrella group that comprises some 300 non-governmental organizations.

"It's unlikely now that you're going to see large scale use of cluster bombs," he said.

Dropped from planes or fired from artillery, cluster bombs explode in mid-air to randomly scatter hundreds of bomblets, which can be three inches (eight centimeters) in size.

Many cluster bomblets can fail to explode, often leaving poverty-stricken areas trying to recover from war littered with countless de-facto landmines.

According to Handicap International, about 100,000 people have been maimed or killed by cluster bombs around the world since 1965, 98 percent of them civilians.

More than a quarter of the victims are children who mistake the bomblets for toys or tin cans.

"This is not about disarmament, this is not about arms control. This is a humanitarian issue," said Annette Abelsen, a senior advisor at the foreign ministry in Norway which played a key role in hammering out the international agreement.

In Laos, the most affected country in the world, the U.S. Air Force dropped 260 million cluster bombs between 1964 and 1973, or the equivalent of a fully-loaded B52 bomber's cargo dropped every eight minutes for nine years.

Dispersed in fields and pastures, the weapons make it perilous to cultivate the land and can claim numerous lives for decades after the end of a conflict.

On Dec. 3, France and Britain will be represented by their foreign ministers, Bernard Kouchner and David Miliband. Japan, Canada, Germany and Australia will also sign the treaty.

But, as was the case with the Ottawa Convention that outlaws landmines, key countries such as the United States, Russia, China and Israel have objected to the ban and will not sign it because they are the biggest producers and users.

The election of Barack Obama as president may however bring about a change in the U.S. position, activists hope.

"Obama has voted for, previously, a national regulation in the U.S. for cluster ammunitions," said Grethe Oestern, a policy advisor at the Norwegian People's Aid organization and a co-chair of the CMC.

"So that's not just a theoretical possibility at all that we could see the U.S. onboard this treaty sometime in the future," she added.

In 2006, Obama voted in the U.S. Senate to ban the use of cluster munitions in heavily populated areas, but in the end the motion was rejected.

The Oslo Convention is nonetheless expected to stigmatize the use of the weapon even by non-signatory countries, according to activists.

While the United States, Russia and China "seem to have an allergy to international law in general," there are signs that "the stigma against this weapon is already working," Nash said.

NATO's decision not to use cluster bombs, including in Afghanistan, and the lightning-quick denial from Moscow when it was accused of using the munitions against Georgia in the August war shows that these countries also find the weapon "morally unacceptable," Nash said.

"Even big countries like Russia don't want to be associated in the media with having used cluster bombs."

[China supports int'l efforts to ban cluster bombs](#)

*People's Daily Online* – December 2

China attaches importance to humanitarian problems resulting from cluster bombs and supports international efforts to resolve this issue, Foreign Ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao told a press conference on Tuesday.

Liu said that "China would continue its effort with other parties for an early and proper solution on the humanitarian problems arising from cluster bombs."

He said a government experts' group, under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), had been working to ban cluster bombs, and China had taken an active and constructive part in its work.

The CCW took effect in 1981. It bans or restricts the use of specific types of weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately.

Cluster bombs can spread hundreds of bomblets over a target area. Many of these fail to explode immediately, posing a threat to civilians for many years after a conflict.

[No military action against Pakistan: Mukherjee](#)

*Dawn* – December 2

India is not considering taking military action against Pakistan over the attacks in Mumbai, Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Tuesday.

'Nobody is talking about military action,' Mukherjee told reporters.

His comments followed a meeting earlier of India's security cabinet, the top decision-making body on military and diplomatic affairs, which met in the aftermath of last week's Mumbai attacks that claimed 183 lives.

'What will be done, time will show and you will come to know,' Mukherjee said.

Earlier, the minister said India had called on Pakistan to hand over 20 terror suspects, including the founder of the militant group accused of carrying out the carnage in Mumbai.

The government demanded 'the arrest and handover of those persons who are settled in Pakistan and are fugitives of Indian law,' Mukherjee said.

'We will await the response of Pakistan,' he added.

[NATO Open To Russia Security Plan But Wants More Details](#)

NASDAQ – December 3

North Atlantic Treaty Organization allies are open to discuss Russian plans for a new European security pact but want more details about the proposals first, alliance Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said Wednesday.

"A lot of questions remain; what exactly President (Dmitry) Medvedev's proposals entail, what they are," he said, on the sidelines of a meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels.

"The allies are ready to discuss those proposals, but I would very much appreciate to see a bit more substance," Scheffer said.

Russia has called for a new legally binding security pact in Europe to replace what it says are outdated arms control treaties from the Cold War and to help avoid crises such as the brief war in Georgia in August.

At a European Union-Russia summit in France last month, French President Nicolas Sarkozy called for a security summit with Russia under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

The proposals are expected to be discussed at OSCE talks in Helsinki starting Thursday.

Scheffer said NATO's 26 nations were generally satisfied with Europe's security structures and that he couldn't imagine them agreeing to anything that would undermine institutions including the E.U., OSCE and NATO.

"There is not a shimmer of a chance that NATO could or would be negotiated away. That's totally out of the question. We are quite happy with the security structure as it exists in Europe," said Scheffer, at a press conference with Georgian Foreign Minister Eka Tkeshelashvili, whose country was invaded by Russia in August.

He also called for details about how Russia would deal with such issues as the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which Moscow froze a year ago and which limits the deployment of troops and military equipment.

"What will be the notion of territorial integrity? I'm standing next to the foreign minister of Georgia," he said. "It is important that we get more substance on the Russian proposals."

Despite the doubts, the ministers said in a communique that they "are open to dialog within the OSCE on security perceptions and how to respond to new threats, and seek the widest possible cooperation among participating states to promote a common Euro-Atlantic space of security and stability."

## **DEFENCE ACQUISITION AND TECHNOLOGY**

### [Iran to launch two new ships, submarine](#)

*CNN* – November 23

Iran's navy is planning to launch two new ships and a submarine later this week, the commander of the navy announced Sunday.

All three vessels were made in Iran, the semi-official Fars News Agency quoted Cmdr. Habibolalh Sayyari as saying.

"On the occasion of Navy Day [November 27], two missile-carrying ships named Kalat and Derafsh, as well as a light submarine, will be launched," he said.

Sayyari repeated a long-standing Iranian threat to close the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway, if Iran is threatened.

"We have never said that we will close the Strait of Hormuz. What we did say was that we do have the capability to do so in the event of any aggression or attack," he said.

The United States has said it will not let Iran close the waterway, a vital link in shipping Middle Eastern oil to the world.

