

# The Daily Yomiuri

## EDITORIAL / UNSC resolution vindicates MSDF mission

Friday, September 21, 2007

The adoption of a resolution by the U.N. Security Council to extend the mission of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan is an expression of support for the Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling activities in the Indian Ocean, as well as a sign that these activities are expected to continue.

The resolution also extends appreciation to eight countries--including Japan, Britain and the United States--participating in maritime interdiction activities in the Indian Ocean as part of international efforts to fight terrorism. Fourteen of the 15 Security Council members voted for the resolution. Russia abstained.

The resolution's primary aim was to extend ISAF activities for another year, with the preamble touching on Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the key operation for the continued "war on terror" in Afghanistan and the Indian Ocean.

The resolution stressed "the need for sustained international efforts, including those of the ISAF and the OEF coalition."

Given the resolution, the government must concentrate its energies to continue the MSDF refueling operations for military vessels belonging to Britain, the United States and other countries. ===

### International commitment

Japan has worked to ensure that OEF activities be mentioned in the resolution by persuading Britain, the United States and other countries to push for their inclusion.

The government has pushed for this due to claims by the Democratic Party of Japan that there is no U.N. resolution directly sanctioning OEF--the very reason the DPJ says it is against the extension of the MSDF refueling activities.

It would be difficult--if not impossible--to try to have the Security Council adopt a new resolution supporting OEF activities purely out of consideration for Japan's domestic political situation.

The fact that the latest resolution stressed the importance of OEF missions-- which was made possible through a pragmatic diplomatic approach by the government--will certainly help broaden the Japanese public's understanding of the MSDF activities.

Twenty-four Japanese were killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States. Security Council resolution 1368, which was adopted immediately after the attacks, calls on the international community "to redouble their efforts to

prevent and suppress terrorist acts."

It was only natural that Japan enacted the Antiterrorism Law after the resolution was passed and then sent MSDF members and vessels to the Indian Ocean. ===

### DPJ must now decide

The maritime interdiction activities include keeping a vigilant eye on the movement of terrorists as well as the transport of arms and narcotics.

In accordance with international law, nations participating in the mission inspect suspicious vessels, with the consent, in principle, of the country whose flag the ship flies. These activities are more like police activities than military operations.

We do not believe the Constitution prohibits Japan's support of such activities.

The DPJ has stuck to its guns in opposing the continuation of the MSDF mission, saying the new resolution is not designed to approve OEF activities. The largest opposition party asserts that a provision for assistance to improve the livelihood of people in Afghanistan would be more effective than the MSDF mission in fighting terrorism.

If that is so, the DPJ should swiftly present specific counterproposals. If these include the provision of financial assistance in exchange for the withdrawal of the MSDF members, it will leave the international community deeply disappointed. More than 40 nations are taking part in this "war on terror" at the cost of many casualties.

Japan provided as much as 13 billion dollars for the 1991 Gulf War, but was not on the list of 30 countries thanked by the Kuwaiti government in helping liberate the country from Iraq, in an advertisement carried in a U.S. newspaper. We must not forget the lesson that this taught us.

(From The Yomiuri Shimbun, Sept. 21, 2007)

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# The Daily News (Nanaimo)

## NATO air strike kills civilians in Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A12

Section: Nation & World

Dateline: KABUL

Source: News Services

KABUL - NATO warplanes killed an unspecified number of Afghan civilians in an air strike during a battle with Taliban fighters, the alliance's force in Afghanistan said late on Thursday.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said they were killed on Wednesday in the southern province of Helmand. It did not say how many died.

"Taliban fighters attacked ISAF from a compound and an airstrike was called in to neutralise the threat," NATO said in a statement. "ISAF was unaware of civilians in the vicinity . . . and unfortunately it appears that a number of non-combatants were killed."

# English News Service

## 2nd Ld Writethru: Suicide bombing kills French soldier, injures 4 civilians in Afghan capital

Friday, September 21, 2007

2nd Ld Writethru: Suicide bombing kills French soldier, injures 4 civilians in Afghan capital

KABUL, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- A suicide car bombing killed one French soldier and at least injured four civilians in the Afghan capital Kabul on Friday morning, the police and a witness said.

Kabul deputy police chief Ali Shah Paktiwal said that one French soldier was killed in the explosion in western Kabul.

A witness Assar Khan told Xinhua that the attack was targeting a French convoy belonging to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and four Afghan civilians were injured.

A Xinhua reporter saw one civilian vehicle, which probably was used by the bomber, was catching fire, while a car and a bus were damaged.

A French armed vehicle was partly damaged, while foreign soldiers and Afghan police were keeping guard there.

About 37,000 ISAF soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan to fight militant and keep security. The troops are frequently attacked by militants.

Due to rising Taliban violence, over 4,500 people, most of whom were Taliban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

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# English News Service

## 1st Ld Writethru: Suicide bombing injures 4 civilians in Afghan capital

Friday, September 21, 2007

1st Ld Writethru: Suicide bombing injures 4 civilians in Afghan capital

KABUL, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- A suicide car bombing attacked a French militant convoy and at least injured four civilians in the Afghan capital Kabul on Friday morning, a witness told Xinhua.

The witness Assar Khan said the attack was against a French convoy belonging to the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

A Xinhua reporter saw one civilian vehicle, which probably was used by the bomber, was catching fire, while a car and a bus were damaged.

A French armed vehicle was partly damaged, while foreign soldiers and Afghan police were keeping guard there.

There was no immediate information about ISAF casualties.

About 37,000 ISAF soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan to fight militant and keep security. The troops are frequently attacked by militants.

Due to rising Taliban violence, over 4,500 people, most of whom were Taliban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

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# English News Service

## NATO soldier killed in S. Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007

NATO soldier killed in S. Afghanistan

KABUL, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- One soldier of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was killed in southern Afghanistan, an ISAF statement said Friday.

The soldier was killed after coming under fire from militants while on a patrol on Thursday, the statement said.

It did not say which province the incident occurred.

In accordance with ISAF policy, ISAF does not release the casualty's nationality prior to the relevant national authority doing so.

About 37,000 ISAF soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan to fight militant and keep security. The troops are frequently attacked by militants.

Due to rising Taliban violence, over 4,500 people, most of whom were Taliban rebels, have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

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# English News Service

## NATO air strike kills a number of Afghan civilians

Friday, September 21, 2007

NATO air strike kills a number of Afghan civilians

KABUL, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- An air strike of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) killed a number of civilians in southern Afghanistan, an ISAF statement said Friday.

ISAF soldiers were conducting Operation Palk Wahel to clear Taliban militants in the Upper Gereshk Valley of Helmand province on Wednesday, the statement said.

Taliban fighters attacked ISAF from a compound and an air strike was called in to eradicate the threat, it said.

"ISAF was unaware of civilians in the vicinity of the target and unfortunately it appears that a number of civilians were caught in the attack and killed," the statement said.

It did not give an exact number of the civilian casualties.

About 37,000 ISAF soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan to fight militant and keep security. ISAF has caused civilian casualties during its military operations from time to time.

Due to rising Taliban violence, over 4,500 persons, most of whom were Taliban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

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# Eursoc

## Turn Back Time

Friday, September 21, 2007

A fascinating story from Venezuela in the Independent ; President Hugo Chavez has, apparently on a whim, decided that his country should adopt a new time zone.

As from Sunday, clocks in the south American nation go back 30 minutes. Or forward - for a while, not even the President seemed sure, says the newspaper, which jokes that Chavez must fancy himself as a Time Lord .

"I don't care if they call me crazy, the new time will go ahead. I'm not to blame. I received a recommendation and said I liked the idea," said Chavez of the plan, as businesses and workers scrambled to change their systems to comply with the directive.

The Indie notes wryly that by joining the "30 minute club" - those nations whose time zones break up the usual 60 minute divisions from GMT - Venezuela joins the company of Afghanistan, Iran and Burma.

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# Common Sense Pr

## I'm Still Waiting for Dan Rather to Apologize for Being a Parrot and a Stooge [Common Sense PR]

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Byline: Eric Eggertson

I'm a frequent advocate of the heartfelt apology. But there are times when they may not be the best approach.

Take Dan Rather, who claims he was a puppet, dangled in front of the camera by manipulative TV producers, then pushed out of a prestigious job because of the fallout over the words placed in his mouth. He says he was forced to read an on-air apology, written by a (shudder) publicist, that ruined his career.

So, am I way off base when I urge organizations to consider a quick apology to defuse the situation?

Nah, an apology was definitely in order. If Rather had nothing to do with the piece, and only parroted the words in the teleprompter while accusing the president of shirking his duty while in the National Guard, maybe he should apologize for imitating a journalist.

There's no disclaimer on news reports and documentaries, explaining that the talking head trusted by millions is a stooge, reading whatever is put in front of them. Maybe there should be. It would give reality TV a shot of credibility in comparison if the actual role of some on-air presenters was explained at the beginning of each story.

I can just see the disclaimer scrolling across the bottom of the screen:

"The celebrity journalist presenting this story never met the people featured in the story. In fact he was in another country when most of this footage was shot. Didn't read the research reports. Didn't craft the questions. Didn't check the facts. So, when they close off saying, 'This is (name), reporting from (place)', take it with a grain of salt."

You can sometimes spot the shading of truth in the way the items are introduced. The anchor will sometimes introduce the item saying the report "brings us this report from Afghanistan," instead of "reports from Afghanistan". It's probably an innocent turn of phrase, but in many cases, there's some truth to it.

The face of the documentary report isn't necessarily the one who did all the work, and who chose the subjects, determined the angle for the story, and wrote the text of the report. But if you haven't studied media, you probably are only vaguely aware of the producer's role in a news report.

I'm not going to hold my breath until Rather apologizes for being a mindless parrot. It ain't going

to happen.

But a guy can dream. "This is Dan Rather. I want to sincerely apologize to the millions of viewers who for years have been under the impression I cover every story I voice. That's not true. Sometimes, I just hop around like a monkey, while my producer plays the organ."

Thanks to Steven Silvers for the link.

Tags: journalism, journalists, media, news, transparency, apology, cbs, dan rather, lawsuit, tv, monkey, parrot

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# The Daily Yomiuri

## U.N. resolution is best Japan can do

Friday, September 21, 2007

Byline: Yoshikazu Shirakawa / Yomiuri Shimbun Correspondent

NEW YORK--The U.N. Security Council gave the best possible consideration it could to Japan by adopting a resolution expressing appreciation for countries participating in U.S.-led multinational antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

The expression of gratitude was included in a preface to the resolution adopted Wednesday by the Security Council.

However, Russia abstained from voting, saying that the comment on the maritime activities lacked clarity, which showed the difficulty of making each Security Council member understand Japan's domestic political situation.

The Japanese government and the ruling bloc hope the resolution will help them persuade the Democratic Party of Japan to drop its opposition against an extension of the Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling activities in the Indian Ocean.

Some in the ruling camp called for a separate U.N. resolution endorsing the MSDF's maritime interdiction activities.

However, considering the dynamics of the Security Council, demanding such a resolution is seen as unrealistic.

The main purpose of Wednesday's resolution was to extend the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

The text of the resolution said the Security Council has authorized member states participating in the ISAF to "take all necessary measures" to fulfill its mandate under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, which stipulates action against threats to peace.

This is interpreted as authorizing the use of military force based on international law.

Gratitude for the U.S.-led coalition participating in Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) was included in the preface, which stated the Security Council's recognition of the current situation, but this is not meant as a legal approval of the operation.

As other OEF participants base their activities on the right of collective defense under international law, they do not require the influence of a U.N. resolution to participate.

If Japan alone, standing outside the Security Council, seeks a fresh resolution to authorize its maritime activities, the action would lack weight.

The Security Council tends to pay more attention to matters of urgency. This means there is little

possibility for the council to accept such a demand.

Vitaly Churkin, Russian Ambassador to the United Nations, criticized the approved resolution as a decision that places priority on certain countries' domestic needs.

If Japan continues seeking a fresh resolution, it is likely to face growing criticism.

The international community will turn a critical eye toward Japan if it tries to rely on the Security Council's power to solve its domestic problems-- in this case the ruling and opposition blocs failing to hold substantial discussion on an extension of the Antiterrorism Law, on which the MSDF's refueling mission is based.

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# The Daily Yomiuri

## U.N. praises maritime mission

Friday, September 21, 2007

Byline: Yoshikazu Shirakawa Yomiuri Shimbun Correspondent

The U. N. Security Council has approved a resolution to extend the activities of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. The resolution also express gratitude for the first time for the maritime interdiction activities of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), to which Japan has dispatched Maritime Self-Defense Force vessels to help with refueling in the Indian Ocean.

The resolution was approved Wednesday with 14 votes in favor. Russia abstained from voting.

Observers say there will be much heated debate over how to interpret the wording of the appreciative comments in the preface to the resolution since the Antiterrorism Law, which underpins the dispatch of MSDF vessels used in OEF, is due to expire on Nov. 1.

The ISAF was launched based on a U.N. Security Council resolution approved in December 2001 to maintain security in Kabul and neighboring areas. The force has been under the command of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which has been in charge of the maintenance of security throughout Afghanistan since October 2006. Thirty-seven countries, including all NATO member nations, have dispatched a total of about 36,000 military servicemen to participate in the ISAF.

In the preface to the resolution mentioning the OEF, the Security Council expressed its appreciation for the contributions many nations have made to the ISAF and OEF, including its maritime interdiction operations.

It also stressed the importance of continuing international efforts to carry out the activities of the ISAF and OEF.

The aim of the resolution is to extend ISAF activities for another year because the legal basis for the activities was to expire in mid-October.

Since the dispatch of the ISAF was decided in 2001, the Security Council has approved a resolution on its extension every year subsequently. However, this is the first resolution to mention OEF's maritime activities.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Zalmay Khalilzad revealed that the inclusion of the comment showing appreciation for the maritime activities were included out of consideration for Japan.

Khalilzad said relevant Security Council member countries had been following the debate in Japan over its contribution to OEF maritime activities.

He added that the resolution presented an opportunity

to stress the importance of the activities and to show appreciation for Japan's important contribution to them.

The government lobbied the United States and other countries to have the resolution express the significance of OEF maritime activities because the Democratic Party of Japan claims the MSDF's refueling of OEF vessels is not based on any U.N. resolution.

Meanwhile, Russian U.N. Ambassador Vitaly Churkin expressed misgivings about the OEF, which he described as a self-defense operation initiated by the United States in response to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He said the operation came with no obligation to report to the Security Council.

He said in a speech before the resolution was voted on that the comments on the maritime activities lacked clarity, adding that the activities were necessary only for antiterrorism operations in Afghanistan and should not be carried out for any other purpose.

It is quite unusual for a Security Council member country to abstain from voting on this kind of routine resolution to extend a U.N. mission.

Russia requested that the voting be postponed until discussions about amendments to the resolution were made.

According to sources close to the United Nations, Germany, which has sent troops to the ISAF, strongly urged countries including Britain, France and the United States to approve the resolution before the German parliament starts discussing the ISAF issue on Thursday.

After the vote, Churkin expressed his dissatisfaction about the resolution, saying that non-Security Council members, such as Japan and Germany, had interfered in the Security Council's discussions. He said the vote represented a decision to prioritize the domestic situation of certain countries.

In Tokyo, government officials and ruling party members have hailed the Security Council resolution.

"[The resolution] signifies the international community's desire to see Japan's operations in the Indian Ocean continue," a government source said.

The DPJ, meanwhile, confirmed Thursday morning that it would continue to oppose any extension of the MSDF activities, regardless of the resolution.

Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura told reporters at the ministry, "It's necessary [for the nation] to

welcome the resolution and continue the operations as a member of international society." He then called on the DPJ to "show consideration for international efforts [to fight terrorism]."

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# The New York Times

## Contracts Worth \$6 Billion Reviewed, Pentagon Says

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: 10

Section: Foreign

Byline: ERIC SCHMITT and GINGER THOMPSON

Dateline: WASHINGTON, Sept. 20

Military officials said Thursday that contracts worth \$6 billion to provide essential supplies to American troops in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan -- including food, water and shelter -- were under review by criminal investigators, double the amount the Pentagon had previously disclosed.

In addition, \$88 billion in contracts and programs, including those for body armor for American soldiers and materiel for Iraqi and Afghan security forces, are being audited for financial irregularities, the officials said.

Taken together, the figures, provided by the Pentagon in a hearing before the House Armed Services Committee, represent the fullest public accounting of the magnitude of a widening government investigation into bid-rigging, bribery and kickbacks by members of the military and civilians linked to the Pentagon's purchasing system.

Until the hearing on Thursday, the Army's most detailed public disclosure about the scale of the problem was that contracts worth \$3 billion awarded by the Kuwait office were under review.

At the hearing, a panel of high-ranking Defense Department officials described a war-zone procurement system in disarray. They said that the Pentagon failed to provide adequate training for contracting officers for their assignments, offered insufficient oversight of contracting officers' activities and had not put in place early warning systems to catch officers who violated the law.

"In a combat environment, we didn't have the checks and balances we should have in place," said Shay D. Assad, director of defense procurement and acquisition policy. "So people who don't have ethics and integrity are going to be able to get away with things."

Representatives from both parties pummeled the panel with angry questions and comments, assailing the Pentagon for having failed to overhaul the procurement system more than two years after Congress had identified serious problems in defense contracting and passed legislation aimed at helping the Pentagon correct them.

The lawmakers also challenged assertions by the Pentagon officials that the corruption being uncovered was the work of a few isolated individuals. Several committee members suggested that the abuses were far more systemic.

"The problems were so severe that I fear they could represent a culture of corruption," said Representative

Ike Skelton, Democrat of Missouri, the chairman of the committee. "I am extremely disappointed to learn that so many individuals violated their integrity and undermined the oaths they made to this country."

Representative John Kline, a Minnesota Republican and retired Marine colonel, said he was "doubly, triply, quadruply appalled" at the "clear breakdown in leadership" that allowed some Army contracting officers to corrupt the procurement system. He said it was inexcusable that it took so long for the Army to put adequate checks in place.

Pentagon officials did not dispute the seriousness of the problems. However, they took issue with lawmakers' characterizations of their scope. "I think it's isolated incidents," said Thomas F. Gimble, the principal deputy Pentagon inspector general. "The real issue is a lack of control, a lack of integrity and lots of opportunity and lots of money."

Mr. Gimble and the other Pentagon officials said they were working aggressively to identify officers and civilians responsible for crimes and turn them over for prosecution, increasing the numbers of contracting officers and lawyers in Kuwait and improving the contracts and ethics training they provide to their specialists.

The Pentagon officials said that they would turn the largest contracts in Kuwait over to more seasoned military procurement specialists in the United States and that they had set up a more rigorous set of contract review procedures. And the Pentagon inspector general has been sent to Iraq to investigate the department's contracting procedures.

"I don't think it was a widespread conspiracy or cultural issue," said Lt. Gen. N. Ross Thompson 3rd of the Army, a senior procurement official who is co-leader of an Army review of contracting procedures in Kuwait and Iraq. "We've got a number of individual cases. All the ones we know about are being actively investigated. We've got internal controls to make sure there aren't new problems in different areas."

As of Sept. 12, the Army reported that it had 78 cases of fraud and corruption under investigation, had obtained 20 criminal indictments, and had uncovered over \$15 million in bribes.

Lawmakers scolded the Pentagon for just recently ordering the creation of a special contracting corps of experienced procurement specialists -- authorized in the legislation two years ago -- to bolster purchasing teams in the most active combat zones, and to report directly to a regional military commander.

"That it's taken two years to do this is an indication of a system that's quite slow," said Representative Duncan Hunter of California, the senior Republican on the committee. "That's half the time it took to win World War II."

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# The New York Times

## Reagan's Foreign Policy

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 18  
Section: Editorial

To the Editor:

I question the reading of history of Kiron K. Skinner, Serhiy Kudelia, Bruce Bueno de Mesquita and Condoleezza Rice in "Politics Starts at the Water's Edge" (Op-Ed, Sept. 15).

Ronald Reagan's victory in 1980 owed substantially to the Carter administration's foreign policy failures -- notably the Iran hostage fiasco and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Mr. Reagan's program was not to "defeat" the Soviet threat, as the authors put it, but to confront it more aggressively through an acceleration of the arms race.

The authors do not mention Mikhail S. Gorbachev, whose bold reforms in the mid-1980s resulted in both the end of the cold war and the end of Communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

While Mr. Reagan's policies certainly raised the pressure on the Soviet leaders, let us not forget that President Jimmy Carter's insistence on the cause of human rights around the world and Mr. Gorbachev's radical democratization of Soviet politics had the deeper and more long-lasting consequences for the international system.

Thomas F. Remington

Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 15, 2007

The writer, a professor of political science at Emory University, is a visiting professor of government at Harvard.

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# The New York Times

## Father Fears Kite Runner

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: 4

Section: Movies, Performing Arts/Weekend

Byline: LAWRENCE VAN GELDER

Column: ARTS, BRIEFLY COMPILED BY LAWRENCE VAN GELDER FATHER FEARS KITE RUNNER

A rape scene in the film version of the best-selling Khaled Hosseini novel "The Kite Runner" has caused the father of Ahmad Khan Mahmiidzada, an 11-year-old Afghan boy who portrays the assault victim, to fear for his own life, although the film will not be released in Afghanistan, where the incident depicted takes place. "They said they would not film this part," the father, Ahmad Jaan Mahmiidzada, told BBC Radio. "Of course I am worried about it. My own people from my own tribe will turn against me because of the story. They may cut my throat, they may kill me, they may torture me. Anything could happen to me." The son has been quoted as saying he fears friends will shun him because they believe he really was raped. Paramount Vantage, the studio behind the film, directed by Marc Forster ("Monster's Ball," "Finding Neverland"), said it would not be released in Afghanistan because the country lacked a distribution system. A spokeswoman declined comment on the rape controversy, but Rebecca Yeldham, a producer, told the BBC that the scene was not explicit and said no promise had been made not to film the scene. "We don't believe that kids' lives are at risk," she added. The film will have its premiere on Nov. 2.

