

P6/b(6)

P3/b(3)

10 USC 130b

Sent: Mon, 29 Jun 2009 21:59:02 -0400  
From: [REDACTED]  
To: [REDACTED]

JCS J2 HQ" <michael.flynn@js.pentagon.mil>,

"Flynn, Michael T MG

P3/b(3)

10 USC 130b

P6/b(6)

"Camp, Donald A." <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=donald\_a.\_camp">

**Bcc:** "Camp, Donald A." <"/o=eop/ou=first administrative group/cn=recipients/cn=donald\_a.\_camp">

**Subject:** Kirby Klips 30 Jun Morning Edition

[Kirby Klips 30 Jun Morning Edition.doc](#)

Kirby Klips for 30 Jun (morning edition) attached.

Tom Neis



# KIRBY KLIPS

Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff  
Tuesday, June 30, 2009



## Morning Edition

### TOP STORIES:

#### **1. Fireworks Over Baghdad As Iraqis Take Over Cities**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 29 JUN 09) ... Kim Gamel and Patrick Quinn

BAGHDAD – Iraqi forces assumed formal control of Baghdad and other cities Tuesday after American troops handed over security in urban areas in a defining step toward ending the U.S. combat role in the country. A countdown clock broadcast on Iraqi TV ticked to zero as the midnight deadline passed for U.S. combat troops to finish their pullback to bases outside cities.

#### **2. Afghan Guards Blamed In Gunfight**

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Richard A. Oppel Jr.

KABUL, Afghanistan — The police chief of Kandahar Province and five other police officers were killed in a gun battle Monday when about 40 Afghan security guards charged into the prosecutor's office in Kandahar and demanded the release of an accused car thief and counterfeiter, according to several senior Kandahar officials.

#### **3. U.S. Resumes Surveillance Flights Over Pakistan**

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Eric Schmitt and Mark Mazzetti

WASHINGTON — As Pakistan escalates military operations against a top Taliban leader, the United States has resumed secret military surveillance drone flights over the country's tribal areas to provide Pakistani commanders with a wide array of videos and other information on militants, according to American and Pakistani officials.

#### **4. Obama Says Honduran Ouster Was 'Not Legal'**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 29 JUN 09) ... Ben Feller

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday declared that the United States still considers Manuel Zelaya to be the president of Honduras and assailed the coup that forced him into exile as "not legal," widening the chasm between the Central American nation and much of the rest of the world.

### CHAIRMAN'S TRAVEL:

#### **5. Top US Officer Takes More Active Role On Afghanistan**

(VOICE OF AMERICA 29 JUN 09) ... Al Pessin

The top American military officer, Admiral Mike Mullen, has taken a particularly active role in changing the U.S. approach to Afghanistan, contributing to the new strategy, choosing the new commander for U.S. and NATO forces, and deciding to replace the previous one a year ahead of schedule.

#### **6. Mullen Outlines Top U.S. Threats**

(WTOP 29 JUN 09) ... Adm. Mike Mullen talks with WTOP's J.J. Green. J.J. Green, wtop.com

WASHINGTON - At any given moment, U.S. Adm. Mike Mullen is juggling at least a half dozen critical situations around the world.



## **7. Poland Waits Patiently For U.S. Decision On Missile Shield: FM**

(XINHUA 29 JUN 09)

WARSAW-- Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said on Monday that Poland waits patiently for the confirmation of the U.S. decision on the anti-missile shield to be stationed in the country.

## **IRAQ:**

## **8. U.S. Leaves Iraqi District Where Anger Lingers**

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Marc Santora

BAGHDAD — When Americans first set up a base in the Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliya more than two years ago, their first foot patrol lasted 20 minutes. Wading through sewage, they were shot at by snipers three times. They made it only four blocks.

## **9. Kirkuk In Question As U.S. Troops Leave Iraqi Cities**

(NPR 29 JUN 09) ... David "Quil" Lawrence

All Things Considered, · American troops are on schedule to meet Tuesday's deadline to be out of Iraq's cities. Both Baghdad and Washington are keen to have Iraqi troops take over responsibility for security, though more than 130,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq and significant reductions are not expected until after the Iraqi general election in January.

## **10. As Iraq Stabilizes, China Eyes Its Oil Fields**

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Keith Bradsher

HONG KONG — As the world's second-largest and fastest-growing consumer of oil, China is showing increasing interest in oil fields in a country that has until very recently seemed to be firmly in the American sphere of influence for natural resources: Iraq.

## **HONDURAS:**

## **11. Protesters Confront Soldiers After Coup In Honduras**

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Marc Lacey and Elisabeth Malkin

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — One day after the country's president, Manuel Zelaya, was abruptly awakened, ousted and deported by the army here, hundreds of protesters massed at the presidential offices in an increasingly tense face-off with hundreds of camouflage-clad soldiers carrying riot shields and automatic weapons.

## **12. Honduran Army Cuts Media After Military Coup**

(REUTERS 29 JUN 09)

TEGUCIGALPA - Honduras has shut down television and radio stations since an army coup over the weekend, in a media blackout that has drawn condemnation from an international press freedom group.

## **13. U.S. Treads Carefully In Honduras Crisis**

*A U.S. Effort To Forestall A Military Takeover Failed, And It Is Now Focused On Encouraging A Political Solution. But It Doesn't Threaten Sanctions And Won't Say Whether It Regards Events As A Coup.*

(REUTERS 29 JUN 09) ... Paul Richter

Reporting from Washington -- After failing to stave off the military coup in Honduras, the Obama administration moved gingerly Monday to try to undo it, leaving key levers of U.S. influence untouched as it urged Hondurans and other countries in the region to seek a settlement.

## **IRAN:**

## **14. Iranian Council Approves Election Outcome After Partial Recount**

(BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09) ... Ladane Nasser and Henry Meyer

Iran's Guardian Council declared President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the winner in the disputed June 12 vote, as authorities released some British embassy workers detained over post-election protests.

## **15. Iran Police Out In Force As Election Result Upheld**

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09) ... Jay Deshmukh

TEHRAN – Iranian police were out in force across the capital Tehran on Monday as the authorities upheld the official results of this month's fiercely-disputed presidential election over opposition protests.



## **16. Clinton Declines Comment On Ahmadinejad Reelection**

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09)

WASHINGTON – Secretary of State Hillary Clinton refrained from comment Monday on the reelection of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but pointed to a "credibility" gap for Iran's leadership.

## **AFGHANISTAN:**

## **17. Afghans Don't Look Up To 'Big Brother' Iran Like They Once Did**

(MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS 29 JUN 09) ... Philip Smucker,

HERAT, Afghanistan — Students at Afghanistan's Herat University thought that they were living in new era of openness, one in which the right to criticize authority was increasing.

## **18. Karzai Demands U.S. Forces Turn Over Afghan Killing Suspects**

(CNN 29 JUN 09)

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Tensions mounted between American-led coalition forces and the Afghan government Monday as Afghan President Hamid Karzai demanded U.S. troops hand over private security guards suspected of involvement in the killing of a top Kandahar law enforcement official.

## **PAKISTAN:**

## **19. Obama's Bid To Boost Exports From Pakistan Hits Snag Over Labor**

(BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09) ... Mark Drajem

President Barack Obama's bid to strengthen democracy in Pakistan and Afghanistan by boosting their exports is ensnared in a debate over labor rules between Democrats and companies such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

## **20. Pakistan Not To Relocate Troops From Eastern Border**

(PAKISTAN DAWN 29 JUN 09) ... Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira has ruled out the withdrawal of troops from the eastern border for deployment at the western border.

## **21. Pakistan Targets Taliban After Rebels Kill Soldiers**

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09) ... Hasbanullah Khan

MIRANSHAH, Pakistan – Fighter jets pounded Taliban rebel suspects in Pakistan's northwest tribal belt on Monday as the army vowed retaliation over the deaths of 16 soldiers in the worst such ambush in months.

## **22. Support For Pakistan's Anti-Taliban War Seen Solid**

(REUTERS 29 JUN 09) ... Faisal Aziz

KARACHI (Reuters) Two months into a Pakistani military offensive against Taliban militants, public opinion is firmly behind the civilian government and the military and it shows no sign of wavering.

## **23. Violence Across NW Pakistan Kills Dozens**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 29 JUN 09) ... Asif Shahzad

ISLAMABAD – Pakistani jets bombed suspected Taliban hideouts after a stray mortar shell crashed into a mosque during prayers, part of a wave of violence that claimed nearly 70 lives in 24 hours along the northwest region bordering Afghanistan, officials said Monday.

## **24. 'PAF, Pak Army Resolute To Thwart Any Challenge'**

(PAKISTAN TRIBUNE 30 JUN 09)

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani on Monday underlined that undoubtedly PAF and Pakistan Army are working shoulder to shoulder for country's defense and safeguard of borders.

## **25. Pakistan Rejects Talks With Militants Amid Offensive**

(BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09) ... Paul Tighe and Farhan Sharif

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said there will be no talks with militants because the army is taking decisive action against them "in a guerrilla fight" in the tribal region and in the Swat Valley.

## **RUSSIA:**

### **26. US, Russia Eye Deal To Boost Afghan Transit: Report**

(*AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09*)

MOSCOW – The United States and Russia may soon sign a deal boosting the transit of US supplies to Afghanistan through Russia, the Kommersant daily reported on Monday, citing diplomatic sources.

### **27. Flood Of Afghan Heroin Fuels Drug Plague In Russia**

(*MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS 29 JUN 09*) ... Tom Lasseter,

CHEL YABINSK, Russia — Young men with sores on their arms shuffled up the stairs of a dark, underground shopping arcade and into the daylight to plop dingy wads of rubles into the drug dealers' hands. The dealers casually reached into their pockets or plastic shopping bags and handed over tablets of synthetic morphine, a type also used as a horse tranquilizer, and paper packets that appeared to contain heroin.

### **28. Improved US-Russian Relations 'Will Take Time': Lavrov**

(*AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09*)

WASHINGTON – Russia's top diplomat cautioned against overly-optimistic expectations for an upcoming meeting between US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev, saying in an article Monday that improved relations "will take time."

### **29. Russia Begins War Games Near Georgia**

(*NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09*) ... Michael

MOSCOW — Russian military forces began large-scale war games on Monday in the Caucasus region, not far from the border with Georgia, raising tensions between the two countries less than a year after they went to war.

### **30. Russia, China To Hold Military Exercises In July**

(*AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09*)

MOSCOW - Russia and China will hold joint military exercises next month, a top Russian military official said Monday, as the giant neighbours work towards tighter cooperation.

## **PACIFIC:**

### **31. North Korean Actions 'Disturbing,' U.S. Prepared, Keating Says**

(*BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09*) ... Viola Gienger

Admiral Timothy Keating, the U.S. commander in the Pacific region, said the military is ready to handle any orders it might receive in response to North Korea's threatened missile launches and potential illicit shipments.

## **PIRACY:**

### **32. NATO Invites Russia To Participate In Anti-Piracy Operation**

(*ITAR-TASS 29 JUN 09*)

BRUSSELS - NATO sent an official invitation to Russia to participate in the NATO operation "Allied Protector" for the struggle with piracy off the Somali coast, Russian permanent representative at NATO Dmitry Rogozin said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass on Monday.

## **WOUNDED CARE:**

### **33. 'Chaplains' Closet Helps Landstuhl's Wounded Warriors**

(*AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE 26 JUN 09*) ... Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

LANDSTUHL, Germany – The boxes arrive daily from the United States, 15 to 20 each day, along with \$8,000 to \$12,000 in cash every week from Americans and U.S. nonprofit groups.

### **34. Retiring Marine Pushed Establishing Support For Recuperating Troops**

(*WASHINGTON POST 29 JUN 09*) ... Steve Vogel

Back from Iraq, recuperating from a severe head wound, Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell visited other recovering Marines and began asking himself a question: Why were they alone?



## VETERANS:

### **35. Some Veterans Of Recent Wars Find Homelessness At Home**

*Soldiers Returning From The Middle East End Up On The Street And Have Trouble Coping With A Return To Civilian Life.*

(LOS ANGELES TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Jia-Rui Chong

It was, back then, a joke Luis Pinto shared with his Army buddies in Iraq. As they were all eating food out of tin cans, living out of rucksacks, moving constantly from place to place, Pinto cracked, "If I become homeless, I'm ready."

## EDITORIAL:

### **36. The 'Failed State' Syndrome Again**

(PAKISTAN DAILY TIMES 30 JUN 09) ... Editorial

An American journal has compiled a list of 177 states with a descending order of viability in the modern world; and Pakistan is in the top ten "failed states". There is only a marginal improvement in status as the last time the list appeared Pakistan was 9th on it.

### **37. China's N.K. Policy**

(THE KOREAN HERALD 29 JUN 09) ... Editorial

On his visit to Tokyo Sunday, President Lee Myung-bak reaffirmed with Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso their governments' joint efforts to achieve the denuclearization of North Korea. As much as Seoul and Tokyo pledged closer cooperation toward their common goal, greater distance is felt between China and its two neighbors to the east.

## OP-ED:

### **38. U.S. Troops Withdraw From Iraq's Cities**

(WASHINGTON POST 30 JUN 09)

The Post asked foreign policy experts for their views on American troops' pullback from Iraqi cities. Below are contributions from Daniel P. Serwer, Michael O'Hanlon, Andrew J. Bacevich and John A. Nagl.

### **39. When Will The U.S. Recognize That Pyongyang Renounced The Armistice?**

(WALL STREET JOURNAL 29 JUN 09) ... Gordon G. Chang

At this moment the Kang Nam, a North Korea tramp freighter, is on the high seas tailed by a team of American destroyers and submarines and watched by reconnaissance satellites and aircraft. On board, its cargo could be plutonium pellets, missile parts or semi-ripe melons. In any event, Washington wants to know what is in the rusty ship's hold.

## OTHER:

### **40. Obama Junks 'Global War On Terror' Label**

(FINANCIAL TIMES 30 JUN 09) ... Edward Luce and Daniel Dombey in Washington

The Obama administration has junked the term "global war on terror" because it does not describe properly the nature of the terrorist threat to the US, according to Janet Napolitano, secretary for homeland security.



## TOP STORIES:

### 1. Fireworks Over Baghdad As Iraqis Take Over Cities

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 29 JUN 09) ... Kim Gamel and Patrick Quinn

BAGHDAD – Iraqi forces assumed formal control of Baghdad and other cities Tuesday after American troops handed over security in urban areas in a defining step toward ending the U.S. combat role in the country. A countdown clock broadcast on Iraqi TV ticked to zero as the midnight deadline passed for U.S. combat troops to finish their pullback to bases outside cities.

"The withdrawal of American troops is completed now from all cities after everything they sacrificed for the sake of security," said Sadiq al-Rikabi, a senior adviser to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. "We are now celebrating the restoration of sovereignty."

The Pentagon did not offer any comment to mark the passing of the deadline.

Fireworks, not bombings, colored the Baghdad skyline late Monday, and thousands attended a party in a park where singers performed patriotic songs. Loudspeakers at police stations and military checkpoints played recordings of similar tunes throughout the day, as Iraqi military vehicles decorated with flowers and national flags patrolled the capital.

"All of us are happy — Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds on this day," Waleed al-Bahadili said as he celebrated at the park. "The Americans harmed and insulted us too much."

Al-Maliki declared a public holiday and proclaimed June 30 as "National Sovereignty Day."

Midnight's handover to Iraqi forces filled many citizens with pride but also trepidation that government forces are not ready and that violence will rise. Shiites fear more bombings by Sunni militants; Sunnis fear that the Shiite-dominated Iraqi security forces will give them little protection.

If the Iraqis can hold down violence in the coming months, it will show the country is finally on the road to stability. If they fail, it will pose a challenge to President Barack Obama's pledge to end an unpopular war that has claimed the lives of more than 4,300 U.S. troops and tens of thousands of Iraqis.

The gathering at the Baghdad park was unprecedented in size for such a postwar event in a city where people tend to avoid large gatherings for fear of suicide bombers. They ignored an appeal by Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi to stay away from crowded places during the U.S. pullback, which has seen more than 250 people killed in bombings over the past 10 days.

Security at the party was stifling, as it was throughout much of Baghdad where increased checkpoints dotted the streets and identity checks were methodical. Police using bomb sniffers searched every man, woman and child who attended the party.

In a ceremony rich with symbolism, the top U.S. military commander in Baghdad, Maj. Gen. Daniel Bolger, gave his Iraqi counterpart the keys to the former defense ministry building, which had served as a joint base.

"On the eve of the 30th of June 2009 in accord with a security agreement between Iraq and America, Iraqis take the lead in Baghdad," Bolger said.

The withdrawal, required under a U.S.-Iraqi security pact, marks the first major step toward withdrawing all American

[Return to Index](#)

forces from the country by Dec. 31, 2011. Obama has said all combat troops will be gone by the end of August 2010.

Despite Tuesday's formal pullback, some U.S. troops will remain in the cities to train and advise Iraqi forces. U.S. troops will return to the cities only if asked. The U.S. military will continue combat operations in rural areas and near the border, but only with the Iraqi government's permission.

The U.S. has not said how many troops will be in the cities in advisory roles, but the vast majority of the more than 130,000 U.S. forces remaining in the country will be in large bases scattered outside cities.

There have been some worries that the 650,000-member Iraqi military is not ready to maintain stability and deal with a stubborn insurgency.

Privately, many U.S. officers worry the Iraqis will be overwhelmed if violence surges, having relied for years on the Americans for nearly everything.

"We think they are ready," U.S. Ambassador Christopher Hill told The Associated Press in an interview Monday. He said his main concern was that a lack of progress in efforts to reconcile Shiite, Sunnis and Kurds was feeding the violence that still marks the daily lives of many Iraqis.

"Frankly they need to pick up the pace," Hill said of the national reconciliation effort.

The commander of U.S. troops in the Middle East, Gen. David Petraeus, expressed concern about the spate of high-profile bombings but said the average daily number of attacks remained low at 10 to 15 compared with 160 in June 2007.

"While certainly there will be challenges — there are many difficult political issues, social issues, governmental development issues — we feel confident in the Iraqi security forces continuing the process of taking over the security tasks in their own country," said Petraeus after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Cairo.

Despite some concerns, al-Maliki appears eager to see the Americans leave and has urged Iraqis to hold steady against any rise in violence. Ahead of national elections next year, al-Maliki is portraying himself as the leader who defeated terrorism and ended the U.S. occupation.

Iraqi officials said they are expecting some violence but would not allow it to trigger the sectarianism that nearly sparked a civil war in 2006-2007.

At that time, death squads roamed the streets, slaughtering members of the rival Muslim sect. Bombs rocked Baghdad daily — until thousands of U.S. troops poured in, establishing neighborhood bases and taking control of the Iraqi capital and other cities.

While the U.S. troop surge strategy was successful in stemming the bloodshed, many Iraqis also saw it as an affront to their national pride.

On a visit to Ramadi, a Sunni city 70 miles west of the capital, Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani, a Shiite, told the AP that when the sun rises on Tuesday "Iraqi citizens will see no U.S. soldiers in their cities. They will see only Iraqi troops protecting them."