Sayyari told reporters that the Iranian navy is monitoring all the movements of foreign ships in the Sea of Oman, the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

He also said that Iran is not planning on expanding its military presence in the Caspian Sea, but: "We have identified 20 percent of the Caspian as our area and will fully protect that area."

Sayyari added that the Iranian navy planned to hold naval maneuvers called "Unity 87" in early December in the Sea of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz.

Iranian and U.S. vessels have occasionally come in close contact in the region, escalating tensions between Tehran and Washington.

### [India Can't Sell Anti-American Missile](#)

*Strategy Page* – November 25

Earlier this year, India ordered 800 more of the new PJ-10 BrahMos missiles. Attempts to find export customers, however, have not succeeded. India believes this is because they have not previously been a major arms exporter, and have not developed the skills and techniques to sell high-tech weapons. Another reason, which the Indian arms salesmen don't like to dwell on, is that BrahMos was originally designed to go after heavily defended American aircraft carriers.

Few countries see attacking the U.S. Navy as a promising military strategy. That, and the high price of the BrahMos probably accounts for most of the sales resistance.

The 3.2 ton BrahMos has a range of 300 kilometers and a 660 pound warhead. Perhaps the most striking characteristic is its high speed, literally faster (at up to 3,000 feet per second) than a rifle bullet. Guidance is GPS or inertial to reach the general area of the target (usually a ship or other small target), then radar that will identify the specific target and hit it. The warhead weighs 660 pounds, and the high speed at impact causes additional damage (because of the weight of the entire missile.) India and Russia developed the weapon together, and the high price of each missile, about \$2.3 million, reflects the expense of building a very fast, and accurate, weapon. It also restricts the number of countries that can afford it.

The weapon entered service with the Indian navy in 2005. Different versions of the PJ-10 can be fired from aircraft, ships, ground launchers or submarines. The maximum speed of 3,000 kilometers an hour makes it harder to intercept, and means it takes five minutes or less to reach its target. The air launched version weighs 2.5 tons, the others, three tons or more.

The 29 foot long, 670mm diameter missile is an upgraded version of the Russian SS-NX-26 (Yakhont) missile, which was in development when the Cold War ended in 1991. Lacking money to finish development and begin production, the Russian manufacturer made a deal with India to finish the job. India put up most of the \$240 million needed to finally complete two decades of development. The PJ-10 is also being built in Russia. There were initial hopes that Russia and India could export up to 2,000. China and Iran have expressed interest in the weapon, but only Malaysia, Chile, South Africa, Kuwait and the UAE (United Arab Emirates) have been approached with a sales pitch. No one has placed an order. Nevertheless, Russia and India are investing in BrahMos 2, which will use a scramjet, instead of a ramjet, in the second stage. This would double speed, and make the missile much more difficult to defend against.

The large order from India indicates it plans to make the missile a major weapon system. The BrahMos can carry a nuclear warhead, but is designed mainly to go after high value targets that require a large warhead and great accuracy. The BrahMos could take out enemy headquarters, or key weapons systems (especially those employing electronic or nuclear weapons.)

[Pakistan to buy German subs, ignore French](#)

*Pak Tribune* – November 26

In a departure from the past practice of acquiring submarines from France, Pakistan will buy three German Type 214 submarines.

Walter Freitag, the chief executive officer of the HDW, the largest conventional submarine maker in the world, told our sources on Tuesday in an exclusive interview at the IDEAS 2008 here that his company had finalised technical specifications with the navy to build three Type 214 submarines in Pakistan.

“The commercial contract has been finalised up to 95 per cent,” he said, hoping the final contract in this regard will be signed soon. This is the first time that a clear picture of the billion-dollar deal that the Pakistan Navy is expected to sign in coming months has emerged. Earlier, during mid-90s, the navy had selected three French Agosta 90-B submarines, which were in addition to the two acquired earlier. The deal had generated a lot of controversy at that time.

This time French firm Armaris had offered to supply Pakistan three updated single-hulled, diesel-electric submarines — all-French version of the Franco-Spanish Scorpene boat — equipped with air-independent propulsion, a deal totalling about \$1.2 billion.

However, Walter Freitag said he did not see that kind of controversy enveloping this project perceived during the 90s. “The Pakistan Navy understands submarines and ours are the best,” he said, rejecting claims of competitors that the Greek Navy had rejected Type 214.

“In the Hellenic Navy’s case, a neutral surveyor was appointed, who decided that the submarine was technically OK and ready for commissioning,” he said. The HDW CEO said the Type 214 was technologically more advanced than those of competitors. “We use higher grade steel material, which allows greater diving depth,” he said. “Also, we have fuel cell AIPs and can integrate Harpoons with the Type 214.”

The first submarine would be delivered to the Pakistan Navy in 64 months after signing of the contract while the rest would be completed successively in 12 months. Walter Freitag stated that they would be using facilities at the Karachi Shipyard for building Type 214 and minimal upgrade would be required. He added that the Type 214 was 100 per cent German and there was no chance of embargo on it in any case.

Meanwhile, authoritative sources told that the decision to acquire Type 214 over the French submarine was made not only because the submarine was more advanced than the French Marlin, but also because many countries had deployed the Type 214 submarines, so there would be no issue of spares.

They said Turkey would be acquiring six Type 214s, South Korea had ordered six more in addition to three ordered earlier, Portugal had bought two, besides several bought by the German Navy. As such, supportability for the Type 214 for the next 30-35 years would not be a major concern.

[China's carrier plans worry region](#)

*Taipei Times* – November 28

In a recent interview with the Financial Times, Chinese Major General Qian Lihua (錢利華), director of the Defense Ministry's Foreign Affairs Office, said China has every right to build aircraft carriers, without confirming whether it had decided to do so. This enigmatic remark stirred fresh speculation about China's intentions in developing or acquiring the carriers in light of its economic rise.

China's intention to build up its own aircraft carriers, viewed as an essential component of building the "blue water" navy able to deploy beyond its coastal waters, has not surprised China watchers. In fact, China has already invested decades of effort in its bid to acquire or develop a monstrous warship.

In 1975 Admiral Liu Huaqing (劉華清), vice chairman of the Central Military Commission, highlighted for first time that China must establish its own aircraft carrier battle group(s) to secure sea lines of communication and protect national sovereignty.

Liu said the goal of developing aircraft carriers was not to start an arms race with the US or the Soviet Union but to meet the requirements for a potential military struggle with Taiwan, settle potential conflicts in the South China Sea, protect its maritime resources, enable China to keep up with regional powers such as India and Japan, give the Chinese navy a decisive edge in future warfare, and participate in the world peacekeeping.

