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APSNet for 20060309

Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

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

Thursday 9 March 2006

1. [Credentials the Cost of Nuclear Sell-Out](#)
2. ['Don't Let Treaty Be Barrier to Atomic Power Payoff'](#)
3. [It's Not Necessary to Go All the Way with the USA](#)
4. [Troops to Stay On in Iraq and Police Go to Sudan](#)
5. [A Real Plan for Warming](#)
6. [Maritime Security Deal Signed](#)
7. [Group Takes Aim at Fishing Pirates](#)

Austral Policy Forum Online: [A New Era For Chinese Naval Expansion](#) by You Ji.

1. [Credentials the Cost of Nuclear Sell-Out](#), Richard Broinowski, SMH, 2006-03-08 Sales of uranium to India can only damage an already fragile treaty.
2. ['Don't Let Treaty Be Barrier to Atomic Power Payoff'](#), Mark Dodd, Australian, 2006-03-08 Samina Yasmeen, an expert on South Asia and related strategic issues, warned that it would be a mistake for Australia to link the NPT with the sale of uranium for India's rapidly growing civilian nuclear program.
 - [Yellowcake Men Hot To Trot](#), Julie Macken, AFR*, 2006-03-06

* [Subscription required](#).

- 3.
4. [It's Not Necessary to Go All the Way with the USA](#), Anthony Bubalo, SMH, 2006-03-09
reassessment of Australia's strategic relationship with the Middle East is long overdue. What makes the Middle East truly "vital" to Australia is where its conflicts intersect with key national interests in Asia.
5. [Troops to Stay On in Iraq and Police Go to Sudan](#), Brendan Nicholson, Age, 2006-03-07
Defence Minister Brendan Nelson said the 470 Australians based in al-Muthanna Province would remain in Iraq - or be replaced by a similar-sized force. 10 volunteers from the Australian Federal Police will join a UN peacekeeping mission in the African nation of Sudan, as part of a 700-strong UN peacekeeping mission that includes 15 Australian Defence Force personnel
 - [British Aim for Troops Out of Iraq in Two Years](#), Paul McGeogh, SMH, 2006-03-08
 - [Japan to Delay Iraq Exit](#), AFP, Australian, 2006-03-06
- 6.
7. [A Real Plan for Warming](#), Kenneth Davidson, Age, 2006-03-09
Kim Beazley's proposals to tackle climate change are a serious response to a crisis that Australia can't ignore.
 - [Protecting Australian from the Threat of Climate Change](#) - Blueprint No. 6, Kim Beazley, 2006-03-07 [PDF]
- 8.
9. [Maritime Security Deal Signed](#), AAP, Australian, 2006-03-08
Attorney-General Philip Ruddock has signed agreements to enhance maritime security and counter-terrorism. The protocols were adopted at a Diplomatic Conference of the International Maritime Organisation in October 2005. They will amend the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation.
 - APSNet Special Report 2005-10-27: [Australia Welcomes New International Maritime Organisation \(IMO\) Security Protocols](#)
- 10.
11. [Group Takes Aim at Fishing Pirates](#), AFP, Australian, 2006-03-04
A 6-country group including Australia and New Zealand, backed by 3 environment groups plan to crack down on illegal fishing. The 'High Seas Task Force' will commit \$US2.5 million (\$A3.35 million) over the next two years to the task. It was approved by Australia, Britain, Canada, Chile, Namibia and New Zealand, with the support of the WWF, the World Conservation Union (IUCN) and the Earth Institute.
 - [The High Seas Task Force](#).
 - [Closing the Net, Stop Illegal Fishing on the High Seas](#), Final Report of the Ministerially-led Task force on IUU Fishing on the high Seas, March 2006. [PDF]

12.

Austral Policy Forum: [A New Era For Chinese Naval Expansion](#), You Ji.

You Ji of the University of New South Wales writes that while the Chinese navy,

"is still a long way from achieving its ambition of becoming a world class navy, China's naval modernization is not for a show of force to China's neighbors. Every class of

warships-whether a submarine or a surface combatant-has clear tactical function in an envisaged sea battle."

On the other hand,

"China's technological breakthroughs are being rendered obsolete in the West. The major powers can move to a new level of development sooner than expected, making the new ships in the PLAN vulnerable in a short period of time. Technologically this means that the PLAN has not come to the stage of comprehensive transformation."

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