## 2. Afghan Guards Blamed In Gunfight

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Richard A. Oppel Jr.

KABUL, Afghanistan — The police chief of Kandahar Province and five other police officers were killed in a gun battle Monday when about 40 Afghan security guards charged into the prosecutor's office in Kandahar and demanded the release of an accused car thief and counterfeiter, according to several senior Kandahar officials.

The case immediately raised diplomatic tensions after Afghan government officials said the guards worked for American forces.

President Hamid Karzai cited reports that blamed gunmen from "a private security company employed by coalition forces" and demanded that American and NATO forces hand over the guards to Afghan authorities.

"Such incidents negatively impact the state building process in Afghanistan" and "weaken the government," he said in a statement.

An American military spokesman in Kabul said no American or NATO troops had been involved in the shooting. The spokesman, Chief Petty Officer Brian Naranjo of the Navy, said he could not comment on whether the accused Afghan guards were employed by coalition forces. But he denied that they were "acting on behalf of U.S. or international forces."

"These men acted on their own," he said.

By Monday evening, though, a heated dispute emerged between Mr. Karzai and the American military. One American military official said the military had determined that the gunmen were from a specialized branch of the Afghan Interior Ministry that carries out counternarcotics operations and that they were not on the United States payroll.

[Return to Index](#)

## 3. U.S. Resumes Surveillance Flights Over Pakistan

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Eric Schmitt and Mark Mazzetti

WASHINGTON — As Pakistan escalates military operations against a top Taliban leader, the United States has resumed secret military surveillance drone flights over the country's tribal areas to provide Pakistani commanders with a wide array of videos and other information on militants, according to American and Pakistani officials.

The sharing of real-time video feeds, communications intercepts and other information with Pakistan's military is considered essential in the country's campaign to help hunt down the Taliban leader, Baitullah Mehsud, and destroy his hideouts and fighters in the country's northwest, the officials said.

The increased intelligence cooperation comes as the Obama administration is also speeding the delivery of transport helicopters, body armor and other equipment that Pakistan's military has requested to help combat Mr. Mehsud and to prepare for a major offensive in the militant leader's stronghold in South Waziristan.

The noncombat surveillance flights along the border with Afghanistan are different from the armed C.I.A.-operated drones that have attacked several Taliban targets in recent months and days. Last Tuesday, an American drone strike on a funeral in Pakistan's tribal areas missed Mr. Mehsud by hours, a Pakistani security official said.

The gunmen have conducted training and other operations with American troops, but they are "very much on the payroll and take their missions from the M.O.I.," said the official, referring to the ministry. He said the Americans were angered by Mr. Karzai's statements.

The skirmish shocked even the war-weary residents of Kandahar, one of the country's most dangerous cities and a Taliban stronghold. People near the shooting sprinted down a street and sought refuge inside shops. "Nothing is safe in this country!" one man screamed as he ducked into an electronics store. "Anything can happen."

The prosecutor, Haffizullah Khaliq Yar, said at least 40 Afghan security guards, some armed with heavy weapons, "raided the office and locked up our workers in their rooms." He said the men were trying to free Assadullah, whom he described as a car thief and counterfeiter.

The prosecutor refused to release the prisoner and called the provincial police chief, Matiullah Qati, for assistance. Mr. Qati rushed to the office, and a fire fight subsequently broke out. The security guards killed Mr. Qati and another senior provincial police official, Abdul Khaliq, local officials said. They said they believed the men worked for American Special Operations forces.

The governor of Kandahar, Torkyalai Wesa, later said that 41 members of a private security company had already been detained and sent to Kabul for questioning. He did not name the company, but said it was employed by "foreigners."

Muhibullah Habib contributed reporting from Kandahar, Afghanistan, and Ruhullah Khapalwak from Kabul.

Responding to Pakistan's renewed request for sophisticated surveillance information gets around, at least for the moment, the tensions surrounding the administration's refusal to grant repeated requests by President Asif Ali Zardari of Pakistan that his country be given its own armed Predator drones to attack fighters of Al Qaeda and the Taliban in the mountainous tribal areas.

American intelligence operatives who operate the armed drones inside Pakistan remain opposed to joint operations with Pakistani intelligence services, pointing out that past attempts were a failure. Several years ago, American officials gave Pakistan advance word of planned Predator attacks, but stopped the practice after the information leaked to militants.

Under the intelligence-sharing arrangement, which resumed in the past few weeks but has not previously been made public, Pakistani ground forces receive direct support for several hours a day, though not necessarily every day, from remotely piloted American military aircraft based in Afghanistan, a senior American defense official said.

The agreement allows the Pakistani military to request that the American military drones fly noncombat surveillance missions over certain swaths of territory in South Waziristan where it suspects militant activity, the American official said. Video feeds from the drones are relayed to a joint coordination



center at a border crossing at the Khyber Pass, where a Pakistan military team monitors the video and sends it to command centers in Pakistan, the official said.

"There has been a lot of improvement in I.S.R.-related U.S. support to Pakistan," said a senior Pakistani security official, referring to intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. But, he acknowledged, the technical connections have not been completely worked out.

American and Pakistani officials are still installing equipment to enhance and expand the flow of information from the joint coordination center to Pakistani security databases across the border, the Pakistani official said.

But Pakistani commanders have used the surveillance and communications information from the American drones to track cross-border movements of militants and to monitor specific areas for insurgent activity that can be attacked by Pakistani helicopter gunships or F-16 attack planes.

The Pakistani and American militaries agreed to the surveillance flights earlier this year as a way to lend American technology to Pakistan's efforts against militants. The drone missions were also seen as an incremental step in building trust between two militaries long suspicious of each other's motives.

The Pakistanis authorized drone missions over Bajaur and surrounding locations near the Afghan border, but the requests ended abruptly when Pakistani troops launched offensives in Swat and Buner, areas deep inside Pakistani territory just dozens of miles from Islamabad.

Pakistani officials worried about the risks of flying American drones so far from the border, and they feared that a Predator being shot down or crashing might spark public anger about American involvement in domestic Pakistani matters.

[Return to Index](#)

#### 4. Obama Says Honduran Ouster Was 'Not Legal'

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 29 JUN 09) ... Ben Feller

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday declared that the United States still considers Manuel Zelaya to be the president of Honduras and assailed the coup that forced him into exile as "not legal," widening the chasm between the Central American nation and much of the rest of the world.

"It would be a terrible precedent if we start moving backwards into the era in which we are seeing military coups as a means of political transition rather than democratic elections," Obama said in the Oval Office after meeting with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. "The region has made enormous progress over the last 20 years in establishing democratic traditions in Central America and Latin America. We don't want to go back to a dark past."

Leaders from across the Western Hemisphere and beyond called for return to power of Zelaya, who was arrested Sunday morning by soldiers who stormed his residence and forced him into exile. The country now has another president appointed by its Congress, Roberto Micheletti, who insisted that Zelaya was removed legally by the courts and Congress for violating Honduras' constitution and attempting to extend his own rule.

As the military takeover roiled a region that Obama just visited in April, he sought a political balance of showing firmness without boxing himself in.

Obama said the U.S. must always "stand with democracy"

Now, with Pakistani troops preparing for an offensive in South Waziristan — a mountainous region abutting the Afghan border — these concerns have receded and the drone missions have resumed.

American and Pakistani officials said that the intelligence sharing has helped in going after Mr. fighters and confederates. They said that American drone operators were now concentrating on militants who are of interest to the Pakistanis, like Mr. Mehsud, and not just foreign fighters and Al Qaeda operatives who posed more of a direct threat to the United States and American interests abroad.

Spokesmen for the White House's National Security Council, Defense Department and United States Central Command declined to comment for this article. Four American and Pakistani officials provided general details of the military surveillance flights, but only on condition of anonymity because of the continuing operations and because the United States remains very unpopular in Pakistani public opinion polls these days.

President Obama's national security adviser, James L. Jones, and Gen. David H. Petraeus, the head of the military's Central Command, have visited Pakistan recently to discuss security arrangements. Richard C. Holbrooke, the administration's special representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, is expected in the next several days to pay his fourth trip to the region since assuming his role earlier this year.

Pakistani officials say they have continued to expressed frustration in private that the United States is not sharing the targets of the armed drone attacks in advance — revealing lingering distrust on both sides — and that the C.I.A. is not sharing the assessments of their strikes in a timely way, often giving them to Pakistani officials days after an attack.

even if doesn't like the results of elections.

But he was careful to cast the crisis as not one that the United States must solve alone, and he did not explicitly demand that Zelaya be returned to power. Rather, he said the U.S. would work with international partners on the less-defined goal of trying to "resolve this in a peaceful way."

The president also was careful when asked about the underlying conflict in Honduras — the referendum Zelaya had called in defiance of Honduras' courts and Congress. Zelaya's opponents saw it as a way for him to ultimately stay in power beyond his one-term limit. The vote never took place.

Obama said such matters are up to each country to decide, stirring up echoes of his comments on Iran, whose electoral crisis has grabbed world attention.

"What's ultimately most important is that the people feel a sense of legitimacy and ownership, and that this is not something imposed on them from the top, that it does not involve manipulations of the electorate or, you know, rigging of the electoral process or repression of opposition voices," Obama said Monday.

As Obama talked about the voices of the people being heard, thousands of people protested in the Honduran capital city of Tegucigalpa outside the presidential palace. Police and soldiers are used tear gas to scatter them.

Obama's message — "We believe that the coup was not



legal and that President Zelaya remains the president of Honduras" — seemed more blunt than that of his secretary of state, Hillary Rodham Clinton, earlier in the day. But they both emphasized the broader point of returning constitutional order.

When Clinton was asked directly if the U.S. was insisting on Zelaya's return to power, she said: "We haven't laid out any demands that we're insisting on because we're working with others on behalf of our ultimate objectives, which are shared broadly."

Zelaya, forced to go to Costa Rica, planned to address the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday. The Organization of American States called an emergency meeting of foreign ministers for Tuesday as well.

And leaders wondered nervously about the broader implications of a hostile takeover that officials from the U.S. and other countries could not prevent.

"As we move forward, all parties have a responsibility to address the underlying problems that led to yesterday's events," Clinton said.

Coups were common in Central America for four decades reaching back to the 1950s, but Sunday's ouster was the first military power grab in Latin America since a brief, failed 2002 coup against Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez. It was

[Return to Index](#)

the first in Central America since military officials forced President Jorge Serrano of Guatemala to step down in 1993 after he tried to dissolve Congress and suspend the constitution.

White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said Obama has not spoken with Zelaya since the Honduran leader was forced into exile. Gibbs said it was premature to talk about whether the U.S. would withdraw its ambassador or seek to cut off aid from Honduras.

Chavez, a leftist ally of Zelaya, vowed to "overthrow" Micheletti; the appointed national president shot back: "Nobody scares us."

Zelaya's term ends on Jan. 27, with elections scheduled for November.

Obama's comments were the second in two days. While Clinton said on the day of the takeover that the action against Zelaya should be "condemned by all," the president himself called on all "political and social actors in Honduras to respect democratic norms."

Associated Press writers Robert Burns in Washington, Julie Watson in Mexico City and Will Weissert in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, contributed to this story.

## CHAIRMAN'S TRAVEL:

### 5. Top US Officer Takes More Active Role On Afghanistan

(VOICE OF AMERICA 29 JUN 09) ... Al Pessin

The top American military officer, Admiral Mike Mullen, has taken a particularly active role in changing the U.S. approach to Afghanistan, contributing to the new strategy, choosing the new commander for U.S. and NATO forces, and deciding to replace the previous one a year ahead of schedule.

During a trip with the admiral to Europe, VOA Pentagon Correspondent Al Pessin spoke to him about the new strategy and why he has taken such an active role.

As chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mullen's main job is to be the top military adviser to the president and the secretary of defense. In that role, he must keep close watch on U.S. military operations, worldwide, as well as the strategic environment related to the full range of U.S. national security interests. It is a job with little direct authority but potentially huge influence, and during this, his second year on the job, Admiral Mullen has been using that influence to the fullest.

"I've got to do what I think is right," he said. "What motivates me more than anything else is I've got young people out there who are sacrificing their lives, sacrificing like I've never seen, certainly, in my time. And, I'm anxious to do as much as I possibly can to try to get it right for them."

The 62-year-old admiral's focus has been the allied effort in Afghanistan and related security issues in neighboring Pakistan.

"I have a sense of urgency about Afghanistan that, if we don't get it right within the next 12-to-18 months, we may not ever get it right," he said. "And, at the same time, I really think we can get it right. I can see the way it needs to be done. I think we've learned a lot of lessons in Iraq, from a counterinsurgency standpoint, so that we can meet the sense of

urgency that's there to move rapidly."

Lessons learned

Those lessons include the need to focus on protecting civilians, rather than necessarily killing insurgents, especially when the insurgents attack from civilian areas, as they often do. And, that requires more forces, a near doubling of U.S. troops, which are flowing into Afghanistan now.

"In the end, we can't win it if we don't get this right," said Admiral Mullen. "We can't keep killing Afghan civilians and hope to win. It's just not going to work."

But recent incidents in which U.S. air strikes have caused large numbers of civilian casualties have worked against that strategy. That is why the admiral's hand-picked new commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, General Stanley McChrystal, will soon issue new orders to his forces on the use of air power.

The worst incident was in early May in Farah Province.

An official U.S. investigation says 26 people were confirmed killed when an American air crew violated procedures and bombed a building where Taliban fighters had taken refuge, without knowing whether civilians were inside. The American military acknowledges the civilian death toll may be higher, but says it is not as high as the 140 dead some Afghan officials have claimed.

Admiral Mullen says General McChrystal will use the Farah incident to push for a fundamental shift in how the troops on the ground think, how they plan and when they call in air strikes.

Civilian casualties

He says even junior officers and enlisted troops must understand the strategic need to gain the support of the Afghan



people, even as they face deadly threats in the heat of battle.

"You can have a tactical victory and a strategic defeat," he said. "We can't keep generating tactical victories which give us strategic defeats."

Admiral Mike Mullen, left, Rear Admiral Scott Van Baskirk talk with Pakistani Army General Ashfaq Kayani and Pakistani Army Lt. General Ahmad Shuja Pasha (US Navy Photo)

The admiral says the new directive will help, but there also needs to be training and combat planners from all allied nations need to think ahead, in detail, to try to avoid creating, or being drawn into, situations in which civilians will be at risk. In the Farah incident, the U.S. investigation says Afghan troops initiated an operation against a strong Taliban unit without sufficient planning, causing an American unit to come to their aid and later resulting in the errant air strike.

But Admiral Mullen says the troops will still be free to protect themselves. And, he acknowledges there will still, inevitably, be some civilian casualties.

He also acknowledges that sometimes the new approach

[Return to Index](#)

## 6. Mullen Outlines Top U.S. Threats

(WTOP 29 JUN 09) ... Adm. Mike Mullen talks with WTOP's J.J. Green. J.J. Green, wtop.com

WASHINGTON - At any given moment, U.S. Adm. Mike Mullen is juggling at least a half dozen critical situations around the world.

The final hours before taking off for Moscow to iron out details of a military cooperation agreement with Russia were no different for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the fight against the Taliban inside Pakistan, al-Qaida's intent to attack the U.S. and Iran are the issues Mullen says he is grappling with right now.

"The biggest concern I have right now is in the broader Middle East," says Mullen. "We are in a position in Iraq where we're decreasing our footprint over the next year and a half, considerably to meet the president's direction to have all troops out of Iraq by the end of 2011."

At the same time Mullen says, "We're increasing the number of forces we've got in Afghanistan and Pakistan. It is in that region -- in Afghanistan and Pakistan -- I think the No. 1 threat that we have right now, is al -Qaida."

Mullen says al-Qaida's main goal "is to attack Western interests."

But another threat, North Korea, is most pressing.

"What is most important in my view is that somehow this leader gets the message that he's just continuing to isolate himself and his people," says Mullen.

He pulled no punches when discussing Kim Jong il's behavior.

"He is somewhat unpredictable. Clearly that's the case," says Mullen.

When asked about U.S. military preparation to deal with a possible missile launch in the direction of Hawaii, Mullen responded confidently.

"I think we're very well postured and in a position to be able to address the threat. I have great confidence in our forces and our ability to do that."

When pressed on just what would be done, Mullen says the U.S. would "take all necessary measures to defend our people."

may mean more danger for U.S. and allied troops. But he says, in the long term, more support from the Afghan people will reduce the danger, overall.

"If you reduce strategically, you reduce risk to the force."

Admiral Mullen is reluctant to discuss his own activist role, compared to his two predecessors who commentators have criticized for not doing enough to ensure victories in Iraq and Afghanistan, years ago. But with the new strategy and the new commander in Afghanistan, who he calls "the best we have," Admiral Mullen is clearly embarking on his second two-year term as a man on a mission.

"At a time when I'm losing members of our military, when they're paying the ultimate sacrifice, I think I owe them the best military leader I have and the best I can do to support him," he said.

Admiral Mullen calls the new U.S. strategy for Afghanistan and Pakistan "a strategy of new leadership," and leadership, he says, is what solves the toughest problems.

While clear on the threats, he's keenly aware of the advantage he has.

"Now, it's an extraordinary, challenging time, but those 2.2 million men and women (Americans in the military) and their families are the best I've ever seen. America can be proud of who they are and what they do every single day," Mullen says.

But the phalanx of trouble that faces the U.S. military requires more than military preparation. It requires allies. He expressed confidence that aligning with Russia - and even China - could help the U.S. deter destabilizing behavior by countries such as North Korea.

"I think it's very important that the United States and Russia have a strong relationship," he says.

The visit was not just about being friends with the Russians. Dividends of such a relationship extend far beyond Russia.

Sitting at a conference room table in his large office at the Pentagon, Mullen talked about Russia's significance.

"We have common interests in, for instance, Afghanistan. Every Russian I've talked to does not want to see the Taliban return to running Afghanistan. There are a lot of drugs which run out of Afghanistan, and one of the places they go is into Russia."

While traveling, he'll do so while keeping Iran in his rear view mirror. Because of the political and nuclear rhetoric being driven by the hard-line government there, there is a collision with the west coming for Iran.

"It could be a very, very bad situation if Iran doesn't change how it's evolving particularly with this capability," said Mullen.

That capability that has Israel on edge, and he sympathizes with that country's leadership.

"I share the concern that the continued development of nuclear capability on the part of Iran is one that is potentially very destabilizing."

He's hopeful that diplomacy will work.

"President Obama and his administration are reaching out



to Iran in a dialogue which has not taken place for almost 30 years. So, I eagerly await that engagement to hopefully defuse

[Return to Index](#)

## 7. Poland Waits Patiently For U.S. Decision On Missile Shield: FM

(XINHUA 29 JUN 09)

WARSAW-- Polish Foreign Minister Radoslaw Sikorski said on Monday that Poland waits patiently for the confirmation of the U.S. decision on the anti-missile shield to be stationed in the country.

The minister stressed that the agreement on the anti-missile shield signed by Poland and the United States last August was accompanied by a declaration providing for the deployment in Poland of a Patriot missile battery.