China has purchased four decommissioned carriers: the Melbourne (1985), the Varyag (1998), the Minsk (1998) and the Kiev (2000) from Australia, Ukraine and Russia respectively. Only the Varyag, now docked in Dalian, seems to be a candidate for refurbishment to operational status after photos seen in December 2005 appeared to show activity on the deck to apply new coatings consistent with aircraft operations.

Some specialists, however, believe that these four carriers — which are different in terms of function, designation and structure — must have been used to expedite China's research and development capabilities in developing its own model.

There have been many reports regarding China's aircraft carrier intentions. In October 2006, the Russian newspaper Kommersant reported that Russia had signed a US\$2.5 billion arms sale contract with China to deliver 48 SU-33 fighters, which the Sukhoi Aviation Bureau designed specifically for carrier operations.

In March last year, a Beijing-backed Hong-Kong newspaper reported that China could have its first aircraft carrier by 2010. Rick Fisher, vice president of the

International Assessment and Strategy Center and an expert on the Chinese military, concurred with that report. He believes that “before the end of this decade, we will see preparations for China to build its first indigenous aircraft carrier.”

Jane’s Defence Weekly reported last month that the People’s Liberation Army was training the first batch of 50 cadets to become naval pilots capable of operating aircraft from the mock-up carrier at the Dalian Naval Academy.

All this is evidence that China has a more ambitious and impending timetable than many might think. An aircraft carrier is perceived as a potent symbol of national power, and China is expected to finish building its first aircraft carrier within two to five years.

Such a scenario is cause for concern in East Asia, especially among countries that claim sovereignty over the Spratly Islands, and will definitely have a great impact on other countries in the region — India, Japan, South Korea, Russia and of course, Taiwan — as well as the US.

The case of Taiwan is especially noticeable because if the Varyag can be transformed into China’s first aircraft carrier battle group, it would have a great impact on Taiwan’s defensive operation.

By then, Taiwan’s operational forces would be kept at bay because China’s aircraft carrier(s) could sail off Taiwan’s east coast, beyond the radius of action of fighter jets. This could not only deter foreign forces coming to Taiwan’s aid, but also allow China to attack Taiwan from both sides.

Subsequently, Taiwan’s “forces reservation” at a preliminary stage in east Taiwan, where it reportedly can protect more than half of its sophisticated fighter aircraft, would also be challenged by China’s new capabilities.

Although submarines are believed is the best deterrent to aircraft carriers, Taiwan only has four submarines — two World War II-era subs from the Soviet Union and two Dutch subs imported in the 1980s. These outdated subs are obviously ill-suited to deter China’s new carrier equipped with the state-of-the-art weapon systems supported by Russia.

To remedy the cross-strait status quo tilting in China’s favor, the US must review the hold-up on its offer to sell Taiwan eight submarines. After all, any policy disregarding the Taiwan Relations Act would endanger the equilibrium in the Taiwan Strait and increase the likelihood of war that would involve the US.

An aircraft carrier is also a long-range power project weapon. Such a weapon in China’s hands could serve as augury for China’s rise and to determine if its intentions are hostile.

Some specialists have said that growing Chinese international stature and self-confidence also means fewer releases of human rights activists, less reticence about openly pursuing its military development, and increasing defiance when confronted with criticism.

The US, India and Japan would also be anxious about the prospects of carriers, about how they will be used in the Chinese fleet and what impact they will have on China's foreign policy.

China's military actions in recent years are particularly alarming. In April 2001 China ignored international law in holding a US EP3 flight crew for 12 days; in November 2006 a Chinese submarine surfaced in the vicinity of a US Navy aircraft battle group in the East China Sea; in January last year China launched its anti-satellite weapon without a public notice, putting at risk other nations' space assets.

Even as cross-strait relations are thawing, China has not hesitated to deploy cutting-edge YJ-62 guided missiles with a maximum range in excess of 400km along the southeast coastline opposite Taiwan. These missiles are a military threat and hostile gesture toward not only Taiwan but toward all of China's neighbors.

This is clearly at odds with China's claim of peaceful rise or peaceful development. In fact, improving Sino-American strategic relations are conditioned upon China not challenging US global leadership, a position that Chinese leaders have repeatedly stressed. China's rigorous military reach-out, however, is now being interpreted otherwise. The more China's flexes its military muscle the more defiant it may become.

To mollify its neighbors' worries, it would behoove China to explain the purposes and intentions behind its carrier-building program. The more transparent China is about its military and security affairs, the less other nation's militaries have to assume the worst and respond accordingly, leading to potential misunderstandings, miscalculations and an action-reaction cycle of military preparations, to the detriment of all sides.

### [Russia To Lease Sub to India Despite Fatal Accident](#)

*Defense News* – November 28

Moscow has told New Delhi that it remains committed to leasing a nuclear submarine to the Indian Navy despite the Nov. 8 accident that killed 20 crew members aboard a Russian nuclear sub, say Indian Defence Ministry sources.

The Akula-2 nuclear-powered attack submarine, the Nerpa, which is being built by Russia for the Indian Navy, was on sea trials off the Sea of Japan Nov. 8

when 20 personnel were killed in an accident reportedly involving activation of the submarine's fire-fighting system.

However, the sea trials of the submarine have been temporarily halted, said sources. The Indian Defence Ministry has already asked the Russian yard building the submarine to extend the trials.

The Indian Navy is acquiring the Nerpa in the run-up to its own secretive, classified nuclear submarine Advanced Technology Vehicle (ATV) under construction. The crew trained on the leased Nerpa would eventually take over the indigenous ATV, expected to be inducted by 2010-11.

The nuclear submarines will give India the third leg of its nuclear triad by acquiring submarine-launched nuclear capable missiles.

#### [South Korea receives first Patriot missiles](#)

*Channel NewsAsia* – November 29

The South Korean air force said Friday it had taken delivery of a first shipment of US-made Patriot missiles, designed to protect against any attack by North Korea.

They were bought second-hand from Germany and will replace the current ageing Nike air defence missiles, the air force said in a statement.

The first shipment arrived in the country in August but has been undergoing a series of performance tests before Seoul officially took delivery.

The air force plans to spend a total of 1.05 trillion won (710 million dollars) to deploy two battalions of Patriot missiles within two years.

The air force did not say how many Patriots it had taken delivery of. South Korea previously announced plans to buy a total of 48 second-hand PAC-2 Patriots.

The announcement came amid worsening ties between the two Koreas. In protest at what it calls Seoul's confrontational policy, North Korea has announced strict curbs on cross-border movements from December 1.