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# The Ottawa Citizen

## Allen-Vanguard raises \$300M for acquisition

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: E3

Section: Business

Byline: Bert Hill

Source: The Ottawa Citizen

Allen-Vanguard Corp. has raised \$300 million or 50 per cent more than its original target to finance a big acquisition.

The Ottawa maker of bomb-control technology said that investors' demand for company stock was stronger than expected.

The company shares have risen 230 per cent in the past year on sales of jamming gear that can prevent road-side bombs in trouble spots like Iraq and Afghanistan from exploding.

The total from the share sale could rise to \$345 million if underwriters take full options.

Allen-Vanguard bought Med-Eng Systems of Ottawa for \$650 million to expand its lineup. Med-Eng, a specialist in bomb-control suits and helmets, is also working on a new generation of bomb-jamming equipment.

Allen-Vanguard said it will use the extra proceeds from the share sale to reduce debt in the financing.

Chief executive officer David Luxton said the extra cash "will substantially strengthen the company's balance sheet and its operating flexibility."



# Vancouver Sun

## Doctor won't face criminal charges

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A8  
Section: News  
Byline: David Pugliese  
Dateline: OTTAWA  
Source: CanWest News Service

OTTAWA -- A British Columbia doctor who described in graphic detail the last moments of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan won't face criminal charges for disclosing sensitive information, according to military police investigators.

But Kevin Patterson is still under investigation by the military's health services group, which is looking into whether he violated medical ethics by writing about his own patient.

The doctor included vivid details about the death of 25-year-old Cpl. Kevin Megeney at the NATO base in Kandahar in March. The article, which appeared in the July-August edition of the U.S. magazine *Mother Jones*, angered some of Megeney's family who accused the doctor of causing unnecessary grief by recounting the final moments of the soldier who died from a gunshot wound.

Military police focused their investigation on whether the article contained sensitive or secret information, defence officials said. "The Canadian Forces National Investigation Service did not find evidence to support the laying of service or criminal charges," said Capt. Cindy Tessier, the unit's spokesperson.

Investigators were looking into whether Patterson, a civilian contractor, had violated the National Defence Act.

Tessier said the investigation into the death of the corporal is still ongoing. No explanation for the death has yet been provided but the NIS has ruled out "enemy action" since the incident occurred in the secure confines of the Kandahar base, according to defence officials.

Patterson wrote in the article that Megeney had been accidentally shot by a roommate in his tent.

Although Patterson is still under investigation by the military's health services group into whether he violated medical ethics, it is unclear what type of punishment or sanctions that branch could impose if it determined that was the case.

Patterson did not respond to an e-mailed request for comment.

# The Ottawa Citizen

## Canadian vehicle kills Afghan, injures 4

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A16

Section: News

Dateline: KANDAHAR

Source: CanWest News Service; with files from Agence France-Presse

KANDAHAR - An Afghan was killed and four were injured when the car they were in was stuck by a Canadian vehicle designed to survive landmine explosions, the International Security Assistance Force announced yesterday.

The accident occurred early Wednesday when the Afghan vehicle tried to overtake another vehicle travelling ahead of a Canadian combat logistics patrol about four kilometres from the main Canadian base in Kandahar.

The driver of the passing vehicle lost control and his vehicle ended up in a ditch with the front end sticking out into the road. The wheels of a Canadian RG-31 Nyala vehicle drove over the hood of the Afghan vehicle, throwing the two passengers in the front seat onto the road.

The Canadian convoy stopped to provide first aid and brought the wounded to the ISAF hospital and Kandahar Airfield, where two of the survivors remain in stable condition. The two other survivors suffered minor injuries and were released.

Traffic accidents are a constant problem for Canadian patrols in Afghanistan. Afghans often drive erratically and in poorly maintained vehicles on crowded roads. Canadians sometimes have trouble reacting quickly because their vehicles can weigh up to 20 tonnes.

A further complication is that all ISAF troops are constantly worried about being struck by Afghan vehicles loaded with explosives. Because of this threat, all ISAF vehicles carry large red signs in local script warning Afghan drivers to give them a wide berth.

"ISAF goes to great lengths to ensure that patrols are conducted safely. This incident is deeply regrettable," said Wing Cmdr. Antony McCord, a Royal Air Force officer who is the senior spokesman for ISAF troops in southern Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, a 20-year-old Dutch soldier, Tim Hoogland, was killed yesterday in southern Afghanistan when his patrol came under mortar fire, Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said.

# National Post

## Moral duty to help Afghans: envoys; 'Live Up To Pledge'; Withdrawal would 'betray' allies, UN diplomats say

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A4

Section: Canada

Byline: Mike Blanchfield

Dateline: MONTREAL

Source: CanWest News Service

Illustrations: Black & White Photo: / Chris Alexander.

MONTREAL - Countries that pull their troops out of Afghanistan prematurely would be guilty of a moral failure, senior Canadian and United Nations diplomats warned yesterday.

"If we were to withdraw tomorrow, our allies would feel betrayed," Michel de Salaberry, Canada's new senior civilian coordinator for Kandahar, said in an interview. "We've said we'd stay until 2009. Morally, we have to live up to that pledge."

Over the longer term, he said: "I think we'll want to stay committed to Afghanistan, but that can take a variety of shapes."

Chris Alexander, Canada's former ambassador to Afghanistan and the current UN deputy there, added early withdrawal would amount to "renouncing on a man-date conferred on [Canada] by the Security Council of the UN."

"In fact, to refuse fighting the Taliban would mean we are refusing and rejecting our responsibilities, our institutions, ourselves. It would be a worldwide failure and a failure of our souls."

The tough rhetoric came at a major international conference on the future of Afghanistan, and was a direct response to the growing political opposition among some NATO countries, including Canada, to continued military involvement in the war-torn country.

However, none of the diplomats, academics and military officials assembled in Montreal pleaded directly with Canada to stay in Afghanistan after the current commitment expires.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said Parliament must reach a "consensus" on keeping Canada's 2,500 troops in Afghanistan beyond its original commitment of February, 2009. However, this appears unlikely as the opposition Liberals are calling for an end to combat operations in the volatile southern Afghan region around Kandahar by that date, while the NDP wants the troops brought home now.

The Afghan deployment is now a sensitive issue in Quebec because the Royal 22nd Regiment from Valcartier, Que., sent 2,000 soldiers to Afghanistan last month and has already seen three killed. Polls show about two-thirds of Quebecers oppose the military mission.

Mr. Alexander said Canada's international commitments to Afghanistan must transcend partisan politics.

"The resolutions authorizing our political mission of the UN, authorizing ISAF, authorizing military action in Afghanistan -- military, development, counter-narcotics and otherwise -- are all commitments made by the international community, regardless of partisan issues," he told reporters.

"Canada has to see itself, as other countries have to see themselves, as an important member of that group, which collectively has a responsibility."

Martin Howard, NATO's assistant secretary-general of operations, said Canada's efforts and sacrifice are hugely appreciated in Afghanistan. But more needs to be done.

"The key word here is long term. The commitment of the international community, NATO amongst it, for the long term is absolutely vital for the Afghanistan's future," he said. "It is not something that can be sorted out in a few months or even a few years."

One tough critic of the Western intervention in Afghanistan made an impassioned plea for the United States and its NATO allies to stay the course. Rubin, a political science professor at New York University, said yesterday if NATO countries "withdraw from the operation and leave Afghanistan to return to chaos, they will all be losers and so will the Afghan people."

# The Ottawa Citizen

## Harper zaps feminists

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A14  
Section: News  
Byline: Susan Riley  
Column: Susan Riley  
Source: The Ottawa Citizen

Yesterday, the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) became the latest victim -- on the heels of the Law Reform Commission, the Court Challenges program and other advocacy groups for minorities -- of Prime Minister Stephen Harper's ideologically-driven funding cuts.

And nothing, especially not the vintage feminist epithets directed his way at a NAWL press conference -- "paternalistic," "misogynist," "totalitarian" -- is going to change his mind. As to the charge that Harper is "silencing women"-- if only it were that simple.

If women, feminist women, have fallen silent, it is not because a handful of worthy organizations fighting for their rights is now being denied federal funding. It is because of widespread complacency, a sense that the battles have been won, that women no longer need special advocacy. It is because feminist ideas -- if not the still-radioactive label -- have become mainstream. The prime minister may be exploiting that complacency, but he didn't, alone, create it.

In the 34 years since NAWL was formed, it has made noticeable progress -- reforms to laws concerning custody, rape, workplace harassment and access to abortion. Most political parties today ardently court women candidates. Any politician who utters a sexist remark faces career suicide. (Even well-known political consultant Warren Kinsella got into trouble recently for joking that a woman MPP would "rather be home baking cookies.")

Beneath this reassuring surface, however, there are contradictory statistics and important nuances -- in short, the kind of research findings that were NAWL's specialty. Women still make 73 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. Women are still routinely killed, raped and assaulted -- there were reports of two more incidents yesterday, for a total of 300 sexual assaults in this region this year. Only 20 per cent of federal politicians are women; corporate boardrooms remain as male-dominated as ever. The list is too familiar: the acute poverty of many aboriginal women, the shortage of child care despite the Harper government's token \$100-a-month baby bonus, subtle but real obstacles to ambitious young women intent on non-traditional careers, continued resistance to pay equity.

Conservatives say there is nothing stopping aggrieved groups from raising money privately -- and they have a point. Most environmental groups operate as private charities; in fact, some believe that

to take money from government would compromise their work. Fifty per cent of the population is female and not all women are poor. Indeed, NAWL counts many lawyers among its ranks. It might be liberating to be free of this strained dependency on a government that loathes everything it stands for.

It isn't that easy, says NAWL board member Pamela Cross. "Women of this country are the poor people of this country," she says. Many are already over-committed and exhausted. It isn't realistic to imagine replacing NAWL's \$300,000 annual funding (and four staff) through bake sales and quilt raffles. As for the success of green fund-raisers: "Environmentalists have more favour with the public than we do."

Which is exactly the problem. Bloc MP Nicole Demers, her party's women's critic, expressed "deep anger that defending the rights of women has become 'obsolete'." This potent myth has allowed government to cut funding to unfriendly organizations (including the respected Child Care Advocacy group) with relative impunity. The Tories have also changed the funding criteria at the Status of Women bureau to favour "concrete," short-lived projects over grants to organizations devoted to profound change.

This shouldn't surprise anyone, least of all feminists. Harper only blinks if he fears political damage -- as he has on the environment and in his overtures to Quebec. (Even then, his course corrections tend to be more rhetorical than real.) He is convinced the groups he is targeting are irrelevant, out of touch with mainstream Canada. It doesn't help that much of NAWL's work is low-profile, academic and only quietly useful

to politicians and equality-seeking groups. (Nor is his the first government to attack these groups. It was the Liberals who eliminated funding for the National Action Committee on the Status of Women.)

NAWL's disappearance will hasten the erosion of feminist influence at the centre of power. It will be up to feminist politicians, academics and volunteer groups to try to fill the gap -- and find new ways to reach a large and potentially receptive audience, starting with new language. The polls suggest many women, in particular, remain cool toward Harper -- not only, or even primarily, because of his war on feminism. It could be Afghanistan, or health care, or some careless remark: something will rekindle the feminist flame.

Susan Riley's column runs Monday, Wednesday and Friday. E-mail: [sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com](mailto:sriley@thecitizen.canwest.com)

# English News Service

## Urgent: 40 militants killed in S. Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007

Urgent: 40 militants killed in S. Afghanistan

KABUL, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- Afghan and the U.S.-led coalition forces killed about 40 insurgents in Helmand province of southern Afghanistan early Friday morning, a coalition statement said.

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# English News Service

## 1st LD Writethru: 40 militants killed in S. Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007

1st LD Writethru: 40 militants killed in S. Afghanistan

KABUL, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- Afghan and the U.S.-led coalition forces killed about 40 insurgents in Helmand province of southern Afghanistan early Friday morning, a coalition statement said.

A joint Afghan and coalition team carried out an operation in Garmser district where credible intelligence indicated violent extremist forces may be hiding, the statement said.

During the operation, about 40 militants were killed and multiple weapons caches were found and destroyed, it added.

About 13,000 coalition soldiers are being deployed in Afghanistan to fight militant and keep security.

Due to rising Taliban violence, over 4,600 persons, most of whom were Taliban militants, have been killed in Afghanistan this year.

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# Kyodo News International

## Kyodo news summary -3-

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

Gov't starts examining 2003 naval fuel allegation

TOKYO - Defense Minister Masahiko Komura said Friday his ministry has started to examine the allegation that oil provided by Japan to the U.S. navy may have been illegally used for the 2003 U.S. attack on Iraq.

The announcement came after a peace group alleged Thursday that the Maritime Self-Defense Force replenishment ship Tokiwa gave the U.S. naval ship Pecos nearly 800,000 U.S. gallons of fuel on Feb. 25, 2003. But the Japanese government earlier said the amount was 200,000 gallons.

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LDP chapter led by Fukuda receives donation from pro-Pyongyang group

MAEBASHI, Japan - A ruling Liberal Democratic Party's local chapter headed by Yasuo Fukuda, the front-runner to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, received a donation of 200,000 yen from a company affiliated with the pro-Pyongyang General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, the chapter's political fund report showed Friday.

The donation of 100,000 yen each was made in 1996 and 2003 by a pachinko parlor operator in Takasaki, Gunma prefecture to the LDP's Gunma chapter. In 2003, Fukuda was serving as chief Cabinet secretary under Abe's predecessor Junichiro Koizumi, and after North Korea admitted to abducting Japanese nationals.

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Fukuda, Aso emphasize need for new law to extend refueling mission

TOKYO - The two candidates in line to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday emphasized the need for a new law to continue Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

"It cannot be helped eyeing a new law if it is difficult" to simply extend the current special antiterrorism law in the face of strong rejection by the opposition parties, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in a debate with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Taro Aso.

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Smith Memorial Hall designated as one of tangible cultural assets

TOKYO - A Buddhist temple-looking Christian

church was among 166 structures that a government advisory panel proposed Friday to designate as tangible cultural assets.

With these addition, the number of structures to be designated as tangible cultural assets in Japan would total 6,630, Cultural Affairs Agency officials said.

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Crack found in China Airlines jet that landed Saga

SAGA, Japan - A 77-centimeter crack has been found at the bottom of the tail unit of a China Airlines jetliner that arrived Thursday at Saga airport in Saga Prefecture, airport officials said Friday.

The Boeing (NYSE:BA) 737-800 plane is the same model as the one which exploded on Aug. 20 at Naha airport in Okinawa Prefecture, the officials said. The Land, Infrastructure and Transport Ministry's Saga airport office is investigating the cause of the crack, they said.

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Sapporo sees latest occurrence in year of 'tropical day'

SAPPORO - The mercury rose to 31.1 C in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Friday morning, making it the latest occurrence in the year of a "tropical day" with the temperature above 30 C since records began in 1879, the local meteorological observatory said.

The previous record was marked on Sept. 18, 1921, when the mercury climbed to 30.1 C.

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# English News Service

## News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua (Part 1)

Friday, September 21, 2007

News items from Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua (Part 1)

HONG KONG, Sept. 21 (Xinhua) -- Following are news items from the Asia-Pacific Desk of Xinhua in Hong Kong Friday:

Major news items in leading Philippine newspapers

Major news items in leading Japanese newspapers

Tokyo shares open lower

Major news items in leading Australian newspapers

Major news items in leading Thai newspapers

Foreign exchange rates in Thailand

Foreign exchange rates in Nepal

Hong Kong stocks open lower -- Sept. 21

Major news items in leading Nepali newspapers

Myanmar, DPRK to cooperate in bilateral ties

Major news items in leading Vietnamese newspapers

Cambodia celebrates International Day of Peace

Tokyo shares down in morning

Drug abuse unabated in Nepal's schools: survey

Bird flu under control in Vietnam

Judicial panel formed to probe southern Nepal violence

Dysentery claims one, 400 fall sick in central Nepal

Ammunition depot explosion kills 3, injures 4 in Vietnam

Cambodia's Siem Reap hosts Indonesian tourism, trade fair

Debris from exploded aircraft falls near Preah Vihear Temple, Cambodia

Major news items in leading Indian newspapers

Nepali gov't to introduce coupon system for petrol supply

S. Korean president to watch mass games in Pyongyang

Vietnam to offer special amnesty to nearly 9,700 convicts

Vietnam's fertilizer imports up in first 8 months

Indian stock market opens higher

Hong Kong stocks finish lower at midday -- Sept. 21

Foreign exchange rates in Vietnam

Major news items in leading Pakistani newspapers

Indonesia's major parties approve 30 percent quota for women

Indonesia seeks to follow US rate cut

Urgent: Suicide bombing occurs in Afghan capital

NATO air strike kills a number of Afghan civilians

Poisonous liquor claims 18 people's lives in Pakistan

NATO soldier killed in S. Afghanistan

1st Ld Writethru: Suicide bombing injures 4 civilians in Afghan capital

Indonesia's rubber export set to grow 5 pct this year

2nd Ld Writethru: Suicide bombing kills French soldier, injures 4 civilians in Afghan capital

Urgent: 40 militants killed in S. Afghanistan

1st LD Writethru: 40 militants killed in S. Afghanistan

Stocks end lower in Philippines

Pakistan appoints new intelligence chief

Foreign exchange rates in Philippines

Estrada could go home by Christmas: official

Tokyo shares end lower

Seoul stock market ends up

Danish queen to conduct state visit to S.Korea

Foreign exchange rates in Indonesia

S.Korean FM appeals for regional talks to establish peace mechanism on the Korean Peninsula

ECCC accuses former DK top leader of ordering murder, torture

ADB increases energy investment in Vietnam



Vietnam reports more fatalities due to non-infectious diseases

Six junior Philippine officers sacked for alleged coup recruitment

Hong Kong stocks close at new high -- Sept. 21

Australian stock market closes lower

Australian dollar closes firmer

Major foreign exchange rates in Sri Lanka

Thai interior minister vows to stay on, while communications minister announces resignation at share scandal

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## Japan's ruling party looks for safety with new PM

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: TOKYO  
Time: 03:41:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

TOKYO, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - Japan's ruling party is poised to elect Yasuo Fukuda as the country's next prime minister this weekend, hoping he can bring much-needed stability after a disastrous year under Shinzo Abe.

A poll published Friday confirmed his front-runner status, showing support from more than 60 percent of Liberal Democrat Party lawmakers compared to 20 percent for his only rival Taro Aso.

The survey by the public broadcaster NHK, which came two days ahead of the vote, also suggested he would secure half the party's regional chapters.

A mild-mannered 71-year-old regarded as a dove in relations with China, he looks all but certain to lead the world's second largest economy.

Abe, who marked his 53rd birthday Friday in a hospital where he is being treated for stress and exhaustion, abruptly resigned last week after a slew of scandals that caused the LDP to lose elections in July.

"Many people will come to understand how much the prime minister regrets leaving the post this way," Chief Cabinet Secretary Kaoru Yosano said.

Fukuda, himself the son of a former prime minister and a top aide to past holders of the post, is seen as a technocrat adept at managing bureaucracy, unlike Abe who pursued a conservative agenda but struggled to control his own cabinet.

He said he would put a priority on easing the pain in rural areas that have borne the brunt of free-market reforms.

"From now on, we need reforms that matter to people's lives," Fukuda said earlier this week. "We should not cause unease among people."

Analysts say the LDP, which has ruled Japan almost continuously since 1955, wants respite from ideological leaders such as Abe and predecessor Junichiro Koizumi, who was popular but pushed through controversial economic reforms.

"Japan used to need strong-minded leadership. But it looks like the country is looking for a break and seeking a moderate leader," said Yoshinobu Yamamoto, professor of politics at Aoyama Gakuin University.

"Fukuda is a man who suits the conditions," he said. "Fukuda is likely to listen both to people and to fellow politicians."

His rival Aso, a former foreign minister with views to the right of Fukuda, has styled himself as a reform-minded maverick.

The LDP president will be chosen by the party's members of parliament and representatives of local branches.

Whoever wins will become prime minister after a parliamentary vote Tuesday, seen as a formality because of the party's control of the more powerful lower house.

But he will enter a political minefield, after the centre-left opposition seized control of the upper house in July elections and promising to scuttle the government's agenda and push for snap polls.

One key imminent task for the new prime minister is to pass legislation to continue a Japanese naval mission supporting US-led operations in Afghanistan, on which Abe had effectively staked his job.

In an interview with the Nikkei daily Friday, US Deputy Secretary of State John Negroponte voiced hope the legislation would pass immediately despite the opposition's objections.

"We hope that a decision to continue those operations might be made as soon as possible," he said.

Japan has been officially pacifist since defeat in World War II, making all military missions abroad controversial at home.

Fukuda supports the Afghan mission but has suggested he will not make Abe's signature policy -- rewriting the US-imposed 1947 pacifist constitution -- a priority for his government.

He also opposes visits to the Yasukuni shrine, which honours Japanese war dead including top war criminals and which Beijing and Seoul view as a symbol of Japan's militarist past.

Both Koizumi and Abe supported the shrine, although Abe declined to go in a bid to repair relations with neighbouring countries.

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Japan-politics

AFP 210341 GMT 09 07

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# Kyodo News International

## Japan foreign minister to attend U.N. meetings on Iraq, Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura will fly to New York to attend a high-level meeting on Iraq on Saturday and another meeting on Afghanistan the following day to demonstrate Japan's determination to continue its efforts to help rebuild the two countries, Foreign Ministry officials said.

The meetings will be held as part of the 62nd session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

Machimura is also scheduled to hold separate bilateral meetings with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon, both on Saturday.

He may also hold other bilateral meetings including one with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, the officials said.

At the meeting on Afghanistan on Sunday, Machimura is expected to convey Japan's determination to continue refueling support in the Indian Ocean for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around that country, the officials said.

The meeting is aimed at finding ways for the United Nations, the Afghan government and the international community to enhance their cooperation in Afghanistan's reconstruction efforts.

The gathering comes as a heated debate on whether to continue the refueling mission is raging in Japan.

The Japanese government has been facing difficulties in securing parliamentary approval for the continuation of the refueling mission since the opposition camp took control of the House of Councillors following an election in July.