"The declaration specifies that a garrison will be set up in a location selected by the Polish side in accordance with its defense needs by the end of the year 2012. Rotational stationing of the Patriot missiles is possible also before that date," Sikorski was quoted as saying by the Polish news agency PAP.

There are no legal problems preventing such rotational deployment to begin still this year. "We would be pleased if this is indeed the case, but we will not enter into a dispute over a few months this way or another," Sikorski noted.

Poland wants the missiles "not only to arrive here armed, but also to be incorporated IT-wise into our air defense system," he stressed.

The foreign minister ironized about some recent Polish press articles suggesting that the U.S. authorities, including President Barack Obama, preferred to put off detailed agreements with Poland concerning the Patriot missile base and the anti-missile shield base in Redzikowo.

[Return to Index](#)

what could be a very, very bad situation."

"We are waiting for the confirmation of U.S. decisions on Redzikowo, the Patriot base should be ready by 2012," the minister noted.

Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen said on Monday that the installation of Patriots in Poland would be possible after the signing of a Polish-U.S. SOFA accord on the stationing of U.S. troops on Polish territory.

Mullen, who was in Warsaw to meet with his Polish counterpart, General Franciszek Gajgor, added that the Patriots could be located in Poland "within weeks or months," but noted that the missiles would be armed only for training purposes.

Under the Polish-U.S. accord signed last year, 10 ground base interceptors are to be installed in Redzikowo, northern Poland, as part of a larger missile defense system that would include a radar system in the Czech Republic.

Russia objects to the missile shield plan, warning it will deploy a short-range missile system in its Baltic enclave of Kaliningrad bordering Poland in response to the U.S. system.

Earlier this year, U.S. President Barack Obama launched a review of the controversial plan, saying the anti-missile system must be cost-effective and proven to work.

## IRAQ:

### 8. U.S. Leaves Iraqi District Where Anger Lingers

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Marc Santora

BAGHDAD — When Americans first set up a base in the Baghdad neighborhood of Ghazaliya more than two years ago, their first foot patrol lasted 20 minutes. Wading through sewage, they were shot at by snipers three times. They made it only four blocks.

Now, as American soldiers withdraw from such outposts as part of a security agreement that goes into effect Tuesday, the last stand is drawing to a close. The base, renamed Casino, will eventually become part of an Iraqi National Police garrison, while three other bases in the neighborhood have been dismantled altogether or turned over to Iraqi security forces.

With attacks in the neighborhood down to a fraction of past levels, there is little for the hundred soldiers in one of the last remaining combat units in Baghdad to do. When Lt. Brandon Stevenson, 25, joined his Iraqi Army counterparts on a rare joint patrol in mid-June, the only surprise during their three-hour walk was coming upon an Iraqi soldier carrying a rocket propelled grenade launcher on his shoulder — "for looks," his commanding officer said.

In this one western Baghdad neighborhood, it is possible to see the story of the American "surge" in troop strength up close.

Compared with two years ago, before the surge began, the gains are striking, with attacks in Ghazaliya lower than at any time since Americans began tracking violence in the city — averaging 1.77 a day for the last month, down from about 6 or 7 a day as late as last October, American military officials said.

Schools are open, including one where a teacher had been strung up by her feet and had her face cut off by extremists. For the first time since the outbreak of the war, major thoroughfares are lit up at night. Streets where raw sewage once streamed are now merely battered and strewn with trash.

But beneath the calm, the original sectarian tensions that exploded into civil war remain.

Few displaced families have moved back into their houses, with Shiites living in the northern half and Sunnis in the south. Responsibility for security is also equally divided — the National Police for the Shiite area and the Iraqi Army for the Sunnis.

"Right now we are balanced on a knife's edge," said Hamid Majeed, a Sunni speaking near the rubble of a Shiite mosque that was blown up in 2006. "We do not like the Americans, but we also thank God when we see them with the Iraqi Army, because we know we can trust them more than the



government forces.”

The lingering resentments and fears that run through interviews with security officers, residents and former fighters on both sides of the sectarian divide help explain why the tenuous peace still depends on an overwhelming display of force — with nearly one Iraqi security officer for every four residents. “There are armed groups just waiting for the Americans to pull out,” said Staff Sgt. Nasar Jubeir Mutar of the National Police, citing intelligence reports.

Baghdad remains a fortress city, and in Ghazaliya the sheer number of people working for the security forces is astounding.

There are more than 500 Army soldiers, 700 National Police officers and 400 members of the Sunni Awakening, which allied itself with the Americans to help restore order across Iraq, as well as several hundred regular Iraqi police officers, the secret police and armed traffic police officers.

There is no reliable survey of the number of people living here, but conservative estimates put it at about 13,000. Over the course of several weeks visiting the neighborhood, it appeared that every fifth house or so remained abandoned.

Two young men, Ahmed, a Shiite connected to the local militia, and Aham, involved with local Sunni insurgents, recalled how sectarian battle lines were drawn over the construction of a Shiite mosque in southern Ghazaliya in 2004.

“When they were building the mosque, extremists in the neighborhood warned them that it would be blown up,” said Ahmed, who declined to give his last name for fear of retaliation.

They did so in February 2004, and Shiites exacted revenge 10 days later, executing two people they believed had been responsible.

Both sides agreed this was the spark that led to an all-out war for control of the neighborhood. Ghazaliya was strategically important for Sunni fighters because it straddles the main highway into Baghdad from the west — where Sunni insurgents held many strongholds.

“Originally, the Shiites were forced from their homes so the Sunnis could control access to the main highway leading into Ghazaliya,” he said.

Early on, Sunnis were ascendant, taking control of almost all of the neighborhood.

But in 2006, a revered Shiite mosque in Samarra was bombed and days later the rebuilt Shiite shrine in Ghazaliya was destroyed for the second time.

“There was no more patience,” said Ahmed. The Shiite militias stepped up recruitment, using block leaders to sign up nearly every young man of fighting age.

They began reclaiming the neighborhood, forcing out Sunni families. By January 2007, it was clear that the Sunni side was losing.

Seizing on the desperation of Sunni insurgents, foreign fighters were able to entrench themselves in the neighborhood.

[Return to Index](#)

## 9. Kirkuk In Question As U.S. Troops Leave Iraqi Cities

(NPR 29 JUN 09) ... David "Quil" Lawrence

All Things Considered, - American troops are on schedule to meet Tuesday's deadline to be out of Iraq's cities. Both Baghdad and Washington are keen to have Iraqi troops take over responsibility for security, though more than

Those fighters, who Ahmed said were aligned with Al Qaeda in Mesopotamia, a mostly homegrown Sunni insurgent group that American intelligence says is foreign-led, were not only brutal in battling Shiites but also in enforcing control over Sunni residents.

When Americans established their base, squarely along they came across the female teacher at a Sunni school who had been raped, murdered, mutilated and strung up by her feet for all to see.

“She was an English teacher and Al Qaeda thought that meant she could be a spy for the Americans and wanted to set an example,” the other young man, Aham, said.

Although local Sunni residents were increasingly upset about such harsh tactics, they did not dare to approach the Iraqi security forces for protection, because they were viewed as an extension of the Shiite militias.

So after the Americans set up their outpost in January 2007, they were able to convince many local Sunnis to work with them, as part of the Sunni Awakening.

Col. Ra’ad Ali, a former officer in Saddam Hussein’s Special Forces, said a group of former officers warily approached the Americans. “If anyone went to the base to sit with an American and talk with them, they say he is a spy and they kill him,” he said. “So every day when we go, we try and take six or seven guys from the neighborhood just to act as witnesses.”

Over the past two years, Americans built on those early contacts and forged deep ties with many in the neighborhood, both Sunni and Shiite.

Entrusting those intelligence sources to Iraqi forces is one of the greatest challenges still facing Capt. Matthew Todd.

Americans are turning over all their contacts, but since they do not reveal the identities of their sources, they must help foster a link between them and Iraqi security forces — a continuing challenge, since the Shiite government believes many of the Sunni militias are little more than cover for insurgents.

“I don’t want to assign any of them to be in my force,” said Capt. Ishan Falah Hassan of the National Police. “In my opinion, and this is not the government opinion, many of them should be arrested.”

He said the American strategy of paying them for doing little more than stopping their attacks on them was clever, but it was time for the whole system to end.

Still, he worries that there are networks of extremists waiting to attack. Last week, Iraqi forces raided the neighborhood and arrested a man that some high-ranking Iraqi officials said had been involved in the assassination of the top Sunni politician in Iraq, Harith al-Obaidi, in a possible signal of an internal struggle for control over the Sunni bloc.

“The terrorism cells were sleeping and they are ready to attack,” Captain Hassan said. “Many of the bad guys have been eliminated but there are many more waiting.”

130,000 U.S. troops remain in Iraq and significant reductions are not expected until after the Iraqi general election in January.

But as the U.S. military slowly steps back, it will also be



losing influence in Iraq's many outstanding disputes — one of which is over Kirkuk, home to many of Iraq's ethnic and religious groups and the country's vast oil wealth.

A few celebrations were held Monday in Baghdad, marking the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq's cities to outlying bases and posts. U.S. troops will continue to patrol with Iraqi forces in some urban areas.

But in some parts of Iraq, the mood remains somber. The town of Taza, in the northern province of Kirkuk, is still trying to pick up the pieces of its central square.

#### Blast Highlights Challenges

A massive truck bomb in Taza last week killed nearly 80 people. Days later, residents are still digging out ruined homes and washing debris from the street.

U.S. military officials suspect that the bombers were aiming for Kirkuk, but were discouraged by security checkpoints. Taza may have simply been the nearest town they could find to hit. It is also an ethnic Turkoman town, and predominately Shiite Muslim.

"We are united in Iraq," says Taza's mayor, Hadi Fatah. He says the bomb will not create division among Turkomans, Kurds and Arabs, or among religious sects. Shortly after the attack, politicians began flocking to the town's long funeral tent.

Representatives from Baghdad came to pay their respects; members of the Iraqi parliament even pledged to dock their own pay and donate it to the town's reconstruction. Everyone condemned the attack, but some went a bit further.

Ali Sadek of the Iraqi Turkoman Front, a political coalition representing the interests of the ethnic group, says that the only group that can benefit from such attacks is the Kurds. He says that the attack weakens the authority of the government in Baghdad, which strengthens the semi-autonomous Kurds in northern Iraq.

No evidence exists to support his claim, but conspiracy theories abound in Iraq — including another theory Sadek mentions that involves the drawdown of American troops.

The Americans are to blame for letting the Kurdish security forces into Kirkuk, but if the Americans leave, then nothing will limit Kurdish domination of the city, he says.

#### Ethnic Conflict Persists

[Return to Index](#)

## 10. As Iraq Stabilizes, China Eyes Its Oil Fields

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Keith Bradsher

HONG KONG — As the world's second-largest and fastest-growing consumer of oil, China is showing increasing interest in oil fields in a country that has until very recently seemed to be firmly in the American sphere of influence for natural resources: Iraq.

Chinese oil companies are expected to bid for the rights to develop Iraq's oil fields in auctions that are set to start Tuesday, although Sinopec, the China National Petroleum Corporation and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation all declined to comment Monday about their bidding strategies.

In another sign of China's interest in Iraqi oil fields, Sinopec, China's refining giant, offered \$7.22 billion on Wednesday to buy Addax Petroleum, a Swiss-Canadian company with operations in the Kurdistan region of Iraq and in West Africa. If Addax's shareholders and Canadian regulators approve the deal, which Addax's board is

Not everyone shares Sadek's view, but Kirkuk is one of Iraq's most delicate questions. Saddam Hussein subjected the province's Kurds and Turkomans to ethnic cleansing while trying to make an Arab majority. Now, there is considerable international interest in who will end up controlling Kirkuk and its oil.

So far, the question has been deadlocked in meetings of the Kirkuk provincial council. The Kurds, Arabs, Turkomans and Christians on the council have their differences, but they blame the greater tension on politicians from outside Kirkuk.

Several times in the past year, posturing between Kurds and Arabs has gotten dangerously close to confrontation. That may be one of the things that the Americans will have less control over as they pull back.

Brig. Gen. Craig Nixon, who commands U.S. forces in Kirkuk, says U.S. troops must try to keep on top of the situation in Kirkuk even as they pull away.

"I think the presence of the coalition forces, particularly in the cities, will decrease, and there will be a visible sign of the decrease of the presence. We will continue to support the Iraqis at their request within the security agreement, but I think you will see a reduced presence throughout all of the major cities," Nixon says.

#### Among Locals, No Big Changes Expected

But citizens in Kirkuk don't appear to be concerned about an abrupt change. Muhammad Khalil Al-Juburi, an Arab member of the provincial council, says he is glad to see the Americans sticking to their deal with Iraq.

"Frankly, there won't be a big difference here. The stability in the region is thanks to the Iraqi forces, and the Americans are pulling out as the Iraqis told them to in the agreement," he says.

In any case, the U.S. base in Kirkuk isn't moving — the Iraqi government has agreed that it is officially outside of Kirkuk, though it borders the town.

In the city's central market, an older Kurdish gentleman says he does hope the Americans stay nearby for a while.

The people of Kirkuk are getting along fine, but it's the politicians that we have to worry about, he says.

recommending, it would be China's largest overseas energy acquisition.

And Sinopec's archival, the China National Petroleum Corporation, or C.N.P.C., started drilling in spring in the Ahdab oil field in southeastern Iraq.

After six years of war, few Americans or Iraqis may have expected China to emerge as one of the winners in Iraqi oil. But signs of stability in Iraq this year, and a planned American military pullout from Iraqi cities on Tuesday, just happen to coincide with an aggressive Chinese push to buy or develop overseas oil fields.

The Chinese companies "have been interested in Iraq," said David Zweig, a specialist in Chinese natural resource policies at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. "They were interested in Iraq before the war, and now that things have improved somewhat there, it's on their agenda."



China's leaders were surprised by the steep rise in commodity prices early last year, which exposed the vulnerability of their country's huge manufacturing sector to high raw material prices. When oil prices plunged in autumn, China began buying, importing and storing oil in huge quantities, helping to drive a partial rebound in world oil prices in spring. And China stepped up its hunt to acquire foreign oil.

Chinese officials, economists and advisers have been almost unanimous in recent weeks in saying that their country needed to invest more in natural resources, while also voicing concerns about the long-term creditworthiness of the United States and the buying power of the dollar. China has \$2 trillion in foreign exchange reserves, mostly invested in dollar-denominated bonds, and has been looking for ways to diversify gradually into other assets like commodities, said a Chinese government adviser who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the secrecy of Chinese reserve policies.

China's central bank, the People's Bank of China, called Friday for the development of an international currency other than the dollar that would be a safe repository of value, in the latest sign of China's search for other ways to invest its international reserves.

Philip Andrews-Speed, a specialist in China's oil industry at the University of Dundee in Scotland, said Iraq was clearly attractive for China and its oil industry.

"All, or nearly all, oil companies who have the courage want to be in Iraq because of the large size of the proven resource base and the potential for new discoveries," he wrote in an e-mail message. "So, in this respect, the Chinese are part of the herd."

Chinese oil companies have been particularly interested in buying oil fields ever since crude oil prices plunged late last summer, because that dragged down the cost of oil fields as well, Mr. Andrews-Speed wrote. And with their experience in some of the most turbulent countries in Africa, Chinese oil

[Return to Index](#)

companies may have the ability to cope with the unpredictability of Iraq.

"They may be no more competent at managing these risks than other companies, but they do seem to be prepared to accept a higher level of risk," he wrote, citing China's willingness to do business in Sudan.

Driving China's interest is the country's voracious thirst for oil. As recently as the early 1990s, China was a net exporter of oil because of production mainly from aging oil fields in the northeastern corner of the country.

But China's oil consumption has soared since then, thanks to an economic boom and climbing car sales that have produced traffic jams in big cities. China surpassed the United States this year as the world's largest car market, partly because China has weathered the global economic downturn better than the United States; China's oil consumption reached 8 million barrels per day last year, up from 4.9 million in 2001, according to a statistical review from BP, the British oil company.

Oil production has grown much more slowly, as older oil fields have run dry. New fields, either offshore or in western China, have barely replaced them. China produced 3.8 million barrels per day of oil last year, up from 3.3 million barrels per day in 2001, but still leaving the country dependent on imports for more than half its oil.

Iraq has the world's third-largest proven reserves, after Saudi Arabia and Iran. Many geologists say that the true oil resources of Iraq are even greater than official statistics suggest, because Iraq's oil industry has suffered from decades of disruption and underinvestment. Many oil fields have not been fully explored as a result.

Addax has oil licenses in two oil fields in northern Iraq, the Taqtaq and Sangaw North fields, both near Kirkuk, and its drilling has already struck large quantities of oil repeatedly in the Taqtaq field.

## HONDURAS:

### 11. Protesters Confront Soldiers After Coup In Honduras

(NEW YORK TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Marc Lacey and Elisabeth Malkin

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras — One day after the country's president, Manuel Zelaya, was abruptly awakened, ousted and deported by the army here, hundreds of protesters massed at the presidential offices in an increasingly tense face-off with hundreds of camouflage-clad soldiers carrying riot shields and automatic weapons.

The protesters, many wearing masks and carrying wooden or metal sticks, yelled taunts at the soldiers across the fences ringing the compound and braced for the army to try to dispel them. "We're defending our president," said one protester, Umberto Guebara, who appeared to be in his 30s. "I'm not afraid. I'd give my life for my country."

Leaders across the hemisphere joined in condemning the coup. Mr. Zelaya, who touched down Sunday in Costa Rica, still in his pajamas, insisted, "I am the president of Honduras."

The Honduran Congress late Sunday officially voted Mr. Zelaya out of office, replacing him with the president of Congress, Roberto Micheletti, who said Monday that he would resist pressure from other nations demanding the reinstatement

of the ousted president, news agencies reported.

In Washington, President Obama condemned Mr. Zelaya's ouster as an illegal coup that was reminiscent of the region's "dark past" of political transition through military maneuvers, not elections.

"We always want to stand with democracy," he said, adding that "we are very clear about the fact that President Zelaya is the democratically elected president."

Administration officials have been in a difficult position, with close ties to the very Honduran military leaders who instigated the coup, opening up the United States to accusations that it may have turned a blind eye to the pending coup.

Obama administration officials denied that they looked the other way; a senior administration official said that in the days leading up to the coup, Obama officials were on the phone to some of their counterparts in Tegucigalpa advising the military not to go through with it. Administrations officials have also dismissed allegations by Hugo Chavez, the



Venezuelan president, that the coup may have been orchestrated by the United States.

Though political tensions had been building within the Honduran government for weeks, the final move to oust the president came unexpectedly, and confusion reigned among many Hondurans about what exactly had happened overnight. People crowded around newspaper stands and spoke among themselves about whether the power shift was temporary, what it meant and how the underlying conflict would be resolved.

"I'm not sure who our president is anymore," said an elderly man in the border town of El Amatillo.

