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Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

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

Monday 6 March 2006

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9. Australians in Guantanamo Bay: The Detention of Mamdouh Habib and David Hicks

Austral Policy Forum Online: Indonesia's Big Brother Ambitions? by Lim Tai Wei & Yeo Lay Hwee.

1. PM Ready To Re-Examine Uranium Policy, ABC/AFP, ABC Online, 2006-03-06Mr Howard said on his arrival in New Delhi that he is willing to re-examine Australia's policy on exporting uranium. "We are interested in the agreement that's been struck between the United States and India," he said. "We do have long-standing policy of only selling uranium to countries that are part of the

NPT regime, but we'll have a look at a bit more information about that and we'll further assess it.
    - Nuclear Deal Not Without Risk, AFR*, 2006-03-06
      * Subscription required.
    - India's Nuclear Gamble Pays Off, Editorial, SMH, 2006-03-04
    - U.S, India Finalise Nuclear Technology Sharing Deal, NTI, Global Security Newswire, 2006-0--02
    - The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime: An Overview of Institutional & Technical Issues, DFAT
    -
2.
3. Bush Counters China through New Best Friend, Hamish McDonald, SMH, 2006-03-04Bush's suggestion that the nuclear deal is about global warming and reducing pressure on oil demand is dismissed as laughable by Peter Hayes, head of San Francisco's Nautilus Institute. "The actual rationale is to develop a strategic relationship to deal with the perceived challenges arising from China," Hayes said.
4. Helping Allies Is Key to Defence: Nelson, Tom Allard, SMH, 2006-03-04Dr Nelson, for the first time, applied equal weight to the importance of operations like Iraq, border security and promoting stability in the neighbourhood. "Australia's security relies as much on us being participants with our major partners and alliance partners like the United States and the United Kingdom in other parts of the world," he said.
5. ADF Signs Up For Giant Cargo Plane, Steve Creedy, Australian, 2006-03-04The Australian Defence Force will get its first Boeing C-17 cargo plane - with four times the carrying capacity of the existing RAAF C-130 Hercules - by the end of the year. The federal Government signed up for the Boeing C-17 Globemaster III military planes at a cost of up to $2 billion. The four-engine jet aircraft will give Australia the capacity for responsive global airlift operations it has previously lacked.
    - Minister for Defence Announces New Heavy Airlift Capability for Royal Australian Air Force, Min60304/06 Transcript, Brendan Nelson 2006-03-04
    - C-17 Globemaster III, Aircraft, Military Systems, GlobalSecurity.org
    - Australia's National Security: A Defence Update 2005, Defence Dept. 2005-12-15 [PDF]
    - The Australian National Security Defence Update 2005, APSNet 2005-12-15
6.
7. Customs Aircraft Cut But Go Hi-Tech, Steve Creedy, Australian, 2006-03-04Coastwatch fixed-wing aircraft fleet will be cut by a third, but Government believes new hi-tech planes will make up for this. Ten new aircraft will include hi-tech surveillance equipment such as infra-red sensors, high-definition cameras and radar, able to link to a new satellite-based surveillance management system that transfers information back in real time to Canberra or to other aircraft. NAS subsidiary Surveillance Australia will upgrade five existing Dash8-200 aircraft and add five more, including four longer-range Dash8-300 series.
    - Australian Customs Services: Coastwatch Operations
    - National Air Support: Services Contracted to 2020
8.
9. More Soldiers Join Strike Over Military Conditions In East Timor, AP, Guardian,

2006-03-03Around 200 more soldiers from East Timor's 1,500-strong army have joined a strike over poor conditions and selective promotions, officials said. The troops join the 400 on strike since February 8, said Gastao Salsinha, a strike coordinator. The soldiers have refused to return to duty and are demanding an independent investigation into their complaints. President, Xanana Gusmao, has promised a government inquiry.
    - Defence Support to Timore-Leste: Operation Chiron, Defence Cooperation Program, Australian Defence Department

10.
11. Indonesia Says No Police Reinforcements for Papua Mine, UTC, RNZ International, 2006-03-05Indonesia says it won't send any more police reinforcements to the province of Papua following four days of protest at the Freeport gold mine last week. The Antara state news agency reports the national police chief, General Sutanto, as saying his officers would neither withdraw from Papua nor should they expect reinforcements.
    - National Police Not To Pull Out Personnel from Papua, Antara, 2006-03-03

12.
13. New Defence Capability Development Manual 2006The Department of Defence has released a 2006 update of its landmark 2005 Defence Capability Development Manual (DCDM). [PDF]
14. Australians in Guantanamo Bay: The Detention of Mamdouh Habib and David Hicks, Nigel Brew and Jan Miller, Parliamentary LibraryThis chronology of the detention of Mamdouh Habib and David Hicks covers the period from 27 September 2001 to 18 February 2006. It serves to record key events and relevant commentary by a variety of persons and organisations, and is sourced mainly from media reports, Australian and US Government information and various legal groups. (Thanks to Australian Policy Online, 2006-02-28)

Austral Policy Forum: Indonesia's Big Brother Ambitions?, Lim Tai Wei & Yeo Lay Hwee.

While courting friendship with powers like the US and China as well as buying Russian-made weapons, Indonesia seems also to be playing an active role in the nuclear issues that are preoccupying the US Bush administration. This week, Indonesia's intentions seemed clearer. It wants to play a bigger role in the United Nations, specifically it aims to be a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.

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