The largest opposition party, the Democratic Party of Japan, has expressed its opposition to extending the current law authorizing the mission, which is set to expire Nov. 1, saying the operations do not have a U.N. mandate.

Against this backdrop, the U.N. Security Council recently adopted a resolution expressing its appreciation to countries participating in the U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

Japanese officials are hoping that the resolution will help to convince the DPJ to reconsider its opposition to the refueling mission.

At the meeting on Iraq on Saturday, Machimura is likely to issue a similar message that Japan remains committed to Iraq's reconstruction efforts, the officials said.

The Iraq meeting will discuss the implementation of the International Compact with Iraq, a framework for providing international assistance for security, economic and other reforms in Iraq.

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# Kyodo News International

## Kyodo news summary -4-

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

-way talks to be held Sept. 27-30, China says

BEIJING - The next meeting of six-party talks on denuclearizing North Korea will be held Sept. 27-30 in Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry announced on its website on Friday.

In the upcoming talks, negotiators from North and South Korea, the United States, China, Japan and Russia are expected to try to firm up a detailed plan for implementing the second phase of Pyongyang's denuclearization under an agreement they reached in February.

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Japan corrects 2003 Arabian Sea fueling amount citing input error

TOKYO - The Defense Ministry admitted Friday that Japan provided 800,000 U.S. gallons of fuel to a U.S. tanker in the Arabian Sea prior to the 2003 U.S. attack on Iraq, revising upward its initial declaration that the amount was 200, 000 gallons.

The announcement came after a Japanese peace group suggested the previous day that the Maritime Self-Defense Force replenishment ship Tokiwa effectively provided illegal logistic support for the war by indirectly supplying fuel to the U.S. carrier Kitty Hawk.

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Schoolboys arrested over pro-Tibetan slogans, says rights group

BEIJING - A U.S.-based human rights group said Friday that police in northwestern China are holding seven ethnic-Tibetan schoolboys in custody for writing slogans calling for the return of the Dalai Lama.

Human Rights Watch also alleges that one of the boys, aged 14, has been badly beaten and denied hospital treatment.

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Monks protest for 4th straight day in Myanmar

YANGON - Continuing the most significant act of defiance toward the Myanmar junta in more than a decade, Buddhist monks protested for a fourth straight day Friday, marching in the hundreds along the streets of Yangon.

At least three groups of monks, numbering between 100 and 300 each, marched in torrential rain in Yangon's suburban townships, followed by dozens of

onlookers, witnesses said.

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Fukuda, Aso emphasize need for new law to extend refueling mission

TOKYO - The two candidates in line to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emphasized on Friday the need to submit to the ongoing extraordinary Diet session a bill to enact a new law to continue Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

"It cannot be helped eyeing a new law if it is difficult" to simply extend the current special antiterrorism law in the face of strong resistance by the opposition parties, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in a debate with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Taro Aso.

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Author of 'Princess Masako' criticizes protests by Japan gov't

TOKYO - The author of a controversial book on the life of Crown Princess Masako criticized the Japanese government Friday, saying its protest against the book's contents infringes on freedom of speech.

"Bureaucrats are behaving as if the Constitution was never enacted and the government still has its prewar powers to censor everything you read," said Ben Hills, an Australian journalist who wrote "Princess Masako, Prisoner of the Chrysanthemum Throne."

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Russian canoeist missing for weeks in China found alive

BEIJING - One of the six Russian canoeists who was reported missing nearly three weeks ago in remote mountains in northwestern China was found alive Friday, according to Chinese and Russian media reports.

Search-and-rescue personnel spotted the man from the air as they were searching the upper reaches of the Yurungkax River in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, China's official Xinhua News Agency reported.

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# Kyodo News International

## LEAD: Japan corrects 2003 Arabian Sea fueling amount citing input error

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

(Editors: UPDATING)

The Defense Ministry admitted Friday that Japan provided 800,000 U.S. gallons of fuel to a U.S. tanker in the Arabian Sea prior to the 2003 U.S. attack on Iraq, revising upward its initial declaration that the amount was 200,000 gallons.

The announcement came after a Japanese peace group suggested the previous day that the Maritime Self-Defense Force replenishment ship Tokiwa effectively provided illegal logistic support for the war by indirectly supplying fuel to the U.S. carrier Kitty Hawk.

Defense Minister Masahiko Komura indicated, however, that there is no change in Japan's position that it provided the oil for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan, the amount notwithstanding, and dismissed the allegation.

The ministry cited a data input error as the reason for the mistake.

On Friday, the peace group, Peace Depot, claimed that the Tokiwa provided 800,000 gallons of oil to the U.S. oiler Pecos on Feb. 25, 2003, not 200,000 gallons as the Japanese government initially said.

Pecos transferred a similar amount of oil to the Kitty Hawk the same day, and the carrier moved straight to the Persian Gulf, the group said, based on Pecos' logbooks. The Kitty Hawk took part in the Iraq war.

The suspicion that Japan was indirectly involved in the Iraq war through the fueling of the Kitty Hawk first emerged in May 2003 in Japan.

At that time, the Japanese government dismissed the allegation, saying that the aircraft carrier could consume 200,000 gallons of fuel in a single day, and that the fuel would not be used for operations linked to the Iraq war.

Under the special antiterrorism law, MSDF activities are limited under the war-renouncing Constitution to the refueling mission in the Indian Ocean in support of allied ships deployed for the antiterrorism operations.

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# Kyodo News International

## 2ND LD: Fukuda, Aso emphasize need for new law to extend refueling mission

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Byline: Miya Tanaka and Janice Tang  
Dateline: TOKYO

(Editors: ADDING MORE INFO)

The two candidates in line to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe emphasized on Friday the need to submit to the ongoing extraordinary Diet session a bill to enact a new law to continue Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

"It cannot be helped eyeing a new law if it is difficult" to simply extend the current special antiterrorism law in the face of strong resistance by the opposition parties, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in a debate with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Taro Aso.

Aso agreed with the necessity to submit the bill to the Diet session, which is scheduled to run until Nov. 10 unless extended. The current special measures law that authorizes the mission expires Nov. 1.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan has repeatedly said it will block a bill to extend the special antiterrorism law. The DPJ-led opposition camp gained a majority in the House of Councillors in the July 29 upper house election.

Fukuda, widely seen as the front-runner in the ruling LDP's presidential election, also criticized Abe over the timing of his decision to resign from the post of prime minister.

"I think he made a mistake in the timing of making his decision," Fukuda said, adding that the premier should have resigned earlier when the LDP suffered a major defeat in the upper house election.

The comment, made during a debate session broadcast live nationwide, was an implicit attack against Aso, who was reportedly the first to encourage Abe to stay in power after the election.

Aso responded by saying it would be wrong to place all the blame of the election defeat on Abe alone because much resulted from negative impacts from reforms implemented by the administration of his predecessor Junichiro Koizumi.

On the war-related Yasukuni Shrine, the source of diplomatic controversy with neighboring countries, Fukuda said he has no intention to realize a plan to build a secular national memorial facility to commemorate the war dead even if he gains power, although he has been pursuing the plan since 2002 when he was chief cabinet secretary.

He also showed willingness to revise the male-only imperial succession law so women can ascend the

throne as a way of ensuring stable imperial succession.

"I think this is an issue that shouldn't be left behind. There is time pressure, so I think we should show a certain direction as early as possible," Fukuda said.

Meanwhile, Aso, known for his conservative views, was cautious over the proposed revision, saying the tradition should not be meddled with by politicians and that it is not an imminent issue.

Their views also differed on how to handle negotiations with North Korea, with the more dovish Fukuda saying, "Of course we must make it our top priority to have all abductees who are still in North Korea returned to Japan. But that doesn't mean we should make excessive demands."

In contrast to Aso's insistence of a hard-line stance like that of Abe's, Fukuda said it is necessary to strike a balance between dialogue and pressure.

During the two-hour debate and question-and-answer session, the two candidates gave little specifics on envisioned policies such as how to fix the scandal-ridden pension system. But both apologized to the public at the outset for the political confusion and suspension of parliamentary operations caused by Abe's resignation.

On the pension issue, which is considered a focal point of concern among the Japanese public, Fukuda did not say clearly how he plans to revamp the system but noted that he wants government officials to first clean up their act.

He said it is necessary to spend ample time to create a system that will have public consensus and expressed flexibility in discussing the issue with the opposition bloc including on the possibility of considering the opposition's proposal of a tax-based pension system.

Aso, meanwhile, reiterated his proposal of raising the consumption tax by 1 percentage point to cover the anticipated increase of the government's burden in funding the public pension system amid Japan's aging population. But he, too, stopped short of saying if he will change the system altogether.

The winner of the LDP helm on Sunday is certain to be selected prime minister as the ruling bloc holds a majority in the lower house, which has the final say in picking the new premier on Tuesday.

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# Kyodo News International

## LEAD: Fukuda, Aso emphasize need for new law to extend refueling mission

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

(Editors: ADDING INFO)

The two candidates in line to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday emphasized the need to submit to the ongoing extraordinary Diet session a bill to enact a new law to continue Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

"It cannot be helped eyeing a new law if it is difficult" to simply extend the current special antiterrorism law in the face of strong resistance by the opposition parties, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in a debate with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Taro Aso.

Aso agreed with the necessity to submit the bill to the Diet session, which is scheduled to run until Nov. 10.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan has repeatedly said it will block a bill to extend the special antiterrorism law. The DPJ-led opposition camp gained a majority of the House of Councillors in the July 29 election.

Fukuda, widely seen as the front-runner in the ruling LDP's presidential election, also criticized Abe over the timing of his decision to resign from the post of prime minister.

"I think he made a mistake in the timing of making his decision," Fukuda said, adding that the premier should have resigned when the LDP suffered a major defeat in the upper house election.

On the war-related Yasukuni Shrine, the source of diplomatic controversy with neighboring countries, Fukuda said he has no intention to realize a plan to build a secular national memorial facility to commemorate the war dead even if he gains power, although he has been pursuing the plan since 2002 when he was chief Cabinet secretary.

He also showed willingness to revise the male-only imperial succession law so women can ascend the throne as a way of ensuring stable imperial succession.

"I think this is an issue that shouldn't be left behind. There is time pressure, so I think we should show a certain direction as early as possible," Fukuda said.

But Aso was cautious over the proposed revision, saying the issue should not be treated "easily" and that it is not an imminent issue.

The winner of the LDP presidential election on Sunday is certain to be the winner in the prime

ministerial election as the ruling bloc holds a majority in the more powerful lower house. The new prime minister is to be picked Tuesday.

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# Kyodo News International

## Fukuda, Aso emphasize need for new law to extend refueling mission

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Dateline: TOKYO

The two candidates in line to succeed Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday emphasized the need for a new law to continue Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean for U.S-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan.

"It cannot be helped eyeing a new law if it is difficult" to simply extend the current special antiterrorism law in the face of strong rejection by the opposition parties, former Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda said in a debate with Liberal Democratic Party Secretary General Taro Aso.

Aso shared the view over the necessity to submit a bill for the new law during the ongoing extraordinary Diet session.

The main opposition Democratic Party of Japan has repeatedly said it would block a bill to extend the special antiterrorism law. The DPJ-led opposition camp gained a majority of the House of Councillors in the July 29 election.

Fukuda, widely seen as the front-runner in the ruling LDP's presidential election, also criticized Abe over the timing of his decision to resign from the post of prime minister.

"I think he made a mistake in the timing of making his decision," Fukuda said, suggesting the premier should have resigned when the LDP suffered a major defeat in the upper house election.

The winner of the LDP presidential election on Sunday is certain to be the winner in the prime ministerial election as the ruling bloc holds a majority in the more powerful lower house. The new prime minister is to be picked Tuesday.

The ongoing extraordinary Diet session is scheduled to run until Nov. 10.

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# Kyodo News International

## Machimura eyes new Cabinet to submit antiterror law in current Diet

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura Friday expressed hope for the new Cabinet to continue ongoing efforts to introduce in the current extraordinary Diet session a new antiterrorism law that authorizes Japan's refueling mission in the Indian Ocean.

While saying that the antiterrorism law is a matter to be resolved by the new Cabinet, to be formed next week, Machimura said at a news conference, "As a member of the Abe Cabinet, I have worked (to push for a new law in the current Diet). I believe it would be appropriate for the new Cabinet to carry on (this line)."

Asked about the timing of submitting this new law for discussion, Machimura said, "Naturally, during the current Diet session."

His remark comes amid views within political circles to postpone the debate about the new law until next year's full parliamentary session.

The Japanese government has been in a fix about getting parliamentary approval to extend Japan's refueling mission for U.S.-led antiterrorism operations in and around Afghanistan, as it has been facing hostility from the opposition camp, which took control of the upper house in a national election in July.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe cited as one of the reasons for his abrupt resignation last week the difficulty in securing an extension of Japan's refueling mission under the current antiterrorism law.

The current law expires Nov. 1. The ongoing extraordinary Diet session, which opened Sept. 10, will end Nov. 10, unless extended. Next year's ordinary session will likely convene in early 2008.

Touching on his intention to attend a ministerial conference on Afghan issues in New York this weekend, Machimura said the message that Japan intends to convey is that it will continue its efforts to take part in the antiterrorism operation.

The U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution Wednesday that contained a line expressing appreciation to countries participating in the U.S.-led antiterrorism operations including Japan. Key Cabinet members are hoping this would give the largest opposition party Democratic Party of Japan second thoughts about resisting the refueling mission.

The DPJ has opposed extending the current law, saying the refueling mission does not have a U.N. mandate.

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# Kyodo News International

## Japanese editorial excerpts

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Dateline: TOKYO

Selected editorial excerpts from the Japanese press:

UNSC RESOLUTION VINDICATES MSDF MISSION (The Daily Yomiuri as translated from the Yomiuri Shimbun)

The adoption of a resolution by the U.N. Security Council to extend the mission of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan is an expression of support for the Maritime Self-Defense Force's refueling activities in the Indian Ocean, as well as a sign that these activities are expected to continue.

The resolution also extends appreciation to eight countries -- including Japan, Britain and the United States -- participating in maritime interdiction activities in the Indian Ocean as part of international efforts to fight terrorism. Fourteen of the 15 Security Council members voted for the resolution. Russia abstained.

The resolution's primary aim was to extend ISAF activities for another year, with the preamble touching on Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), the key operation for the continued "war on terror" in Afghanistan and the Indian Ocean.

Japan has worked to ensure that OEF activities be mentioned in the resolution by persuading Britain, the United States and other countries to push for their inclusion.

The government has pushed for this due to claims by the Democratic Party of Japan that there is no U.N. resolution directly sanctioning OEF -- the very reason the DPJ says it is against the extension of the MSDF refueling activities.

The DPJ has stuck to its guns in opposing the continuation of the MSDF mission, saying the new resolution is not designed to approve OEF activities. The largest opposition party asserts that a provision for assistance to improve the livelihood of people in Afghanistan would be more effective than the MSDF mission in fighting terrorism.

If that is so, the DPJ should swiftly present specific counterproposals. If these include the provision of financial assistance in exchange for the withdrawal of the MSDF members, it will leave the international community deeply disappointed. More than 40 nations are taking part in this "war on terror" at the cost of many casualties.

Japan provided as much as 13 billion dollars for the 1991 Gulf War, but was not on the list of 30 countries thanked by the Kuwaiti government in helping liberate the country from Iraq, in an advertisement carried in a U.S. newspaper. We must

not forget the lesson that this taught us.

(Sept. 21)

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# M2 Presswire

## Commemorating International Day of Peace on 21 September, Secretary-General says 'Peace is the United Nations highest calling'

Friday, September 21, 2007

The International Day of Peace will be observed at United Nations Headquarters on 21 September beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the traditional Peace Bell ceremony on the front lawn of the Secretariat Building, conducted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the United Nations Messengers of Peace.

The Secretary-General has called on the staff at Headquarters and people all over the world to observe one minute of silence at noon, local time, in the name of peace.

The International Day of Peace was first established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1981 as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence. The General Assembly called for people around the world to use the Day of Peace as an opportunity to promote peaceful resolution of conflict and to observe a cessation of hostilities during the day. Every year, people all over the world honour peace in various ways on 21 September.

In his message for the Day, the Secretary-General said that "Peace is the United Nations highest calling. It defines our mission. It drives our discourse. And it draws together all of our worldwide work, from peacekeeping and preventive diplomacy to promoting human rights and development." (See Press Release SG/SM/11135.)

Over the past year, the United Nations has been involved in seeking resolutions to several of the world's intractable conflicts. For example, the United Nations will host four high-level meetings, beginning on 21 September, bringing world leaders together to discuss ways the international community can assist the peace process in Darfur, the Middle East, Iraq and Afghanistan. On 24 September, the Secretary-General will convene a major meeting on climate change, an issue he has also linked to the pursuit of peace.

"I am under no illusion that these problems will be solved overnight. The solutions all involve a long road and hard work. Be assured that, as Secretary-General, I am committed to working intensely with the Member States on all these issues to achieve results," he said in a press briefing.

The United Nations, over the past year, has worked on several fronts to build peace, including by helping to implement democratic elections in countries emerging from conflict, particularly in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Timor-Leste and Sierra Leone.

In addition, a record number of blue berets and civilians -- more than 100,000 -- are serving on 19

United Nations peace operations around the world to build and keep peace.

Secretary-General Ban will ring the Japanese Peace Bell in the company of United Nations Messengers of Peace Michael Douglas, Jane Goodall and Elie Wiesel. They will be flanked by students from the United Nations International School, dressed in their national costumes, and holding flags of the United Nations and all 192 Member States. Secretary-General Ban will also announce the appointment of new Messengers of Peace.

The ceremony will be followed by the annual student observance: 700 middle and high school students, including refugees from Peru and the Sudan, as well as the Messengers of Peace, will exchange views on the theme "Peace: A Climate of Change" via video conference with young people at the United Nations Missions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon and the Sudan.

For more information:  
[www.un.org/events/peaceday/2007/index.shtml](http://www.un.org/events/peaceday/2007/index.shtml).

(Comments on this story may be sent to [tww.feedback@m2.com](mailto:tww.feedback@m2.com))

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# The Windsor Star

## World Report

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: C2

Section: News

Column: World Report

Source: Compiled from Star News Services

Illustrations: Colour Photo: Stan Honda , Agence France-Presse, Getty Images / ANY THOUGHTS ON IRAQ, MR. LINCOLN?: A wax figure of U.S. President Abraham Lincoln sits in the front row of a Delta Shuttle airplane Thursday at La Guardia Airport in New York. The figure was on its way to Washington, D.C., for the opening of a Madame Tussauds wax museum on Oct. 5. The figure travelled as a paying passenger as part of a Tussauds' promotion.

Colour Photo: Condoleezza Rice

Colour Photo: Phil Spector

Colour Photo: Gabriele Pauli

### MIDEAST

#### RICE URGES EFFORT TO ENSURE 'SUBSTANTIVE' SUMMIT

SHANNON, Ireland - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice urged Israelis and Palestinians on Thursday to hold serious talks on creating a Palestinian state, insisting a looming peace summit be meaningful.

"The international meeting has to be serious. It has to be substantive," Rice told a news conference with Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas on a visit overshadowed by Israel declaring that the Gaza Strip was a "hostile entity."

"The issue here is to move the process forward, to a document that will help lay a foundation so there can be serious negotiations on the establishment of a Palestinian state as soon as possible," Rice added.

She spent two hours locked in talks with Abbas and his prime minister Salam Fayyad in Ramallah, before a second meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert to prepare for the U.S.-sponsored conference expected in November.

The top U.S. diplomat later boarded a flight back to the United States for the UN General Assembly and talks with the other main sponsors of the stalled Middle East peace process.

On the airplane, Rice was upbeat about the summit.

"I think the announcement of an international gathering some time in the fall has helped to galvanize people to try to move forward," she said.

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### NORTH AMERICA

#### BUSH IS 'COCKIEST GUY I EVER MET:' MEXICO'S FOX

MEXICO CITY - George W. Bush "is the cockiest guy I have ever met," former Mexican President Vicente Fox says in an autobiography that pokes fun at the U.S. president's bad Spanish and false cowboy bravado.

Fox, who retired in December after a six-year term, worked closely with Bush on immigration and trade in the pair's first year in office in 2001.

The two leaders referred to each other publicly as "amigos" but their alliance soured after the Sept. 11 attacks turned Washington's attention toward Iraq and Afghanistan and away from Latin America.

Fox, a conservative and a rancher like Bush, says in his book, *Revolution of Hope*, that their first meeting in 1996 - when they were both state governors - left a mark.

"My first impression of George W. Bush was one of total self-confidence. He is quite simply the cockiest guy I have ever met in my life," Fox wrote, according to an advance copy of the book.

Except, perhaps, when it came to language skills. Fox said Bush was "a bit sheepish as he tried out his grade-school-level Spanish" at that meeting in Austin, Tex.

#### 'BORED' MAN CHARGED OVER NAKED STICK UP

NEW YORK - A 24-year-old man arrested in Pennsylvania for holding up a convenience store wearing nothing but a hat has told police he did it because he was bored, according to local reports.

Police were questioning Carl Wagner over a separate incident of indecent exposure when they recognized him from a surveillance video in which he can be seen entering the store naked but apparently covering his manhood with a hand.

"We actually had an incident where the gentleman lives where he was exposing himself to two females. He was initially brought in on that accusation," Carbondale police sergeant Thomas Heller told local television channel WNEP.

"We put two and two together, it was definitely him," he added. Police said that Wagner had admitted carrying out the stick up and had been charged with robbery, open lewdness and indecent exposure.

Officials said the man demanded money from the clerk, who refused to hand anything over and called the police. The robber then fled the store empty handed.

Wagner appeared in court on Tuesday fully dressed. Asked by police why he carried out the attempted robbery, he said he was bored.

#### JURORS IN SPECTOR MURDER TRIAL RESUME DELIBERATIONS

LOS ANGELES - The jury in the murder trial of music producer Phil Spector resumed deliberations on Thursday after earlier telling court officials they were unable to reach a verdict.

Jurors at Los Angeles Superior Court retired shortly after receiving amended instructions from trial Judge Larry Paul Fidler.

On Tuesday the nine-man three-woman panel revealed they were split 7-5 and said they would be unlikely to break the deadlock.

