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Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

Thursday 13 October, 2005

Bi-weekly report from the Nautilus Institute at RMIT, Australia.

- 1. Philippines Denies Australia Has Joined JI Hunt
- 2. Senator Condemns Lack Of Long-Term Strategic Intelligence Analysis
- 3. Human Rights Watch Slams Anti-Terror Laws
- 4. Military Justice 'Reform' A Rank Injustice
- 5. Australia Is China's New Spokesman

Special Report: End of Mission Report From Australian Inter-Agency Mission To Indonesia On Avian Influenza

1. Philippines Denies Australia Has Joined JI Hunt

AP/AAP, Age 2005-10-11Philippines military spokesman said <u>Australian security forces have only</u> <u>been involved in investigations into recent bomb attacks</u> in the country. He was responding to reports that Special Air Service Regiment troops were cooperating with Filipino soldiers in the hunt for senior terrorist figures.

- Senator Condemns Lack Of Long-Term Analysis Geoffrey Barker, AFR, 2005-10-10Queensland senator Russell Trood has criticised the <u>decline in</u> <u>Australia's long-term strategic intelligence analysis</u> and says an agency should be established within the department of foreign affairs and trade to work on long-term issues.
- 3. Human Rights Watch Slams Anti-Terror Laws

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AFP, Age, 2005-10-13 <u>Human Rights Watch condemned today Australia's proposed anti-terrorism</u> <u>laws</u> as a "shocking departure" from the country's historical championing of the rights of the individual. The proposed measures have been criticised by other human rights groups, including Amnesty International.

4. 'Reform' A Rank Injustice

Geoffrey Barker, AFR, 2005-10-10Defence Minister Robert Hill and Defence Force chief Angus Houston have described the <u>federal government's latest tinkerings with the military justice</u> <u>system</u> as "significant reforms". They are, in fact, at best marginal reforms that may or may not improve the system.

5. Australia Is China's New Spokesman Sushil Seth, Taipei Times, 2005-10-06Of late, Australia has been seeking to <u>create some political</u> <u>space for its diplomacy between the US and China</u>.

Special Report: High-Level Inter-Agency Mission To Indonesia On Avian Influenza, End Of Mission Report October 2005

A high-level Australian interagency delegation was deployed to Indonesia from 4 to 6 October 2005 to:

- 1. explore the <u>challenges presented by Avian Influenza in Indonesia</u> and the capacity of the Indonesian Government to respond;
- 2. Develop a clear picture of assistance from other donors and international agencies; and
- 3. Identify specific areas for immediate and medium-term Australian assistance.

As a result the Australian the Government has announced an additional \$10 million in assistance to Indonesia bringing Australia's total assistance package to Indonesia on Avian Influenza to \$15.5 million.

Of related interest: Christian Enemark, <u>Disease Security in Northeast Asia: Biological Weapons and</u> <u>Natural Plagues</u>, Canberra Paper 156, Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, ANU (2004)."

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