The US and its allies regard the North's missile development as a major threat to regional security, on top of its nuclear ambitions.

Despite being a longtime US ally, South Korea has not joined the United States and Japan in efforts to develop a joint missile defence system.

[Russia Successfully Tests Sea-Based Missile](#)

*Defense News* – November 28

Russia successfully tested on Nov. 28 a sea-based missile capable of carrying multiple nuclear warheads, the military said, amid continued tension with Washington over missile defense.

A Bulava missile fired from the Dmitry Donskoy submarine in the White Sea, along Russia's northern coast, hit its target on the Kamchatka Peninsula near the Pacific Ocean, navy spokesman Igor Dygalo said in a statement.

"The warhead successfully reached the Kura test site on Kamchatka," he said, describing a flight-path about 6,000 kilometers (4,000 miles) in length.

Four out of the six previous tests of the Bulava were unsuccessful, the Interfax news agency reported.

The launch comes after Moscow has repeatedly expressed its fury over U.S. plans to place a missile defense radar system in the Czech Republic and interceptor missiles in Poland.

Earlier on Nov. 28, the commander of Russia's missile forces announced that their new RS-24 missile - a land-based weapon that Moscow says is designed to overcome the U.S. missile shield - would be deployed from December 2009.

The Bulava, which can be equipped with up to 10 individually targeted nuclear warheads, has a maximum range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles) and was first successfully tested in December 2005.

It is the sea-based version of the Topol-M, designed to be launched from Moscow's newest Borei class of submarines.

[Brazil to sell 100 state-of-the-art anti-radiation missiles to Pakistan](#)

*Aviation & Aerospace News* – December 3

Brazilian authorities have apparently approved the sale of 100 state-of-the-art, medium range air-to-surface anti-radiation missiles to Pakistan which can be used to attack and destroy radar installations. Brazilian defence minister Nelson Jobim has been credited with making the announcement.

Jobim called the weapons "very effective ways to monitor" areas flown by war planes, and said the deal with Pakistan, originally signed in April this year, was worth 85 million euros (\$108 million).

The MAR-1 medium-range missiles made by the Brazilian firm Mectron are tactical anti-radiation weapons, which have been under development for a long

time by the Brazilian authorities. These anti-radiation missiles (ARM) were originally intended to equip its Embraer A-1A (AMX) attack aircraft.

Jobim apparently dismissed suggestions that the transaction might be questioned in light of last week's Islamist extremist massacre perpetrated in Mumbai, India, which some Indian officials suspected was launched from within Pakistan.

"Brazil negotiates with Pakistan, not with Pakistani terrorists," he said.

"To cancel this deal would be to attribute terrorist activities to the Pakistani government."

## **NON-TRADITIONAL SECURITY**

### [Germany proposes fighting pirates with China](#)

*The China Daily* – November 24

A visiting German navy general said here Monday that his country would like to cooperate with China in containing pirates and other nontraditional threats.

It is widely recognized that terrorism is a big challenge confronting the world. But pirates, which we believed had perished, are still wrecking havoc," German Navy Inspector General Wolfgang Nolting told Chinese Defense Minister Liang Guanglie.

Liang responded by reviewing the latest hijacks by Somali pirates in the Indian Ocean.

Somali pirates have drawn worldwide attention by capturing several vessels this month, including the Saudi supertanker, the Sirius Star.

"I think navies of Germany and China should work together to fight against pirates," Nolting said.

Liang said, "We should pay more attention to the non-traditional security threats."

But the two gave no details on how the two navies would cooperate in this field.

In their half-hour talk in Diaoyutai Guesthouse in downtown Beijing, Liang hailed the China-Germany military ties as "increasingly deepening," citing frequent high-level visits, smooth dialogue and deeper cooperation in specialist fields.

Liang said China would like to make the most of military ties with Germany.

Nolting arrived in Beijing on Sunday. He will also visit eastern China's coastal cities of Shanghai and Qingdao.

[Thai company says INS Tabar sank its vessel](#)

*Times of India* – November 26

The Indian Navy is still crowing about how it sunk a Somali pirate 'mother ship' and families are celebrating the return of Indian sailors from the hijacked Stolt Valor. But it appears the Navy's hot pursuit off the Gulf of Aden may have led to some collateral damage.

A Thai ship-owner on Tuesday complained that one of his fishing trawlers was missing along with 14 sailors. He claimed it was the ship that Indian Navy's INS Tabar sunk last week as a suspected pirate ship.

Wicharn Sirichaiekawat, owner of the Ekawat Nava 5, claimed one Cambodian crewman was found alive after six days adrift in the Gulf of Aden, and one is confirmed dead. He said the vessel that was hit by the Tabar on November 18 was his ship, which was in the process of being seized by pirates when it came under fire.

The Navy insisted their ship had acted against a pirate vessel which had threatened to attack the Tabar. "We fired in self-defense and in response to firing upon our vessel. It was a pirate vessel in the international waters and its stance was aggressive," said Commodore Nirad Sinha, a navy spokesman.

"We don't know in what context such claims were being made," he said, adding the ship that attacked the Tabar was laden with ammunition. He said that the ship, which was in pirate-infested waters, had threatened to blow itself up if the Tabar approached it and sought verification.

Indian officials had said sailors on the Tabar saw pirates roaming on the upper deck of the "mother vessel" with guns and rocket-propelled grenade launchers. The vessel fired on the Tabar and the Indian frigate returned fire, setting the pirate ship ablaze and setting off explosions on board.

Navy sources, however, said it was likely that the vessel was commandeered by pirates and the owners were now making a claim so that they could get insurance money for the vessel.

Wicharn said his ship made a distress call on November 18 as it was chased by pirates in two speedboats, but the connection was lost midway. The owners, Sirichai Fisheries, had not heard from the crew since then.

Wicharn told reporters that the Ekawat Nava 5 was headed from Oman to Yemen to deliver fishing equipment when it was set upon by pirates off the Horn of

Africa. The pirates were seizing control of the ship when the Tabar moved in, he said.

Wicharn said he learned the fate of his vessel from a Cambodian crew member who survived the gunfire and drifted in the ocean for six days before he was plucked to safety by a passing ship. The sailor was recovering in a hospital in Yemen, he said.

[Indian Navy denies INS Tabar sunk Thai trawler](#)

*Indian Express* – November 26

The Indian Navy has denied claims that its warship sunk a Thai deep sea fishing trawler mistaking it to be a pirate mothership. The Navy has maintained that it fired on the vessel in self-defence after coming under attack.