However they were asked to make another attempt at finding a verdict after Judge Fidler withdrew a key section of his original instruction.

Spector, 67, the musical pioneer who created the Wall of Sound recording technique responsible for a string of 1960s hits, faces 15 years to life in prison if found guilty of murdering actress Lana Clarkson, 40.

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#### EUROPE

##### AMSTERDAM BUYS BROTHELS IN RED LIGHT CLEAN-UP

AMSTERDAM - The city of Amsterdam announced Thursday that it will invest up to US\$21 million to help clean up its famous red light district by buying brothels there.

The city will help a real estate developer buy 51 storefront windows where prostitutes ply their trade to convert them into apartments or commercial premises.

Although prostitution has been legal in the Netherlands since 2000, the city is trying to bring about a voluntary clean-up of Amsterdam's famous red light district.

City mayor Job Cohen told a news conference that the deal announced Thursday represented "a big step."

"Since the legalization in 2000, things have changed," Cohen said.

"The law was created for voluntary prostitution but these days we see trafficking of women, exploitation and all kinds of criminal activity," he said.

#### MARRIAGES SHOULD EXPIRE AFTER 7 YEARS: POLITICIAN

BERLIN - A latex-wearing, twice-divorced German politician has stunned her staunchly conservative party by suggesting marriages make way for the seven-year itch.

Gabriele Pauli is everything that most politicians in the CSU -- the Bavarian sister party to Chancellor Angela Merkel's CDU -- are not.

For a start, she is a woman. But she is also a flame-haired motorcyclist, who in one photo shoot eschewed the traditional dress that southern Germans love for latex.

Her latest outburst came as she campaigned for the leadership of the CSU, one of Germany's top political jobs.

"The basic approach is wrong -- many marriages last just because people believe they are safe," she said. "My suggestion is that marriages expire after seven years."

#### COURT HALVES PRIEST'S TERM FOR CRUCIFYING NUN

BUCHAREST - A Romanian priest charged with crucifying a nun he believed was possessed by the devil had his 14-year prison sentence cut by half by an appeal court Thursday, legal sources said.

The court in the central town of Alba-Iulia also reduced from eight years to six the jail term imposed on one of four nuns found guilty of being accomplices to the exorcism-turned-murder, while maintaining a five-year sentence for the other three.

The murdered nun, 23-year-old Irina Cornici of the Saint Trinity of Tanacu monastery in northeastern Romania, died after being gagged, chained to a cross and left without food or water for days.

The priest, Daniel Corogeanu, and the four nuns were charged with illegal confinement and murder following the discovery of Cornici's body in June 2005.

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#### ASIA

##### PANIC AS WOMAN DIVES FOR SUMO RING

TOKYO - A woman invaded a sumo ring -- a sacred arena from which females are banned -- in Tokyo during a major tournament, domestic media said on Thursday, then was pulled down by a referee and one of the sport's huge wrestlers.

The middle-aged woman dashed from the side of the Kokugikan sumo stadium on Wednesday and shoved away a female security guard before rolling onto the ring just as a bout was set to begin, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

The Japan Sumo Association insisted that though the woman did enter the raised platform around the batting ring, she did not set foot on the ring, or dohyo, itself.

"It's bad for the heart," said Takamisakari, a popular wrestler who helped catch the woman, told the Sports Nippon daily.

"What was the person trying to do while we were wrestling seriously?"

It was not clear why she had attempted to reach the ring during one of the sport's heavily televised six big tournaments, but she was carrying a bundle of flyers saying "help, bad spirits," Nikkan Sports daily reported.

The ancient sport is so serious about keeping females out that a female governor of Osaka had to delegate prize-giving duties to a male subordinate at a 2001 tournament.

#### THAI MAN SHOOTS NOISY DRINKERS, MOTHER-IN-LAW

BANGKOK - A Thai man angry at his noisy neighbours shot three of them dead before gunning down his former mother-in-law, police said Thursday.

They said Chakrit Siwapornrangsang, a 40-year-old motorcycle repairman, took out the gun because of the noise and drinking of neighbours in a district of Chantaburi province, 245 kilometres from Bangkok.

He then went looking for his former wife and when her parents tried to stop him, gunned down his former mother-in-law, local television reported.

Police said the suspect took another man hostage early Thursday but surrendered. "He is under serious stress that triggered the quarrel with his neighbours," deputy provincial police commander Colonel Aungkool Poolcharoen said.

# The Windsor Star

## Leaders share misfortune

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A8  
Section: Editorial/Opinion  
Byline: Don Martin  
Column: Don Martin  
Source: Calgary Herald

If misery does indeed love company, Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion can take comfort in having a troubled twin in Canadian politics.

Caught in an bizarre parallel track of political failures, the reeling federal Official Opposition leader has been spiralling downward in lockstep with faltering Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach.

It starts with both being crowned leader of their parties on the same night last December, a star-crossed coincidence that has unleashed an alarming pattern of rookie leadership lurches.

This week, they both hit a rocky bottom of sorts.

Dion, as you know, badly lost a Montreal byelection Monday in a riding owned by his party for decades with a candidate he picked to carry the party banner. He partially blamed poor communication of the party positions for the defeat in his first electoral test as leader.

Stelmach also had a candidate spared a nomination contest who lost a byelection last spring in former premier Ralph Klein's old Calgary riding after 36 years under Conservative domination. He argued his five-priority message wasn't getting across.

But the rookie premier's biggest headache was an expert panel review released Tuesday, which found his governing party consistently shortchanged its royalty collection scheme on the lucrative oilsands by about \$2 billion per year. That's a lot of highways and hospitals that weren't built to cope with growth in Canada's big-boom province and one seriously black mark on the Alberta Conservative's fiscal resume. Stelmach has some major damage control to enact.

But the symmetrical slide of the two leaders is almost eerie on many other fronts.

Both in their early 50s, they vaulted from third-place balloting early in their respective leadership conventions to a shocking finish in the top spot, victories considered a blessing for their party rivals who derided them both as dull, meek and mild, albeit with a deep streak of personal integrity.

Both find English language communication a challenge. Dion's tonsil-twisting speech has shown no major improvement. He can be borderline incoherent at times. Stelmach also has trouble speaking decent English, using rambling oratorical disconnects to score points.

He has the dubious skill of "turned gold into lead"

when trying to explain himself, wrote Edmonton Journal columnist Graham Thomson. "Give him a silk purse and he'll hand you back a sow's ear."

In their respective political arenas, both Dion and Stelmach have put rivals in top cabinet and caucus areas where they have caused policy complications.

Stelmach put physician Lyle Oberg in the finance job and soon found himself fending off questions about why the pair seemed to be reading from different scripts on the best federal transfer payment method.

The rest of his cabinet is considered too rural to reflect an increasingly cosmopolitan Albertan.

Dion put his top opponent, Michael Ignatieff, in the deputy leader slot where he's outperformed the leader in question period, but shoulders the uncomfortable albatross of having supported the mission in Afghanistan, which his leader opposes extending.

Both men sit atop former political dynasties that have dipped to the low 30s in public approval, with Stelmach's meltdown being the most pronounced having seen his Conservatives freefall from 54 per cent support only one year ago.

Both leaders face grumblings from within their own ranks that weak staff populate senior positions and cocoon the leader from reality.

They both face the spectre of an election in the coming year. Both dread it for the potential setbacks they will probably endure if persistent trends continue. Both have leadership rivals hoping they will fail quickly, the better to force another convention and hand them their rightful crown.

In other words, both parties are in a hellish mess.

The ivory tower Liberal constitutional versus the rural Conservative farmer could not be more different personally.

But politically, they share a common plight as leaders in a major slump.

If one finds his way out of the morass, the other should be paying close attention to the escape route. If they're going down together, it's only right they bounce back in tandem.

Don Martin is a Calgary Herald columnist. E-mail: [dmartin@canwest.com](mailto:dmartin@canwest.com).

# English News Service

Xinhua world news summary at 0900 GMT, Sept. 21

Friday, September 21, 2007

Xinhua world news summary at 0900 GMT, Sept. 21

BAGHDAD -- The U.S. military said on Friday that its troops have detained an Iraqi police intelligence officer for suspected role in illegal sectarian activities and crimes.

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Colonel Thamir al-Husayni, nicknamed Abu Turab, an intelligence officer for Iraq's 2nd National Police Division Headquarters, was taken into custody by U.S. soldiers in northwestern Baghdad on Thursday, the military said in a statement. (Iraq-U.S. Intelligence Officer)

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KABUL -- Afghan and the U.S.-led coalition forces killed about 40 insurgents in Helmand province of southern Afghanistan early Friday morning, a coalition statement said.

A joint Afghan and coalition team carried out an operation in Garmser district where credible intelligence indicated violent extremist forces may be hiding, the statement said. (Afghanistan-Insurgent)

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VIENNA -- An ongoing conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Thursday passed a resolution, calling on all parties involved to strive for a nuclear-free Middle East.

The resolution, called "Application of IAEA Safeguards in the Middle East," praised the efforts by the nuclear watchdog in safeguarding security and atomic supervision. (IAEA-Middle East)

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BRASILIA -- Brazil is seeking to restrict flights at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport, where a deadly crash killed 199 people in July.

Brazil's National Aviation Agency (Anac) submitted a proposal on Thursday to the Defense Ministry for cutting flights at the airport, where a TAM plane crashed upon landing on July 17. (Brazil-Restriction)

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HAVANA -- Visiting President of the African Union (AU) Commission Alpha Oumar Konare on Thursday praised Cuba's friendship with Africa and its willingness to cooperate with African countries.

In an article published in Cuba's official daily Granma on Thursday, Konare said the recent signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between Cuba and the AU will strengthen bilateral links in political, economic and cultural sectors. (Cuba-AU)



# The Ottawa Citizen

## Ahmadinejad visit to New York creates storm of political protest; Iranian president invited to speak at Columbia University

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A6

Section: News

Byline: Alex Spillius in Washington and James Hossack in New York

Source: The Daily Telegraph and Agence France-Presse

Illustrations: Photo: Mehdi Ghassemi, Reuters / Lee Bollinger, the president of New York's Columbia University, said he will introduce Sunday's speech by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, above, by challenging the Iranian president's denial of the Holocaust, his calls for the destruction of Israel and any nuclear ambitions he may have.

Iran's president is set to use a speech at a leading U.S. university to challenge George W. Bush at a time of high tensions with Washington over his country's pursuit of nuclear weapons and its support for insurgents in Iraq.

The invitation by New York's Columbia University to Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is attracting growing criticism ahead of his arrival on Sunday.

Senator John McCain, a Republican presidential candidate and Vietnam veteran, said yesterday, "A man who is directing the maiming and killing of American troops should not be given an invitation to speak at an American university."

Dean Coatsworth, dean of the school of international and public affairs, defended the invitation. "Opportunities to hear, challenge and learn from controversial speakers of different views are central to the education and training of students for citizenship in a shrinking and still dangerous world," he said.

Columbia's president, Lee Bollinger, said he would introduce the event by challenging Mr. Ahmadinejad's denial of the Holocaust, his calls for the destruction of Israel and any ambitions Tehran has to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

In fulfilling its mission as a place of learning, Mr. Bollinger said the university would on occasion encounter "beliefs many, most or even all of us will find offensive and even odious. We trust our community, including our students, to be fully capable of dealing with these occasions, through the powers of dialogue and reason. I would also like to invoke a major theme in the development of freedom of speech as a central value in our society," he said.

The growing chorus against the Ahmadinejad visit came as U.S. troops in Iraq arrested a member of the Quds Force, the covert operations arm of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, in Sulaimaniyah, in the north.

"This individual has been involved in transporting improvised explosive devices and explosively formed penetrators into Iraq," a U.S. military statement said. "Intelligence reports also indicate he was involved in the infiltration and training of foreign terrorists in Iraq."

Iran protested to the U.S. about the arrest, saying the man was the head of "cross-border commercial transactions" from the office of the governor general

of Kermanshah province in western Iran, which borders northern Iraq.

The Kurdistan regional government also protested the arrest, calling it "illegitimate."

Also yesterday, a top NATO commander said a shipment of weapons intercepted by international forces in western Afghanistan earlier this month clearly came from Iran, and almost certainly was sent there with the knowledge of "at least the Iranian military."

U.S. Gen. Dan McNeill said a convoy of weapons captured Sept. 6 in the far western province of Farah -- which shares a long border with Iran -- was transporting "upscale" roadside bombs that had the hallmarks of those made in Iran, and are used with lethal regularity against U.S. forces in Iraq.

"I think there is sufficient intelligence to put together a picture that says this convoy that we intercepted the other day, which clearly geographically originated in Iran, and other things that we've encountered -- it would be hard for me to imagine that they had come into Afghanistan without the knowledge of at least the military in Iran," Gen. McNeill said.

Washington has accused Iran of supporting terrorist groups across the Middle East.

Mr. Ahmadinejad has made comments advocating the destruction of Israel and ignored UN deadlines to stop enriching uranium, a process essential to making a nuclear bomb. He said this week that Iran would use any means to defend itself.

Mr. Bush yesterday voiced his support for a decision by New York officials to reject a request from Mr. Ahmadinejad to visit Ground Zero, the site of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. "I can understand why they would not want somebody running a country who is the state sponsor of terror down at the site," he said.

Mr. Ahmadinejad, who is due to address the UN General Assembly on Tuesday, appeared surprised by the storm over the visit, saying in an interview with CBS television, "Why should it be insulting? ... I'm amazed."

The United States allows representatives from countries with which it has no diplomatic relations to visit areas within 40 kilometres of UN headquarters, under its obligations as host of the world body.

# Winnipeg Free Press

## MacKay: 'No-fail mission' needs help

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A20  
Section: World Wire

WASHINGTON -- Afghanistan is a "no-fail mission" that requires more help from NATO countries to prevent the export of terror, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said Thursday.

After an hour-long meeting at the Pentagon with his U.S. counterpart Robert Gates, MacKay said there's a "pressing need" for more troops.

"Clearly we need people that are prepared by all means ... to share the heavy lifting," he said outside the Canadian embassy.

"I still hold up a fair bit of optimism."

Canada, with 2,300 soldiers in the dangerous southern province of Kandahar, wants countries like Germany, France, Spain and Italy to allow their troops into combat zones to fight Taliban militants.

"These countries ... have to understand that their commitment is as real as any," said MacKay, who took over the defence portfolio in August.

Some countries like Poland and Romania are stepping up by sending equipment and helping with training and reconstruction, he said.

His visit to the U.S. capital capped a series of whirlwind meetings with officials from England, Norway and the Netherlands.

Canada, like other countries, is under public pressure to leave Afghanistan. But no one would be immune from the consequences of deserting now, said MacKay.

"NATO cannot fail," he said. "If countries like Canada leave, the Taliban can follow them. These threats are not going to stay isolated."

His words echoed an oft-used phrase from President George W. Bush, who frequently tells Americans that al-Qaida terrorists would follow departing American soldiers home from Iraq.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed this week to Canadians to continue the fight, saying his country will fall back into anarchy if they don't.

-- The Canadian Press

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# Broadcast News

## ADVISORY-Central-Canada-Calendar

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: Notes And Advisories

Here is the Central Canada calendar for Friday, September 21, 2007

Good Morning from the Ontario Desk of Broadcast News in Toronto.

The Ontario Editor is Alan Black

The phone number is (416) 507-2185.

Stations wishing to file by fax can dial (416) 364-1325 or 1-800-561-0297.

The email address is [newsbroadcastnews.ca](mailto:newsbroadcastnews.ca)

The Quebec Editor is Peter Ray

The phone number is (514) 985-7235.

Stations wishing to file by fax can dial (514) 849-7693.

### QUEBEC

MONTREAL -- A conference continues on Canada and the challenges in Afghanistan. (8:30 a.m. at Centre Mont-Royal, 2200 Mansfield)

MONTREAL -- BCE special shareholder meeting. (9:30 a.m. at Centre Mont-Royal, Auditorium Le Grand Salon, 2200 Mansfield St. )

MONTREAL -- Greenpeace invites media aboard the Arctic Sunrise as part of its campaign to protect boreal forests. (10 a.m. at Port 116, Jacques Cartier bassin)

RIVIERE-DU-LOUP, Que. -- Quebec Economic Development Minister Raymond Bachand speaks to federation of Quebec Chambres of Commerce. (11:45 a.m. at Hotel Universel)

### OTTAWA

CHELSEA, Que. -- Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson Jr. make joint announcement regarding tax treaty. (Arrival photo opportunity at 10:50 a.m. and another photo opportunity at 11:50 a.m. followed by statement and media availability at Willson House, 654 Meech Lake Rd.)

GATINEAU, Que. -- CRTC hearings on broadcast diversity. (9 a.m. at Outaouais Room, 140 Promenade du Portage)

OTTAWA -- Statistics Canada releases July retail trade figures. (8:30 a.m. at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca))

OTTAWA -- Statistics Canada releases 2005 births.

(8:30 a.m. at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca))

OTTAWA -- Public hearings into the bombing of Air India Flight 182. (9:30 a.m. at Victoria Hall, Bytown Pavilion, 111 Sussex Drive OTTAWA -- Treasury Board officials technical briefing on the collective bargaining process with the Public Service. (10 a.m. at National Press Theatre, 150 Wellington St.)

OTTAWA -- Allen Vanguard special meeting. (10 a.m.)

OTTAWA -- Mosaid Technologies annual meeting. (10:30 a.m.)

### ONTARIO

TORONTO -- Transportation Ministry and police officials launch annual fall seatbelt campaign. (6 a.m. at Ministry of Transportation, 1201 Wilson Ave., parking lot)

TORONTO -- News conference to announce a partnership between the Michael (Pinball) Clemons Foundation, the 2007 Grey Cup Festival, the Canadian Auto Workers and Habitat for Humanity Toronto. (9:30 a.m. at Varsity Centre, University of Toronto, 299 Bloor Street West)

TORONTO -- Investment firm Gluskin Sheff and Associates holds fourth-quarter earnings conference call. Dial 416-849-2698. (10 a.m.)

TORONTO -- Sri Ravishankar, founder of the Art of Living Foundation, news conference. (11 a.m. at Royal York Hotel, British Columbia Room, 100 Front St. W.)

TORONTO -- Free concert with Barenaked Ladies' Steven Page and Dan Aykroyd to encourage the public to buy local. (12:15 p.m. at The Allen Lambert Galleria, Brookfield Place (BCE Place))

TORONTO -- Aboriginal activists news conference to discuss resolving long-standing land-claim disputes. (12:15 p.m. at Ontario legislature, in front of front steps)

TORONTO -- Canada-Hong Kong Link news conference for visiting legislative councillor Alan Leong where he will discuss the universal suffrage campaign and Hong Kong's international presence. (12:15 p.m. at Chinese Canadian National Council, 302 Spadina Ave. Suite 5 )

TORONTO -- Suresh Joachim, who holds 51 world records, will attempt to set a record for longest karaoke singing at 50 hours (1 p.m. at Wexford High Plaza, 2020-A Lawrence Ave. E.)

GUELPH, Ont. -- Official opening of the University of Guelph's Body Composition and Metabolism Lab (1 p.m. at J.T. Powell Building, Room 206, University of Guelph)

ORILLIA, Ont. -- Beatles festival celebrates 50th anniversary of the first meeting of John Lennon and Paul McCartney in 1957. Includes performances, exhibits, vendors' marketplace, street festival. (Various venues)

THUNDER BAY, Ont. -- Communications, Energy and Paperworkers Union of Canada hosts all-candidates debate on forestry crisis in Ontario. (5 p.m. at Prince Arthur Waterfront Hotel)

# Broadcast News

## Cda-Afghan-Doctor

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: General And National News

OTTAWA -- There'll be no charges against a Canadian doctor who published a graphic description of a wounded soldier's dying moments in Afghanistan.

The military's National Investigative Service looked at whether the magazine article by Dr. Kevin Patterson broke any laws.

The service announced yesterday it found no evidence to warrant charges under the National Defence Act.

But the military has yet to decide if Patterson breached any ethical guidelines.

A review by the medical services branch will determine, among other things, whether he is allowed to work for the military ever again under contract.

The article in last summer's issue of Mother Jones magazine prompted a storm of criticism from friends and family of the soldier.

The seven-thousand-word memoir recounts the six weeks Patterson spent at the Kandahar military base.

It climaxes with the operating room death of Corporal Kevin Megeney, a 25-year-old reservist from Stellarton, Nova Scotia, who had been shot in the chest in his tent at the base.

Megeney's death remains under investigation.

(The Canadian Press)

sw

# Broadcast News

## Cda-Afghanistan-Rebuild

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: General And National News

MONTREAL -- Afghanistan's ambassador to Canada says the country's contributions to his nation are a 'positive influence.'

Omar Samad spoke yesterday at an international conference in Montreal which brought together diplomats and military experts to discuss Canada's role in Afghanistan.

Samad told reporters many Canadians are beginning to understand what the Afghan mission is all about.

He said Canadians are there to help the Afghan people and their government become self-sufficient as soon as possible.

Canada's troop commitment to Afghanistan expires in February 2009, and the ambassador called on Canadians to wait for signs of progress.

Stephen Wallace, vice-president of the Canadian International Development Agency's Afghanistan Task force, says there has been remarkable progress in the fields of education and health.

Since Canada began its involvement in Afghanistan, 70 of its soldiers and one diplomat have died.

(The Canadian Press)

RvA

# Broadcast News

## US-Cda-MacKay

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: General And National News

WASHINGTON -- Defence Minister Peter MacKay says the western world can't afford to give up in Afghanistan.

He calls it a "no-fail mission" that requires more help from NATO countries to prevent the export of terror.

MacKay met at the Pentagon yesterday with his U-S counterpart Robert Gates.

He said he emphasized a "pressing need" for more troops.

Canada has 23-hundred soldiers in the dangerous southern province of Kandahar. Seventy have been killed since the mission began in 2002.

Ottawa wants countries like Germany, France, Spain and Italy to send their troops into combat zones to fight Taliban militants.

MacKay's visit to Washington capped a series of whirlwind meetings with officials from England, Norway and the Netherlands.

