APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, July 19, 2007

Recommended Citation

"APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, July 19, 2007", APSNet Semi-Weekly Bulletin, July 19, 2007, https://nautilus.org/apsnet/apsnet-for-20070719/

APSNet for 20070719

Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

Twice weekly report from the Nautilus Institute at RMIT, Australia.

Thursday 19 July 2007

1. Australia: Travel Ban on Solomons Ministers to Stay
2. Goff Discussing E. Timor Exit Strategy Today
3. Australia: The Bumpy Road to Justice of a Non-Citizen Doctor
4. Philippines: New Terror Law Targets Militants in South
5. Thailand: Opposition Grows against Security Act
6. USA: National Intelligence Estimate
7. UK: We are Failing in Afghanistan
8. Design Faults: The Asia Pacific's Regional Architecture

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1. Australia: Travel Ban on Solomons Ministers to Stay, ABC, 2007-07-18Ministers of the Solomon Islands government will be routinely refused entry to Australia until the new Attorney-General Julian Moti is handed over and tried in Australia on child sex charges. Mr Downer made the comment during a brief visit to Nauru and Tonga, where he's been canvassing views in the Pacific about continuing the Regional Support Mission to Solomon Islands, and how to deal with post-coup Fiji.
   - Julian Moti and the Future of RAMSI, Shahar Hameiri, Murdoch University, APO, 2007-07-19

2.
3. Goff Discussing E. Timor Exit Strategy Today, TV3, 2007-07-19NZ Defence Minister Phil Goff goes into talks with his Australian counterpart today. Mr Goff and Brendan Nelson are meeting in Australia as part of their annual bi-lateral talks and will discuss Timor, the Solomons and wider issues of stability in the South Pacific. On Timor, Mr Goff says discussions will be held on what needs to be done post-election in the region, to start moving troops out.
   - Goff to Sydney for Bilateral Defence Talks, Media Release NZ Government, 2007-07-17

4.
5. The Bumpy Road to Justice of a Non-Citizen Doctor, Joel Gibson and Craig Skehan, SMH, 2007-07-19A Federal Court judge has described as "astounding" the Federal Government's position that an association of any kind with criminals - "a cup of coffee, a picnic with the kids" - is enough for a non-citizen to fail the Migration Act's character test.
   - A Case of Justice Denied, Julian Burnside, Age, 2007-07-18

6.
7. Philippines: New Terror Law Targets Militants in South, Steve Holland with Renato Reyes and Lt. Col. Ariel Caculitan, ABC, 2007-07-16A new anti-terrorism law has been introduced in the Philippines, designed to combat al-Qaida-linked militants largely based in the country's south. The move's been well received by Australia and the US. But human rights groups have voiced strong opposition to the legislation. They believe the law endangers the civil liberties Filipinos finally won when they ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.
   - The Human Security Act of 2007, Republic Act No. 9327, Philippines, 2007-02-19 [Primary source, PDF]

8.
9. Thailand: Opposition Grows against Security Act, Karon Snowdon with Dr Pasuk Phonpaichit, ABC, 2007-07-18Opposition is mounting in Thailand to a new security law proposed by the military government. The Internal Security Act was approved by cabinet last month but has not been sent to parliament.
   - ICJ recommends Thai Government Withdraw Internal Security Bill, ICJ, 2007-07-12
   - Thailand: Comments on the Draft internal Security Act, ICJ, July 2007 [PDF]

10.
11. National Intelligence Estimate: Press Briefing, Fran Townsend, White House, 2007-07-17The NIE assesses that al Qaeda will enhance its capabilities to attack the homeland through greater cooperation with regional terrorist groups. Of most concern is that al Qaeda will try to exploit the conflict in Iraq and leverage the contacts and capabilities of al Qaeda in Iraq, its most visible and capable affiliate and the only one known to have expressed a desire to attack the homeland.
   - The Terrorist Threat to the US Homeland, National Intelligence Estimate, July 2007 [Primary source, PDF]
   - National Intelligence Estimate: The Terrorist Threat to the US Homeland, Global Security, July 2007

12.
13. We are Failing in Afghanistan, Paddy Ashdown, Guardian, 2007-07-19The costs of losing this war far outweigh those of Iraq. In July 2006, Britain's commander of international forces in Afghanistan, General David Richards, issued a stark warning: "Afghanistan is a good and winnable war but, at the pace we are proceeding, we need to realise that we could actually fail

here." A year on, as yesterday's defence committee report indicates, we are indeed beginning to fail in Afghanistan.
    - UK Operations in Afghanistan, Thirteenth Report, Defence Committee, UK Parliament, 2007-0--18 [Primary source]

14.
15. Design Faults: The Asia Pacific's Regional Architecture, Policy Brief, Allan Gyngell, Lowy Institute, July 2007 [PDF]The Asia Pacific region has too many regional organisations, yet they are still unable to do all the things required of them. This matters at a time when the rising power of China and India presents new challenges. There is a need for a new framework for regional institutions, including the establishment of a more effective security organisation and a heads of government meeting separate from APEC.

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