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Austral Peace and Security Network (APSNet)

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

Thursday 9 August 2007

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1. [Australian Troops Attacked in Dili](#), Lindsay Murdoch, Age, 2007-08-08Gangs attacked Australian and United Nations personnel in the East Timorese capital Dili, as former ruling party Fretilin planned protests at being excluded from a new government led by independence hero Xanana Gusmao.
 - [Timor-Leste Civil Unrest OCHA Situation Report No.1](#), Summary Analysis, Relief Web, 2007-0-08
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- [Govt Moves to Stop Lobato Leaving E Timor](#), Anne Barker, ABC, 2007-08-09
 - [Ashes or Embers? Two Peace Processes in Similar Trouble](#), Economist, 2007-08-08
- 2.
 3. [Canberra to Remain in South Pacific](#), Patrick Walters, Australian, 2007-08-09 Australia will maintain a permanent presence in the S. Pacific to help assist a fundamental transformation in the region's economies and institutions, Alexander Downer said. Outlining a long-term regional leadership role, the Foreign Minister said Australia would mount further military interventions to restore law and order if circumstances required it. He did not rule out a change in policy on Pacific island seasonal workers in Australia.
 - [Australia's Commitment to the Pacific](#), Alexander Downer, Biennial Sir Arthur Tange Lecture on Australian Diplomacy, 2007-08-08 [Primary source]
 - 4.
 5. [Extra Troops to Solomons for No Confidence Vote](#), ABC, 2007-08-09 New Zealand and Tonga have sent an extra 170 troops to boost security around the Solomon Islands parliament and in the capital, Honiara, ahead of an opposition no confidence motion in the prime minister. The motion is expected to be moved in parliament by MP Edward Huni'ehu. The increased security is to prevent a repeat of the April 2006 riots after Snyder Rini was elected prime minister.
 6. [Fighting Fires Is Not the Best Answer](#), Tim Costello, SMH, 2007-08-09 Boosting overseas aid to the Pacific could allow us to help communities tackle some of the underlying causes of strife: issues such as the lack of a job or other economic opportunities, the lack of basic services and effective governance and the increasingly degraded environment. If we fail to assist in resolving these underlying issues our troops will be back in very quick time. At the very least this is bad economics.
 - [Island Nation or Global Citizen?](#) World Vision, 2007 [PDF]
 - 7.
 8. [Alliance Would Get a Fresh Coat of Paint under Rudd](#), Michael Fullilove, SMH, 2007-08-09 There is a reasonable chance that the alliance will soon be in the hands of a Labor prime minister - and that within 18 months the alliance will be conducted between progressive governments in both capitals. How would the ALP manage this critical bilateral relationship? What does Labor's alliance DNA look like, and how would it manifest in government?
 - [Fresh Ideas for Future Challenge: National Security Policy](#), Kevin Rudd, ASPI, 2007-08-08 [Primary source, PDF]
 - 9.
 10. [Afghanistan at Odds with U.S. on Plan to Curb Opium](#) (Update1), Janine Zacharia, Bloomberg, 2007-08-08 Afghanistan is at odds with a U.S. strategy to stem opium production that is funding the Taliban and other militants opposed to President Hamid Karzai's rule, according to a top Afghan diplomat. The debate over how to counter Afghanistan's burgeoning output of opium, the raw material for heroin sold on European streets, is likely to sharpen with the release of a U.S. drug-fighting strategy.
 - [Interagency Assessment of the Counternarcotics Program in Afghanistan](#), US Department of State and US Department of Defense, July 2007 [PDF]
 - [Opium and Narco-Politics](#), Australia in Afghanistan, Nautilus Institute, 2007-08-02
 - [Poor Helmand Security Situation Explained: Interview](#), Juan Cole, Informed Comment - Global Affairs, 2007-08-07

- [British Military Asks U.S. Forces to Leave Afghan Province](#), Carlotta Gall, IHT, 2007-08-09

11.

12. [Northern Territory National Emergency Response Bills 2007](#), Interim Bills Digest no.18, Parliamentary Library, 2007-08-07 [PDF] Given the unusually short time-frames allowed for parliamentary consideration of this suite of Bills, this interim Bills Digest has been issued. The provisions in the legislative package flow from measures announced by the Prime Minister and the Minister for Families, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs on 21 June, in response to the Report of the Northern Territory Board of Inquiry into the Protection of Aboriginal Children from Sexual Abuse, 2007.

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