(The Canadian Press)

sw

# Broadcast News

## Bomb attack on French convoy in Kabul causes many casualties

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: General And National News

KABUL, Afghanistan - Police say a bomb attack against a convoy of French troops in the Afghan capital has killed one soldier and caused many casualties among Afghans near the blast.

The attack in western Kabul blew the windows out of a civilian bus and set at least one vehicle on fire.

Ali Shah Paktiawal, head of police criminal investigations in Kabul, says one French soldier was killed and many civilians had been killed or injured.

The U-S-led coalition, meanwhile, says a battle in southern Afghanistan on Wednesday killed more than three-dozen Taliban fighters.

The fighting began when Afghan and coalition troops spotted a dozen insurgents planting roadside bombs in Uruzgan province, sparking a 14-hour battle that included air strikes against Taliban fighters taking cover in village homes.

(The Associated Press)



# Canadian Press Newswire

## THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: Foreign General News

KABUL, Afghanistan \_ A bomb attack Friday against a convoy of French troops killed one soldier and caused many casualties among Afghans near the blast, while heavy fighting in southern Afghanistan killed about 75 Taliban fighters, officials said.

The attack in western Kabul blew the windows out of a civilian bus and set at least one vehicle on fire.

Ali Shah Paktiawal, head of police criminal investigations in Kabul, said one French soldier was killed and many civilians had been killed or injured.

The U.S.-led coalition, meanwhile, said fighting in southern Afghanistan early Friday killed about 40 militants. Air strikes were called in against ``anti-coalition militants" in the Garmsir district of Helmand province. A search of the area found more than 20 rocket-propelled grenades, ammunition and land mines, the coalition said.

That fighting comes on top of a newly reported battle in neighbouring Uruzgan province on Wednesday that killed more than three dozen Taliban fighters, the coalition said.

The fighting began when Afghan and coalition troops spotted a dozen insurgents planting roadside bombs in Uruzgan province, sparking a 14-hour battle that included air strikes against Taliban fighters taking cover in village homes.

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# Winnipeg Free Press

## What a difference 31 years can make

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A6  
Section: City  
Byline: Bruce Cheadle

OTTAWA -- A trip back to the last time the Canadian dollar traded at par with the U.S. greenback is like stepping through the looking glass.

When the loonie temporarily spiked to US\$1.0004 on Thursday, it was the first time since Nov. 25, 1976, that the two currencies were essentially equal in value.

But it was a topsy-turvy world 31 years ago.

National Geographic ran an article in its November 1976 edition on global climate change, reporting a scientific debate over whether Earth faced a rapidly cooling or warming trend. Some scientists in the article were positing that the oceans could freeze.

The American government signed a \$10-billion arms deal with Iran in 1976 -- the country it is now openly contemplating invading.

And China, the U.S.S.R., Iran, and Kuwait were finalizing long-term aid and development plans with the Afghan government, the prelude to 1979's Soviet army invasion. NATO invaded Afghanistan again in 2001, the prelude to the current long-term aid and development plan.

OPEC, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries, was causing global consternation in 1976 over a debate whether to hike oil prices by five per cent or 15 per cent -- to something around \$13 a barrel. In the past month alone, oil prices have bounced up about 11 per cent to more than \$80 a barrel.

Musically, treacly panty-removers like Rod Stewart's Tonight's the Night, and Afternoon Delight by one-hit wonders the Starland Vocal Band were competing at the top of the charts with Gordon Lightfoot's timeless Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald and Manfred Mann's Blinded by the Light.

The similarities between today's surging dollar (the loonie wasn't introduced until 1987) and the green Canadian paper bill of 1976 are equally discordant. That late autumn 31 years ago, the Canadian buck was plunging like a stone, dropping from US\$1.03 on Nov. 15 to close at US96.49 cents on Nov. 30.

-- The Canadian Press

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# Winnipeg Free Press

## Around The World

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A22  
Section: World Wire  
Byline: Meteorite hits Peru

LIMA, Peru -- Peruvian astronomers say evidence shows a meteorite crashed near Lake Titicaca over the weekend, leaving an elliptical crater and magnetic rock fragments in an impact powerful enough to register on seismic charts.

As other astronomers learn more details, they too say it appears likely a meteorite hit Earth on Saturday -- a rare occurrence.

### Suburban sprawl blamed

WASHINGTON -- Suburban sprawl is an often-overlooked cause of climate change, a group of urban planning researchers said Thursday, warning in a report that global warming can only be slowed by changing development patterns to reduce the need for Americans to get behind the wheel.

Living in more compact, pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods actually would do more to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide -- the chief climate-changing gas -- than driving a hybrid car while staying in a typically spread-out suburb, the report asserts.

### Too many civilians dying

BAGHDAD -- The U.S. second-in-command in Iraq acknowledged mixed results Thursday for the seven-month security operation in Baghdad, saying violence is down but too many civilians are still dying.

Lt.-Gen. Raymond Odierno told reporters that car bombs and suicide attacks in Baghdad have fallen to their lowest levels in a year, and civilian casualties have dropped from a high of about 32 to 12 per day. He also said violence in Baghdad had decreased 50 per cent.

### China defends record

BEIJING -- China defended its record on religious freedom on Thursday, saying all Chinese can worship as they choose with no restrictions, and blasted a U.S. government report that said Beijing continues to harshly persecute some believers.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said a recent U.S. government report on religious freedom "flagrantly interfered in China's internal affairs" and "contained groundless accusations about China's religious and ethnic policies."

### Germans want troops home

BERLIN -- Government officials urged parliament

on Thursday to keep Germany's 3,000 troops and six reconnaissance jets in Afghanistan for another year, saying a pullout now would endanger progress made since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001.

Recent opinion polls show most Germans want the troops to come home, but Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier argued that would be a mistake.

-- From the news services

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# Winnipeg Free Press

## Dion attacks foreign policy

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A18  
Section: Canada Wire  
Byline: Les Perreux

MONTREAL -- Stephane Dion is blasting the Conservative government's foreign policy as mediocre, rigid, simplistic, amateurish, ineffective and incompetent.

The Liberal leader unleashed the string of epithets Thursday in a speech outlining his alternative approach to foreign affairs.

Dion accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of slavishly following the U.S. lead on foreign policy -- abandoning the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases, ramping up defence spending and ignoring human rights violations in the pursuit of terrorists.

"Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canadian interests," he said.

By contrast, Dion said a Liberal government would return to a more multilateral approach.

"There are many ways I would like to see Canada pick up where it left off before our foreign policy went astray under the Harper government."

Dion faced questions following his speech about an emotional mea culpa he offered on French-language national television Wednesday night.

Dion said he accepted full responsibility for Liberal defeats in three Quebec byelections earlier this week, particularly the stinging loss of the Montreal riding of Outremont, a longtime party stronghold.

A chastened Dion admitted he's an unpopular figure in Quebec, saying he must spend more time speaking to Quebecers directly to show he's different from his image as a cartoon character who is taciturn, cerebral and hostile to Quebec's nationalist ambitions.

"I must fight against the caricature that is in people's spirit more than the person I really am, or the values I really represent," Dion told reporters.

Dion said part of his approach is to spell out how he and Quebecers disagree with the Harper government on foreign affairs.

A Liberal government would champion global efforts to combat climate change and promote human rights, he noted. It would also seek a worldwide ban on cluster bombs, in the same way that Canada led the charge to ban landmines under Jean Chretien's Liberal government.

Dion said he would also attempt to make Canada the

world's best "fresh-water managers," preserving a precious resource at home while helping to prevent the rapid depletion of water reserves elsewhere in the world.

Dion was most critical of the Tory government's handling of Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan, calling it "the most appalling example among a series of foreign policy blunders."

He said the government has bungled the issue of Afghan detainees, proven incapable of administering Canadian aid in the country, and sent a series of confusing mixed signals on when the combat mission will end.

"It's always worrisome when a politician constantly flip-flops, but when people's lives are at stake, it's inexcusable."

Dion said a Liberal government would give Canada's NATO allies immediate notice that the country's military mission will end in February 2009.

Dion also chided Harper for refusing to intervene in the case of Omar Khadr, the lone Canadian being held at the controversial U.S. detention centre in Guantanamo.

-- Canadian Press

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# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Island doctor still target of military investigation

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A6

Section: News

Byline: David Pugliese

Dateline: OTTAWA

Source: CanWest News Service

Illustrations: Photo: Kevin Megeney: Shot to death

OTTAWA -- A Nanaimo doctor who described in graphic detail the last moments of a Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan won't face criminal charges for disclosing sensitive information, according to military police investigators.

But Dr. Kevin Patterson is still under investigation by the military's health services group which is looking into whether he violated medical ethics by writing about his own patient.

The doctor included vivid details about the death of 25-year-old Cpl. Kevin Megeney at the NATO base in Kandahar in March. The article, which appeared in the July-August edition of the U.S. magazine Mother Jones, angered some of Megeney's family who accused the doctor of causing unnecessary grief by recounting the final moments of the soldier who died from a gunshot wound.

Military police focused their investigation on whether the article contained sensitive or secret information, defence officials said. "The Canadian Forces National Investigation Service did not find evidence to support the laying of service or criminal charges," said Capt. Cindy Tessier, the unit's spokeswoman.

Investigators were looking into whether Patterson, a civilian contractor, had violated the National Defence Act.

Tessier said the investigation into the death of the corporal is still ongoing. No explanation for the death has yet been provided but the NIS has ruled out "enemy action" since the incident occurred in the secure confines of the Kandahar base, according to defence officials.

Patterson wrote in the Mother Jones article that Megeney had been accidentally shot by a roommate in his tent.

Although Patterson is still under investigation by the military's health services group into whether he violated medical ethics, it is unclear what type of punishment or sanctions that branch could impose if it determined that was the case. Patterson did not respond to an e-mailed request for comment.

# Winnipeg Free Press

## Canada's handling of Khadr case rapped

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A18  
Section: Canada Wire

OTTAWA -- Canada has been an international leader on the plight of child soldiers but is now showing "reckless indifference" to one of its own, the American military lawyer for Omar Khadr said Thursday.

In a speech to law students at the University of Ottawa, Lt.-Cmdr. William Kueble eviscerated the U.S. military commissions set up to try prisoners of the Afghan conflict.

"Omar Khadr is facing a show trial in front of a kangaroo court," said Kueble.

But he spared Canadian governments past and present none of his outrage for refusing any effort to bring Khadr, a Canadian citizen, back to Canada for trial.

Kueble was appointed by the U.S. military to represent Khadr, a 15-year-old when he was accused of killing an American special forces officer in Afghanistan in 2002. He faces a range of charges, including murder and aiding the enemy, for allegedly throwing a grenade during a firefight.

Khadr, who turned 21 this week, is believed to be the last detainee from a Western nation still being held in Guantanamo, the U.S. prisoner camp on Cuba's southern peninsula.

Khadr's age makes his case doubly perplexing, said Kueble.

"Every civilized legal system in the world recognizes the distinction between adults and children for purposes of criminal prosecution and punishment," he said. "Not the military commissions. One size fits all."

Evidence before a U.S. civil court suggested Khadr was as young as 10 when his father, known al-Qaida operative Ahmad Khadr, recruited and indoctrinated him to the cause.

-- The Canadian Press

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# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Terrorism suspect appears in court

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A9  
Section: News  
Column: Canada Briefing  
Dateline: MONTREAL  
Source: CanWest News Service

MONTREAL - Said Namouh, a 34-year-old landed immigrant from Morocco alleged to have been plotting a terrorist attack, will be back in court Oct. 1 to set a date for his bail hearing.

Namouh, who faces a charge of conspiring to detonate an explosive, appeared briefly in Quebec Court yesterday. Crown prosecutor Pierre Labelle said the RCMP are continuing their investigation into the plot, which involved Austrian Mohammed Mahmoud, 21, and other people whose names have not been made public.

The RCMP and authorities in Austria contend Namouh and Mahmoud are linked to an apparent al-Qaeda threat to attack Germany and Austria because those countries have troops in Afghanistan.

# Canwest News Service

## Doctor still being investigated by military for article

Friday, September 21, 2007

Byline: Robert Barron

Dateline: NANAIMO, B.C.

Source: CanWest News Service; Nanaimo Daily News

NANAIMO, B.C. - Court martial proceedings or criminal charges are not in the offing for Dr. Kevin Patterson, but the Nanaimo Regional General Hospital internist is still being investigated by the Canadian military.

Capt. Cindy Tessier, a spokeswoman for the Canadian Forces National Investigation Services, said Patterson, who was probed for a magazine article he wrote while serving in Afghanistan earlier this year, is still under investigation as to whether he broke any doctor-patient confidentiality in the story.

"This investigation is more lengthy than the first one, in which the military decided Patterson did not disclose any classified information about the case in the article and the decision was made not to proceed with any criminal charges," Tessier said.

She noted that no matter what their conclusions, the Canadian Forces Health Services Group doesn't have the ability to lay criminal charges against Patterson.

Patterson was a civilian contractor hired by the Forces to work in Afghanistan for a short stint last winter at a military hospital in Kanadahar.

He faced potential court-martial proceedings after the military launched a pair of investigations regarding a story that he wrote for the July/August issue of Mother Jones, an American political magazine, while serving at the hospital.

The story, 'Talk to Me Like My Father', describes in detail Patterson's unsuccessful attempt to save the life of Canadian reservist Cpl. Kevin Megeney after he was shot by friendly fire in his own tent in Kandahar.

Tessier said if Patterson were an employee of the military, there would be a variety of options to punish him.

Nanaimo Daily News



# The Province

## Dion slams PM's 'kinship' with Bush; Afghanistan mission a huge 'blunder' for Canada

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A28  
Section: News  
Byline: Natasha Aimee Hall  
Dateline: MONTREAL  
Source: CanWest News Service  
Illustrations: Photo: Stephane Dion

MONTREAL -- Liberal Leader Stephane Dion lit into the Harper government's foreign policy yesterday, zeroing in on the Afghanistan mission, which he called an "appalling example of a foreign-policy blunder."

Addressing the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, Dion outlined the principles of what a Liberal government's foreign policy would be -- policies he described as being "in favour of peace, open economy and multilateralism."

"There are many ways I would like to see Canada pick up where it left off before our foreign policy went astray under the Harper government," Dion said.

Describing the government's approach as "rigid, simplistic and incompetent," Dion drew comparisons between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush, in particular, on issues such as the environment, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"A closer look could reveal an ideological kinship between the Harper government and the Bush administration," Dion said. "Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canada's interests.

"The United States is Canada's ally, but not necessarily a model to mimic," said Dion. "That is a distinction that the Harper government doesn't understand."

As questions swirl about Dion's leadership of the Liberal Party following three by-election losses Monday, including the longtime Liberal riding of Outremont, Dion emphasized that the Liberals need to all pull together to rebound as a party. "We must work together, we must work as a team," he said.

Montreal Liberal MP Denis Coderre, also at the event, told reporters, "We're all behind our leader. We all support Stephane Dion. We are united and we have to stick together."

# Canwest News Service

## National Briefs

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Column: National Briefs  
Source: CanWest News Service

\*\*\*\*Man who tortured girlfriend gets six-year sentence

CanWest News Service

CALGARY - A Calgary man who shot his former girlfriend with a pellet gun, burned her with a cigarette, poured motor oil down her throat and choked her into unconsciousness has been sentenced to six years in prison.

Court of Queen's Bench Justice Marsha Erb called the case involving Michael Brian Clark, 23, "terrorizing and nothing short of torture."

Clark will spend another two years and eight months behind bars - the judge allowed for double time served - for torturing Jennifer MacDonald over a two-day period at their home nearly two years ago.

Clark shot MacDonald in the forehead and twice in the neck with a pellet gun, burned her arm with a cigarette, burned her breast with a lighter, poured motor oil down her throat, cut off her ponytail, repeatedly threatened her, lifted her up by the throat and choked her until she was unconscious.

He was charged with aggravated assault, unlawful confinement, choking or strangling with intent, administering a noxious substance (motor oil), uttering threats of death or bodily harm, using an imitation firearm to commit an indictable offence and two counts of assault with a weapon (a knife and a pellet gun).

Calgary Herald

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\*\*\*\*Four rescued after two days lost in woods

Winnipeg Free Press

GRANDRAPIDS, Man. - Four Manitobans were found late Wednesday afternoon after spending two days lost along the western shore of the north basin of Lake Winnipeg.

The three men and a woman had taken a 6 1/2-metre aluminum boat out on the lake near Gull Bay, about 70 kilometres southeast of Grand Rapids, on Monday but were unable to return because of bad weather.

Grand Rapids is about 430 kilometres north of Winnipeg.

The group was intermittently in touch with the Coast Guard.

A CC-130 Hercules from Winnipeg located the group Wednesday. The plane dropped a radio and learned the four hadn't eaten in three days, were weak but otherwise well.

A Natural Resources helicopter in the area was diverted to the scene, where it touched down and picked up the four people.

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\*\*\*\*Teacher picks up a Hollywood gig on holiday

CanWest News Service

SASKATOON - Teacher Pete Burgess went to Thailand for a vacation - and wound up in a major motion picture with Denzel Washington.

One day he was tourist from Saskatchewan and the next he was impersonating an Uzi-toting CIA operative in Laos - an abrupt shift from his usual role, teaching Grade 5 and 6 students in a Saskatoon public school.

"Some of the kids know about it but it's not a big deal," he said.

Burgess doesn't expect to see a red carpet or paparazzi when the film, American Gangster, opens November 2. In fact, the humble 45-year-old would slip unnoticed past most moviegoers and media.

The film, directed by Ridley Scott and starring Washington, Russell Crowe and Cuba Gooding Jr., is based on a true story. Burgess had no lines and only made about \$100 for his efforts over two long and hot days, which included getting on a bus at 4 a.m. for a 90-minute ride to the filming location.

During some down time on the set, Burgess noticed Washington sitting in the shade of a wooden shelter and couldn't pass up the chance for a photo.

"Denzel said, 'Sure, but I'm not moving from here,'" said Burgess, who waved over his fellow extras and posed for some shots.

He told Washington about his hometown in Saskatchewan and asked if he knew it.

"He kinda looked at me then said, 'Nope,'" Burgess said.

Saskatoon StarPhoenix

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\*\*\*\*TB carrier's fellow passengers cleared

CanWest News Service

MONTREAL - None of the passengers who were on the same flights as Andrew Speaker in mid-May have symptoms of the drug-resistant strain of tuberculosis he was carrying, Canadian officials reported.

"There is no evidence of transmission of tuberculosis to other passengers," Dr. Tom Wong, acting director of the community-acquired infections division of the Public Health Agency of Canada, said Thursday from Ottawa.

Speaker, an Atlanta lawyer, was diagnosed with a multi-drug resistant strain of TB.

He ignored a no-fly advisory to fly to Europe and back, passing through Montreal on his way home. He has since apologized for doing so.

The no-transmission conclusion is based on test results reported by centres of disease control in the U.S. and Europe and monitoring by the World Health Organization in Geneva.

Skin test results, however, only indicate lack of exposure at the time of testing. Officials will have to wait a full two years, until may 2009, to rule out transmission.

"In general the highest likelihood of developing symptoms is in the first two years," Wong said.

Montreal Gazette

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\*\*\*\*RCMP probe death of U.S. hunter in Newfoundland

St. John's Telegram

ST. JOHN'S, N.L. - RCMP investigators from Newfoundland are in Pennsylvania as part of the investigation into the death of Mark Harshbarger, a U.S. man who was fatally shot by his wife while hunting in central Newfoundland Sept. 14, 2006.

Harshbarger, 43, and his wife, Mary Beth Kitner Harshbarger, had been on a hunting trip in the Buchans Junction area with their two young children. Harshbarger's wife told police at the time it was an accident, stating she thought her husband was a bear.

The RCMP began its investigation with the help of the Wyoming County, Penn., police department and Wyoming County district attorney's office.

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\*\*\*\*Panel to hear dispute over Beaverbrook collection

CanWest News Service

FREDERICTON, N.B. - A three-judge panel was announced Thursday to hear an appeal in the dispute over artworks at Fredericton's Beaverbrook Art Gallery.

The arbitration panel members are: Edward Bayda, a former chief justice of the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal; former associate chief justice of Ontario Coulter Osborne, who is also that province's integrity commissioner; and Thomas Braidwood, a former justice of the Supreme Court of British Columbia.

Osborne was chosen by the gallery, while Braidwood was chosen by the foundation. Bayda was selected by the other two judges.

The Beaverbrook Foundation, in London, England, is challenging Cory's decision last spring to declare the Beaverbrook Art Gallery the owner of 85 of 133 paintings in its collection, worth almost \$100 million.

The art was first donated to the gallery by its founder Max Aitken - the Canadian-born, English newspaper tycoon known as Lord Beaverbrook - before his death in 1964.

In his decision, Cory awarded the gallery all the paintings that were in its collection by 1959, a gallery spokeswoman said. The foundation was awarded only those that were donated after that year.

The arbitration hearing will be held next April in Fredericton.

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\*\*\*\*New N.S. regulations let Jordyn have two mommies

CanWest News Service

HALIFAX - Another hurdle facing gay couples fell Thursday as the province changed a regulation that prohibited both members of a same-sex couple from being listed as the parents of their child.

For the couple, it means they can now be legally recognized as a family, and six-week-old Jordyn O'Neill now has two mommies.

Jamie O'Neill and her wife, Emily, had filed a human rights lawsuit against the N.S. government contesting the regulation two days ago.

The couple have been married for two years and Jordyn was conceived through artificial insemination. But the province had refused to recognize O'Neill as her mother unless she adopted the child.

O'Neill says she's a little surprised at how quickly the issue was resolved.

Jamie Muir, the minister for Service Nova Scotia, said there was no point in delaying a decision.

"As a province, we want to do the right thing," he said.

The new rules go into effect immediately.

Global News

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\*\*\*\*Police bust N.B. prostitution ring

CanWest News Service

SAINT JOHN, N.B. - An undercover operation that busted a prostitution ring in the city has resulted in charges against 24 men and two women.

Police expressed surprise at some of those charged - businessmen and seniors.

"It's very shocking. Some of them look like they just came from work," said Const. Michelle Bliss of the Saint John Police.

