Diggers Securing Mideast Peace: Nelson


Defence Minister Brendan Nelson has paid a secret visit to Australian troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and the Persian Gulf, telling them they play a crucial role in securing peace in the Middle East. The unannounced visit to the Middle East comes as Australia is boosting its military commitment to Afghanistan to tackle a resurgent Taliban and after a deadly week in the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

   British forces handed over security of the southern Iraq province of Maysan, the fourth province to be transferred to Iraqis under a plan to eventually allow the withdrawal of foreign troops.
   - **Iraq Governorates**, UK Ministry of Defence, 2003 [JPG]

4. **Iran, US take their fight to Afghanistan**, M K Bhadrakumar, Asia Times, 2007-04-20
   In the latest US offensive against Iran, Tehran is implied to be arming the Taliban insurgency in Afghanistan. Washington could not be further off the mark, as Tehran has a fundamental problem with the Taliban's virulent anti-Shi'ite ideology. Certainly, though, the Iranians are not above meddling in Afghanistan's affairs, if only to make the US realize that its support of anti-Iranian terrorism from Afghan soil comes at a heavy price.

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