Vanstone Refuses To Return Papuans

Indonesia's hopes for 43 Papuan asylum seekers to be returned have been scuttled by the Minister for Immigration, Amanda Vanstone, after she said no consideration would be given to foreign relations in the assessment of their claims. Indonesian officials were allowed brief contact with the asylum seekers. The asylum seekers were then flown to a detention centre on Christmas Island.

West Papua Killing 'Not Linked' To Boat People

The Indonesian embassy yesterday ruled out a link between the shooting of a boy in West Papua on Friday and the arrival in Australia last week of 43 West Papuan asylum seekers. Nick Chesterfield, from the Australian West Papua Association, said a pastor who is related to three of the asylum seekers was visited by Kopassus intelligence officers and police in Paniai yesterday morning. Of related interest:
Indonesian soldiers shoot four Papuans, killing one - report, Radio New Zealand International, 2006-01-20

3. One Of The Last Liberal Liberals,
Geoffrey Barker, AFR*, 2006-01-23
Robert Hill's strategic doctrine did not convince, but he was a good choice as Defence Minister. He challenged but could not defeat the regional defence-o-Australia focus of national strategic policy by insisting doggedly that defence of distant interests should matter as much as the defence of adjacent territory.*subscription required

4. A Land Of Fading Promise,
Richard Woolcott, Age, 2006-01-21
Hubris and arrogance are diminishing Australia and our reputation around the world.

5. MP Warns Against Sabotaging ECPII,
PNG Post Courier Online, 2006-01-23
Any person who tries to sabotage or grumble about the ECP(Mark II) will be severely dealt with, says Police Minister Bire Kimisopa. He said the challenge was for the PNG police to express reservations about their involvement with the Australians, saying he did not know about these until after the Australian officers had left the country, after the certain issues of the ECP (Mark I) was ruled unconstitutional. Of related interest:
PNG, 30 Years On, Tim O'Connor, NewMatilda.com, 2005-08-31

Various countries not represented at the Six Party Talks on the North Korean nuclear issue are developing options to engage the DPRK should the talks progress. The authors analyse the leading South Korean energy engagement strategy, and find that it falls short of what is needed to support nuclear disarmament in North Korea, namely, projects that are cheap, fast, replicable, and rely on markets or nimble non-governmental organisations to deliver immediate tangible benefits to the DPRK that can be synchronized with sequential dismantlement steps. Contact editor: Jane Mullett
Jane.Mullett@rmit.edu.au

View this online at: https://nautilus.org/apsnet/apsnet-for-20060123-2/

Nautilus Institute
2342 Shattuck Ave. #300, Berkeley, CA 94704 | Phone: (510) 423-0372 | Email: nautilus@nautilus.org