Relationship expert Enrico Detommaso says men who look for sex outside their relationship are trying to fill a void in their lives. For others, buying sex is a power trip, he said.

Those arrested in the latest operation are to appear in court in November and December.

Global News

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\*\*\*\*Terror suspect appears in court

CanWest News Service

MONTREAL - Said Namouh, a 34-year-old landed immigrant from Morocco alleged to have been plotting a terrorist attack, will be back in court Oct. 1 to set a date for his bail hearing.

Namouh, who faces a charge of conspiring to detonate an explosive, appeared briefly in Quebec Court Thursday. Crown prosecutor Pierre Labelle said the RCMP are continuing their investigation into the plot, which involved Austrian Mohammed Mahmoud, 21, and other people whose names have not been made public.

"And that process will continue over the next few days or months," Labelle said.

The RCMP and authorities in Austria contend Namouh and Mahmoud are linked to an apparent al-Qaida threat to attack Germany and Austria because those countries have troops in Afghanistan.

Namouh's home address on his indictment is in Trois-Rivieres, Que., but he was arrested in nearby Maskinonge.

Montreal Gazette

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More complaints voiced at Quebec hearings

CanWest News Service

SAGUENAY, QUE. - Quebec's roaming commission on the integration of immigrants heard more complaints from Roman Catholics Thursday in Saguenay.

"It's the Roman Catholic religion that will ... guarantee our future, and if it were better understood, we'd have fewer problems," Mayor Jean Tremblay, a staunch Catholic, told the "reasonable-accommodation" hearings in the city some 200 kilometres north of Quebec City.

Another participant said immigrants would never fit into Quebec society if they didn't appreciate "the beauty of the French language."

Chaired by historian Gerard Bouchard, the hearing was attended by about 60 people. It followed an open-mike night Wednesday attended by 300 people.

Visiting 17 cities across Quebec, the commission is asking citizens what they think about allowances made to devout Muslims, Orthodox Jews, traditional Sikhs and other religious minorities who want to be free to practise their faith in public.

Montreal Gazette

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CanWest News Service

TORONTO - A five-alarm fire in Toronto's east end forced the evacuation of nearby residents and the cancellation of some GO train service on Thursday.

Black smoke from the blaze, which reportedly began just before 2 p.m. at Jones Auto Wreckers in the Victoria Park and Danforth area, could be seen wafting across the city while witnesses reported hearing explosions.

Go train service to Stouffville is suspended until further notice and commuters should also expect delays on the Lakeshore West service because smoke from the fire affected the visibility around the CN tracks.

Toronto Police said there are no reports of injuries and the cause of the blaze is still under investigation.

Residents living on two nearby streets to the Scarborough auto wrecker were evacuated while others in the area were being asked to keep their doors and windows closed.

Toronto Fire Dist. Chief Stephan Powell said the fire was brought under control at about 3:30.

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Girls found in dinghy after two days on Georgian Bay

CanWest News Service

COLLINGWOOD, Ont. - Two teenaged girls adrift in a dinghy on Georgian Bay for more than two days were rescued Wednesday night.

The girls were found on Western Island, a small island 50 kilometres south of Parry Sound, Ont.

Jaime Love-Wilkinson, 18, of Wasaga Beach and Karla Smith, 19, of Collingwood set off for "a typical afternoon" on Wasaga Beach where they were last seen in an 2.5-metre canvas and rubber dingy around 4 p.m. Monday, Ontario Provincial Police Const. Mark Kinney said.

The pair drifted in the open water from Monday afternoon until Wednesday morning when they hit the island, he said.

The distance from the beach to the island is about 60 kilometres.

"They were extremely fortunate," he said, because the temperatures were not as cool as they can be this time of year and winds were also moderate.

A Griffin helicopter from the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Trenton, brought in to help in their search, spotted the teens who were missing for more than 50 hours.

The girls were airlifted to a Collingwood hospital where they were treated for minor hypothermia. Apart from being very hungry and thirsty and suffering from sunburn, the girls were reportedly in good condition and were released Thursday morning.

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Police reveal details of mother-son suicide pact

CanWest News Service

TORONTO-A middle-aged son who killed his elderly, wheelchair-bound mother was suffering from a terminal illness and made a suicide pact with her, Toronto police said Thursday.

Det. Sgt. Steve Ryan of the homicide squad said Perry Grupstein, 64, left a letter on a dresser before he shot his mother Sarah Grupstein, 84, and then himself in a bedroom in their Toronto apartment.

In the letter, Grupstein wrote that both had significant health problems and his mother did not want to live without him. "He was her only caregiver and he was afraid if he died there would be no one to care for his mother," Ryan said.

Grupstein was found in her wheelchair, her son on the bed beside her.

Just after 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Grupstein called security to the fifth-floor two-bedroom apartment he shared with his mother, saying there was an

emergency. When security arrived, they found both dead. Each suffered more than one gun shot, Ryan said.

The detective said the letter asked for a quick burial, suggesting that is why Grupstein called security before he took his own life.

"One of the requests in the letter was to be buried in a certain amount of time," Ryan said.

National Post

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Teacher charged with sex assault dating back to '70s

CanWest News Service

OTTAWA-A former teacher in Cornwall, Ont., has been charged with indecent assault on a male and gross indecency following an investigation into allegations of sexual assaults that occurred between September 1974 and June 1978.

The man was a teacher at La Citadelle High School at the time of the incidents when the male student victim would have been between 14 and 18 years old.

Robert Sabourin, 82, of St. Jerome, Que., was arrested Sept. 18 and released on a promise to appear in court October 25.

Ottawa Citizen

- - - -

B.C. judge apologizes for coarse language

CanWest News Service

VANCOUVER -The Canadian Judicial Council has accepted the apology of B.C. Supreme Court Justice Peter Leask who was chastised for coarse language during a Hells Angels court proceeding in March 2007.

The complaint against Leask was reviewed by Manitoba Chief Justice Richard Scott, who also chairs the council's conduct committee.

Leask told Scott he was aware his language was improper and noted that he had made a formal apology "to convey his genuine regret" over the incident, according to a written release posted on the council's website.

Scott found Leask's language was improper and tarnished the reputation of the court and judiciary.

"He pointed out that judges have an obligation to foster, at all times, respect for the public and the institution of the court, and to ensure that decorum is maintained in the courtroom," the release states.

However, because Leask apologized, Scott closed the file, stating it need not be considered further.

Vancouver Sun

- - -

SFU professor missing after day of kayaking

CanWest News Service

VANCOUVER -Searchers in Washington state are scouring the waters around Chuckanut Bay after a B.C. kayaker went missing Wednesday.

Randy Sitter - who is an award-winning Simon Fraser University professor of statistics and actuarial science - was on the waters all day near Fairhaven in his inflatable yellow kayak.

He was reported missing by his wife Wednesday night when he failed to return home, said Bellingham police in a release.

Sitter has kayaked in the area before, said the U.S. Coast Guard.

Sitter, who is in his mid-40s, was born in New Westminster and earned degrees at University of B.C. and University of Waterloo. He has worked at Carleton University and, since 1995, at SFU in Burnaby.

Vancouver Province

# The Washington Post

## Arms Seized in Afghanistan Sent From Iran, NATO Says ; Republican Guard May Have Been Aware

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A12  
Section: Asection  
Byline: By John Ward Anderson

KABUL, Sept. 20 -- A top NATO commander said Thursday that a shipment of weapons intercepted by international forces in western Afghanistan this month clearly came from Iran and almost certainly was sent here with the knowledge of "at least the Iranian military."

U.S. Army Gen. Dan K. McNeill, NATO's senior commander in Afghanistan, said a convoy of weapons captured Sept. 6 in the far western province of Farah, which shares a long border with Iran, was transporting "upscale" roadside bombs that had the hallmarks of those made in Iran and used with lethal regularity against U.S. forces in Iraq.

"Field analysis of those devices that were found profiled them clearly as ones that had been used in Iraq" and that, according to intelligence sources, are manufactured in Iran, McNeill said in an interview.

"I think there is sufficient intelligence to put together a picture that says this convoy that we intercepted the other day, which clearly geographically originated in Iran, and other things that we've encountered -- it would be hard for me to imagine that they had come into Afghanistan without the knowledge of at least the military in Iran," McNeill said.

"Who is that military?" he said. "Likely the Republican Guard Corps, could be the Quds Force part of that," he said, referring to Iran's elite military corps and its unit that specializes in covert operations.

The Washington Post reported over the weekend that international forces had intercepted the convoy in Farah province, a remote and sparsely populated area of desert and swampland, as it apparently was seeking a less-traveled route into Afghanistan.

International forces captured two smaller shipments of sophisticated roadside bombs believed to be from Iran in April and May in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province, a stronghold of the Taliban insurgency and one of the most violent areas in the country.

Afghanistan, which is predominantly Sunni Muslim, and Iran, which is overwhelmingly Shiite, share a 581-mile border and have had roller-coaster relations for years, if not centuries. Recently, there have been signs of a limited detente, with Afghan President Hamid Karzai going out of his way to praise and thank the Iranian government for development assistance.

U.S. officials, however, have been building a case

against Iran for allegedly trying to destabilize Afghanistan by supplying weapons to the Taliban, an extremist Sunni Muslim and ethnic Pashtun group. The Taliban has been waging an increasingly active insurgency against U.S., NATO and Afghan government forces.

Many analysts believe that Iran, sandwiched between 160,000 U.S. troops based in Iraq to the west and roughly 50,000 U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan to the east, has a keen interest in striking U.S. forces and helping to push them from the region by supplying insurgents in both countries with money, weapons and training.

Iranian officials have denied funneling military aid to insurgents in either country, saying they have good relations with the leaders of Iraq and Afghanistan and have no interest in destabilizing either.

Many independent analysts have questioned U.S. allegations that Iran is shipping arms to the Taliban and have suggested the accusations are part of a campaign by the Bush administration to push for military action against Iran. European officials have said they see no evidence of a large or sustained effort by Iran to supply the Taliban with weapons.

McNeill said there was "no doubt . . . that sometimes in the past, certain Iranian elements have supported the Taliban. Are they still doing it? I don't know." He said Iranians could be motivated by a desire to harm U.S. interests or to bolster security in their border area with Afghanistan or perhaps to somehow interfere with the cross-border drug trade.

"I think it's possible all these things could play into it, but I don't have the silver bullet answer," he said.

While pointing the finger at Iran's military for funneling weapons into Afghanistan, McNeill cautioned, "We didn't say that we could prove they were coming from the Iranian government." But concerning the recently intercepted convoy, he emphasized, "I do not believe it could have originated and come here without the knowledge of the Iranian military."

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# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## 'We don't want war': France

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A12

Section: News

Dateline: PARIS

Source: Agence France-Presse

Illustrations: Colour Photo: Agence France-Presse, Getty Images / An Iranian Thunder fighter jet, said by Iran to be similar to the American F-18, was unveiled at a ceremony at the Mehrabad airport in Tehran yesterday. Iran showed off the plane as French President Nicolas Sarkozy accused Tehran of seeking to develop nuclear weapons and a NATO commander said a convoy of weapons captured in Afghanistan came from Iran.

PARIS -- President Nicolas Sarkozy insisted yesterday that France did not want a war with Iran over its nuclear program, while directly accusing Tehran of seeking to develop atomic weapons.

Bush insisted that "the objective, of course, is to solve this peacefully."

"Iran is trying to obtain an atomic bomb," Sarkozy charged in a prime-time interview on two major television networks. "That is unacceptable, and I tell the French people it is unacceptable."

Iran has repeatedly denied it is seeking an atomic weapon and insists its nuclear program is solely for power generation.

France and the other UN Security Council's permanent members plus Germany meet today to discuss a third package of tighter sanctions to punish Iran for not complying with inspections from its IAEA nuclear watchdog.

The Iranian nuclear question "is an extremely difficult affair, but France does not want a war," Sarkozy said, distancing himself from comments by his foreign minister, Bernard Kouchner.

Kouchner caused a diplomatic storm in an interview Sunday when he said "we have to prepare for the worst, and the worst is war."

"I would not have used the word war, and he himself has explained his comments," Sarkozy said.

Kouchner insists his comments were taken out of context, and offered yesterday to visit Iran for talks on the nuclear standoff.

France has taken an increasingly strong line in the dispute over Iran's uranium enrichment program, which the United States and its allies fear is an effort to build an atomic bomb.

"How do we convince [Iran] to renounce this project? Just as the international community convinced North Korea and Libya to renounce theirs. Through discussion, through dialogue, through sanctions," Sarkozy said.

"If sanctions are not enough, I want stronger sanctions," Sarkozy said, while repeating that Iran had a right to civilian nuclear technology.

U.S. President George W. Bush said yesterday that he hoped Iran would bow to mounting global pressure, but warned he was "not going to tolerate" a nuclear-armed Tehran.



# The State

## What happened in the Syrian desert?

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: 0

Section: A

Byline: By CHARLES KRAUTHAMMER, Washington Post

On Sept. 6, something important happened in northern Syria. Problem is, no one knows exactly what -- except for those few who were involved, and they're not saying.

We do know that Israel carried out an airstrike. How then do we know it was important? Because in Israel, where leaking is an art form, even the best informed don't have a clue. They tell me they have never seen a better-kept secret.

Which suggests that whatever happened near Dayr az Zawr was no accidental intrusion into Syrian airspace, no dry run for an attack on Iran, no strike on some conventional target such as an Iranian Revolutionary Guard base or a weapons shipment on its way to Hezbollah in Lebanon.

Circumstantial evidence points to this being an attack on some nuclear facility provided by North Korea.

Three days earlier, a freighter flying the North Korean flag docked in the Syrian port city of Tartus with a shipment of "cement." Long way to go for cement. Within days, a top State Department official warned that "there may have been contact between Syria and some secret suppliers for nuclear equipment." Three days later, the Sept. 19 six-party meeting on dismantling North Korea's nuclear facilities was suddenly postponed, officially by China, almost certainly at the behest of North Korea.

Apart from the usual suspects -- Syria, Iran, Libya and Russia -- only two countries registered strong protests to the Israeli strike: Turkey and North Korea. Turkey we can understand. Its military may have permitted Israel an overflight corridor without ever having told the Islamist civilian government. But North Korea? What business is this of North Korea's? Unless it was a North Korean facility being hit.

Which raises alarms for many reasons. First, it would undermine the whole North Korean disarmament process. Pyongyang might be selling its stuff to other rogue states, or perhaps just temporarily hiding it abroad while permitting ostentatious inspections back home.

Second, there are ominous implications for the Middle East. Syria has long had chemical weapons -- on Monday, Jane's Defence Weekly reported on an accident that killed dozens of Syrians and Iranians loading a nerve-gas warhead onto a Syrian missile -- but Israel will not tolerate a nuclear Syria.

Tensions are already extremely high because of Iran's headlong rush to go nuclear. In fending off sanctions and possible military action, President Mahmoud

Ahmadinejad has chosen a radically aggressive campaign to assemble, deploy, flaunt and partially activate Iran's proxies in the Arab Middle East:

\*\* Hamas launching rockets into Israeli towns and villages across the border from the Gaza Strip. Its intention is to invite an Israeli reaction, preferably a bloody and telegenic ground assault.

\*\* Hezbollah heavily rearmed with Iranian rockets transhipped through Syria and preparing for the next round of fighting with Israel. The Third Lebanon War, now inevitable, awaits only Tehran's order.

\*\* Syria, Iran's only Arab client state, building up forces across the Golan Heights frontier with Israel. And on Wednesday, yet another anti-Syrian member of Lebanon's parliament is killed in a massive car bombing.

\*\* The al-Quds Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards training and equipping Shiite extremist militias in the use of the deadliest IEDs and rocketry against American and Iraqi troops. Iran is similarly helping the Taliban to attack NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Why is Iran doing this? Because it has its eye on a single prize: the bomb. It needs a bit more time, knowing that once it goes nuclear, it becomes the regional superpower and Persian Gulf hegemon.

Iran's assets in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq are poised and ready. Ahmadinejad's message is this: If anyone dares attack our nuclear facilities, we will fully activate our proxies, unleashing unrestrained destruction on Israel, moderate Arabs, Iraq and U.S. interests -- in addition to the usual, such as mining the Strait of Hormuz and causing an acute oil crisis and worldwide recession.

The world is not quite ready to acquiesce. The new president of France has declared a nuclear Iran "unacceptable." The French foreign minister warned that "it is necessary to prepare for the worst" -- and "the worst, it's war, sir."

Which makes it all the more urgent that powerful sanctions be slapped on the Iranian regime. Sanctions will not stop Ahmadinejad. But there are others in the Iranian elite who might stop both him and the nuclear program before the volcano explodes. These rival elites may be radical, but they are not suicidal. And they believe, with reason, that whatever damage Ahmadinejad's apocalyptic folly may inflict upon the region and the world, on Crusader and Jew, on infidel and believer, the one certain result of such an eruption is Iran's Islamic republic buried under the ash.

Write to [letters@ charleskrauthammer.com](mailto:letters@charleskrauthammer.com).

# The Sun News

## Friday Globe

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 4  
Section: A

### ACROSS THE COUNTRY

#### NEW YORK

Fundraiser Hsu accused of Ponzi scheme

New York | Disgraced Democratic fundraiser Norman Hsu was charged Thursday with defrauding investors of more than \$60 million through a Ponzi scheme and then using some of his profits to make illegal donations to political campaigns.

A criminal complaint unsealed in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York accused Hsu of taking millions from unsuspecting partners for a pair of companies that had no legitimate business operations.

#### CALIFORNIA

Prominent lawyer indicted on kickback charge

Los Angeles | Melvyn Weiss, who co-founded a New York law firm that made an estimated \$250 million by filing class-action lawsuits against some of America's largest corporations, was indicted Thursday on charges that he conspired to pay kickbacks to people who agreed to be plaintiffs.

#### NEBRASKA

1 of 2 convicted in killings takes sole blame

Lincoln | One of two men convicted in the 1993 murder of Teena Brandon and two others that spawned the movie "Boys Don't Cry" now says he was the only attacker who shot and stabbed them. Marvin Nissen's new account that he was the lone killer could reignite a case that drew national attention to the issues of transgendered people.

The man Nissen once blamed for the killings, John Lotter, is now on death row and has asked for a new trial.

#### FLORIDA

Blast, fire in apartment building hurts 10

Deerfield Beach | An explosion and fire tore apart a large section of a three-story apartment building Thursday, blowing out windows, partially collapsing the roof and injuring 10 people. Authorities said the cause may have been a propane explosion.

#### NEBRASKA

God disputes jurisdiction in earthly lawsuit

Lincoln | God has apparently responded to a lawsuit filed by a Nebraska lawmaker, and one of the filings seems to have dropped in from the heavens.

"This one miraculously appeared on the counter. It just all of a sudden was here - poof!" said John Friend, clerk of the Douglas County District Court in Omaha.

Signed by "God," the response filed Wednesday argues the defendant is immune from some earthly laws and the court lacks jurisdiction over God.

### AROUND THE WORLD

#### ISRAEL

Rice works on agenda of Mideast peace talks

Jerusalem | Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice worked Thursday to bridge gaps between Israel and the Palestinians over the content of a planned Middle East peace conference, with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas urging that the meeting deal with the core issues of a final peace agreement.

#### COLOMBIA

Rebel leader extradited to U.S. in drug case

Bogota | A captured guerrilla leader was extradited to the United States on drug charges Thursday, a case that may complicate efforts to negotiate freedom for hostages held by his rebel army. Erminso Cabrera is the first rebel to be extradited under a March 2006 indictment that accused 50 members of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, of supplying 60 percent of America's cocaine.

#### AFGHANISTAN

Anti-Taliban general has peace-talks doubts

Bazarak | An anti-Taliban general who fought alongside U.S. forces during the 2001 invasion predicted Thursday that a proposal for peace talks will be snubbed by the Islamic militia's hard-liners and foreign fighters but may entice some insurgent factions.

Gen. Bismillah Khan, now chief of the Afghan general staff, said efforts to bring about negotiations would be a "long and complex process."

#### MYANMAR

Buddhist monks march against junta

Yangon | Nearly 1,000 Buddhist monks, joined by thousands of their countrymen, marched in Myanmar's largest city Thursday in the biggest challenge in at least a decade to the iron-fisted junta, a show of strength rare under military rule. Authorities normally quick to crack down hard on dissent left the marchers alone, apparently wary of stirring up further problems.

## IRAN

Democracy scholar freed from prison

Tehran | Iran has released an Iranian-American democracy scholar who spent four months in prison - the third time in recent weeks Tehran has set free dual citizens it accuses of trying to stir up a revolution.

Kian Tajbakhsh, an urban planning consultant with the Soros Foundation's Open Society Institute, was released late Wednesday, Iran's official news agency, IRNA, reported Thursday.

## FRANCE

Scientists find warm spot on Neptune

Paris | Scientists say that Neptune, one of the coldest planets in the solar system, has a surprising warm spot - relatively speaking. An international team of astronomers has found that Neptune's south pole is warmer than other parts of the planet. The apparent reason is that the south pole has been in the summer sunlight for about 40 years.

# The Toronto Star

## Veterans awaiting an ombudsman

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: AA06  
Section: Editorial  
Byline: Sean Bruyca

Canada's hidden tragedy in Afghanistan, seldom reported in detail in the media, is that at least 228 Canadians have been wounded and will likely require some form of long-term assistance for their disability in the future.

This does not include psychological injuries such as post-traumatic stress disorder, which could affect 10 per cent or more of the approximately 20,000 soldiers who have served in Afghanistan since 2002. Nor the more than 200,000 veteran and widow clients already requiring assistance.

So it should come as no surprise that Canadians want to ensure the bureaucracy is indeed caring for our soldiers and their families, including the families of the fallen.

That is why the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Veterans Affairs was created. In February, it released a unanimously endorsed report titled *A Helping Hand for Veterans: A Mandate for a Veterans Ombudsman*. Admirably forthright and clear in its 22 recommendations, the report calls for an "independent, impartial and effective veterans ombudsman."

Unfortunately, the transparent and accountable process Canadians have demanded and government has promised in creating the office has been virtually non-existent.

