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

Monday 20 August 2007

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1. [Determining their National Interest: Australia's Economic Intervention in Iraq](#), Chris Doran, AidWatch, July 2007 [PDF]This is the story of Australian interference, as an occupying power, in the Iraqi economy and its political institutions, interference that has advanced Australian commercial interests against the interests of the Iraqi people. It offers a systematic investigation into how the Australian government pursued narrow economic and trade interests in Iraq, frequently under the guise of humanitarian assistance.
2. [Troops Could Leave Iraq 'Within a Year'](#), AP, SMH, 2007-08-15It would take 9 to 12 months to withdraw all US troops and contractors safely from Iraq and phase out US bases, an Anthony

Cordesman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies said. The US military in Iraq would prefer a somewhat slower-paced pullout over two years, while other experts "indicate it would be feasible" to pull out 10,000 troops and 10,000 contractors a month.

- [The Tenuous Case for Strategic Patience in Iraq: A Trip Report](#), Anthony Cordesman, CSIS, 2007-08-06 [PDF]
- 3.
4. [Amid Escalating Violence in Afghanistan, Rising Opposition in Germany to Military Mission](#), IHT, Judy Dempsey, 2007-08-19The abduction of a German aid worker in Kabul on Saturday capped a week in which polls showed rising support within German political parties, and among voters, for a withdrawal of the country's troops from Afghanistan
- [Coalition Forces](#), Australia in Afghanistan, Nautilus Institute, 2007-05-24
 - [South Korean Hostage Talks 'Fail'](#), Al Jazeera, 2007-08-18
- 5.
6. [India Nukes Deal, Now for Russia](#), Sarah Smiles, Katharine Murphy and Anne Davies, Age, 2007-08-17Prime Minister John Howard announced the sale of uranium to India under "strict conditions". At the same time, Government officials confirmed that a new agreement to sell uranium to Russia could be signed next month during the visit of President Vladimir Putin to Australia. The deal will pave the way for Australian uranium to fuel Russian reactors for the first time.
- Uranium Move Weakens Treaty, Geoffrey Barker, [AFR*](#), 2007-08-16
 - * [Subscription required](#).
- 7.
8. [Philippines Teeters on Brink of Total War](#), Simon Roughneen, AsiaTimes, 2007-08-17The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) have launched a new military campaign against radical Muslim insurgents in its southern regions, an offensive nominally aimed at finishing off the hobbled 300-member Abu Sayyaf terror group, but one that also threatens to widen the conflict with two ceasefire groups, the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).
- [Terrorists Hit Back in Philippines](#), Emma-Kate Symons, Australian, 2007-08-20
 - [Philippines](#), ICG
 - [Combating Terrorism in the Philippines](#), US Pacific Command
- 9.
10. [Tonga-Australia Sign Performance Partnership](#), Tonga Now, 2007-08-16Australia and Tonga signed a Performance Partnership to assist the Government of Tonga in implementing its program of essential economic and public sector reforms. The partnership is the first in a series of new Performance Incentives arrangements announced in the 2007-08 overseas aid budget.
- [Background Brief - Incentives for Performance](#), AusAid [PDF]
 - [Australia and Tonga Sign Performance Partnership](#), Media Release AA 07 59, Minister for Foreign Affairs, 2007-08-16
- 11.
12. [Agency 'Ordered Killing'](#), Mark Forbes, Age, 2007-08-17Indonesia's Intelligence Agency ordered several assassination attempts against leading human rights activist Munir Thalib before poisoning him in 2004, a police investigation has revealed. The claims, presented to a Jakarta court yesterday, reopened hearings into the controversial murder case. They should also force

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono to reform the feared agency, human rights groups said.

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