The Navy said there was ample proof that the sunken vessel had pirates on board and armed bandits were seen roaming on the bridge.

A Thailand-based fishing company has claimed that the pirate 'mother ship' the Indian Navy destroyed in the Gulf of Aden last week was one of its deep sea fishing trawlers and was being hijacked by pirates when it was blown up by INS Tabar.

The Navy was flooded with queries after Wicharn Sirichaiekawat, manager of Bangkok-based Sirichai Fisheries, told local reporters that the warship hit the company's Ekawat Nava 5 vessel which was being chased and attacked by pirates. He said a crew member was dead and 14 were still missing.

Sirichaiekawat said the incident came to light after one of the crew members who survived the battle between the Indian Navy and the pirates was rescued by a passing vessel and dropped off at Yemen. The company had earlier reported that one of its fishing vessels went missing in the Gulf of Aden on November 18, the day the Indian Navy destroyed a pirate vessel.

[EGYPT: Anti-Piracy Flotillas Rattle Arab Security](#)

*World Press* – November 28

Representatives from states bordering the Red Sea met in Cairo last week to forge a common policy against the threat of maritime piracy. But some local commentators say recent deployments of foreign naval forces to the area to combat Somali corsairs could constitute an even greater threat.

"The stepped-up presence of foreign navies, supposedly here to protect international shipping lanes from piracy, could pose a danger to Arab national security," Gamal Mazloun, retired Egyptian brigadier-general and military expert, told IPS.

In recent months, incidents of maritime piracy have suddenly proliferated, particularly in and around the Gulf of Aden off the coast of war-torn Somalia. This year alone, more than 80 ships have been attacked by pirates in the area, according to statistics from the International Maritime Bureau.

On Nov. 15, the MV Sirius Star, a Saudi-owned super-tanker laden with roughly 100 million dollars worth of petrol, was hijacked by Somali pirates off the nearby coast of Kenya. The 330-metre tanker, the largest vessel ever captured at sea, still remains in the hands of pirates who are demanding a hefty ransom for its release.

Only three days later, an Indian naval frigate reportedly destroyed a pirate 'mother ship' in the Gulf of Aden. According to Indian naval officials, the frigate -- one of several foreign warships patrolling the area -- destroyed the vessel after a heavy exchange of gunfire. Later reports indicated this was a hijacked Thai vessel.

Most recently, on Tuesday (Nov. 25), a Yemeni ship loaded with steel was reportedly hijacked in the Gulf of Aden.

In response to the problem, a number of foreign naval detachments have been deployed to the region. Along with India, the U.S., Russia, South Africa and the multinational North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance have already sent naval forces to the Gulf of Aden with the stated aim of protecting maritime trade in the area.

In mid-November, the EU launched its first-ever joint naval mission -- Operation Atalanta -- with a mandate to combat piracy off the Somali coast. The operation, which will reportedly include frigates, patrol aircraft and helicopters, will have an initial deployment period of 12 months.

Even before the recent rash of piracy, foreign naval forces have had a significant presence in the area. For more than a decade, the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, based in Bahrain, has patrolled the waters in and around the Persian Gulf and Red Sea. Also, a western multi-naval force mandated with providing maritime security -- 'Combined Task Force 150' -- has been based in nearby Djibouti for the past several years.

Egypt, for its part, is especially concerned about piracy's potential effect on its own Suez Canal, which links the Red Sea to the Mediterranean.

Transit fees from the vital waterway, which accounts for roughly 7.5 percent of annual global maritime traffic, represent one of Egypt's chief sources of foreign currency. Due to rising incidents of piracy, a handful of major commercial shipping companies have already reportedly re-routed cargo away from the Suez

Canal to South Africa's Cape of Good Hope.

"Egypt could be adversely affected by piracy more than any other country," Aymen Abdelaziz Salaama, professor of international law at Cairo University told IPS. "Canal transit fees -- already feeling the effects of the global financial crisis - - could be severely impacted if the problem persists."

With the stated aim of establishing a common anti-piracy strategy, representatives from several Red Sea states gathered in Cairo on Nov. 20. Co-hosted by Egypt and Yemen, the conference was also attended by officials from Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Jordan, Somalia, Eritrea and Djibouti.

In a joint declaration, participants blamed the worrying phenomenon on political turmoil in Somalia, where an unpopular U.S.-backed central government is fighting an Islamist-led insurgency. "Piracy off the Somali coast is one of the consequences of the deterioration of the political, security and humanitarian situation in Somalia," read the declaration.

The statement went on to call for joint anti-piracy naval operations by Arab states in the region and the creation of a piracy-monitoring centre based in Yemen. Although conference participants welcomed naval support from foreign nations, they stressed the importance of the national sovereignty of states in the region.

Independent commentators agree that Somalia's chaotic political circumstances constitute a main cause of piracy.

"Piracy is a symptom of the real crisis, which is the disintegration of Somalia since 1991," said Salaama. "The solution isn't to send foreign navies to combat piracy, but to end the long-standing civil war in that country."

Commentators also note, however, that the conference provided little in the way of concrete solutions to the problem.

"The conference, which was only organised after foreign ships were sent to the region, didn't offer any new serious recommendations," said Salaama.

Mazloum agreed. "Attendees declared that each country would do its best to provide security to its respective shoreline," he said. "But this should go without saying.

"For more than a decade, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have run joint naval security exercises with the aim of protecting the Red Sea," Mazloum added. "But they never established a viable joint naval force to fight piracy."

Some regional leaders, meanwhile, have voiced fears that the stepped-up deployment of foreign naval forces to the area itself represents a potential threat

to regional sovereignty.

"The intensive multinational military presence in the southern outlet of the Red Sea is worrying," Yemeni Foreign Minister Abu Bakr al-Kurbi was quoted as saying Nov. 10. He went on to warn that this presence could pose a threat to "Arab national security" and lead to the "internationalisation" of the Red Sea.

According to Mazloum, the Yemeni minister's warning is not without some justification. He suggested the possibility that the piracy issue could be exploited by "foreign elements" with the aim of "internationalising the Red Sea region" to the benefit of the U.S. and Israel.

"In the 1980s, Israel proposed establishing a naval presence in the Red Sea, but the idea was quickly rejected by the Arabs and hasn't been discussed since," Mazloum explained. "But with this new outbreak of piracy, some analysts suspect that Israel will insist on dispatching naval forces to the area on the pretext of protecting commercial shipping."