Mr. Zelaya, 56, a rancher who often appears in cowboy boots and a western hat, has the support of labor unions and the poor. But he is a leftist aligned with President Hugo Chávez of Venezuela, and the middle class and the wealthy business community fear he wants to introduce Mr. Chávez's brand of socialist populism into the country, one of Latin America's poorest. His term was to end in January.

The Honduran military offered no public explanation for its actions, but the country's Supreme Court issued a statement saying that the military had acted to defend the law against "those who had publicly spoken out and acted against the Constitution's provisions."

Mr. Zelaya's ouster capped a showdown with other branches of government over his efforts to lift presidential term limits in a referendum that was to have taken place Sunday. Critics said the vote was part of an illegal attempt by Mr. Zelaya to defy the Constitution's limit of a single four-year term for the president.

Early this month, the Supreme Court declared the referendum unconstitutional, and Congress followed suit last week. In the last few weeks, supporters and opponents of the president have held competing demonstrations. The prosecutor's office and the electoral tribunal issued orders for the referendum ballots to be confiscated, but on Thursday, Mr. Zelaya led a group of protesters to an air force base and seized the ballots.

When the army refused to help organize the vote, he fired the armed forces commander, Gen. Romeo Vásquez. The Supreme Court ruled the firing illegal and reinstated General Vásquez.

As the crisis escalated, American officials began in the last few days to talk with Honduran government and military officials in an effort to head off a possible coup. A senior administration official, who briefed reporters on the condition of anonymity, said the military broke off those discussions on Sunday.

The two nations have long had a close military relationship, with an American military task force stationed at a Honduran air base about 50 miles northwest of Tegucigalpa. The unit focuses on training Honduran military forces, counternarcotics operations, search and rescue, and disaster relief missions throughout Central America.

In Costa Rica, Mr. Zelaya told the Venezuelan channel Telesur that he had been awoken by gunshots. Masked soldiers took his cellphone, shoved him into a van and took him to an air force base, where he was put on a plane. He said

[Return to Index](#)

he did not know that he was being taken to Costa Rica until he landed at the airport in San José.

"They are creating a monster they will not be able to contain," he told a local television station in San José. "A usurper government that emerges by force cannot be accepted, will not be accepted, by any country."

The military also appeared to be moving against Mr. Zelaya's allies. Local news outlets reported Sunday that Foreign Minister Patricia Rodas and the mayor of San Pedro Sula, the country's second-largest city, had been detained at military bases.

The government television station and another station that supports the president were taken off the air. Television and radio stations broadcast no news. Electricity was cut off for much of the day in Tegucigalpa on Sunday, in what local reports suggested was on military orders. Only wealthy Hondurans with access to the Internet and cable television were able to follow the day's events.

The Congress met in an emergency session on Sunday afternoon and voted to accept what was said to be a letter of resignation from the president. Mr. Zelaya later assured reporters that he had written no such letter.

President Obama said on Sunday that he was deeply concerned and in a statement called on Honduran officials "to respect democratic norms, the rule of law and the tenets of the Inter-American Democratic charter.

"Any existing tensions and disputes must be resolved peacefully through dialogue free from any outside interference," he said. His quick condemnation offered a sharp contrast with the actions of the Bush administration, which in 2002 offered a rapid, tacit endorsement of a short-lived coup against Mr. Chávez.

The Organization of American States issued a statement Sunday calling for Mr. Zelaya's return and said it would not recognize any other government. The organization's secretary general, José Miguel Insulza, called an emergency meeting of the group to weigh further actions.

Obama administration officials said they were working with other members of the Organization of American States to ratchet up pressure on the Honduran military to end the coup, and they dismissed the prospect of outside military intervention in the matter.

"We think this can be resolved through dialogue," said the senior administration official. However, he admitted that the Honduran military was not responding to calls from the United States government.

The officials also dismissed allegations by Mr. Chávez of Venezuela that the coup had been orchestrated by the United States. They said that the Obama administration considered Mr. Zelaya the constitutional leader of Honduras and that Washington had been consistent in its demands for a peaceful resolution to the brewing crisis.

Honduras has had a civilian government since 1982. But as in much of Central America, the military is still a powerful force behind the scenes. The last coup in the region occurred in Guatemala in 1983, when the military overthrew the government headed by Gen. Efraín Ríos Montt.

## **12. Honduran Army Cuts Media After Military Coup**

*(REUTERS 29 JUN 09)*



TEGUCIGALPA - Honduras has shut down television and radio stations since an army coup over the weekend, in a media blackout that has drawn condemnation from an international press freedom group.

Shortly after the Honduran military seized President Manuel Zelaya and flew him to Costa Rica on Sunday, soldiers stormed a popular radio station and shut international television networks CNN en Espanol and Venezuelan-based Telesur, which is sponsored by leftist governments in South America.

A pro-government channel also was shut down.

The few local television and radio stations still operating played tropical music, ran soap operas and aired cooking shows on Monday.

They made little reference to the demonstrations or international condemnation of the coup even as hundreds of protesters rallied at the presidential palace in the capital to demand Zelaya's return and an end to the blackout.

"The spurious government is violating our right to information, blocking the signals of channels like CNN," said Juan Varaona, a protest leader at a barricade as burning tires sent plumes of black smoke into the sky.

CNN en Espanol is the Spanish-language channel of the U.S.-based 24-hour news network CNN (TWX.N).

Others blasted the two main Honduran newspapers and said they were still online only because they supported the coup.

"El Heraldo and El Tribuno are two papers that were part of the coup plot, them and some television channels controlled by the opposition," said 27-year-old Erin Matute, a government health worker.

"This morning, they were the only ones with signals, the

[Return to Index](#)

### 13. U.S. Treads Carefully In Honduras Crisis

***A U.S. Effort To Forestall A Military Takeover Failed, And It Is Now Focused On Encouraging A Political Solution. But It Doesn't Threaten Sanctions And Won't Say Whether It Regards Events As A Coup.***

(REUTERS 29 JUN 09) ... Paul Richter

Reporting from Washington -- After failing to stave off the military coup in Honduras, the Obama administration moved gingerly Monday to try to undo it, leaving key levers of U.S. influence untouched as it urged Hondurans and other countries in the region to seek a settlement.

The administration's approach appeared designed to avoid damaging Washington's ties either to U.S.-allied backers of the coup that forcibly removed President Manuel Zelaya or the regional powers who have universally condemned it.

President Obama expressed "great concerns" about the strife, and U.S. officials planned on attending an extraordinary session of the Organization of American States in Washington today to address the situation.

"We believe that the coup was not legal and that President Zelaya remains the president of Honduras, the democratically elected president there," Obama said after a meeting with Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. "In that we have joined all the countries in the region, including Colombia, and the Organization of American States."

But while condemning the overthrow, U.S. officials stopped short of declaring it a coup and would not demand the reinstatement of Zelaya. The administration left its ambassador to Honduras in place, while several left-wing

others were shut down," Matute said at a barricade on a side street in the capital.

Some protesters burned and smashed El Heraldo newspaper stands and others used them as barricades to block streets around the presidential palace.

PRESSURE ON OAS, WEST

Paris-based press freedom group Reporters Without Borders slammed the media shutdown.

"The suspension or closure of local and international broadcast media indicates that the coup leaders want to hide what is happening," the group said in a statement.

"The Organization of American States and the international community must insist that this news blackout is lifted," it said.

The coup -- triggered by a dispute over Zelaya's push to extend presidential terms -- is the biggest political crisis to hit Central America in years.

It followed a week of tension when Zelaya, an ally of Venezuela's socialist President Hugo Chavez, angered the Honduran Congress, Supreme Court and army by pushing for a public vote to gauge support for changing the constitution to let presidents seek re-election beyond a single four-year term.

Before he could hold the poll on Sunday, the Honduran military seized Zelaya and flew him to Costa Rica in Central America's first successful army coup since the Cold War era of dictatorships and war in the region.

The Supreme Court, which last week overruled Zelaya's attempt to fire the armed forces chief, said it had told the army to remove the president. (Reporting by Mica Rosenberg and Gustavo Palencia; Writing by Robin Emmott; Editing by Xavier Briand)

governments in the region recalled theirs.

And despite control over millions of dollars in American aid and massive U.S. economic clout, the administration did not threaten sanctions or penalties against Honduran coup-backers for forming a new government the day after Zelaya was dragged from his bed and evicted from the country.

Before the removal of Zelaya on Sunday, administration officials were aware of the deepening crisis and said they spoke to Honduran officials in the hope of resolving the dispute and averting a forced transfer of power.

However, senior administration officials said the Honduran military ended those discussions on Sunday, and refused to take further calls.

Now, as U.S. officials assess the fallout from the first military overthrow in Latin America in 16 years, they made clear Monday that they are looking for a face-saving compromise that could restore democracy without risking further upheaval or destroying Honduras' fragile economy.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the political crisis "has evolved into a coup." But U.S. officials have not made a legal determination that the action actually constituted a coup, a finding that would trigger cutoffs of U.S. aid.



Clinton said the United States joined regional powers in condemning the move, and was working with other Latin American countries to find a way to restore "full democratic and constitutional order in the country." U.S. officials are "considering the implications" of the takeover for continued aid, but Clinton hinted that they hoped the crisis could be undone.

"This has been a fast moving set of circumstances over the last several days," she said. "If we were able to get a . . . status quo that returned to the rule of law and constitutional order within a relatively short period of time, I think that would be a good outcome."

Zelaya has nudged his country in a leftward direction in recent years, forging closer ties with the region's stridently anti-U.S. leaders, such as Venezuela's Hugo Chavez and Cuba's Castro brothers. When Zelaya in recent weeks began confronting his country's military and political establishment in a populist bid to seek a second term as president, U.S.

[Return to Index](#)

## IRAN:

### 14. Iranian Council Approves Election Outcome After Partial Recount

(BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09) ... Ladane Nasserli and Henry Meyer

Iran's Guardian Council declared President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad the winner in the disputed June 12 vote, as authorities released some British embassy workers detained over post-election protests.

The council's secretary, Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, notified Interior Minister Sadeq Mahsouli in a letter yesterday that it had approved the election results following a random recount of 10 percent of the ballots, the IRNA state news agency reported.

The original tally showing Ahmadinejad won 63 percent of the vote to 34 percent for his leading challenger, Prime Minister Mir Hossein Mousavi, prompted the largest anti-government protests in Iran since the 1979 ouster of the shah by Islamic revolutionaries. Mousavi demanded the election be scrapped because of what he said was bid-rigging.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hassan Qashqavi, said yesterday five of the nine Iranian employees of the British embassy who were detained had been freed, IRNA reported.

Intelligence Minister Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei, in comments reported by state-run Press TV, said the embassy had played a key part in the demonstrations "both through its local staff and via media." The arrests were condemned by the U.K. and the European Union.

Iran's relations with the West are continuing to worsen, complicating future talks over the country's nuclear program. The Iranian leadership accuses the U.S. and the U.K. of instigating the violence that followed protests by Ahmadinejad's opponents, who allege massive ballot-rigging.

#### Leadership Embattled

Ilan Berman, an Iran expert at the American Foreign Policy Council in Washington, said the embassy arrests were a sign that the Iranian leadership is feeling embattled and would make it harder for the EU to resume nuclear negotiations with Iran.

"This is a visceral move by Iran; it's not a very smart one," he said.

Iran ordered two U.K. diplomats to leave the country on

officials expressed worry.

But administration officials did not explain why talks to avert the coup broke down, and Venezuela's Chavez led Washington's critics in the region in charging that the U.S. had a hand in the overthrow, a charge the administration dismissed.

Nonetheless, Obama offered a frank appraisal of U.S. history in the region, referring to its involvement in many of the region's coups over the last century.

"The United States has not always stood as it should with some of these fledgling democracies," he said at the White House. "But over the last several years I think both Republicans and Democrats in the United States have recognized that we always want to stand with democracy, even if the results don't always mean that the leaders of those countries are favorable towards the United States."

June 22, prompting the expulsion of two Iranian diplomats from London. Iran also ordered a British Broadcasting Corp. correspondent out of Tehran after accusations that the U.K. was interfering in Iran's internal affairs.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on June 19 called Britain the "most treacherous" Western nation. He criticized the West over the weekend for making "idiotic remarks" about the presidential election. Qashqavi said yesterday in remarks carried live on state television that an end to diplomatic ties with any country is not on the agenda.

#### Conditions on Talks

The EU said yesterday the treatment of protesters would determine whether major world powers will re-enter talks on Iran's nuclear program. A special judicial committee will examine the status of people detained after demonstrations, a judiciary spokesman said.

EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana said in Corfu, Greece, that new nuclear talks are possible "if they are ready and we are ready in view of the outcome."

European governments are keen to restart negotiations "soon," offering Iran help with its civilian energy program as long as the country gives up any nuclear weapons ambitions, Solana said.

Iranian authorities have succeeded in largely quelling the protests after using force to keep people off the streets and arresting hundreds of activists. Protesters who defied a ban on opposition rallies since the election have been met with water cannons, tear gas and clubs as security forces dispersed crowds. As many as 17 protesters and eight militiamen have died, according to state-run media.

#### Neda's Death

Ahmadinejad asked the country's judiciary to investigate the slaying of Neda Agha Soltan, a young woman whose death from gunshot wounds became a symbol of the protests after it was captured in a video shown around the world, the state-run Mehr news agency reported yesterday.

Ahmadinejad vowed June 27 to take a tougher approach



to the West during his second term, saying the U.S. administration's criticism of his crackdown on dissent after the election shows its offer of talks on Iran's nuclear program isn't genuine.

[Return to Index](#)

## 15. Iran Police Out In Force As Election Result Upheld

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09) ... Jay Deshmukh

TEHRAN – Iranian police were out in force across the capital Tehran on Monday as the authorities upheld the official results of this month's fiercely-disputed presidential election over opposition protests.

As Iranian authorities continued to hold four locally recruited British embassy staff, Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi warned that the Group of Eight major powers would consider sanctions against Tehran at a summit next week.

State television announced that, after a "thorough and comprehensive investigation," Iran's official electoral watchdog had upheld the re-election of hardline incumbent Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in a vote denounced by his main challenger, former premier Mir Hossein Mousavi, as a "shameful fraud".

The head of the Guardians Council, Ayatollah Ahmad Janati, concluded that "the majority of the objections were not deemed infringements or fraud and were only minor irregularities that occur in each election," the television reported.

Mousavi's supporters had boycotted the partial recount of the vote carried out by the council in response to the complaints of the defeated candidates.

The opposition had demanded a complete rerun and has staged massive public demonstrations in a dispute that has shaken the foundations of the Islamic regime, with unprecedented criticism of supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

According to the official results, Ahmadinejad won by a thumping majority of 63 percent against just 34 percent for Mousavi, a gap of 11 million votes.

Witnesses said thousands of policemen and Basij militiamen brandishing sticks were deployed in Tehran's main squares to prevent any recurrence of the opposition protests over the conduct of the election that have broken out since the June 12 poll.

They said security forces were also randomly checking the boots of cars and vehicles, and checking the identification cards of drivers.

Western governments meanwhile expressed outrage at Iran's continued detention of the four British embassy staffers.

Iran freed five of their colleagues earlier in the day, but British Prime Minister Gordon Brown slammed the arrests as "unacceptable" and demanded the immediate release of the other four.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton described Iran's treatment of the British embassy staff as "deplorable" and said Washington was following the situation "with great concern."

Speaking after talks with Brown in London, European

[Return to Index](#)

Iran, the world's fourth-largest oil producer, says its nuclear program is aimed purely at generating electricity.

To contact the reporters on this story: Ladane Nasserri in Tehran at

Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso expressed his "full solidarity" with Britain over the arrests.

"Intimidation and harassment are unacceptable and they will be met with a strong collective European response," he warned.

And the Italian prime minister who will chair the G8 summit from July 8 to 10, said: "Iran will be the first topic that we will deal with.

"According to the telephone conversations I have had with other leaders, I think that we will go in the direction you indicated, namely sanctions."

Iran has repeatedly accused the West particularly Britain and the United States of "meddling" as its Islamic rulers struggle to contain the most serious upheaval since the revolution 30 years ago.

In the face of a massive crackdown on protesters, the opposition has scaled down its public demonstrations over the election results.

At least 17 people have been killed and many more wounded in clashes with security forces, according to state media.

Ahmadinejad on Monday called for a probe into the death of Neda Agah-Soltan, a woman whose apparent killing by the Islamic militia during a protest rally in Tehran generated an international outcry.

Neda became an icon for the opposition after an Internet video showing her final moments was seen around the world.

On Sunday, riot police in Tehran dispersed about 3,000 Mousavi supporters who had defied a ban on public gatherings, witnesses said, with one reporting a "minor confrontation."

The information could not be independently verified as foreign media are banned from the streets under tough new restrictions imposed by the authorities.

The Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights said on Sunday that more than 2,000 people are still in custody and hundreds more missing across Iran as a result of the government crackdown on the opposition.

London-based watchdog Amnesty International said it was gravely concerned that several opposition leaders may be facing torture, possibly to force them to make televised 'confessions' as a prelude to unfair trials in which they could face the death penalty.

It expressed particular concern for the well-being of three former officials in the government of Mohammad Khatami, whose 1997-2005 presidency saw a thaw in relations with the West -- Mohsen Aminzadeh, Abdollah Ramazanadeh and Mostafa Tajzadeh.

## 16. Clinton Declines Comment On Ahmadinejad Reelection

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09)



WASHINGTON – Secretary of State Hillary Clinton refrained from comment Monday on the reelection of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, but pointed to a "credibility" gap for Iran's leadership.

"I'm not going to speculate on, you know, what happens with their internal regime," the top US diplomat said.

"Obviously, they have a huge credibility gap with their own people as to the election process, and I don't think that's going to disappear by any finding of a limited review of a relatively small number of ballots," Clinton added.

Clinton made the comments at a press conference after Iran's Guardians Council confirmed the results of the June 12 presidential election following a partial vote recount.

Ahmadinejad has demanded that the United States recognize him as the democratically elected president of Iran, but Clinton said United States would refrain from drawing

[Return to Index](#)

conclusions.

"We're going to take this a day at a time. We're going to watch, and carefully assess what we see happening," she said.

"This is a historic moment for Iran and for the Iranian people, and I don't want to, you know, speculate on how it's going to turn out," Clinton added.

The partial vote recount was intended to put an end to accusations of large-scale fraud that have been leveled by three of Ahmadinejad's electoral opponents -- Mir Hossein Moussavi, Mehdi Karoubi and Mohsen Rezai.

But the three refused to delegate representatives to participate in the recount, casting doubt on its impartiality, particularly because of the extent of the voting irregularities alleged.

## AFGHANISTAN:

### 17. Afghans Don't Look Up To 'Big Brother' Iran Like They Once Did

(MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS 29 JUN 09) ... Philip Smucker,

HERAT, Afghanistan — Students at Afghanistan's Herat University thought that they were living in new era of openness, one in which the right to criticize authority was increasing.

Last week, however, the Iranian Consulate in this Afghan city near the Iranian border complained to the Afghan Ministry of Culture that the student newspaper, "Pegah," was inappropriately critical of Tehran's crackdown against pro-democracy demonstrators.