We do know the veterans ombudsman "will uphold the Veterans Bill of Rights and will review individual and systemic issues arising from it." But that document, which lists six rights already guaranteed in other statutes, omits any statement of equality in the treatment of veterans. And it fails to honour the unique sacrifices Canada's men and women in uniform have made for more than a century.

Betty Hinton, parliamentary secretary to the minister of veterans affairs, has said the Veterans Bill of Rights "is meant to be a complement. The heavy hammer is the ombudsman."

However, it appears the process to create the veterans ombudsman has abandoned the substantive recommendations contained in the committee's report. The ombudsman's office will not be legislated, nor will it have the necessary robust powers of investigation, such as the power to subpoena documents and witnesses, take testimony under oath or enter any relevant premises as required.

By contrast, all Canadian provinces except Prince Edward Island have legislated ombudsmen with these important investigative powers. And the Canada

Revenue Agency has announced both a Bill of Rights and an ombudsman, neither of which was mentioned in the Conservative election platform. In sharp contrast to the Veterans Bill of Rights, the CRA Bill of Rights has 20 substantive rights, most of them new.

What are Canadian soldiers in and out of uniform to think when they are repeatedly told that the Department of Veterans Affairs "exists to repay the nation's debt of gratitude toward those whose courageous efforts have given us this legacy, and have contributed to our growth as a nation?"

The federal bureaucracy has been in control of the process for creating the ombudsman, but having the bureaucracy decide the details of its own oversight is scandalous.

Ontario Ombudsman Andre Marin, who also was the first Canadian Forces ombudsman, has publicly defended veterans from the "self-serving," "hardened and entrenched bureaucracy" that "has opposed a veterans ombudsman for as long as (he) can remember."

Like his predecessor, current Canadian Forces Ombudsman Yves Cote has emphasized that "the veterans ombudsman will require a clear and robust legislated mandate." Legislation is imperative for "an independent, impartial and effective" ombudsman's office.

Canadian men and women endure bullets, bombs and the resulting injuries and death to bring stability and good government to troubled nations. Senior bureaucrats should be able to endure legislated oversight to ensure our soldiers return home to good government in Canada.

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# The Toronto Star

## Women's group closes after losing its funding; Opposition MPs say Harper government 'turning back clock'

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A18  
Section: News  
Byline: Les Whittington  
Source: Toronto Star

Women's rights advocates accused the Harper government of ignoring their struggle for equality after a leading women's group closed its doors because of a lack of federal funding.

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Supported by opposition MPs, the National Association of Women and the Law (NAWL) vowed yesterday to use volunteers to keep up its efforts to combat violence against women, improve living conditions for those on low incomes, achieve pay equity, obtain funding for universal child care and other causes.

NAWL lost its funding of \$300,000 a year after government spending cuts announced last fall. Despite a \$13 billion budget surplus, the government slashed outlays for women's advocacy projects and eliminated the Court Challenges Program, which funded legal actions by rights advocates. The Tories said Status of Women Canada would no longer fund organizations pressing policymakers to improve conditions for women.

"The Harper government is trying to silence women's groups who speak out against its right-wing agenda," NAWL board member Pamela Cross said. "These are ideologically driven cuts that demonstrate a defective concept of women's equality and democracy."

Opposition MPs denounced the moves by the Harper government.

"Women are being silenced in Canada," Liberal MP Maria Minna (Beaches-East York) told the NAWL press conference. "How can we ... say we are promoting rights for women in Afghanistan when our government is forcing women's organizations to close?"

New Democrat MP Irene Mathysen said "the closure of NAWL will turn back the clock on women's equality in Canada."

NAWL, a non-profit legal reform organization set up in 1974, has, among other things, worked to strengthen laws dealing with rape, improve family law and ensure women's equality was specifically included in the Charter of Rights. Cross said the group will continue by using volunteers, but that its effectiveness as a resource will be undercut by the closing of its office.

Heritage Minister Josee Verner told a news conference that NAWL might have some projects eligible for funding but that research and advocacy work would not qualify.

# The Toronto Star

## Ontario

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A19  
Section: News

Arrest warrants issued

in Caledonia beating

Ontario Provincial Police issued arrest warrants yesterday for three suspects in an assault at an aboriginal protest site in Caledonia that left a man with serious injuries.

Richard Smoke, 18, Byron Powless, 18, and a 15-year-old boy are being sought on charges of assault and break and enter. House builder Sam Gualtieri was badly beaten in the Sept. 13 assault at a subdivision that is under construction.

Nine aboriginal protesters at the site were arrested Wednesday and appeared in court yesterday, but not in relation to the attack on Gualtieri. The nine men and women range in age from 17 to 47, and all are charged with mischief. One man also faces a weapons charge, and a woman is also charged with assaulting police.

British Columbia

Pickton's vocabulary

in dispute at trial

Prejudiced. Dismantling. Referred. Presumed.

All words Robert Pickton knew how to use, and properly, a Crown prosecutor at his murder trial in New Westminster said yesterday.

The word list was thrown at defence witness Sandra Humeny by Crown prosecutor Mike Petrie, who was challenging Humeny's testimony from Wednesday when she said Pickton had trouble following conversations or getting the punchlines of jokes.

Humeny testified yesterday she wasn't surprised Pickton knew such words, but doubted he could use them in context.

Pickton has been charged with killing 26 women, many of them prostitutes who worked in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. He is currently on trial on six of the charges.

No punishment

for judge who swore

The Canadian Judicial Council says a B.C. judge who used profanity during a trial tarnished the reputation of the judiciary, but it won't be taking action against him.

Complaints were filed against Justice Peter Leask of the B.C. Supreme Court after he used a four-letter expletive four times last March, including when some schoolchildren were in the courtroom. Richard Scott, chair of the judicial council's conduct committee, noted Leask immediately made a formal public apology.

Ottawa

Military won't charge

doctor over article

Military police have decided not to charge a Canadian doctor who published a graphic description of the last moments of a wounded soldier's life in Afghanistan.

The National Investigative Service looked at whether Dr. Kevin Patterson broke any laws in an article written last summer about the operating room death of Cpl. Kevin Megeney, 25, from Stellarton, N.S. The article appeared in Mother Jones magazine

Alberta

Province declares

its first 'Hunting Day'

Albertans aren't going after big game at the pace they once did, according to the provincial government, but a remedy is in the works.

Alberta has designated tomorrow as its first "Hunting Day," an attempt to lure the video-game generation off the couch and into the great outdoors. Over the past 25 years, the number of hunters in Alberta has dropped by half to around 100,000, officials say.

Manitoba

Psst ... want to buy

a chocolate bar?

A "black market" for junk food appears to have developed at a Winnipeg school cracking down on sweet treats and soda.

Kelvin High School has removed pop, chocolate bars and cinnamon buns from its cafeteria and vending machines. But more than 70 people have joined a Facebook site called "Bring Back Sugar to Kelvin High School," and one teen says students are making money by selling goodies out of their lockers.

From the Star's wire services

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# The Toronto Star

## During a time of war, a day to ponder peace

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: AA07  
Section: Letter

UN International Day of Peace

is marked today

Few Canadians know that since 2001, the United Nations has designated Sept. 21 as the International Day of Peace. Since Canada is a member of the UN, and since we are embroiled in the war in Afghanistan, surely we should lead the way and honour UN Resolution 55/282, which calls for a day of global ceasefire and non-violence.

If we are serious about our commitment to the peace process, as our government claims, then we are morally obliged to use this day as a chance to demonstrate that ceasefires can work, trust can be established and negotiations can achieve more long-term victories than weapons ever will. It takes courage to fight, but it takes more courage to lay down our arms and reach out in peace.

We have an opportunity to rebuild Canada's reputation as a broker of peace. It may only be 24 hours, but it is a start.

Deacon Stephen Barringer, Catholics for Peace,  
Mississauga

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# The Toronto Star

## 'Nobody is immune' from terror; MacKay says Taliban threat will follow Canadians home if mission in Afghanistan is not completed

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: AA01

Section: World And Comment

Byline: Tim Harper

Source: Toronto Star

Illustrations: Dennis Cook ap Defence Minister Peter MacKay and U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates met for an hour about Afghanistan yesterday in Washington, D.C.

Peter MacKay adopted a familiar American refrain here yesterday, suggesting the Taliban threat would follow Canadians home if Ottawa left Afghanistan before its mission was complete.

The defence minister made his remarks after huddling for an hour with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, discussing how to get other NATO partners to do some of the "heavy lifting" in the south of Afghanistan where Canadians are taking disproportionate casualties.

"If the job is not done in Afghanistan, if countries like Canada leave, the Taliban can follow them," MacKay told Canadian reporters here.

"By that I mean these threats are not going to stay isolated. We know that Afghanistan was an incubator and an exporter of terror.

"North America is not immune. Continental Europe is not immune. Nobody is immune."

MacKay was using the argument to point out that other countries have obligations in Afghanistan, but it parrots a long-time mantra of U.S. President George W. Bush who has repeatedly argued that Al Qaeda insurgents in Baghdad would follow American troops home from Iraq if the U.S. precipitously withdrew from that war.

Yesterday's meeting between Gates and MacKay was their first since the Canadian minister took the defence portfolio in last month's cabinet shuffle.

MacKay repeated that Canada would never back away from a commitment it made to NATO to remain in Afghanistan until February 2009, but he would not say what role Canada could play after that deadline if other NATO partners did not step up.

Besides the reluctance of other NATO partners to take on the type of dangerous role assumed by the Canadians, MacKay is also facing discontent at home, according to polls.

He said he was quite familiar with the arguments made by other NATO nations who are keeping their troops out of the line of fire in Afghanistan.

"We understand the caveats, we understand the constitutional limitations, we understand the political volatility, but NATO cannot fail," he said.

"This is a no-fail mission."

Other NATO nations must realize their obligations are "as real as any."

Between now and 2009, MacKay said, there will be opportunities to "look into the whites of the eyes" of other countries to determine whether those nations truly appreciate the need to step up in Afghanistan and the impact on their countries if they don't.

There are close to 40 countries in the alliance in Afghanistan, but there are fears that if the Dutch government chooses not to extend its mission beyond next August, it could lead to an unravelling of the coalition.

MacKay met with his counterparts in the Netherlands, Norway and Britain before flying to Washington to meet Gates.

The Pentagon did not return calls seeking comment on the MacKay meeting, but Gates spoke passionately earlier this week of the need for NATO to remain strong in Afghanistan.

"Though there is little doubt about the justness, necessity and legitimacy of the Afghanistan mission, even though we agree that democracy is key to ensuring stability there, many allies are reluctant to provide the necessary resources and to put their men and women in the line of fire," he said.

"Afghanistan is, in a very real sense, a litmus test of whether an alliance of advanced democracies can still make sacrifices and meet commitments to advance democracy."

The alliance faltering now would be a "mark of shame," Gates said.

MacKay said persistent lobbying of NATO allies has borne some fruit, with allies filling "niche needs" such as providing equipment or training.

The U.S. has 23,000 troops in Afghanistan, almost half the international contingent of 48,000.

The mission has claimed 441 American lives.

There are 2,500 Canadians in Afghanistan; 70 soldiers and one diplomat have been killed.

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# The Daily Telegraph

## The West needs France to rejoin Nato

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 026  
Section: Features  
Byline: Denis MacShane

Is the time now right for France to make a move that can reshape world geopolitics by deciding to rejoin Nato? The move seems counter-intuitive. General de Gaulle quit the military structure of Nato in 1966 though France remains a member of the political treaty organisation. De Gaulle did so to mark French independence and sovereign control over its military. He satisfied the anti-American Left and the nationalist Right in France who objected to any supranational involvement in military matters.

In different ways this line has been supported by all de Gaulle's successors. But it is hard to see how a sovereign, French-alone geopolitics has helped advance French national interests or made the world safer. Mitterrand was unable to shape an effective Balkans politics despite huge public pressure in France to stop the Serb siege of Sarajevo and killings of Catholic and Muslim opponents. In the end it was American air power and the ruthless application of Nato military-political diplomacy that stabilised the Balkans.

Jacques Chirac believed he had the magic touch with Arab leaders, whom he endlessly courted. But French soldiers are now bogged down in Lebanon and Afghanistan, unable to move and unwilling to fight. Despite the grand noise of sending French troops to Lebanon after the 2006 conflict with Hezbollah, France has been unable to prevent the flow of arms from Iran and Syria into Lebanon as Islamist forces prepare for another assault on Jews living in Israel.

While the rest of Europe, starting with socialist Spain in the 1980s and followed by post-communist Europe a decade later, scrambled to join the organisation, France maintained its Gaullist indifference to a Nato that was searching for a new role. Russian officers now work at Nato headquarters in Brussels and Russian MPs outnumber French politicians at the important Nato parliamentary assembly meetings, where top US generals explain their thinking to and take hard questions from European and North American policy-makers.

In the 1960s, America was the supreme military power outside the communist bloc. Today, America is a wounded beast. Its soldiers are surrounded by a growing Islamist enemy in Iraq and Afghanistan. America's leaders are looked upon with dismay by pro-Americans and with open contempt by much of the political class in Europe. While many Europeans hanker after the pleasure of soft power, the enemies of democracy have no compunction about using hard power. Germany is the strongest defender of soft power and refuses to allow her soldiers to do any fighting in Afghanistan. Yet the arrest of German citizens trained by al-Qa'eda in Pakistan and ready to

kill fellow Germans en masse shows that for jihadists, Frankfurt is as much a target as London or Madrid.

The lack of success of the occupation policies in Iraq is not appeasing Islamist armed violence. The former German foreign minister, Joschka Fischer, called fundamentalist jihadi politics "the new totalitarianism".

The democracies failed in the 1930s to arm themselves against fascism. After 1945, the lessons were learnt. Nato sent an unmistakable message to Stalinist ideology that on the armed front democracy would defend itself.

De Gaulle had the luxury of pulling France out of Nato because the alliance had already stabilised Europe. Is the new French president, Nicolas Sarkozy, prepared to be as bold as de Gaulle and say the time has come for France to re-enter Nato? It would send the clearest signal possible to the enemies of democracy that the new totalitarianism, to use Fischer's words, will not pass. The Cabinet minister Ed Balls has rightly argued in a report just published that Palestinians need economic development. So does every part of the Arab and Muslim world from Morocco to Pakistan. But economic development will not take place without a defeat of jihadi terrorism. That needs harder power. Nato with France reintegrated can shape a European dimension to a new security policy aimed at helping the elected governments of Afghanistan, Lebanon, and in due course, Pakistan - even Iraq - to defeat their external enemies.

France outside Nato makes the concept of a common European defence policy difficult - if not impossible. France in Nato can take the lead, with Britain, in the long overdue rationalisation of Europe's military policy, profile and procurement.

The fear that France in Nato means subordination to Washington is unfounded. Proud Nato nations such as Germany, Italy and Spain have all had no compunction in refusing to heed Washington's call for armed support. Nato is based on a democratic alliance of the willing, not the obedient.

Two objections will have to be overcome: the first from the unthinking Left who will cry horror at France rejoining Nato. They should learn from Spain, where Socialist Felipe Gonzalez won a referendum on Spain's joining Nato. The second comes from sovereignist Tories who will object to any augmentation of European military power. But as British soldiers die in Afghanistan, surely even the most die-hard Euro-sceptic might accept that forging a

European military identity and self-confidence makes sense? No European nation can alone exercise effective military puissance. A new Nato and a new integrated military unity in Europe would send the enemies of democracy a clear message that they will not win.

Denis MacShane is a Labour MP and former Foreign Office minister. He is UK delegate to the Nato parliamentary assembly

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## URGENT ÑÑÑ Suicide blast in Kabul, several dead: police

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: KABUL  
Time: 05:34:00 GMT  
Priority: Bulletin

KABUL, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - A suicide attacker blew himself up in the Afghan capital Friday, killing several people, including a foreign national, police said.

str-br/dk/skj

Afghanistan-unrest-Kabul-suicide

AFP 210534 GMT 09 07

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# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Liberals should put away the knives at Dion's back

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A18

Section: Comment

Byline: Don MacPherson

Column: Don MacPherson

Source: Montreal Gazette

Illustrations: Photo: Stéphane Dion: Outright rejection in Outremont.

Accidents happen in byelections, when turnouts are low and protest votes are cheap. And usually, it turns out that what happens in byelections doesn't mean much.

Does the name Phil Edmonston ring any bells? The well-known consumer advocate was the Thomas Mulcair of 1990, the surprise winner of a Quebec byelection for the New Democratic Party that year.

Wisely, Edmonston decided to quit while he was ahead. He declined to run in the general election three years later, in which the NDP candidate who replaced him ran a distant fourth, bringing an abrupt end to the party's last "breakthrough" in this province.

And don't bet the ranch on Prime Minister Stephen Harper, the only party leader who can cause a general election all by himself, calling one this fall on the strength of the Conservatives' encouraging showing in two ridings in French Quebec on Monday.

Luckily for them, there was no bad news out of Afghanistan in the runup to the vote. And results of a Harris-Decima-Canadian Press poll published the day after the byelections placed the Conservatives eight points short of the minimum 40-per-cent support they need to form a majority government.

But sometimes, what happens in byelections does mean something, especially if it confirms previously observed trends.

With Monday's results providing further evidence of the decline in support for the Bloc Québécois, which lost its former stronghold of Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean outright to the Conservatives, the Bloc now faces a decision:

Does it lose face by backing down from Gilles Duceppe's threat to oppose the Harper government in a confidence vote over Afghanistan, in the hope its luck will turn around? Or does it follow through on the threat and risk an early election to cut its losses, figuring things will only get worse if it waits?

That it was Mulcair who captured Outremont for the NDP signifies less than that the Liberals lost it, for only the second time in 86 years, and so ignominiously, with only 29 per cent of the vote.

To be sure, the Liberals did even worse in Roberval-Lac-Saint-Jean and Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, receiving less than 10 per cent of the vote in each and finishing third in the former and fourth in the latter.

But those were similar to the results the Liberals obtained in those two ridings in the last general election in January, 2006 -- after the sponsorship scandal, and before Stéphane Dion became their leader. They confirm that under Dion, the Liberals have not made any progress in French Quebec.

In Outremont, however, the results were an outright rejection of Dion by former supporters of his party. The Liberals' share of the vote fell significantly from the general election to Monday's byelection, from 35 per cent to 29 per cent. In the byelection, which had been declared a test of Dion's leadership, more than 7,000 Liberal voters in the general election either stayed home or switched to the NDP.

A week before the byelection, the Gazette and other media published results of a Léger Marketing poll confirming Dion's unpopularity in Quebec is exceeded only by that of the other Liberal leader, Premier Jean Charest.

In the closing days of the campaign, there were signs of panic around Dion, with people close to him lashing out at Michael Ignatieff, accusing supporters of Dion's 2006 leadership rival of sabotaging the Liberal campaign in Outremont. Of course, just because they're paranoid doesn't mean nobody's really out to get them.

Knowing that the hand that is seen to wield the dagger rarely grasps the crown, Ignatieff's supporters responded with wide-eyed protestations of innocence. Then, after the vote, they rallied to prop up Dion's wobbly leadership with loud calls for party unity.

They have reason not to be in a hurry to take over a party facing imminent electoral defeat and reconstruction from the ground up in its former power base in French Quebec.

There will be time enough for that after the election if Dion loses. Better to let him take the fall, and save their man for later.

# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Dutch soldier killed in Afghan mortar attack

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A17

Section: News

Dateline: THE HAGUE

Source: Agence France-Presse

THE HAGUE (AFP) -- A 20-year-old Dutch soldier was killed yesterday in southern Afghanistan when his patrol came under mortar fire, Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende and army chief Dick Berlijn said.

Tim Hoogland was killed about five kilometres north of the Dutch base at Deh Rawod in Uruzgan province, they said, according to the Dutch news agency ANP. He is the 11th Dutch soldier killed in Afghanistan, either accidentally or in combat.

At total of 1,665 Dutch soldiers are deployed in Uruzgan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, which has around 37,000 troops in Afghanistan.

# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Canada presses NATO allies to share Afghanistan burden

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A17

Section: News

Dateline: WASHINGTON

Source: Agence France-Presse

Illustrations: Photo: Hyungwon Kang, Reuters / U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates welcomes Canadian Defence Minister Peter MacKay, left, to the Pentagon in Washington yesterday.

WASHINGTON (AFP) -- Canadian Defence Minister Peter MacKay urged fellow NATO countries yesterday to step up their roles in Afghanistan, saying there was a "pressing need" for more allies to share the burden.

"There has to be burden-sharing and there has to be countries willing to step up and play a larger role with Canada, with the United States, the Brits, the Dutch [and] others," MacKay said in a televised interview.

"There is a need, a pressing need, I would suggest, from other NATO partners to step forward and share in that burden," he told the CBC after a meeting in Washington with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates.

MacKay said a few NATO allies are "working in a role that is disproportionate to the burden that is being carried by other countries," a message he said he has been carrying to various other member states this week.

"I had discussions yesterday as you know with my counterparts in England, Norway and the Netherlands and these discussions were very similar -- that we are going to be reaching out and touching our friends in NATO and working with the secretary general to encourage greater co-operation," he said.

Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan have waged a bloody insurgency that has claimed thousands of lives since their ouster from power in late 2001 by a U.S.-led invasion following the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks.

"We know that Afghanistan was an incubator and an exporter of terror, and there is no country that can appreciate that more than the territory where we're standing right now," MacKay said in Washington.

"So North America's not immune. Continental Europe is not immune. Nobody is immune," he said.

The Afghan government relies on nearly 50,000 international soldiers to fight the rebels, and 166 foreign troops have been killed so far this year, most in hostile action, according to an AFP count.

Canada has a contingent of some 2,500 soldiers in Afghanistan, where 70 soldiers have died since 2002.



# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Suicide blast hits military convoy in Kabul

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A17

Section: News

Dateline: KABUL

Source: Reuters

KABUL (Reuters) -- A suicide bomber targeted a convoy carrying foreign forces today in the Afghan capital, police said.

"One foreign national has been killed. Some Afghan civilians have been killed and wounded," city official Alishah Paktiawal told Agence France-Presse.