He went on to question the seeming inability of existing foreign naval flotillas to thwart rampant piracy in the region. "Foreign naval forces already in the area -- the U.S. 5th Fleet, NATO, Force 150 -- were all unable to stop the piracy," he said. "And even after the latest deployments, incidents of piracy have only increased. This should raise questions."

Salaama raised the question why Arab Red Sea states are unable to provide adequate maritime security.

"During the 1973 Arab-Israeli war, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Somalia successfully joined forces to close the Strait of Mandeb (between the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula) to Israeli shipping, while maintaining navigation in the Red Sea," he said. "So why can't they keep the area closed to Somali pirates?"

## **MILITARY / PEACEKEEPING / HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS**

### [Security Council authorizes boost to UN peacekeeping force in DR Congo](#)

*UN News* – November 20

The Security Council today authorized a temporary increase of more than 3,000 blue helmets serving with the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to deal with the violence in the country's east, which has displaced an estimated 250,000 civilians in recent months.

The extra 2,785 troops and 300 police officers will buttress the 17,000 uniformed personnel already serving with the mission (known as [MONUC](#)), the largest UN

force worldwide but one faced with the task of quelling unrest and protecting civilians in one of Africa's largest countries.

Council members voted unanimously this morning for a resolution authorizing the extra numbers following a request from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon who, along with other senior UN officials, has said that existing troop numbers in MONUC are inadequate to deal with the scale of the fighting and unrest.

The resolution authorizes the extra troops and police officers until 31 December, adding that the duration of the stay depends on the security situation in DRC's North Kivu and South Kivu provinces.

MONUC is especially active in North Kivu, which borders Rwanda and has been the scene of fierce fighting in recent weeks between Congolese military forces (FARDC) and a rebel militia known as the CNDP, which is led by renegade army general Laurent Nkunda. Other militia groups, including the Mayi-Mayi, have also been involved in clashes, some of which have been along ethnic lines.

The fighting has forced hundreds of thousands of locals to flee their homes, and UN aid agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have been working to provide relief to civilians.

Mr. Ban's Special Envoy on the issue, the former Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo, has held talks over the past week with Mr. Nkunda and regional leaders, including DRC President Joseph Kabila, to try to devise a political solution to the conflict.

MONUC reports today that the security situation in North Kivu is relatively calm, with CNDP forces withdrawing from previously held positions, in line with a declaration issued yesterday.

At the same time, however, MONUC blue helmets came under fire from Mayi Mayi armed groups near the town of Rutshuru, although there were no casualties.

The mission's Force Commander, General Babacar Gaye, has concluded a two-day visit to the region around Goma, the capital of North Kivu.

He said UN peacekeepers lived up to their mandate during the recent fighting and he was proud to note that they evacuated several wounded FARDC soldiers from the front lines and ensured they received appropriate care in either UN hospitals or the state medical facilities in Goma.

[Russian nuke missile cruiser to join wargames with Indian Navy](#)

*IRNA –November 25*

Russia's most potent nuclear-powered heavy missile cruiser 'Pyotr Veliky' will take part in the joint naval wargames with the Indian Navy in January, during which they will train on how to destroy aircraft carriers.

This will be the second time that 'Pyotr Veliky' (Peter the Great), known as the 'Killer of Aircraft Carriers' will be in warmer waters of the Indian Ocean for large-scale exercises with the Indian Navy.

Besides naval warfare tactics, the two navies will also carry out joint maneuvers aimed at curbing sea piracy, sea terrorism and anti- submarine warfare, Indian official media reported.

'Pyotr Veliky', leading the task force of Russian North Fleet, will join the warships of Pacific Fleet in the Indian Ocean after wargames with Venezuelan Navy in Caribbean Sea.

It will cross the Atlantic and traverse the Cape of Good Hope on the southern tip of Africa for the 'INDRA-2009' wargames with the Indian Navy.

This is the fourth such exercise since 2003 under the inter- services cooperation agreement between the two countries.

New Delhi and Moscow held complex wargames in the sea of Japan last year.

Although combating piracy and terrorists on the high seas have been declared the main aim of the INDRA-series naval wargames, it is the first such exercise the Russian and Indian navies had practiced in the destruction of an 'enemy' aircraft carrier and anti-submarine warfare which are indispensable part of the joint drills conducted every alternate year.

[Fighter Jets to Land on Singapore Road: Ministry](#)

*Defense News – November 29*

First, there was F1. Now come the F-16s.

After a Formula One (F1) Grand Prix auto race in September, Singapore streets on Nov. 30 will see something even faster - F-16 fighter bombers.

The jets and other military aircraft are to take off and land on a stretch of road that has been converted into an alternative runway, the Ministry of Defence said.

The exercise, which helps prepare the air force in case normal runways become unusable, hones its readiness "to deliver uninterrupted air power at all times," a statement said.

"The aircraft will be executing a series of take-offs and landings along a stretch of Lim Chu Kang Road, 2,500 meters long (1.6 miles) and 24 meters wide," the ministry said.

Singapore is an island nation of just 3.6 million citizens and permanent residents that was ejected from the Malaysian Federation in 1965 over ethnic issues.

The security-conscious city-state, one of Asia's wealthiest, also has one of the region's most modern armed forces.

All able-bodied 18-year-old male citizens are eligible to be conscripted for two years of full-time active service in the military or emergency services.

Military planes and helicopters often roar over parts of the city on their way into and out of air bases.

"In war, runways are one of the key targets for the enemy," Colonel Tan Kah Han, who is overseeing the exercise, was quoted as saying in the Straits Times.

The exercise will involve more than 10 aircraft including F-5 jets and E-2C early warning planes as well as F-16s, the ministry said.

Troops will set up a mobile control tower, lights, and cables to help stop the planes when they land, it said.

The Straits Times reported that about 400 air force personnel have been removing lamp posts, road signs and bus shelters in preparation.

The six-lane road on the far west of the island has been closed since Thursday and will reopen on Dec. 1, the paper said.

This is the sixth exercise of its kind in the past 22 years, the ministry said.

Singapore staged Formula One's first night race in September on a circuit that snaked through the city's streets.

### [Russia-Venezuela exercises begin](#)

*BBC News* – December 2

The Venezuelan and Russian navies have begun joint exercises in the Caribbean Sea, close to US territorial waters.

The three-day operation marks the first time that the Russian fleet has been in the area since the end of the Cold War.

The Russian navy says it will include anti-aircraft defence, and tactics to combat terrorism and drug-trafficking.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev recently completed a tour of Latin America that was intended to strengthen his country's influence in the region.

Last week, he and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez signed a deal to promote the development of nuclear energy for civilian use.

