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Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

Austral Peace and Security Network Bi-Weekly Report, from the Nautilus Institute at RMIT, Melbourne, Australia.

Thursday 24 April 2006

1. What Really Went Wrong in the Solomons
2. Solomons MP Held over Riots
3. Indonesia's Rift with Australia
4. Guest Worker Scheme May Be Better Pacific Solution for both Australia and Region
5. Diggers in Iraq Face Riskier Role
6. Push the Button on Nuclear Debate

1. What Really Went Wrong in Solomons, Shahar Hamieri, Age, 2006-04-24Until last week's violence in Honiara, RAMSI - Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands - was seen as a rare example of successful post-conflict state building. So much so that many of the insights afforded by the operation seem certain to form the backbone of the coming Department of Foreign Affairs white paper on aid and development. How is it that such a resounding success has turned into a debacle?
   - Nelson Sends Patrol Boats to Honiara, Brendan Nicholson, Age, 2006-04-24
   - Mission's Flaws Lie Exposed in the Ruins, Mary-Louise O'Callaghan, Australian, 2006-04-21
   - Downer Warns Solomons to Get Real on Corruption, Craig Skehan, SMH, 2006-04-23

2.
3. Solomons MP Held over Riots, Michael McKenna and Cath Hart, Australian, 2006-04-24Australian-led security forces locked down the Solomon Islands parliament last night after the arrest of an MP and the launch of a hunt for another blamed for inciting the riots in the strife-torn Pacific nation.
4. Indonesia's Rift with Australia, Editorial, SMH, 2006-04-21If there was one thing John Howard wanted as Prime Minister it was to differentiate himself from his Labour predecessor, Paul Keating. Ten years later, Mr Howard finds himself accused of kowtowing to Indonesia over Papua. It is not what Mr Howard, or Australia, was expecting from the young Indonesian democracy or its first popularly elected President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.
   - Free West Papua Not Viable, John Roskam, AFR*, 2006-04-21
     * Subscription required.
   - Suspected Papuan Refugee Boat Sinks, Mark Forbes, Age, 2006-04-21
5.
6. Guest Worker Scheme May Be Better Pacific Solution for both Australia and Region , Hamish McDonald, SMH, 2006-04-22Already accused of dragging workplace relations back into the 19th century, it's understandable that John Howard may not want to go down as the prime minister who reintroduced "blackbirding" to the Australian labour market.
   - Another Pacific Fix, Peter Mares, APO, 2006-04-19
7.
8. Diggers in Iraq Face Riskier Role, Brendan Nicholson, Age, 2006-04-24Australia's troops in southern Iraq are likely to be given a more dangerous job able to rush to the aid of Iraqi forces in trouble. Dr Nelson said, "We'll make the rotation in al-Muthanna towards the end of May, and should the Japanese then withdraw some months after that, we will have little difficulty then redeploying to what will be predominantly a role of responding to requests from the Iraqi Government."
9. Push the Button on Nuclear Debate, John Durie, AFR*, 2006-04-22BHP Billiton chairman Don Argus is about to spend up to $US5 billion ($6.7 billion) expanding the Olympic Dam copper and uranium mine but admits to being surprised at the lack of debate on nuclear energy. "The government has to play a role in the debate, looking at the alternatives - and when it comes to uranium this means looking at how waste is treated," Argus said.
   * Subscription required.

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