The newspaper was closed for 10 days, the university fired the responsible journalists and the paper was reopened with no news of the protests.

The measure, however, is likely to backfire among Afghanistan's increasingly educated and media-savvy younger generation. Student groups denounced the newspaper's closure and refused to hold their tongues in public.

Mohammed Faqiri, the spokesman for Herat University's "New Generation Club," admits that his group has some pretty advanced views for young people in a traditional Muslim nation, but he said he's sure that his group is in the mainstream on one issue: Iran.

"The Iranian government has finally exposed itself as a theocratic, totalitarian regime," said Faqiri, 23, a leader of the organization of a dozen students who meet secretly once a week because the Afghan government frowns on their independent political activities. "Iranian leaders are trying to hang onto power by killing people and destroying their free media."

That's a shift in sentiment, considering the role Iran has played in recent years as a cultured, wise and stable big brother to backward Afghanistan.

Devastated by the brutality of their own warlords, many Afghans looked to Iran during the Soviet occupation of the 1980s and the Taliban rule of the 1990s and again after the U.S. invaded their country in 2001.

Iran had residual influence, particularly with millions of Afghan refugees returning home after living in Iran and sharing its culture and politics for 12 years or more. A million Afghan refugees remain in Iran.

By virtue of its economic ties and support for key areas of the Afghan government, Iran still wields considerable influence in Afghanistan. Increasingly, though, it's viewed by the broader public and by university students in Herat as an anachronistic and authoritarian regime that opposes the will of its own people.

Indeed, after the government crackdown and the popular defiance following the disputed June 12 election, Iran's political influence in Afghanistan is in a downward spiral.

It's a role reversal. From 1996 to the U.S. invasion in 2001, Afghanistan under the Taliban was one of the world's most brutal theocracies. Today, however, its big cities are witnessing the beginnings of an open society with a vibrant news media.

Iran, which enjoyed growing clout and global influence as it challenged the policies of former President George W. Bush, is suddenly bursting with dissent and relying on state-backed militiamen to keep order. Iranians traveling in and out of Afghanistan by road said the country's secret police, volunteer militias and its hard-line Revolutionary Guard remain firmly in control.

Many Afghans think that Iran's powerful religious leaders will never regain their domineering influence over Iran.

"This is the start of an important revolution in Iran," said Afghan constitutional law professor Mohammad Rafek Shahir, 55, the head of Herat's "Council of Experts," an Afghan professional body that works with Iran and other foreign countries.

"We are impressed with the Iranians and their struggle for change, but with what has happened in the past weeks, Iran's influence here has been devastated. We don't have to be concerned with their efforts to influence Afghanistan any more since they are going to be obsessed with their own internal problems for some time to come. Even their leader, President (Mahmoud) Ahmadinejad, can't expect to command the world stage anymore."

Iran maintains a large and highly-secretive consulate in Herat staffed by several dozen diplomats, spies and security agents, according to Afghans who live here; the U.S. hasn't yet



opened a consulate in Afghanistan's most important western city.

"In the past decade, Iran has tried to create great problems for the United States here in Afghanistan," Shahrir said. "On the one hand they have sought to support the Afghan government and, at the same time, undermine U.S. influence by supporting elements of the insurgency."

Direct evidence of that support has been hard to pin down, however. George Gavrillis, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, a nonpartisan research organization in New York, said in a June 5 article that his efforts to "corroborate these charges" in Afghanistan this year, indicated instead "that evidence of Iran's covert presence consists of seized passports and (anti-American) literature," but not weapons or explosives as Iran has provided to its political clients in Iraq.

Though several senior al Qaeda leaders and at least one of Osama bin Laden's sons are thought to have taken refuge in Iran after November 2001, Western diplomats discount as unsubstantiated charges that Shiite Muslim Iran continues to assist that Sunni terrorist group.

However, they credit Iran with providing nearly \$300 million in development aid in the past eight years, a tiny amount compared with the billions provided by the U.S. and

[Return to Index](#)

## 18. Karzai Demands U.S. Forces Turn Over Afghan Killing Suspects

(CNN 29 JUN 09)

KABUL, Afghanistan -- Tensions mounted between American-led coalition forces and the Afghan government Monday as Afghan President Hamid Karzai demanded U.S. troops hand over private security guards suspected of involvement in the killing of a top Kandahar law enforcement official.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai says such incidents damage "the state building process in Afghanistan."

The U.S. military responded with a statement denying any involvement of coalition forces in the attack, which occurred at a Kandahar government office.

"Such incidents negatively impact the state building process in Afghanistan," Karzai said in a prepared statement.

He asked "coalition forces to avoid actions that weaken the government."

Afghan officials told CNN earlier Monday that private Afghan security forces working for the American-led coalition had killed a Kandahar police chief and his bodyguards.

A U.S. military official with direct knowledge of the situation told CNN that his understanding at the moment was that the security forces accused of the attack included 40

[Return to Index](#)

Europe, but used far more effectively in road building projects. Trade during the past two years has totaled about \$260 million, according to Iranian trade and finance officials.

At the same time, though, Afghanistan, while roiled by anti-American and anti-Afghan insurgents, is developing into a more modern nation with an increasingly open media, with millions of new cell phone users, vast cable TV choices and easy Internet access for a young generation of Afghans, at least in its cities. The Twitter and Facebook revolution has Afghan youth abuzz with stories of Iranian brutality.

Iran's influence in Afghanistan is cultural and political but it is also seen in religious institutions. At the Shiite Scientific School of Sadiqiyah in Herat, one of the city's largest educational institutions, teachers use Iranian textbooks that openly praise Iranian-backed militant groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas, both of whom oppose Israel's policies toward the creation of a Palestinian state.

Qadeer Taqavi, the school's top administrator, said, however, that Iranian influence in his school is grossly exaggerated. He said scholars look to Iraqi Shiite leader, Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani, ahead of any Iranian governmental religious leaders. He also had kind words for President Barack Obama.

Afghan nationals hired to do counterterrorism work with U.S. special forces. Without the assistance of any U.S. or NATO troops, the official said, the nationals tried to get a friend out of a Kandahar jail.

"This was entirely renegade," the U.S. official said. "It was not sanctioned or any part of any ongoing operation. This was independent action by these individuals."

The private security guards, according to the Afghan officials, had forced their way into the Kandahar attorney general's office demanding the release of an unidentified man. When the guards tried to use force to release the man, local judicial officials contacted the Kandahar police chief. Shortly after the police chief arrived, he and several of his bodyguards were shot to death.

In all, a half-dozen people were killed and several others were wounded, the government officials said. The Karzai government accused the American-led coalition of protecting the security guards and began investigating the incident.

The United States never had custody of the guards, who fled after the attack, the U.S. military official said.

## PAKISTAN:

### 19. Obama's Bid To Boost Exports From Pakistan Hits Snag Over Labor

(BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09) ... Mark Drajem

President Barack Obama's bid to strengthen democracy in Pakistan and Afghanistan by boosting their exports is ensnared in a debate over labor rules between Democrats and companies such as Wal-Mart Stores Inc.

Saying "bullets and bombs" won't stop Islamic extremism, Obama in March called on Congress to pass a

measure giving duty-free access to imports from the two countries. A version passed by the House limits the products covered and imposes work conditions that would negate potential benefits, according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"It's not going to help Pakistan," said Sarah Thorn,



director of international trade in Washington for Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer. "It's the wrong places, wrong products and it has pretty onerous" labor rules.

The fight shows how politically sensitive trade is in the U.S. Congress. Earlier this year, Obama delayed asking Congress to ratify accords with Panama and Colombia after Democratic lawmakers, such as Representative Phil Hare of Illinois, said the agreements would harm U.S. workers.

The House measure, which passed 234-185, would require the U.S. to appoint an outside group to monitor labor conditions at textile and apparel factories in Pakistan or Afghanistan. It also would cut off duty-free imports from factories that don't adhere to a set of so-called core international labor standards on matters such as prohibiting forced labor and child labor and guaranteeing the right to organize a union.

The Chamber of Commerce and other business groups said in a letter to lawmakers on June 26 that the measure would substitute "counterproductive and unworkable new labor criteria and monitoring requirements" for "longstanding eligibility provisions on labor rights" that are already in place.

#### 'Pushing Hard'

The administration is "pushing hard" to pass the measure, said Christopher Wenk, chief trade lobbyist for the Washington-based Chamber, the biggest U.S. business lobbying group.

The Senate passed an aid bill for Pakistan last week without the trade benefits the House had included in the legislation it approved on June 11.

Bentonville, Arkansas-based Wal-Mart and apparel companies including Levi Strauss & Co. of San Francisco are pressing the Senate to revamp the House measure.

Democrat Maria Cantwell of Washington, the Senate sponsor of the legislation, met with administration, labor and business representatives last week to try to reach a compromise, said her spokeswoman, Ciaran Clayton.

The AFL-CIO, which is the largest U.S. labor federation, and the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition, which represents textile-makers such as closely held Milliken & Co. in Spartanburg, South Carolina, say the House bill is a compromise they agreed to accept. The measure was written by Representative Chris Van Hollen, a Maryland Democrat.

#### 'Fight on Their Hands'

"If the business community insists on stripping out the labor provisions, then they'll have a fight on their hands," said

[Return to Index](#)

## 20. Pakistan Not To Relocate Troops From Eastern Border

(PAKISTAN DAWN 29 JUN 09) ... Iftikhar A. Khan

ISLAMABAD: Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira has ruled out the withdrawal of troops from the eastern border for deployment at the western border.

'We cannot and will not do it,' he said at a press briefing along with military spokesman Maj-Gen Athar Abbas here on Monday.

The minister said Pakistan could not remain oblivious to the conventional threat. 'It is up to the local commanders to decide about the strength of troops required to conduct a counter-insurgency operation in Swat and tribal areas of the NWFP.'

Mr Kaira said Pakistan did not want to create problems for India and urged it to fulfil its international obligations. He

Thea Lee, the AFL-CIO's policy director in Washington.

Given the longstanding complaints about child labor in Pakistan, "it's especially important" to impose strict standards, Lee said.

Wenk of the Chamber of Commerce said he's concerned that the labor rules could become a baseline for other trade agreements and would make it too difficult for companies to get duty-free benefits.

"These provisions will create a significant disincentive for companies to invest, which would undermine the very benefits that this program is intended to create," the Chamber, the National Association of Manufacturers and other business groups wrote in the June 26 letter, addressed to the Senate Finance Committee.

#### Cotton Pants Excluded

Van Hollen's measure limits trade benefits to products made in certain areas of Pakistan, including the tribal regions. It excludes cotton pants and knit shirts, which account for more than a quarter of the \$3 billion a year in textile and apparel Pakistan now sends to the U.S.

"These are products that can be produced easily in these regions with relatively low start-up costs and with the best prospects for providing almost immediate positive impact," Helga Yin, the director for public policy at Levi Strauss, wrote in a letter to Cantwell on June 16.

While both Afghanistan and Pakistan are covered by the legislation, there are no U.S. imports of mass-produced apparel or textiles from Afghanistan now, and new investments would be constrained because of violence and a lack of adequate roads or a port, said Nate Herman, who is lobbying to change the bill. Herman represents the American Apparel and Footwear Association based in Arlington, Virginia.

#### Helping Business

The new labor requirements may ultimately help businesses, which had their reputations harmed after being linked to worker exploitation overseas, said Susan Aaronson, a professor at George Washington University in Washington who wrote a book on trade and human rights.

"Pakistan doesn't have a good record in terms of child labor and the employment of women," she said. "This ensures the rule of law will be followed."

A spokesman for the Pakistan Embassy in Washington, Nadeem Kiani, didn't return a telephone message.

said Pakistan wanted resumption of the composite dialogue to resolve all outstanding issues, including the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

He said President Asif Ali Zardari's statement that India was no more a threat for Pakistan had been reported out of context. What the president meant was that there was no imminent threat of a war, he added.

Asked why did the government not openly say what it had told parliamentarians during an in-camera briefing that India was among the countries which were arming militants in tribal areas, he said Islamabad was not scared of New Delhi, but it could not say so without having a concrete evidence of this.

'We will not only raise the issue but will also take an



appropriate action when a solid evidence is in hand. The government is behaving responsibly.'

About allegations that terrorists are crossing into Afghanistan to carry out attacks on US troops, Maj-Gen Abbas said: 'We are trying to stop all those who cross into Afghanistan.'

He pointed out that Pakistan had 1,100 posts on its border with Afghanistan and 40,000 to 50,000 troops were manning the border. He, however, said that about 60 per cent area of Afghanistan was not under the control of its government.

'We cannot chase terrorists inside Afghanistan and appropriate measures are needed to be taken by the Afghan government.'

In reply to a question, he said Pakistan disapproved of drone attacks in its tribal areas and termed these counter-productive.

#### WAZIRISTAN

He said that 16 security personnel, including three officers — Lt-Col Tahir, Captain Abid and Lt Zeeshan — had laid down their lives during an attack by terrorists on a convoy of security forces on Sunday in North Waziristan.

Maj-Gen Abbas said that 12 soldiers had died on Sunday while four died of injuries later in the Combined Military Hospital. He said that troops had returned fire and killed 10 terrorists.

He described the attack as 'unprovoked and uncalled for' and said there was no military operation in the area. He said that security forces reserved the right to respond in an appropriate manner.

He said the action would be in accordance with local customs and the Frontier Crimes Regulations (FCR).

He replied in the negative when asked if a military operation in South Waziristan had begun. He said the operation was neither against any tribe nor any region but against a group that had challenged the writ of the

[Return to Index](#)

### 21. Pakistan Targets Taliban After Rebels Kill Soldiers

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09) ... Hasbanullah Khan

MIRANSHAH, Pakistan — Fighter jets pounded Taliban rebel suspects in Pakistan's northwest tribal belt on Monday as the army vowed retaliation over the deaths of 16 soldiers in the worst such ambush in months.

The military said warplanes targeted alleged insurgent hideouts in South Waziristan, where the military says it is using air raids to lay the groundwork for a full-scale assault against Pakistani Taliban warlord Baitullah Mehsud.

Pakistan has offered a 615,000-US-dollar reward for information leading to the capture, dead or alive, of Mehsud, who is holed up in South Waziristan and who has been blamed for some of the worst attacks in the nuclear-armed country.

About 2,000 people have died in bombings since July 2007 and the United States has put Pakistan at the heart of its war against Al-Qaeda and efforts to stabilise Afghanistan, welcoming a military push to clear out Taliban havens.

Military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas said 18 militants and 16 soldiers, including a lieutenant colonel, died over the last 24 hours in North Waziristan and the northwest district of Swat, a one-time tourist destination.

Death tolls released by Pakistan are impossible to confirm independently because fighting takes place in closed military zones, and the army has faced increasing scepticism that more

government.

#### SWAT OPERATION

The army spokesman said that security forces had secured Biha valley, in the north, and Shamoza, in the west of Swat, and cleared several areas previously occupied by terrorists.

He that militants' command structure had been dismantled, their training centres destroyed, their recruits either killed or driven away and their ammunition dumps and headquarters in Peochar, Chaprial, Matta, Khawazakhela, Mingora, Kabal, Banai Baba Ziarat, Sakhra Valley, Saidu Sharif and Biha areas had been destroyed.

He said that security forces operating in Swat had established link-up at Khel Kandao while operating in Buner and were consolidating their positions in areas around Dangram, Kukarai and Jambil.

Troops also secured Khazana, Zarra Khela and Garai areas and are consolidating their positions in Kabal, Dhadara, Akhun Khalle, Rangeela and Zarra Khela areas. Security forces began clearance and search operation from Shalkosar to Jukhtai and Balasur to Shah Dheri.

A terrorist, identified as Mohammad Raheem alias Bhai, was captured. Maj-Gen Abbas said that eight terrorists had been killed when security forces raided a compound in Khawazakhela area. Weapons and explosives were seized.

The military spokesman said that hundreds of youths had shown their willingness to join the community police force in Upper Dir and appropriate steps were being taken to recruit them.

In Upper Dir, armed villagers of a tribal lashkar closed in on terrorists trapped in the village of Shortkas-Dogdarra.

Troops recovered 11 tons of wheat stolen from the World Food Programme on May 4 during a raid on the house of one Nek Ikthair in Lower Dir. The wheat has been distributed among the displaced people.

than 1,600 militants have been killed.

On Sunday, rebels armed with rocket launchers and machine guns ambushed a military convoy in North Waziristan, killing 12 soldiers, while another four died of their injuries on Monday, Abbas said.

"In the recent past, we haven't suffered that kind of casualties. It's a huge loss," the spokesman told AFP.

"The attack was unprovoked and uncalled for, and we reserve the right to respond in an appropriate manner," he told a news conference.

Pro-Taliban militants in North Waziristan said Monday they were revoking a controversial peace accord signed with the government in February 2007.

A meeting by rebel regional commander Gul Bahadur decided not to allow troop movements in the area because of the deaths of "innocent people" in US drone attacks and Pakistani military operations, a spokesman told AFP.

"All guerrilla commanders have been alerted to ensure withdrawal of troops," said Ahmedullah Ahmedi.

Militants in North Waziristan announced a similar decision in July 2007 after the army besieged militants in a pro-Taliban mosque in Islamabad.

Separately, a stray projectile overnight killed three



civilians as it slammed into worshippers leaving a mosque in the village of Kaloosha, about 15 kilometres (10 miles) west of Wana, the main town in South Waziristan.

"First militants fired rockets at an army camp in Wana, after which troops responded with artillery fire," said local government official Ghafoor Shah.

"One of the shells hit people coming out of a mosque in Kaloosha village and killed three people and wounded another seven," Shah told AFP.

Fighting in Pakistan's tribal belt follows nearly two months of offensives to expunge the Taliban from three districts of North West Frontier Province.

"Swat operations will be wound up in the next few days

[Return to Index](#)

## 22. Support For Pakistan's Anti-Taliban War Seen Solid

(REUTERS 29 JUN 09) ... Faisal Aziz

KARACHI (Reuters) Two months into a Pakistani military offensive against Taliban militants, public opinion is firmly behind the civilian government and the military and it shows no sign of wavering.

The offensive was launched after defiant Taliban fighters thrust toward the capital, raising alarm both at home and among Western allies who need nuclear-armed Pakistan's help to fight al Qaeda and to tackle a raging Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan.

Investors in Pakistani stocks have been unnerved by the violence, which has included a string of suicide bombs in cities and attacks on the military across the north.

But investors and the Pakistani people in general wanted to see the offensive prosecuted to the end, and only then would their confidence be restored, said a stock broker.

"It is absolutely necessary for the government to control and counter these terrorist elements and regain its writ to end the state of despondency among the people who had started to feel there was no one to protect them," said Asif Qureshi, director of Invisor Securities.

"Let alone foreign investors, the success of this operation is essential for the restoration of confidence among local investors as well," he said.

The KSE-100 index has gained 23 percent this year after losing 58.3 percent in 2008. But the index is trading about 10 percent lower than its peak of this year, partly because of security worries.