### **Balance of power**

About 1,600 Russian and 700 Venezuelan sailors on four Russian ships and 12 Venezuelan vessels are expected to participate in the VenRus 2008 joint exercise in neutral waters over the next three days.

The Russian ships, led by the missile cruiser Peter the Great and three support vessels, left the port of La Guaira at dawn on Monday along with three Venezuelan frigates.

Ahead of the operation, Venezuelan and Russian officials rejected suggestions that they were aimed at "third countries".

"This series of exercises aims to evaluate the skills and capabilities of the fleets of both nations to fight against terrorism and drug-trafficking," said Russian Vice-Admiral Vladimir Korolev, deputy commander of the Northern Fleet.

US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has also dismissed the impact of the Russian naval deployment.

"A few Russian ships [are] not going to change the balance of power," she said.

Correspondents say Washington has been concerned by major arms deals between Russia and Venezuela since 2005, which have totalled some \$4.4bn (£2.39bn).

### [Iran holds naval war games in strategic waterway](#)

*World Press* –December 2

Iran said it began six days of naval war games on Tuesday in the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, the strategic transport route for global oil supplies which the Islamic Republic has threatened to close if it is attacked.

Iran often stages exercises or tests weapons to show its determination to counter any attack by the United States or Israel against sites they believe are to make nuclear arms. "The aim of this manoeuvre is to increase the level of readiness of Iran's naval forces and also to test and to use domestically-made naval weaponry," Admiral Qasem Rostamabadi told state radio.

The radio said the naval manoeuvres would cover an area of 50,000 square miles, including the Sea of Oman off Iran's southern coast.

"In this six-day long manoeuvre there will be more than 60 combat vessel units," Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, commander of the navy, was quoted as saying by the Kayhan daily. They would include destroyers, missile-equipped battleships, submarines, special-operations teams, helicopters, and fighter planes, he said.

Iran, the world's fourth-largest crude oil producer, says its uranium enrichment activities are aimed at making fuel for electricity-generating nuclear power plants, not bombs.

The United States says it wants diplomacy to end the nuclear row, but neither Washington nor Israel have ruled out military action if that fails. Iran has vowed to retaliate if pushed.

Military analysts say Iran's real ability to respond could be with more unconventional tactics, such as deploying small hit-and-run craft to attack oil tankers, or using allies in the Middle East to strike at U.S. or Israeli interests.

Iran has previously said it could close the Strait of Hormuz to shipping, through which about 40 percent of the world's globally traded oil passes. The United States has pledged to protect shipping routes.

An Iranian naval commander was last week quoted as saying the country's navy could strike an enemy well beyond its shores and as far away as Bab al-Mandab, the southern entrance to the Red Sea that leads to the Suez Canal.

Iran's 1980s war with Iraq included a period that became known as the tanker war when oil carriers and other energy installations became targets by both sides. This led to the United States stepping in to protect oil shipping.

## **WMD PROLIFERATION**

### [What a Single Nuclear Warhead Could Do](#)

*The Wall Street Journal* – November 24

As severe as the global financial crisis now is, it does not pose an existential threat to the U.S. Through fits and starts we will sort out the best way to revive

the country's economic engine. Mistakes can be tolerated, however painful. The same may not be true with matters of national security.

Although President George W. Bush has accomplished more in the way of missile defense than his predecessors -- including Ronald Reagan -- he will leave office with only a rudimentary system designed to stop a handful of North Korean missiles launched at our West Coast. Barack Obama will become commander in chief of a country essentially undefended against Russian, Chinese, Iranian or ship-launched terrorist missiles. This is not acceptable.

The attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, have proven how vulnerable we are. On that day, Islamic terrorists flew planes into our buildings. It is not unreasonable to believe that if they obtain nuclear weapons, they might use them to destroy us. And yet too many policy makers have rejected three basic facts about our position in the world today:

First, as the defender of the Free World, the U.S. will be the target of destruction or, more likely, strategic marginalization by Russia, China and the radical Islamic world.

Second, this marginalization and threat of destruction is possible because the U.S. is not so powerful that it can dictate military and political affairs to the world whenever it wants. The U.S. has the nuclear capability to vanquish any foe, but is not likely to use it except as a last resort.

Third, America will remain in a condition of strategic vulnerability as long as it fails to build defenses against the most powerful political and military weapons arrayed against us: ballistic missiles with nuclear warheads. Such missiles can be used to destroy our country, blackmail or paralyze us.

Any consideration of how best to provide for the common defense must begin by acknowledging these facts.

Consider Iran. For the past decade, Iran -- with the assistance of Russia, China and North Korea -- has been developing missile technology. Iranian Defense Minister Ali Shamkhani announced in 2004 their ability to mass produce the Shahab-3 missile capable of carrying a lethal payload to Israel or -- if launched from a ship -- to an American city.

The current controversy over Iran's nuclear production is really about whether it is capable of producing nuclear warheads. This possibility is made more urgent by Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statement in 2005: "Is it possible for us to witness a world without America and Zionism? But you had best know that this slogan and this goal are attainable, and surely can be achieved."

Mr. Ahmadinejad takes seriously, even if the average Iranian does not, radical Islam's goal of converting, subjugating or destroying the infidel peoples -- first and foremost the citizens of the U.S. and Israel. Even after 9/11, we appear not to take that threat seriously. We should.

Think about this scenario: An ordinary-looking freighter ship heading toward New York or Los Angeles launches a missile from its hull or from a canister lowered into the sea. It hits a densely populated area. A million people are incinerated. The ship is then sunk. No one claims responsibility. There is no firm evidence as to who sponsored the attack, and thus no one against whom to launch a counterstrike.

But as terrible as that scenario sounds, there is one that is worse. Let us say the freighter ship launches a nuclear-armed Shahab-3 missile off the coast of the U.S. and the missile explodes 300 miles over Chicago. The nuclear detonation in space creates an electromagnetic pulse (EMP).

Gamma rays from the explosion, through the Compton Effect, generate three classes of disruptive electromagnetic pulses, which permanently destroy consumer electronics, the electronics in some automobiles and, most importantly, the hundreds of large transformers that distribute power throughout the U.S. All of our lights, refrigerators, water-pumping stations, TVs and radios stop running. We have no communication and no ability to provide food and water to 300 million Americans.

This is what is referred to as an EMP attack, and such an attack would effectively throw America back technologically into the early 19th century. It would require the Iranians to be able to produce a warhead as sophisticated as we expect the Russians or the Chinese to possess. But that is certainly attainable. Common sense would suggest that, absent food and water, the number of people who could die of deprivation and as a result of social breakdown might run well into the millions.

