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3. Defence Papers for Cole Inquiry
4. Nelson Tells Military to Cut Court Fights with Personnel
5. AIDS Threat in PNG of African Levels, Warns Downer

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is poised to buy at least four C-17 Globemaster transport planes to relieve pressure on its fleet of Hercules C-130s in Iraq. Australia has had to borrow aircraft from the US, Britain and Russia to supply its forces, causing resentment from allies, logistical headaches and even danger for forces and dignitaries.

The Defence Department has been drawn into the AWB kickbacks scandal inquiry. Dr Nelson said he had handed three documents over to Mr Cole, hinting they were related to the work of the Iraq Survey Group and Australians embedded in the Coalition Provisional Authority.

* Subscription required.

5. **Nelson Tells Military to Cut Court Fights with Personnel**, Geoffrey Barker, AFR*, 2006-02-20
Defence Minister Brendan Nelson has ordered limited reforms to Australia’s military justice system without delay. Against a background of rising concern over the impact on recruitment of Defence spending millions of dollars annually fighting cases against victims of military justice, he said: "It does not pass my commonsense test."

* Subscription required.

Minister Alexander Downer, says PNG could face a catastrophic AIDS epidemic if urgent action is not taken. The Government will give up to $25 million over 4 years through the Clinton Foundation’s HIV/AIDS Initiative to China, Vietnam and PNG.

**Briefing note: UN And Europe Are Right: Guantanamo Must Close (Age editorial)**

"Until recently 'gulag' was a term associated only with the least democratic of political regimes. Yet it is the word Amnesty International used in its annual report last year to describe the Guantanamo Bay prison camp at the US Naval Base in Cuba. That report accused the US of being responsible for an upsurge in global human rights violations and called for the camp to be closed."

*Age Editorial, 2006-02-18*

**UN And Europe Are Right: Guantanamo Must Close**, Editorial, Age, 2006-02-18

The European Parliament this week voted overwhelmingly for a resolution urging that the prison be closed and inmates given a fair trial. A British High Court judge observed: "America’s idea of what is torture is not the same as ours and does not appear to coincide with that of most civilised nations."

While the Howard Government has been obsequious in its dealings with the Americans, Britain has managed to secure freedom for its nine citizens held at Guantanamo, without damaging its alliance with the US.

- **Going Wrong On Rights**, Steven Freeland, Age, 2006-02-21
- **Members of European Parliament (MEPs) Back UN Call for Guantanamo Camp Closure**, Lisbeth Kirk, EU Observer, 2006-02-17
Austral Policy Forum 06-03A: The Modern House of Tokelau

Nic Maclellan of the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Movement backgrounds the recent vote on self determination in the small Pacific nation of Tokelau. While the vote subsequently narrowly rejected the option of free association with New Zealand, another vote on self-determination is likely in the near future.

Maclellan writes:

"Even though many donor governments promote good governance and human rights in the Pacific, the right to self-determination is rarely mentioned. But the issue of self-determination is still a crucial issue on the regional agenda, as shown by the violent conflicts in New Caledonia in the 1980s, Bougainville in the 1990s and West Papua today."

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