About 10,000 supporters of the Jamaat-e-Islami religious party rallied in Karachi on Sunday to protest against U.S. involvement in the region.

"ON THE BACK FOOT"

But their opposition to the offensive and sympathy for the Taliban was well known and their protest did not signal a strengthening of the argument that Pakistan should not be fighting "America's war," an analyst said.

"They're finding it difficult to dominate the discourse as they have been doing for some time. They're on the back

[Return to Index](#)

## 23. Violence Across NW Pakistan Kills Dozens

(ASSOCIATED PRESS 29 JUN 09) ... Asif Shahzad

ISLAMABAD – Pakistani jets bombed suspected Taliban hideouts after a stray mortar shell crashed into a mosque during prayers, part of a wave of violence that claimed nearly

followed by the gradual return and rehabilitation of IDPs (internally displaced persons)," Information Minister Qamar Zaman Kaira told a news conference.

But although commanders have claimed several successes, sporadic fighting has continued and there has been heavy damage, leaving it unclear how the estimated two million displaced can return.

In Buner, where Taliban militants advanced towards Islamabad in April, a bomb wounded eight people, three of them security officials, police said.

"The bomb, planted under a bridge, wounded eight people including three police officials," police officer Abdul Rashid Khan told AFP.

foot," said Rashid Rehman, a former newspaper editor and analyst.

"The other voices, the dissident voices, the voices who have been arguing for the last 30, 40 years that we're heading down a suicide path, I think they're getting stronger," he said.

Pakistani leaders have for decades flirted with the religious right when they needed support.

In the 1980s, Pakistan began used Islamist guerrillas for foreign policy aims, first in Afghanistan to fight Soviet invaders and later in the disputed Kashmir region where Pakistan-backed Muslim fighters battled Indian rule.

That engendered considerable sympathy for the "jihadis."

But Pakistanis were shocked when the Taliban defied a peace deal that had given them virtual control of the Swat valley northwest of Islamabad and went on the offensive, seizing a district just 100 km (60 miles) from the capital in April.

Video footage of Taliban flogging a teenaged girl in Swat and a pro-Taliban cleric's proclamation that the constitution was un-Islamic contributed to a sea-change in opinion.

"It's an existential threat now to the state. The army, which after all was the creator of this monster, itself has come round to this view," Rehman said.

"It may be partly American pressure but it is certainly also an internal assessment that 'yes, we've lost control of these guys and they've gone haywire, something has to be done'."

The fighting has displaced about 2 million people and their suffering could incite public anger but despite that, many ordinary Pakistanis agree something has to be done.

"Everybody wants this filth wiped out," said retired school principal Nighat Anis. "The operation must be carried on so that no one like Osama (bin Laden) could dare come here."

"They aren't representative of the whole nation ... I don't believe opinion will shift in the militants' favor."

70 lives in 24 hours along the northwest region bordering Afghanistan, officials said Monday.

The clashes came as U.S. Gen. David Petraeus, who



oversees American war efforts in Afghanistan and Iraq, praised Pakistan's ongoing offensive against insurgents. Many of those al-Qaida and Taliban fighters are suspected in attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan.

The airstrikes hit a guesthouse used by militants in the village of Kani Guram in South Waziristan tribal region close to the Afghan border, where government forces have been preparing for a high-stakes offensive against Pakistani Taliban chief Baitullah Mehsud.

Four militants died, said three intelligence officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information. It was not possible to independently verify the reports because journalists have little access to the dangerous region.

Late Sunday, a stray mortar shell hit a mosque during prayers in Azam Warsak in South Waziristan, killing three tribesmen and wounding seven, intelligence officials and a witness said. "The mosque was destroyed, and we could hardly bring out the dead and injured," said a man who gave his name as Wazir. He escaped the strike unharmed.

It was not clear who fired the mortar.

Mehsud has been blamed for a string of deadly suicide bombings across the country in recent weeks. The Taliban chief also was accused in the 2007 assassination of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, though he has denied responsibility.

An ambush Sunday claimed by the Taliban killed 16 soldiers in North Waziristan, another militant stronghold. That prompted the army's top spokesman to warn it would punish tribes that harbor militants in that region if the violence continued.

[Return to Index](#)

## 24. 'PAF, Pak Army Resolute To Thwart Any Challenge'

(PAKISTAN TRIBUNE 30 JUN 09)

ISLAMABAD: Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani on Monday underlined that undoubtedly PAF and Pakistan Army are working shoulder to shoulder for country's defense and safeguard of borders.

Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani expressed these views during his visit to Air Headquarters on Monday.

Chief of Army Staff called on Air Chief Marshal Rao Qamar Suleman, Chief of Air Staff, Pakistan Air Force, and discussed professional matters.

Later on, General Ashfaq Pervez Kayani was given a detailed briefing about on going Air Operations by Pakistan Air Force to support Law Enforcement Action by Government

[Return to Index](#)

## 25. Pakistan Rejects Talks With Militants Amid Offensive

(BLOOMBERG 29 JUN 09) ... Paul Tighe and Farhan Sharif

Pakistan's Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said there will be no talks with militants because the army is taking decisive action against them "in a guerrilla fight" in the tribal region and in the Swat Valley.

"Our army is fighting very efficiently against cowardly people," the state-run Associated Press of Pakistan cited Gilani as saying in Lahore yesterday. It's not the time for dialogue with terrorists, he said.

Pakistan's army is engaging Taliban forces in the

Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said 10 suspected militants were also killed in the attack.

The military also is pursuing an offensive to oust Taliban militants from the northwest's Swat Valley. That operation, which also affected surrounding districts, has displaced more than 2 million people.

The military says around 1,600 militants have been killed in the two-month-old offensive, including eight more since Sunday.

Petraeus, the head of U.S. Central Command, visited Pakistan over the weekend. In Cairo on Monday, he said Pakistani forces had done "a superb job" in the Swat offensive.

"This is not the Pakistanis fighting the global war on terror of the United States. This is their war against extremists who they see as threatening the very existence of their country," he said. "Pakistan has plans to hold and to rebuild — not just to clear — in those areas, and they are carrying those operations out in a very deliberate manner."

Also Monday, security forces launched an early morning raid on a suspected militant hideout in Tank, a small city near South Waziristan, killing two suspected militants and arresting nine others, senior police officer Abdul Rasheed said.

Separately, 21 militants died in overnight clashes with an anti-Taliban militia in Kurram tribal region, a tribal elder and lawmaker said. Ali Akbar Toori and lawmaker Sajid Toori said four militiamen were killed and 35 were injured in the attack, which appeared to be an attempt by insurgents to take over the area.

of Pakistan in FATA and Swat Areas.

Sources told that during the meeting Air Chief discussed host of issues with COAS regarding production of JF-17 Thunder fighter jets, air operation against militants and others issues in depth.

Both the Heads made it clear that PAF and Pakistan Army are working shoulder to shoulder for country's defense and safeguard of borders.

Air Chief was of the view that PAF is fully equipped to thwart any foreign design.

Sources say that COAS lauded the efforts of Air Chief adding soon fruitful results will occur.

Federally Administered Tribal Areas bordering Afghanistan after an offensive that began in April in nearby Swat. The U.S. is pressing Pakistan to tackle Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters operating in the region, and President Barack Obama has said an aid package to Pakistan worth \$1.5 billion a year is conditional on the government cracking down on extremists.

Eight guerrillas were killed in Swat and 10 in Waziristan, in operations that destroyed the militants' command network and led to the seizure of "a huge amount" of arms and



ammunition, army spokesman Athar Abbas told reporters today. Sixteen soldiers have been killed in the past 24 hours, he said.

Twelve of the soldiers died in the North Waziristan tribal area yesterday when their convoy was hit by an explosive device, APP reported, citing the military.

Taliban Commander

The army is preparing an offensive against Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud in South Waziristan, where U.S. military analysts estimate he commands as many as 5,000 fighters.

Local newspapers yesterday published advertisements announcing rewards totaling \$1.6 million for information leading to the capture of Mehsud and 10 other commanders, the Dawn newspaper reported. Dawn said it couldn't confirm whether local government authorities placed the advertisements.

Mehsud escaped a suspected U.S. drone attack last week on a funeral procession for a militant commander, the newspaper reported at the time.

[Return to Index](#)

Mehsud formed Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan from an alliance of some five pro-Taliban groups in December 2007, according to the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center at West Point. The U.S. has offered a \$5 million reward for Mehsud, saying his forces have attacked coalition troops in Afghanistan.

The army began its offensive in the Swat Valley in North West Frontier Province in April after the Taliban advanced to within 100 kilometers (62 miles) of the capital, Islamabad, violating an accord to end fighting in return for the government placing the region under Islamic law.

The military says more than 1,600 militants have been killed since the operation began. An estimated 2.5 million civilians have fled the fighting in Swat, the biggest exodus in Pakistan since the country was founded in 1947.

Soldiers in the region yesterday captured three terrorists, including a trainer of suicide bombers, APP reported, citing the military.

## RUSSIA:

### 26. US, Russia Eye Deal To Boost Afghan Transit: Report

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09)

MOSCOW – The United States and Russia may soon sign a deal boosting the transit of US supplies to Afghanistan through Russia, the Kommersant daily reported on Monday, citing diplomatic sources.

The agreement could be signed when US President Barack Obama visits Moscow next week, Kommersant reported, citing sources close to NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

The deal could involve a dozen US planes flying over Russia each day with military cargos, rather than just rail shipments of non-lethal supplies as Moscow now allows, a Western diplomat was quoted as saying.

The comments came after NATO-Russia talks in Greece on Saturday where the Western alliance and Moscow sought to soothe strained ties.

"The subject of transit was discussed. If everything goes well, every day around 12 US military transport planes could be flying over your country with military cargos," the Western diplomat was quoted as saying.

An Afghan transit deal would reflect a significant warming in US-Russian relations since last year when the war in Georgia sparked a bitter dispute between Moscow and Washington.

It would also boost Obama's efforts to intensify the campaign against the Taliban at a time when instability in

[Return to Index](#)

### 27. Flood Of Afghan Heroin Fuels Drug Plague In Russia

(MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS 29 JUN 09) ... Tom Lasseter,

CHEL YABINSK, Russia — Young men with sores on their arms shuffled up the stairs of a dark, underground shopping arcade and into the daylight to plop dingy wads of rubles into the drug dealers' hands. The dealers casually reached into their pockets or plastic shopping bags and handed over tablets of synthetic morphine, a type also used as a horse tranquilizer, and paper packets that appeared to contain

Pakistan has threatened the other main transit route into Afghanistan, from the south.

Russia in March allowed the first trainload of US supplies to cross its territory bound for Afghanistan, but has stopped short of allowing arms shipments to cross through Russia.

Kommersant also quoted a Russian diplomat as saying that the US-Afghan transit deal would involve shipment of military supplies by rail.

"We are ready not just to permit passage of cargoes, but to guarantee the security of their transport," said the Russian diplomat, who according to Kommersant was involved in preparations of the agreement.

"For this, the beginning of overland transit of military goods is planned, which Russian Railways will handle," the diplomat said, referring to Russia's state-owned railroad monopoly.

"Transit is very big money. Russian Railways has already applied for a US grant to widen the narrow passage on the Uzbek-Afghan border near Termez," he was quoted as saying.

The diplomat said the cost of each container's transport would be more than 3,000 euros (4,230 dollars) and added: "The discussion is about hundreds of containers monthly. Go add it up. But remember this is just overland transit."

heroin.

Across the street in this gray, post-Soviet industrial town, two Russian policemen sat in a faded wooden booth, and a couple more sat in a police truck outside. They didn't seem the least bit interested.

A police officer walked by but didn't interrupt the transaction. Asked whether he was worried, one of the dealers,



a young man with a white driving cap tipped down over his eyes, leaned back against a railing and giggled.

In Miass, a small town west of Chelyabinsk near the foothills of the Ural Mountains, Elena Shapkovskaya wasn't laughing. She works at the No. 40 pharmacy and often has to call the police when heroin addicts crowd the shop and begin shooting up in plain view.

"Sometimes instead of calling the police, we call an ambulance, because they're lying on the floor," Shapkovskaya said, looking down at the tile floor beneath her feet.

Drugs have become yet another scourge of post-communist Russia, with millions addicted to heroin and an annual death toll reportedly in the tens of thousands from overdoses and other drug-related causes.

Russian authorities seized 2.4 metric tons of heroin in 2006, about three times the seizures in 2002, according to United Nations figures. That's a small fraction of the estimated 60 metric tons that are thought to arrive in Russia from Afghanistan each year.

In 2008, Russian officials said that the country had more than 5 million frequent drug users, up from 3 million in 2002. U.N. estimates are lower — drug usage is notoriously hard to calculate — but they indicate that the percentage of Russians who use opiates is the highest in the world for countries with populations larger than 100 million. Opiate usage in the United States, which receives very little Afghan opium or heroin, is about one-third of Russia's.

Russia had some 940,000 HIV-positive adults and children in 2007, up from 390,000 in 2001, according to the U.N., and an estimated 80 percent of Russians currently living with HIV were infected by dirty needles. AIDS killed about 40,000 Russians in 2007, but the U.N. says the toll could be as high as 71,000. It was 1,900 in 2001.

"It is difficult to be anything other than pessimistic when it comes to forecasting what the future holds for Russia vis-à-vis heroin abuse and trafficking," said a report last year by the U.N. office on drugs and crime.

Russian officials publicly blame America for the plague because almost all the heroin comes from U.S.-dominated Afghanistan, but they won't discuss in detail how drugs move through their country. They've yet to devise a comprehensive plan to address the issue. Trials of high-level traffickers are conducted in secret. Even midlevel police officials usually don't talk, and when they do, it's privately and away from their workplaces.

#### 'THE AMERICANS HAVE DONE NOTHING'

Chelyabinsk, a city of more than 1 million in southwest Russia, once was known as Tankograd — "tank city" — for its World War II production of T-34 tanks. It later gained notoriety as the center of a region swamped by radioactive waste from a nearby nuclear-weapons facility.

A different poison is spreading today: Chelyabinsk has become a major transshipment center for Afghan opium and heroin, which enters Russia from Central Asia.

The drugs usually reach Russia from Tajikistan and Kazakhstan in trucks or, in smaller amounts, tucked away in train compartments or nervous travelers' stomachs.

The trade is nothing new in Russia, but after the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, it exploded. Afghan opium production climbed from 3,400 metric tons in 2002 to a record 8,200 metric tons in 2007, partly because U.S. and NATO-led troops put a low priority on curbing it. Heroin flooded into

#### Central Asia, and on to Russia.

"When I heard the Americans were going to enter Afghanistan I thought they were going to solve the problem, to stop the drugs," said Yevgeny Roizman, who had connections with Russian organized crime before he became a member of parliament. He now runs an anti-drug organization in the city of Yekaterinburg, another big heroin-distribution hub north of Chelyabinsk.

"But in the period after they came, there was a big increase in the region . . .," Roizman added. "It makes me think the Americans have done nothing to stop the drug trafficking."

Although it's an unintended consequence of the U.S. action in Afghanistan, some Russian officials trace the growing problem to an American plot.

Viktor Ivanov, the head of Russia's Federal Drug Control Service, the national drug enforcement agency, told parliament in May that it was reasonable to "call the flow of Afghan opiates the second edition of opium wars." He was referring to the 19th-century war between Britain and China sparked by exports of opium from British India to China.

Ivanov isn't alone.

"I can name you a lot of politicians in Russia who said that the Americans specially arranged the situation in Afghanistan so that we would receive a lot of drugs, and this is the real aim of their occupation," said Andrei Klimov, the deputy head of the foreign affairs committee in Russia's lower house of parliament. "I'm not sure this is true, but who knows."

The U.S. government takes no direct responsibility for fueling Russia's drug problem.

"I would say the entire international community is responsible. The U.N. Security Council looked favorably on the U.S. and NATO doing what they're doing in Afghanistan," a State Department official said, referring to the U.N. mandate backing the foreign presence in the country. "So when critics like Russia say the U.S. and NATO aren't doing enough, well, it's really the entire international community that needs to take action on this."

A second State Department official pointed to the lack of Russian effort to provide assistance in Afghanistan.

"The Russians have had opportunities to come to the table on this and to provide alternative options," the official said. "If this really was a priority for them, we could work something out."

Both officials were authorized to speak to a reporter only if they weren't identified.

In Russia, it's much easier to blame a U.S. conspiracy than to bring up the subject of corrupt officials, the Russian mafia and their involvement in the drug trade.

Russia's Federal Drug Control Service wouldn't respond to McClatchy's questions over the course of a month, nor would the Interior Ministry or the national intelligence service. The Russian government routinely suppresses basic information about drug-related trials, even the names of defendants.

Igor Khokhlov, a senior researcher at the Academy of Sciences, a government-funded research institute, has researched the drug trade and concluded that high-level authorities aren't involved.

"They have safer and better ways to benefit from their high offices," he said in an e-mail interview.



However, it's almost impossible to do business in Russia, legal and otherwise, without a "krysha" — a Russian word that means "roof" — a patron to protect a businessman from corrupt government officials, criminals and other realities of modern Russia. It seems unlikely that kryshas could operate in Russia's estimated annual \$15 billion drug-trafficking industry without high-level government contacts.

A 2008 U.N. report concluded that Russian organized-crime groups "provide protection to drug trafficking networks in exchange for a share of the proceeds."

The former deputy director of the Federal Drug Control Service, Alexander Mikhailov, said that Tajiks usually ran the wholesale heroin business at the border and delivered the drugs to gypsy communities, who handled retail distribution. He acknowledged that both groups have patrons whose "job is to corrupt those who affect his business: police, customs, narco-police, the people who should be fighting drugs."

Who protects the drug dealers, and how do narcotics get from the border to places such as Moscow? Mikhailov, who served for 25 years in the KGB, the Soviet intelligence service, ignored the questions. "I don't like to give names in the drug business," he said. "Most people don't."

Sporadic news reports suggest that narco-corruption occurs at senior levels of law enforcement. In 2003, five federal anti-narcotics agents were arrested, accused of taking bribes from a drug dealer. During 2004, an Interior Ministry lieutenant colonel was charged with leading a group of former police officers who were caught selling heroin in the Moscow region. Russian news wires reported in 2006 that more than 160 staff members of the federal anti-narcotics service had been caught for drug-related crimes.

#### 'I PAID BRIBES TO GET LET GO'

As his friends died drooling and shaking with Afghan heroin burning through their veins, Alexei knew that things were getting out of control. In 2002 or 2003, it seemed as if a dam had burst: The number of heroin dealers in his north Moscow suburb grew from three to a few dozen, and the supply was purer than anything he'd had before.

Alexei, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of legal concerns, started shooting up heroin every day and earning cash as a drug courier.

After 2002, more than a dozen of Alexei's friends didn't survive overdoses after vomiting in nightclub bathrooms or on their apartment floors. Roman, 23, died in a hospital ward after shooting up in a stairwell. Christina, 21, overdosed at

[Return to Index](#)

## 28. Improved US-Russian Relations 'Will Take Time': Lavrov

(AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE 29 JUN 09)

WASHINGTON — Russia's top diplomat cautioned against overly-optimistic expectations for an upcoming meeting between US President Barack Obama and Russian President Dmitri Medvedev, saying in an article Monday that improved relations "will take time."