Let us be clear. A successful EMP attack on the U.S. would have a dramatic effect on the country, to say the least. Even one that only affected part of the country would cripple the economy for years. Dropping nuclear weapons on or retaliating against whoever caused the attack would not help. And an EMP attack is not far-fetched.

Twice in the last eight years, in the Caspian Sea, the Iranians have tested their ability to launch ballistic missiles in a way to set off an EMP. The congressionally mandated EMP Commission, with some of America's finest scientists, has released its findings and issued two separate reports, the most recent in April, describing the devastating effects of such an attack on the U.S.

The only solution to this problem is a robust, multilayered missile-defense system. The most effective layer in this system is in space, using space-based interceptors that destroy an enemy warhead in its ascent phase when it is easily identifiable, slower, and has not yet deployed decoys. We know it can work from tests conducted in the early 1990s. We have the technology. What we lack is the political will to make it a reality.

An EMP attack is not one from which America could recover as we did after Pearl Harbor. Such an attack might mean the end of the United States and most likely the Free World. It is of the highest priority to have a president and policy makers not merely acknowledge the problem, but also make comprehensive missile defense a reality as soon as possible.

[Nuclear or Biological Attack Called Likely](#)  
*Washington Post* – December 2

The odds that terrorists will soon strike a major city with weapons of mass destruction are now better than even, a bipartisan congressionally mandated task force concludes in a draft study that warns of growing threats from rogue states, nuclear smuggling networks and the spread of atomic know-how in the developing world.

The sobering assessment of such threats, due for release as early as today, singled out Pakistan as a grave concern because of its terrorist networks, history of instability and arsenal of several dozen nuclear warheads. The report urged the incoming Obama administration to take "decisive action" to reduce the likelihood of a devastating attack.

"No mission could be timelier," says the draft report of the Commission on the Prevention of Weapons of Mass Destruction Proliferation and Terrorism, which spent six months preparing an assessment for Congress and the new president-elect. It adds: "In our judgment, America's margin of safety is shrinking, not growing."

The report, ordered by Congress last year, concludes that terrorists are more likely to obtain materials for a biological attack than to buy or steal nuclear weapons. But it says the nuclear threat is growing rapidly, in part because of the increasing global supply of nuclear material and technology.

"Without greater urgency and decisive action by the world community, it is more likely than not that a weapon of mass destruction will be used in a terrorist attack somewhere in the world by the end of 2013," says the draft report, a copy of which was obtained by The Washington Post. The Post reported excerpts from an earlier draft in Sunday's editions.

The creation of the commission, chaired by former senator Bob Graham (D-Fla.), with former congressman James M. Talent (R-Mo.) serving as vice chairman, was one of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, which explored the causes of the 2001 terrorist attacks against the United States. The new panel's bipartisan members and staff conducted more than 260 interviews with government officials and experts around the world to assess the problem of weapons of mass destruction as well as offer proposals for reducing the threat.

While the panel found the risk of an attack with such weapons to be increasingly serious, "nuclear terrorism is still a preventable catastrophe," the report says. It calls for aggressive steps to secure unguarded stockpiles of nuclear weapons material such as uranium and plutonium, as well as coordinated international efforts to discover and disrupt smuggling rings that traffic in atomic technology.

It also urges a dramatic overhaul of the international institutions and treaties that have sought to slow the spread of nuclear weapons since the 1950s. The landmark Non-Proliferation Treaty should be dramatically toughened, the report recommends, with the addition of real penalties for violators and a more robust International Atomic Energy Agency to carry out inspections and enforce the rules.

The United States should push for a global consensus banning states such as Iran and North Korea from adding to their stockpiles of enriched uranium and plutonium, while also ensuring supplies of commercial reactor fuel for countries that renounce nuclear weapons, the report says.

Commission members urged Barack Obama to take a tough line with both Iran and North Korea. If the president-elect seeks to engage the two countries diplomatically, they said, he should do so "from a position of strength, emphasizing both the benefits of them abandoning their nuclear programs and the enormous costs of failing to do so." Nuclear weapons in the hands of either regime not only pose a threat in their own right but also increase the chances of a destabilizing arms race, the report says.

Pakistan's buildup of nuclear arms also threatens to exacerbate a regional arms race, while presenting opportunities for terrorists to acquire weapons parts and critical technology, the commissioners concluded.

"Pakistan is our ally, but there is a grave danger it could also be an unwitting source of a terrorist attack on the United States -- possibly with weapons of mass destruction," the report says.

[Bush Regrets Faulty WMD Assessment of Iraq](#)  
*Global Security NewsWire* – December 2

U.S. President George W. Bush described faulty intelligence regarding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq as "the biggest regret" of his presidency, in an ABC News interview aired yesterday, but he declined to say whether he would have ordered the 2003 invasion if he had known the Middle Eastern state posed no WMD threat (see [GSN](#), May 7, 2007).

"The biggest regret of all the presidency has to have been the intelligence failure in Iraq," Bush said. "A lot of people put their reputations on the line and said the weapons of mass destruction is a reason to remove Saddam Hussein. It wasn't just people in my administration; a lot of members in Congress, prior to my arrival in Washington, D.C., during the debate on Iraq, a lot of leaders of nations around the world were all looking at the same intelligence."

"You know, that's not a do-over, but I wish the intelligence had been different, I guess," he added.

Asked whether there would have been a war had the prewar assessments had been correct, Bush replied, "You know, that's an interesting question. That is a do-over that I can't do. It's hard for me to speculate" (Charles Gibson, [ABC News](#), Dec. 1).

His reticence differed from earlier interviews in which Bush defended the invasion of Iraq after acknowledging that his WMD alarms had been mistaken (see [GSN](#), Feb. 9, 2004).

"Saddam Hussein was dangerous with weapons. Saddam Hussein was dangerous with the ability to make weapons. He was a dangerous man in a dangerous part of the world," Bush told NBC's *Meet the Press* in February 2004. "I believe it is essential that when we see a threat we deal with those threats before they become imminent. It's too late if they become imminent. It's too late in this new kind of war. And so that's why I made the decision I made."

"It's important for people to understand the context in which I made a decision in the Oval Office. I'm dealing with a world in which we have gotten struck by terrorists with airplanes, and we get intelligence saying that, you know, we want to harm America. And the worst nightmare scenario for any president is to realize that these kind of terrorist networks have the capacity to arm up with some of these deadly weapons, and they strike us. And the president of the United States' most solemn responsibility is to keep this country secure," he added (Greg Webb, *Global Security Newswire*, Dec. 2).