"There is a new dynamic in Russia-US relations -- a positive change that reflects the imperatives of these challenging times," Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov's wrote in Newsweek magazine.

"As President Medvedev has noted, a crisis of trust developed between us in recent years," he said.

"Our political relationship became too adversarial. Overcoming this legacy will take time."

home. Pyotr, 37, went to a party, used some heroin and had a fatal heart attack at his girlfriend's apartment.

Nevertheless, Alexei, a 28-year-old with a buzz cut who favors black jeans and bright white sneakers, said he didn't worry much about getting caught ferrying packages of heroin between Moscow and outlying towns.

"I was arrested in clubs and apartments, but . . . I paid bribes to get let go," he said.

A federal anti-narcotics officer who works in a region near the Kazakh border sat down recently with a McClatchy reporter for a meal of grilled pork and vodka, but agreed to an interview only if his name wasn't used; his agency had said that its agents weren't allowed to talk to journalists.

"I've heard about a lot of cases of local police taking bribes to protect drug dealers," said the agent, who had a pink face, thick shoulders and a gold tooth that shone when he smiled. Those cases, he said, are investigated by police departments' internal affairs bureaus, which aren't above suspicion themselves.

The agent said he earned \$540 a month for working to control a trade worth millions of dollars in his area. Local police, he said, make even less.

A second federal officer, who met a reporter in his car in a parking lot, sighed when he talked about the subject. "I can't tell you that there's not much police corruption," said the officer, a thin man wearing a cheap brown jacket who drove up in a small white Lada, a matchbox-like Russian car.

"I can't say the situation is getting any better," he said, speaking anonymously for the same reason as the first federal officer. "The amount of heroin coming in increased a lot during the past two years."

Vladimir Bogomolov, who's run a drug treatment center in the city of Chelyabinsk for 10 years, started to describe the network to a visiting American reporter.

"The Russian (criminal) groups are above the Tajiks and gypsies; they allow them to sell drugs and take a percentage of what they make," he said between sips of coffee. The police, he said, "are extremely corrupt."

An associate who sat in on the interview interrupted Bogomolov: "We shouldn't talk about what's happening right now."

So Bogomolov, who's committed much of his life to fighting the drug problem in his city, stopped talking about it.

He had the look of a defeated man.

Moscow's foreign minister added that "Russia and the US must jointly manage expectations to ensure that attempts to 'reset' our relationship succeed."

"This does not mean shying away from setting ambitious goals," he said.

"But it does require a sober assessment of what is really possible, and the time it will take to accomplish these goals."

US-Russian relations deteriorated significantly during former president George W. Bush's second term over a US anti-missile shield for Poland and the Czech Republic, plans to expand NATO to Russia's border and the August 2008 war between Russia and Georgia -- a key US ally in the region.

Since Obama's arrival at the White House, relations



between the two powers have improved.

Russian and American officials are engaged in discussions on reducing their nuclear arsenals, ahead of the expiration in December of the nuclear disarmament START I treaty, negotiated during the last months of the USSR in 1991.

[Return to Index](#)

## **29. Russia Begins War Games Near Georgia**

(*NEW YORK TIMES* 29 JUN 09) ... Michael

MOSCOW — Russian military forces began large-scale war games on Monday in the Caucasus region, not far from the border with Georgia, raising tensions between the two countries less than a year after they went to war.

In a series of news conferences on Monday, military officials said that about 8,500 troops from all branches of the armed services would take part in a week of exercises, called Caucasus-2009, the largest such war games since the fall of the Soviet Union.

The officials noted that the military exercises were intended in part to incorporate lessons learned from the war last August. Russia easily won, but the military officials said the war exposed deficiencies in training and equipment.

Military exercises in the Caucasus have been held before, and similar maneuvers there last year ended days before the war broke out on Aug. 7. The war games this year are scheduled to end on July 6, the day that President Obama arrives in Moscow for a summit meeting.

The event is also occurring a few weeks after NATO concluded its own exercises in Georgia, drawing complaints from the Russians.

"The Russian exercises, given the timing, are a definitive response," said Dmitri O. Rogozin, Russia's envoy to NATO,

[Return to Index](#)

## **30. Russia, China To Hold Military Exercises In July**

(*AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE* 29 JUN 09)

MOSCOW - Russia and China will hold joint military exercises next month, a top Russian military official said Monday, as the giant neighbours work towards tighter cooperation.

"The head of the Russian and Chinese military delegations agreed that 1,300 soldiers from each side would participate," said the deputy army chief, Lieutenant General Sergei Antonov, adding that 20 Russian war planes would take part.

The massive five-day exercises, dubbed Peace Mission 2009, are to focus on anti-terrorism and will take place on both countries' territories July 22-26, Antonov told the ITAR-TASS state news agency.

The two countries are in their third round of talks to hammer out the details of the joint manoeuvres, counting 2,600 men, he said.

the same year that Washington imposed an arms ban on Beijing.

[Return to Index](#)

The Kremlin has not excluded the possibility that an agreement on strategic arsenal reductions will be reached during Obama's visit to Moscow July 6 to 8, but agreement is likely to depend on whether outstanding discord over the US anti-missile shield program can be resolved

Interfax reported. "We are conducting them to ensure the defensive capabilities of Russia in those areas where we see threats."

Georgia on Monday expressed worry about Russian exercises so close to its borders.

"These exercises are a source of concern because they involve an unprecedented number of servicemen and the newest military hardware of Russia," said Alexander Nalbandov, Georgia's deputy foreign minister, Interfax reported. "We hope that the events of last August, when the Russian army invaded Georgia and occupied its lands, will not repeat."

Despite intense international objections, Russia has established a military presence in South Ossetia and Abkhazia, two breakaway Georgian enclaves at the heart of last year's war.

The commander of Russia's ground forces, Gen. Vladimir Boldyrev, told the newspaper Izvestia this month that Russian troops based in both enclaves would participate in the exercises. The governments of Abkhazia and South Ossetia said no military exercises would take place on their territory.

Russia and China made a show of their strengthening ties last month when Chinese President Hu Jintao visited Moscow for a major bilateral summit.

The friendly diplomacy is a marked change from the later decades of the Cold War era, when the Soviet Union and China clashed for supremacy in the Communist world.

In recent years, the countries have taken great strides to step up trade and put old rivalries behind them, ending a decades-long dispute over their 4,300-kilometre (2,700-mile) border just last year.

The two held joint exercises in 2005 and 2007 under the auspices of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a regional security group consisting of China, Russia and four Central Asian states.

Russia has also been the main supplier of arms to China since the two countries normalised their relations in 1989 --

## **PACIFIC:**

### **31. North Korean Actions 'Disturbing,' U.S. Prepared, Keating Says**

(*BLOOMBERG* 29 JUN 09) ... Viola Gienger



Admiral Timothy Keating, the U.S. commander in the Pacific region, said the military is ready to handle any orders it might receive in response to North Korea's threatened missile launches and potential illicit shipments.

"North Korea's activities are very disturbing and unsettling to all of us," said Keating, head of the U.S. Pacific Command, to an audience at the Atlantic Council policy analysis group in Washington late today in response to a question.

The military is prepared to protect "American property, American citizens and American territory," Keating said. "We don't want to tip our hand too much."

The U.S. has been tracking a North Korean vessel on

[Return to Index](#)

grounds that it may be carrying nuclear or missile technology barred from transfer under two United Nations Security Council resolutions.

North Korea has threatened more moves such as a nuclear test and missile launches earlier this year, prompting Defense Secretary Robert Gates to order defensive measures earlier this month.

North Korea's actions also have prompted Gates and President Barack Obama to reiterate the U.S. commitment to mutual defense treaties with South Korea and Japan. The military is ready to carry out any orders that Obama and Gates might issue, Keating said.

## PIRACY:

### 32. NATO Invites Russia To Participate In Anti-Piracy Operation

(ITAR-TASS 29 JUN 09)

BRUSSELS - NATO sent an official invitation to Russia to participate in the NATO operation "Allied Protector" for the struggle with piracy off the Somali coast, Russian permanent representative at NATO Dmitry Rogozin said in an exclusive interview with Itar-Tass on Monday.

"Russia actually participates in international anti-piracy efforts, just our participation is not under any "umbrella", neither under "the EU umbrella" nor "the NATO umbrella". Captains of our warships cooperate directly with commanders of the fleets from Western countries," Rogozin said.

According to him, Russia "is not allergic" to the participation in the NATO operation. "The Russian political leadership will decide on the issue taking into account all factors. There is a clear-cut position that any decisions should be conditioned by necessary security of our warships and are thoroughly calculated in financial terms," he said.

Rogozin also noted that Russia had received an official

[Return to Index](#)

invitation from NATO to resume its participation in the NATO anti-terrorist operation "Active Endeavor" in the Mediterranean Sea. Russia's participation in this operation was actually blocked last September, because military partnership was suspended.

The Russian permanent representative recalled that the warships participating in this operation "can stop and examine suspicious vessels, and investigate whether they are involved in the smuggling of weapons or explosives for terrorist acts."

"In fact, there are no such threats in the Mediterranean Sea now. However, a massive inflow of illegal migrants in Europe poses a threat," Rogozin said. According to him, if the operation will be retargeted for the struggle with illegal immigration this year, "our participation requires an additional analysis."

## WOUNDED CARE:

### 33. 'Chaplains' Closet Helps Landstuhl's Wounded Warriors

(AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE 26 JUN 09) ... Army Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill

LANDSTUHL, Germany – The boxes arrive daily from the United States, 15 to 20 each day, along with \$8,000 to \$12,000 in cash every week from Americans and U.S. nonprofit groups.

The boxes and the money are meant for the wounded warriors who pass through here, most coming from Afghanistan or Iraq. More than 54,000 wounded warriors have passed through Landstuhl Regional Medical Center's doors since Operation Enduring Freedom began in October 2001, according to a hospital spokesman.

Lined with shelves organized in a manner that would make even the most obsessive-compulsive supply sergeant proud is the "Chaplains' Closet." The name is a misnomer; it is about the size of an average neighborhood convenience store and its official name is the Wounded Warrior Ministry Center.

The Chaplains' Closet shelves are stacked with clothing, toiletries and shoes. A box of shoes marked "single shoes,

left" is for servicemembers who are amputees. Their spirit shows in their humor. Recently, one soldier took a left shoe and another soldier took a right from the same pair. They looked at each other. "We're brothers," one quipped.

The servicemembers who receive the donations didn't expect to be here -- they arrive suddenly, with nothing, because they required treatment for wounds suffered on the battlefield. The medical center is a jointly staffed, Army-commanded, 138-bed hospital near Ramstein Air Base, Germany. It is the largest American hospital outside the United States.

"We have Conex boxes full of stuff," said Air Force Lt. Col. Curtis Wagner, a Protestant chaplain from the Ohio Air National Guard's 179th Airlift Wing, serving a 120-day rotation here. "We have a whole warehouse at Ramstein that's filled with these donations. We just get so much in, and then we distribute it to the soldiers."

About 1,200 servicemembers visit the Chaplains' Closet



each month. If they are bed-ridden, a liaison officer gets their supplies for them. On average, servicemembers spend three to five days here before they are sent to the United States or back into theater.

A team of volunteers -- family members and the local community -- donates 500 to 600 hours each month to help the chaplains accomplish their mission.

"We have distributed over \$2 million of financial support in these last seven or eight years," Wagner said.

Every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, the chaplains take wounded warriors on trips in the local area to help them relax and sightsee. The chaplains use some of the donated money to pay for transportation and meals. "That helps break up their time here," Wagner said.

Air Force Lt. Col. Robert Barry of the Illinois Air National Guard's 183rd Airlift Wing, a Roman Catholic chaplain and teacher from Chicago, is serving his sixth tour at the hospital in five years. "It's the best ministry I've ever

[Return to Index](#)

### 34. Retiring Marine Pushed Establishing Support For Recuperating Troops

(WASHINGTON POST 29 JUN 09) ... Steve Vogel

Back from Iraq, recuperating from a severe head wound, Lt. Col. Tim Maxwell visited other recovering Marines and began asking himself a question: Why were they alone?

The Marines were living in empty barracks at Camp Lejeune, N.C., while the rest of their units were still deployed in Iraq. Though they had been released from the hospital, they had suffered serious injuries and were on medications with little supervision.

The Marines were lonely, depressed and isolated. "I was just thinking about their being alone," recalled Maxwell, 42. "Why can't wounded guys live in the same barracks?"

The simple question Maxwell asked is credited with changing how the Marine Corps supports its wounded. His advocacy for central billeting for Marines recovering from injuries led two years ago to the creation of the Marine Corps Wounded Warrior Regiment, headquartered at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

On Friday, at his retirement ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, Maxwell was saluted for his achievements by a crowd of 200 people, among them Gen. James F. Amos, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps.

On Oct. 7, 2004, Maxwell was serving as the operations officer for the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit at a forward operating base near the town of Iskandariyah, 25 miles south of Baghdad. Maxwell had gone to his tent for a nap when a barrage of 15 mortars hit.

"The first one hit me," Maxwell said. "I know that because I would have heard them otherwise."

When he came to, Maxwell tried to make his way outside. "I couldn't see anything," he said. "I had a hell of a time finding the door."

Outside the tent, Maxwell collapsed. Shrapnel from the mortar had penetrated his skull, inflicting severe brain damage. At Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany, some doctors doubted he would survive.

Sent to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda,

[Return to Index](#)

done," he said.

Until Sept. 11, 2001, the medial center had two chaplains and two assistants. Since then, that staff has grown to seven chaplains and six assistants. The chaplain staff mirrors the jointness increasingly found throughout the Defense Department. Two chaplains and two assistants are active-duty Army; two each are Navy; two each are National Guard; and one is from the Canadian armed forces.

Servicemembers at the medical center can talk with chaplains from a variety of religious backgrounds, including Buddhist. When they do not want to talk to a chaplain, the chaplains encourage servicemembers to talk with someone, because they believe talking helps with stress.

"One of the things we try to do is to get the guys to talk about what they've been through," Wagner said. "It's a privilege to me. I get a front seat to these incredible, heroic things that they've done."

Maxwell slowly began to recover, but his concern soon turned to other wounded Marines.

"As soon as he was cognizant, he got in his wheelchair and began visiting wounded Marines," recalled his wife, Shannon Maxwell.

Continuing his recovery at Camp Lejeune in 2005, Maxwell voiced concerns to superiors about the isolation of wounded Marines. "When they leave the hospitals, they got sent to empty barracks," he said. That year, Camp Lejeune established a wounded warrior barracks and named it Maxwell Hall in his honor.

"We learned as time went by of more problems, guys were getting addicted to painkillers," Maxwell said. "It grew and grew, and that's when the regiment got formed."

In April 2007, the Wounded Warrior Regiment was activated at Quantico with the mission to help wounded Marines and their families throughout their recovery. The regiment includes wounded warrior battalions at Camp Lejeune and Camp Pendleton.

All the while, Maxwell has visited military hospitals and tried to give hope to family members of troops suffering from traumatic brain injuries.

"He'd look into their eyes, and he would say, 'He's still there. He's coming back,' " Shannon Maxwell said. "He's a living example that you can live through the worst."

After years of steady improvement, Maxwell's condition deteriorated last year, and he began losing movement on his right side. "Last July, I went back to the hospital, and it's never been the same," he said.

Retirement made sense, he decided. "It's about time," Maxwell said.

While Maxwell is uncertain about the details of what he will do next, he said his general path is clear.

"I'm not done getting better," he said. "Whatever I do is going to be involved in helping wounded guys."



## VETERANS:

### 35. Some Veterans Of Recent Wars Find Homelessness At Home

#### *Soldiers Returning From The Middle East End Up On The Street And Have Trouble Coping With A Return To Civilian Life.*

(LOS ANGELES TIMES 29 JUN 09) ... Jia-Rui Chong

It was, back then, a joke Luis Pinto shared with his Army buddies in Iraq. As they were all eating food out of tin cans, living out of rucksacks, moving constantly from place to place, Pinto cracked, "If I become homeless, I'm ready."

But five years later he didn't actually expect to find himself sleeping in alleys in Whittier or in friends' cars, too busy getting high to hold down a regular job. A suicide attempt on March 16 was the shock he needed to start putting his life back together.

His mother drove him to the Salvation Army's shelter in Bell, where he has been living and taking classes on drug addiction and coping skills since the end of March.

"I had a lot of issues from my time in the service and I had not dealt with them," said Pinto, a soft-spoken 27-year-old who still sports a military crew cut. "I felt, when I came out, 'I deserve time to relax and party.' It got out of control."

While veterans and homeless advocates have long grappled with homelessness in previous generations of veterans, Pinto appears to be part of a new, building wave of the problem among those coming back from the latest wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Though most of the Bell shelter's veterans served in Vietnam, executive director La Rae Neal said last week that she was deeply saddened to see the number of clients from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars multiply from two last year to eight so far this year.

"I think we were doing well as far as vets from the last war were concerned," she said. "But we've got to start all over again."

Toni Reinis, the executive director of New Directions Inc., another organization that offers substance abuse treatment and other services to homeless veterans, said the number of clients from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars grew from 12 in 2007 to 24 in 2008. In the first six months of this year, the group has already seen 20, she said.

"I think that we've got another couple of years before we say it's a crisis," she said. But, she added, "we're still on an uphill climb."

New Directions and other organizations said they are working to put programs in place to deal with the expected increase in veterans needing help.

[Return to Index](#)

Last year, New Directions opened a transitional house for Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans in the Del Rey neighborhood of Los Angeles with 24-hour support staff.

On Thursday, officials at the Bell shelter unveiled nine prefabricated houses. The houses, which can hold six people each, will serve as transitional housing for those who graduate from the shelter's drug and alcohol treatment programs or get referrals from other agencies.

The Bell shelter has set aside 30 beds for veterans, several of whom will probably be Iraq and Afghanistan vets, Neal said.

Robert Hovis, a 62-year-old Vietnam vet who hopes to get into one of the houses, said it took him a long time to understand the effect the war had on him and the damage he was doing to himself.

He said he tries to keep a special eye on the veterans of the new generation and talk to them.

"It reminds me of me all over again," Hovis said. "I know what they're going through."

Pinto, who also hopes to get through his treatment program and get a bed in one of the new houses, said he has been inspired by older vets at the shelter who have tried to help him through some rough patches.

When he sees older vets opening up about their difficulties, Pinto said he thinks, "I'm not the only one. If he can do it, I can."

Pinto said he is learning how he used drugs to forget about the trauma he experienced in Iraq and how he clung to other users as replacements for his Army buddies. He said he also recognizes now that many of his problems stemmed from going from a structured Army environment to a completely unstructured civilian one.

He said he hopes that the transitional house can be a steppingstone to true independence and going to college to become a social worker.

Pinto also wants to rebuild his relationship with his family. When his mother dropped him off at the Bell shelter, "she said this was the last time she was going to help me if I didn't get it right," he said. "I took it to heart."

## EDITORIAL:

### 36. The 'Failed State' Syndrome Again

(PAKISTAN DAILY TIMES 30 JUN 09) ... Editorial

An American journal has compiled a list of 177 states with a descending order of viability in the modern world; and Pakistan is in the top ten "failed states". There is only a marginal improvement in status as the last time the list appeared Pakistan was 9th on it. The other "top-notchers" are: Somalia, Zimbabwe, Sudan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Afghanistan, the Central African Republic and Guinea. The journal ranks states on the basis of the following

factors: demographic pressure, refugees/internally displaced persons (IDPs), group grievance, uneven development, economic decline, de-legitimation of the state, public service, human rights, factionalised elites and external intervention.

To sprinkle salt on the Pakistani wounds, India is 87th on the list with its neighbours all doing badly: Sri Lanka is placed 12th, Bangladesh 19th and Nepal 25th. The rubrics under



which states are given their marks tend to exclude any subjective feeling about the state. Therefore, the disorder in Nepal has come out looking less dangerous in 25th place. Sri Lanka must have improved its standing after the defeat of the LTTE uprising; and one imagines that the recent development of a national consensus against the forces of chaos in Pakistan must have pushed it down a notch from the more seriously endangered place it occupied last year.

There was a time when we all rejected the category of "failed state" when it began to be applied to Pakistan in the late 1990s, especially after the testing of the nuclear device which we thought should have given us the status of a non-failing state together with India. Today the new list puts off but also gives pause. We ourselves have been assessing our chances conservatively, saying things close to despair, until the country decided to take on the Taliban instead of kowtowing to them in an unprecedented collapse of collective will. Our economy is in a bad shape, which it wasn't in the first five years of the 2000s; and they don't give positive marks for being in the oxygen tent of the IMF.

Out of the ten "failed states" at the top, half are Muslim states. One wonders why Yemen is not the 6th country because the state is rapidly breaking down there with Al Qaeda support growing and a sectarian war gathering momentum by the day. It should be noted that in all the five states the presence of Al Qaeda is common: in Iraq, Al Qaeda is involved in the Sunni-Shia conflict that kills a large number of people every month. In Somalia and Sudan, Al Qaeda has a large footprint. Pakistani troops serving the UN in Somalia in 1993 were ambushed and killed by Al Qaeda terrorists then

[Return to Index](#)

### 37. China's N.K. Policy

(THE KOREAN HERALD 29 JUN 09) ... Editorial

On his visit to Tokyo Sunday, President Lee Myung-bak reaffirmed with Japanese Prime Minister Taro Aso their governments' joint efforts to achieve the denuclearization of North Korea. As much as Seoul and Tokyo pledged closer cooperation toward their common goal, greater distance is felt between China and its two neighbors to the east.

The two leaders expressed their desire to hold five-nation "consultations," excluding North Korea from the six-party talks. But Beijing has already showed its adherence to the six-party format. Lee and Aso stressed arranging the five-party meeting "within the framework of the six-way talks" in recognition of China's reservations.

Yet, since Pyongyang conducted its first nuclear test in October 2006, cracks have opened up in the coalition to end North Korea's nuclear program. The schism became more apparent as the North challenged the international community with its repeated missile launches and another nuclear test. After the hassle of adopting the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1874, Beijing came up with a liberal interpretation of the latest U.N. action to impose sanctions on the North.

Beijing's Foreign Ministry spokesman pointed out that international punitive measures should not affect the North Korean "people's wellbeing and the country's normal trade and economic activities." The fact that the resolution was unanimously adopted meant there was a high degree of consensus in the UNSC regarding the alleged limits to the

supporting the local warlord Farah Eidid. (A Somali militia today contains Pakistani fighters serving Al Qaeda.) It was located in Sudan before Osama bin Laden decided to return to Afghanistan in 1996.

Looking from Pakistan, Al Qaeda seems to be ensconced inside Afghanistan, most probably in the province of Khost. Looking from Afghanistan, it seems hiding somewhere in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) although its operatives have been arrested from all the major cities of Pakistan in the past. In the middle of these two observation points, it is safe to say that Al Qaeda is on the Pak-Afghan border even though the border is just a line and Al Qaeda can't stay perched on the line. What is meant is that it could be anywhere in Pakistan and/or Afghanistan. It is a kind of virus that makes "internal sovereignty" and territorial control vanish from the state. Joined at the hip with the Taliban, it extends the "ungoverned space" far into the non-tribal areas.

We attract lethal categories too: we have the world's largest refugee population; and there is "group conflict" in many parts, led by Karachi, where we don't know who is killing whom. The state lacks legitimacy because of the "incomplete" enforcement of sharia, especially riba, and the marufaat side of the sharia like not punishing people for not saying their namaz and not keeping beards, etc. Other factors of viability like population control and education — both achieved by Iran despite clerical domination — are also absent here. But if there is a hope quotient, Pakistan is more upbeat about survival than it was six months ago. That should count as something.

effect of the sanctions, he argued - a clear attempt to justify China's reluctance to faithfully implement the sanctions.

In its preamble, Resolution 1874, adopted last June 12, said measures imposed by the resolution "were not intended to have adverse humanitarian consequences for the civilian population" of North Korea. And in prohibiting international financial aid to the North, article 19 recognizes exceptions for "humanitarian and developmental purposes directly addressing the needs of the civilian population."

We can guess what role China played in inserting these clauses into the resolution. Still, the resolution in no way directs the international society against taking actions that would affect North Korea's "normal trade and economic activities." The Chinese Foreign Ministry's clarification only demonstrates Beijing's intent to continue economic aid to North Korea despite the world body's resolution to punish the regime.

It has been evident that what China fears most about the turbulent developments on the Korean Peninsula in recent years is the possible collapse of North Korea, which could send millions of refugees across the border. Given the large ethnic Korean enclaves in the northeastern territory, the influx could cause serious instability in that part of the country. Nuclear proliferation in the region, prompted by North Korea's nuclear armament, is unlikely in the vision of Chinese leaders, given the strong U.S. opposition to it.



For whatever reasons, Beijing's continued patronage of a regime that builds nuclear weapons while its people are starving and its support of a ruler who is plotting a dynastic succession causes a loss of international trust as it rises to a leadership position with its growing economic power. Chinese leaders may not like such temporary measures as five-party talks, but they should admit the failure of the five-year-old, six-way process.

[Return to Index](#)

## OP-ED:

### 38. U.S. Troops Withdraw From Iraq's Cities

(WASHINGTON POST 30 JUN 09)

The Post asked foreign policy experts for their views on American troops' pullback from Iraqi cities. Below are contributions from Daniel P. Serwer, Michael O'Hanlon, Andrew J. Bacevich and John A. Nagl.

**DANIEL P. SERWER**

**Vice president for peace and stability operations, U.S. Institute of Peace**

I was in Iraq last week. The real uptick in violence is not yet having the dramatic political impact that suicide bombs and improvised explosive devices had in 2006-07. People are trying to go about their lives in a normal way, lots of business is getting done, politicians are quarreling in parliament, and there is a general sense of relief that the Americans really are withdrawing (as well a good deal of gratitude for what we have achieved, especially in the past year or so).

What is not clear is whether Iraqi security forces can handle the situation and maintain even the modicum of stability now prevailing. I am not optimistic or pessimistic: I will wait for the evidence. If the current uptick turns into a spiral -- with revenge killings and attacks on politically and religiously significant targets -- the Americans may need to reconsider the pullback in parts of the country. But that would only be appropriate if the Iraqi government asked for help. We would do well to be prepared to help, because we've got a lot at risk in Iraq. But the Iraqis need to lead.

**MICHAEL O'HANLON**

**Senior fellow at the Brookings Institution; former Congressional Budget Office analyst**

Violence is not increasing in a strategically significant way. There have been several spikes this year but, in retrospect, all wound up being isolated incidents. Violence levels remain 90 percent reduced relative to pre-surge levels. The country is still quite troubled, but it is no longer in the grips of civil war and is unlikely to return to that sad state. There probably have been extra efforts by extremists to use violence in these recent, momentous days, with the goal of creating a snowball effect by making Iraqi citizens worry that the change in the U.S. role is leading to a security vacuum. But this will probably wind up being seen as nothing but a tragic yet containable set of ruthless bombings, and, in fact, there is no security vacuum. There does not appear to be any ripple effect of attack followed by revenge attack followed by counterrevenge attack, so I believe the extremists are failing.

Only if broad-based sectarian conflict reignites in Iraq are we likely to have a major problem. Admittedly, that could still happen, especially next year as the U.S. drawdown really accelerates -- and especially if Iraqis do not make more

President Lee's one-day visit to Tokyo was not at all useless, with his productive discussions on economic matters. Now he has to head to Beijing to tell the Chinese leaders that denuclearization requires all players to fulfill their international obligations and not arbitrary rephrasing of a U.N. resolution.

progress on oil laws, resolution of disputed territories, and further integration of the Sons of Iraq into government in the meantime. At that point, President Obama may have to reconsider the pace of the drawdown (if the Iraqis agree to it).

Finally, people should remember that there is nothing dramatic about June 30: The U.S. drawdown from the cities has been underway for months, and even after June 30 American forces will be able to play measured roles in urban security as required and requested.

**ANDREW J. BACEVICH**

**Professor of history and international relations at Boston University; author of "The Limits of Power; The End of American Exceptionalism"**

American interests are best served by sustaining the pretense that "the surge has worked." By ignoring the absence of any meaningful political reconciliation among rival Iraqi factions and by pretending that Iraqis should find tolerable levels of violence that would be deemed intolerable anywhere else, the Obama administration may yet be able to extricate the United States from a war that has failed utterly: no Iraqi weapons of mass destruction found, no ties between Saddam Hussein and the jihadists established, no democratic transformation of the Islamic world set in motion, no road to peace in Jerusalem discovered in downtown Baghdad.

Sadly, President Obama's apparent inclination to go to the mat in Afghanistan suggests that his administration has little appetite to confront and to take on board the real lessons of Iraq. It is easier or at least more expeditious to confine the search for lessons to matters of tactics and technique, as if the U.S. Army's rediscovery of counterinsurgency doctrine has redeemed "the global war on terror," an enterprise that was unnecessary and misbegotten from the outset.

**JOHN A. NAGL**

**President of the Center for a New American Security; author of "Learning to Eat Soup With a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons From Malaya and Vietnam"; member of the writing team that produced the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual**

The United States must draw down its presence to address other pressing challenges, most notably Afghanistan. Additionally, the lack of U.S. public support for resource-intensive nation-building projects imposes serious constraints on the U.S. commitment to Iraq, particularly at a time of economic distress. Further, the U.S. military's freedom of action in Iraq is now proscribed under the status of forces agreement, which stipulates that all operations be carried out only by permission of and through coordination with the Iraqi



government; that American troops leave Iraqi population centers for consolidated bases by the end of June 2009; and that all U.S. forces withdraw from Iraq by December 2011. The Iraqi government takes these deadlines seriously and shows no intention of modifying them, despite American proposals to remain longer in less-secure cities such as Mosul.

Yet the search for an "endgame" emphasizes a short-term objective -- getting out of Iraq -- and sidesteps the strategic imperative of establishing an enduring relationship with a key country in a region of vital importance to the United States. It is time for America to take the long view. Neither Iraq's nor

[Return to Index](#)

### **39. When Will The U.S. Recognize That Pyongyang Renounced The Armistice?**

(*WALL STREET JOURNAL* 29 JUN 09) ... Gordon G. Chang

At this moment the Kang Nam, a North Korea tramp freighter, is on the high seas tailed by a team of American destroyers and submarines and watched by reconnaissance satellites and aircraft. On board, its cargo could be plutonium pellets, missile parts or semi-ripe melons. In any event, Washington wants to know what is in the rusty ship's hold.

Why the interest in this particular vessel? The Kang Nam is a "repeat offender" and known to carry "proliferation materials." As an unnamed American official told Fox News this month, "This ship is presumed to be carrying something illicit given its past history." United Nations Security Council Resolution 1874, unanimously passed on June 12, broadened the concept of illicit cargoes as far as North Korea is concerned. It prohibits Pyongyang from selling arms, even handguns.

The U.S. has a legal right to board North Korean ship Kang Nam, which is suspected of carrying illicit weapons.

The Security Council, while banning Pyongyang's export of weapons, has not given U.N. member states the means of enforcing the new restrictions. Resolution 1874 calls upon countries to inspect North Korean cargoes on the high seas -- but only "with the consent of the flag State," in this case North Korea. Should Pyongyang refuse -- as it most certainly would -- a member state can, within the terms of the resolution, direct a vessel to "an appropriate and convenient port" for inspection by local officials. Should Pyongyang refuse to divert the ship, the resolution contemplates the filing of a report to a U.N. committee.

It looks as if Washington will file such a report soon. Last week, Washington promised the Chinese to abide by the restraints imposed by Resolution 1874. This means, in all probability, that the United States will be reduced to watching the Kang Nam unload an illegal cargo at its intended destination.

Yet Washington does not have to adopt such a feeble approach. The North Koreans have, inadvertently, given the U.S. a way to escape from the restrictions of the new Security Council measure. On May 27, the Korean People's Army issued a statement declaring that it "will not be bound" by the armistice that ended fighting in the Korean War. This was at least the third time Pyongyang has disavowed the interim agreement that halted hostilities in 1953. Previous renunciations were announced in 2003 and 2006.

The U.N. Command, a signatory to the armistice, shrugged off Pyongyang's belligerent statement. "The armistice remains in force and is binding on all signatories, including North Korea," it said immediately after the

America's stake in a stable, peaceful Middle East will vanish when the last American combat brigade departs. American policymakers must advance U.S. interests in Iraq and the Middle East through a long-term, low-profile engagement to help resolve Iraq's internal challenges, strengthen its government and economic institutions, and integrate it as a constructive partner in the region. While shaping this new relationship will be difficult, neglecting it will have serious consequences for U.S. national security.

renunciation, referring to the document's termination provisions. That may be the politically correct thing to say, but an armistice as a legal matter cannot remain in existence after one of its parties, a sovereign state, announces its end. Today, whether we like it or not, there is no armistice.

Furthermore, there has never been a peace treaty formally ending the Korean War. This means the U.S., a combatant in the conflict, as leader of the U.N. Command, is free to use force against Pyongyang. On legal grounds, the U.S. Navy therefore has every right to seize the Kang Nam, treat the crew as prisoners of war and confiscate its cargo, even if the ship is carrying nothing more dangerous than melons. Because the Navy has the right to torpedo the vessel, which proudly flies the flag of another combatant in the war, it of course has the right to board her.

But does America have the will to do so? "Rules must be binding. Violations must be punished. Words must mean something," President Barack Obama, reacting to North Korea's test of a long-range missile, said in the first week of April. Unfortunately, the President's words have apparently meant little because Kim Jong Il's belligerent state has, since that time, detonated a nuclear device, handed out harsh sentences to two American reporters, and announced the resumption of plutonium production. North Korea has threatened nuclear war several times in recent days and this month sent one of its patrol boats into South Korean waters. American envoys, in response, have issued stern warnings, participated in meetings in the region, and engaged in high-level diplomacy in the corridors of the U.N. None of this, however, has led to the enforcement of rules or the punishment of the North Korean regime.

North Korea's words, in contrast, have meant something. They have, as noted, ended the armistice. Of course, no one is arguing that the nations participating in the U.N. Command resume a full-scale land war in Asia. Yet recognizing the end of the temporary truce would allow the U.S. to use more effective measures to stop North Korean proliferation of missile and nuclear technologies. The Bush administration sometimes got around to warning Kim Jong Il about selling dangerous technologies but never did anything about it.

Instead, President Bush outsourced the problem to the U.N. In October 2006, in response to the North's first nuclear detonation, the Security Council passed a resolution aimed at halting North Korean proliferation. Unfortunately, Beijing refused to implement the new rules, calling the measures unacceptable, even after voting in favor of them. Since then, more evidence has come to light of North Korea's transfer of



nuclear weapons technology to Iran and Syria.

The lesson of the last few years is that the U.N. is not capable of stopping North Korean proliferation. No nation can stop it except the U.S. Of course, ending North Korea's sales of dangerous technologies to hostile regimes will anger Pyongyang. This month, for instance, the North said that interception of the Kang Nam would constitute an "act of war."

Yet, as much as the international community would like to avoid a confrontation, the world cannot let Kim Jong Il continue to proliferate weapons. Moreover, it is unlikely that he will carry through on his blustery threats. The North Koreans did not in fact start a war when, at America's request,

[Return to Index](#)

Spain's special forces intercepted an unflagged North Korean freighter carrying Scud missiles bound for Yemen in December 2002. Even though the Spanish risked their lives to board the vessel, Washington soon asked Madrid to release it. At the time, the Bush administration explained there was no legal justification to seize the missiles.

Now, the Obama administration has no such excuse. There is definitely a legal justification to seize the Kang Nam. North Korea, after all, has resumed the Korean War.

Mr. Chang is the author of "Nuclear Showdown: North Korea Takes On the World" (Random House, 2006).

## OTHER:

### 40. Obama Junks 'Global War On Terror' Label

(*FINANCIAL TIMES* 30 JUN 09) ... Edward Luce and Daniel Dombey in Washington

The Obama administration has junked the term "global war on terror" because it does not describe properly the nature of the terrorist threat to the US, according to Janet Napolitano, secretary for homeland security.

"One of the reasons the nomenclature is not used is that 'war' carries with it a relationship to nation states in conflict with each other and of course terrorism is not necessarily derived from the nation state relationship," she told the *Financial Times*. "In some respects 'war' is too limiting."

Napolitano's comments were the clearest acknowledgement by an Obama official of a widely observed change in language. In March, the White House denied reports that an internal memo had been issued banning the term. But Mr Obama has studiously avoided the phrase, which officials see as legally troublesome and politically counterproductive.

Ms Napolitano, who arrived on Monday night in the UK, said she was hoping to learn from her British counterparts, and others, how to improve public "resiliency" to terrorist attacks. "You have got to minimise risk and respond with resiliency – there are lessons to be learned from other countries and the UK is one of them," she said.

[Return to Index](#)

Ms Napolitano, the former governor of Arizona, is in charge of 22 former agencies that make up the Department of Homeland Security.

Her comments follow increasingly strident criticism from Dick Cheney, the former vice-president, that Mr Obama's actions, including the pledge to close the Guantánamo Bay detention centre and dropping the term "war on terror", would increase the terrorist threat to the US.

Ms Napolitano dismissed Mr Cheney's warnings. "Pivoting from closing Guantánamo to the argument that [its closure] could be the causal agent for an attack on the US is, to be charitable, a stretch," she said. But she conceded the administration needed to do more to persuade Congress to house Guantánamo detainees on US soil.

Ms Napolitano said she also continued to monitor the threat of domestic terrorism following a DHS report in March warning that the declining economy and the return of military veterans meant that there was an increasing threat of rightwing "lone wolf" terrorist activity.

"The fact of the matter is that this threat is very real and is not solely rightwing or leftwing," she added.