Police said the attack happened near a bridge in the western outskirts of the city. NATO and U.S.-led troops have bases in Kabul, which has witnessed several recent suicide attacks by Taliban guerrillas.

Yesterday, a 20-year-old Dutch soldier was killed in southern Afghanistan when his patrol came under mortar fire.

# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Pakistani president to seek re-election next month

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A16  
Section: News  
Dateline: ISLAMABAD, Pakistan  
Source: Reuters

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (Reuters) -- Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf will seek re-election on Oct. 6, despite legal challenges in the Supreme Court and slumping popularity, officials announced yesterday.

U.S. ally Gen. Musharraf has said he will retire from the army if elected by parliament and provincial assemblies.

His allies have a majority in those bodies, but opposition parties are trying to block his plan, and there is growing speculation he is finally losing his grip on power after taking control in a coup eight years ago.

The Supreme Court is hearing a set of petitions challenging Musharraf's right to retain his dual role, the legality of being elected while in uniform, and whether he should be allowed to get a mandate from the sitting assemblies before they are dissolved for a general election due by mid-January.

The outcome of the political crisis is of keen interest to the United States, which counts on Musharraf's support for western intervention in Afghanistan and the war against al-Qaeda, but wants a transition from military rule to democracy.

# Times Colonist (Victoria)

## Captured weapons from Iran: general; 'Upscale' bombs were found in Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A12  
Section: News  
Byline: John Ward Anderson  
Dateline: KABUL, Afghanistan  
Source: The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A top NATO commander said yesterday that a shipment of weapons intercepted by international forces in western Afghanistan earlier this month clearly came from Iran and almost certainly was sent with the knowledge of "at least the Iranian military."

U.S. army Gen. Dan McNeill, NATO's senior commander in Afghanistan, said a convoy of weapons captured Sept. 6 in the far western province of Farah -- which shares a long border with Iran -- was transporting "upscale" roadside bombs that had the hallmarks of those made in Iran and used with lethal regularity against U.S. forces in Iraq.

"Field analysis of those devices that were found profiled them clearly as ones that had been used in Iraq" and that, according to intelligence sources, are manufactured in Iran, McNeill said.

"I think there is sufficient intelligence to put together a picture that says this convoy that we intercepted the other day, which clearly geographically originated in Iran, and other things that we've encountered -- it would be hard for me to imagine that they had come into Afghanistan without the knowledge of at least the military in Iran," McNeill said.

"Who is that military?" he said. "Likely the Republican Guard Corps, could be the Quds Force part of that," he said, referring to the Iran's elite military corps and its unit that specializes in covert operations.

The Washington Post reported over the weekend that international forces had intercepted the convoy in a remote and sparsely populated area of desert and swampland as it apparently was seeking a less-traveled route into Afghanistan.

International forces captured two smaller shipments of sophisticated roadside bombs believed to be from Iran in April and May in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province.

# Agence France Presse (English)

## URGENT ÑÑÑ French soldier killed in Kabul blast: Afghan police

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: KABUL  
Time: 05:54:00 GMT  
Priority: Bulletin

KABUL, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - A suicide attack in the Afghan capital Kabul Friday killed a French soldier with NATO's International Security Assistance Force, the city's anti-crime branch police chief told AFP.

wm-br/dk/skj

Afghanistan-unrest-Kabul-suicide -France

AFP 210554 GMT 09 07

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# The Post (Hanover, On)

## Support our troops?

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A6  
Section: Editorial

Dear Editor:

Many are familiar with the recent disagreement within the town council over whether or not it was appropriate for Brockton's municipal vehicles to have magnetic "ribbons" stating, "We Support Our Troops."

There is probably unanimous agreement that Canada should be promoting freedom and removing human rights-abusing dictators from power, by sending troops if necessary. These are noble ideals that Canadians have traditionally been willing to fight and die for.

Unfortunately, we can not believe these to be motives behind the "War on Terror," which many consider a smokescreen for imperialism and suppressing domestic political opposition, compounded by massive war profiteering. This view is shared by an astonishing, rapidly growing number of people collectively known as the "9/11 Truth Movement."

The reason most people seem to be unwilling to do research on this subject is that people find it too troubling to believe that terrorism could be perpetrated by a "democratic" government against its own citizens. Dr. Morgan Reynolds, Texas A & M Professor Emeritus of Economics and former Chief Economist for the Department of Labor in George W. Bush's first term, considers this view naive.

Michel Chossudovsky, Professor of Economics at the University of Ottawa, has written a book entitled, "America's War on Terrorism" in which he argues that 9/11 could not have possibly been orchestrated by "Islamic terrorists" and that the "War on Terror" is a war of conquest as well as a justification for overriding the democratic process and revoking civil liberties.

Another book, "The CIA and September 11th," reaches the same conclusion. It was written by Andreas Von Buelow, former assistant German defense minister, director of the German Secret Service, minister for research and technology, and member of Parliament for 25 years.

Britain's former Environment Minister, Michael Meacher, wrote a lengthy article for The Guardian entitled, "This War on Terrorism is Bogus," in which he dismantles the official 9/11 story and concludes that 9/11 was an all-too-convenient pretext for launching pre-planned invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

This is just the tip of the iceberg. There is also a web site - [www.patriotsquestion911.com](http://www.patriotsquestion911.com) that attempts to catalogue the voices speaking out against the 9/11

cover-up. Among those listed are 110+ senior military, intelligence service, law enforcement, and government officials, 200+ engineers and architects, 50+ pilots and aviation professionals, 150+ professors, 190+ 9/11 survivors and family members and 90+ entertainment and media professionals.

Canadians must show that they support our troops by not sending them on deadly "peacekeeping" missions without evidence to justify military participation. We cannot allow ourselves to be frightened into giving up our freedoms and our soldiers' lives without asking tough and honest questions and demanding answers.

Josh Benninger

Walkerton

Dr. Paul McArthur

Walkerton

# Cape Breton Post

## Japanese voters growing tired of slavish attachment to U.S. foreign policy

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A6  
Section: Comment  
Byline: Dyer, Gwynne

It is 62 years since Japan surrendered to the United States at the end of the Second World War. Many things have changed, but not Japan's subordination to the United States.

Despite having the world's second-biggest economy, Japan is still a pygmy on the international stage and its foreign policy is still unswerving devotion to an alliance that was imposed on the country half a century ago by the American occupation forces.

It is the deeply conflicted views of the Japanese about this foreign policy that have brought down Prime Minister Shinzo Abe after less than a year in office. His Liberal Democratic Party still has a majority in the lower house of parliament and will choose a successor from its own ranks on Sept. 22, but this may mark the end of the LDP's half-century monopoly on power.

In his resignation speech, Abe explained that he was quitting "to pave the way for ruling and opposition parties to work together to approve Tokyo's naval mission in support of the U.S.-led operation in Afghanistan." The mission, which ends on Nov. 1 unless the parliament renews it, is one of the ways the LDP slides past the prohibitions of the "peace" constitution and deploys Japan's armed forces abroad.

It's a pretty modest deployment, involving only Japanese destroyers and tankers refuelling U.S. warships in the Indian Ocean that are supporting the U. S. Americans in Afghanistan. But even with Abe gone, parliament will not renew the mission. Six weeks ago the LDP lost control of the upper house, and all the opposition parties oppose an extension.

So the LDP will probably let the "anti-terrorist" mission in the Indian Ocean end after next month. It has bigger problems, starting with the paucity of credible candidates to replace Abe as prime minister.

Taro Aso, the front-runner, is scarcely house-broken. As foreign minister, he observed that American diplomats would never solve the problems of the Middle East because they had blue eyes and blond hair. As economics minister, he said he wanted to make Japan a country where rich Jews would want to live. His favourite conversational topic is manga comic books.

The main claim to fame of Aso's principal rival, Yasuo Fukuda, 71, is that his father, Takeo Fukuda, was prime minister. That is an example of the LDP's greatest problem: political in-breeding at the top, and the consequent shallowness of its pool of talent. The outgoing prime minister, Shinzo Abe, is the grandson

of a former prime minister; Junichiro Koizumi, the man whom Abe replaced only 10 months ago, began his political career as Takeo Fukuda's secretary.

Since the beginning of this decade, moreover, the LDP has fallen into the hands of a narrow group of politicians whose goal is to roll back the changes introduced in Japan during the American occupation. They want to promote nationalism in the schools - to "rescue young people who have no dreams," as Abe put it - and to change the pacifist constitution that forbids Japan to send troops abroad.

Some of this plays well with the Japanese public but the slavish loyalty that the LDP hawks display towards the American alliance does not. It is strangely at odds with the nationalist tone of their rhetoric and it leads them into actions that alienate the public. One recent example was Abe's attempt to force Okinawa to accept the construction of a new military complex for U.S. forces. As a result, the LDP was heavily defeated in Okinawa in the July elections for the upper house.

In the past, the LDP has always managed to bounce back after political setbacks, but the rise of the right-wing hawks in the party may change that pattern. Moreover, the perennially unsuccessful left-wing parties are no longer the only alternative. The Democratic Party, a centrist grouping created 10 years ago by dissident LDP members and various independents, has become the second-largest party and a plausible alternative government.

The drift towards a rearmed Japan with a much more assertive foreign policy has seemed unstoppable in recent years, but the LDP hawks may have over-reached themselves. The LDP may even end up spending some years in opposition, which would do it a world of good.

Gwynne Dyer's book, *The Mess They Made: The Middle East After Iraq*, is published in Canada by McClelland and Stewart.

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# Chicago Sun-Times

## Not so royal scent of Crown Imperial; Sweet smell of success: Plant's scent shouldn't scare you away

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: C2

Section: At Home

Byline: Maureen Gilmer

Source: Scripps Howard News Service

Illustrations: Photo: Scripps Howard News Service / To keep crown imperial roots above heavy soils, plant at elevated positions or raised beds.

Despite its reek of wet fur and garlic, this very old flower bulb is grand enough to make a tulip question its self-esteem. But perhaps like the unwashed monarchs of old England, fritillary's regal bearing is too great to exclude from early gardens on a bad smell alone. Standing to three feet tall and topped with clusters of hot-colored nodding blooms, the crown imperial rarely comes indoors as a cut flower.

The home range of this 'Fritillaria imperialis' spans a vast region of arid Asia Minor, with populations from Turkey to Iraq and into the Himalayas. This rugged dry region, like the mountains of Afghanistan, often lacks a single green thing because of voracious browsers. The survival of any plant depends on the ability to fend them off in the dry season. Specific compounds are present in bulbs, leaves, stems and flowers of nearly all Fritillaria species. They are quite effective in repelling rodents and other herbivores naturally. This includes problem squirrels and chipmunks.

Apparently wet fur and garlic doesn't appeal to deer either, but this aversion should be verified locally before a great deal is invested in buying bulbs. Rarely has there been such an extraordinarily beautiful candidate for deer-afflicted gardens.

The species was introduced to Europe 400 years ago, and it soon appeared around the edges of lawns and grasslands. The plant's unique ability to deter gophers and burrowing moles led to its use as a gorgeous living plant mote. This might be the primary reason it is still in widespread cultivation today.

Crown imperial is often planted at a distance, for obvious reasons, in groupings of six to 12 to intensify its visibility from long range. You can intersperse fritillary bulbs through your ground-cover stands and concentrate them at key points where animals are likely to enter gardens. Be cautious about using them in foundation planting and other high traffic areas because odor is released when plants are the least bit disturbed.

Crown imperial bulbs are available in a red-orange flowered form and a yellow one. The red is by far the most commonly grown and widely available. Both are hardy to USDA Zone 5.

Grade A bulbs costs from \$4 to \$8 and higher, depending on the source. Discounts might apply to larger quantities. If used for pest control where the plant itself is the value, not necessarily the flower, younger undersized bulbs might be bought more

cheaply to mature in the landscape.

Crown imperial thrives in well-drained soils with even moisture similar to the higher mountains of its homeland. These porous pockets of earth fail to hold water for long, guaranteeing the bulb and its roots an airy abode. In heavier soils, they wither quickly in the oxygen-depleted soils and fail to thrive. In the past, gardeners have tried to lighten their soil under the bulbs with coarse sand to simulate this naturally fast-draining condition. Perhaps more effective is to plant the bulbs in elevated gardens, rocky banks, raised beds or rock gardens.

Crown imperials are staggeringly beautiful in large pots and planters. Here it is equally, if not more, important to utilize a porous mix such as cactus soil. The container must have a very large drain hole or numerous ones to keep the soil enriched with oxygen.

Author Maureen Gilmer can be reached at [www.moplants.com](http://www.moplants.com).

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# The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)

## Liberal leader launches attack on PM

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A9  
Section: News  
Byline: The Canadian Press

Stephane Dion unleashed a string of insults Thursday to condemn Stephen Harper's foreign policy, describing it as mediocre, rigid, simplistic, amateurish and incompetent.

Taking aim at the government's unclear plan for the future of the Afghanistan mission, the Liberal leader outlined a foreign affairs agenda that includes a new role for Canada in Afghanistan after 2009 when combat operations are scheduled to end.

But Dion provided few details on what Canada would do instead, saying he would boost the number of Canadian development workers in the country and help provide Afghans with clean water.

Dion accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of slavishly following the lead of U.S. President George Bush on foreign policy -- abandoning the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases, ramping up defence spending, and ignoring human rights violations in the pursuit of terrorists.

"Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canadian interests," Dion told a foreign relations think-tank.

Dion said it's up to Harper's government to hammer out a plan with NATO allies, not the Liberals.

The government is working on it, according to Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre.

Poilievre accused Dion of his own flip-flop for demanding an end to an Afghan mission he helped launch while he was a Liberal cabinet minister.

"He helped put our troops in heavy combat," Poilievre said in an interview.

"Then he opposed their mission in an act of breathtaking hypocrisy.

"He's flip-flopped so many times it's impossible to keep track."

Dion said a Liberal government would return to a more multilateral approach that puts a little distance between Canada and the U.S.

Among other things, he said a Liberal government would champion global efforts to combat climate change and promote human rights.

It would also seek a worldwide ban on cluster bombs, in same way that Canada led the charge to ban landmines under Jean Chretien's Liberal government.

Poilievre pointed out that Dion was in cabinet when Canada failed to meet climate change targets.

"He's trying to distract from his weak leadership with these vicious attacks," the Ontario Tory MP said.

Dion said he would also attempt to make Canada the world's best "fresh-water managers," preserving a precious resource at home while helping to prevent the rapid

depletion of water reserves elsewhere in the world.

Dion was most critical of the Tory government's handling of Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan, calling it "the most appalling example among a series of foreign policy blunders."

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# Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## U.S. & WORLD

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 2  
Section: A

### NEWS TO KNOW

-- The Associated Press

1 Regulators fined the Charleston, S.C., Fire Department and a furniture store \$42,100 for violating safety standards in a blaze that killed nine firefighters June 18, the nation's single worst firefighter loss since 9-11.

2 Uganda declared an emergency because of heavy flooding. 15A

3 One of two men convicted in the murders depicted in Boys Don't Cry says he was the only attacker. 12A

4 Fleeing increased raids by U.S. officials, illegal immigrants, mostly Mexican, are seeking refugee status in Windsor, Canada, a border town. 13A

5 As many elderly residents return home to New Orleans, social agencies say they are overwhelmed. 6A

### GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

A boy flies a peace kite Thursday on Nader Khan hill in Kabul, Afghanistan. The U.N. Assistance Mission said some 100 Afghan street children marked Afghanistan's biggest ever peace campaign Thursday by flying kites bearing peace messages and adorned with doves and olive branches.

### SPOTLIGHT ON BELGIUM

This nation of 10.4 million has yet to create a government, producing a crisis so profound that it has led to talk that Belgium may disappear. Flemish separatists want to slice the nation horizontally: to the north, Flanders, where Dutch (known locally as Flemish) is spoken, and to the south, French-speaking Wallonia. Since the kingdom was created in 1830 as an obstacle to French expansionism, it has struggled for cohesion. The current crisis dates to June 10, when Yves Leterme, the leader of the Flemish Christian Democrats, would have become prime minister if he had been able to put together a coalition government. But he was rejected by French speakers.

-- The New York Times

320 degrees below zero is Neptune's average temperature, making it one of the coldest planets. But it does have a warm spot. Astronomers discovered that its south pole, which has basked in summer sunlight for about 40 years, is about 18 degrees warmer than the rest of Neptune. It's nearly 2.8 billion miles from the sun, so a Neptunian year is about 165 Earth years.

# Fort Worth Star-Telegram

## Vote to cut off combat funding fails

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: 19

Section: A

Byline: By RENEE SCHOOF, McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON -- A Democratic anti-war proposal that would have cut off funding for combat in Iraq by June was blocked 70-28 in the Senate on Thursday.

Twenty Democratic senators and Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, an independent, joined 49 Republicans in voting against shutting off debate on the proposal, effectively killing it. Even though the 20 Democrats favor ending U.S. involvement in the war, many have said they fear that shutting off money could harm the troops.

The proposal to cut off war funding in June was sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., and Sen. Russ Feingold, D-Wis. It would have started withdrawing troops within 90 days and would get all combat troops out by June except for a small force that would focus on fighting terrorists and training Iraqis.

Feingold said the funding cutoff would take place after U.S. forces were out safely. Further money for the war could be spent only on the limited operations.

By backing the proposal, Senate Democratic leaders signaled to their anti-war base that they're still pushing for a mandate to end the war. At the same time, their defeat on this and other anti-war proposals underscored that Democrats can't get Congress to change Iraq policy as long as Republicans remain largely united behind President Bush's policy, as they've been all year.

The Republicans have successfully used a Senate rule that requires 60 votes to shut off debate and force a final vote on a bill's merits. By denying Democrats those votes, Republicans have shown time and again that they can block a final vote.

Reid has said he's open to a bipartisan compromise on Iraq, but he stressed Thursday that it would have to send a strong message to Bush that it's time to bring troops home.

"Understand this: Compromise is not giving up on our principles," Reid said. The goal is to change Iraq policy, not just pass anti-war legislation, he said.

He said Democrats would keep trying in the weeks ahead.

### AT A GLANCE

The latest news in the Iraq war:

**Violence:** At least 26 people were killed or found dead nationwide. An aide to Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, the nation's top Shiite cleric, was

assassinated late Thursday near Basra.

**Ad:** The Senate, by a 72-25 vote, approved a resolution condemning an advertisement by the liberal activist group MoveOn.org in The New York Times. The ad referred to Gen. David Petraeus, the top military commander in Iraq, as "General Betray Us."

**Al Qaeda:** In a new video, the terrorist network's deputy leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, said the United States is being defeated in Iraq, Afghanistan and other fronts.

**Bush:** President Bush said he had not talked with Iraq's leader about a deadly shootout last week involving employees of the Blackwater USA security contractor. He defended the use of private armed security forces in Iraq.

**Cholera:** The World Health Organization confirmed the first case of cholera in Baghdad, raising fears that the deadly disease is spreading after it was detected in northern Iraq last month.

**Civilians:** Lt. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the U.S. second in command in Iraq, said too many civilians are still dying even though violence is down in Baghdad after seven months of stepped-up security.

**Contracts:** Federal investigators are examining allegations of criminal misconduct related to \$6 billion in contracts for equipment and services needed in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon said.

**Embassy:** The Kuwaiti company building the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad has been accused of agreeing to pay \$200,000 in kickbacks in return for two unrelated Army contracts in Iraq. First Kuwaiti General Trading & Contracting said the allegations are "without merit."

**Funding:** The Senate voted 70-28 to block a Democratic proposal that would have cut off funding for combat in Iraq by June.

**Long-term cost:** The cost of a long-term U.S. military presence in Iraq similar to the peacekeeping role American troops have played in South Korea would range from \$10 billion to \$25 billion a year, the Congressional Budget Office said.

**Texan killed:** Army Spc. Aaron J. Walker, 23, of Harker Heights, east of Fort Hood, died Tuesday in Baghdad of wounds from small-arms fire. He was assigned to the 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Vilseck, Germany.

# The Macon Telegraph

## It wouldn't take much to make a draft necessary

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: A

The continuing congressional haggling over the war in Iraq has conclusively demonstrated one thing: Just because Senate Democrats have a numerical advantage over Republicans, this hasn't given them the juice needed to significantly change U.S. war policy. Wednesday, the Senate voted 56-44, four votes short of the 60 needed, to pass legislation that would have mandated that U.S. soldiers would get as much time home as they spent in Iraq or Afghanistan. It also would have required that National Guard soldiers be allowed three years stateside duty before being sent back to Iraq.

Following the vote, the Associated Press quoted Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., as saying, "The idea of winning is getting a second look." Maybe. But more likely the measure failed because Sen. John Warner, a Republican from Virginia and former longtime chairman of the Armed Services Committee, who voted in favor of a similar measure last July, flip-flopped. Warner concluded, after talking to "senior military officials" that to approve the measure would be a "disaster." His decision likely convinced some Republicans who supported the proposal to follow his lead..

It's also likely that Warner switched his vote because he realizes, had the measure passed, it would be impossible to continue to prosecute the war at its present, or even the pre-"surge" level, with existing troop strengths. There just aren't enough soldiers and Marines to keep 130,000 to 160,000 troops on the ground in Iraq if they are guaranteed an equal time in the U.S. between tours.

At present, the Pentagon tries to give soldiers 12 months stateside following 15 months in Iraq, but this isn't etched in stone. The only way the U. S. can maintain required combat strength is to have the option of extending tours and rotating soldiers back into the war zone as needed.

The only way America has been able to generate the number of soldiers necessary to fight protracted wars - WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, for example - has been through conscription, a measure that ended in 1975 with the end of the Vietnam war. It is an option Congress clearly would like to avoid. The question looms ominously, however, considering the likelihood that the United States will remain in a protracted conflict, possibly 10 years or more, in Iraq and Afghanistan. Should other players become involved - Iran is one possibility - Congress would have no alternative but to dust off the dreaded draft.

The American public hasn't had to consider this unpleasant possibility in that the United States has so far made do with its volunteer military. Citizens who don't choose to take part in this war aren't forced to do so. That could change, however, and it may be

necessary if we cannot find a way to extract the U.S. out of Mideast conflict.

# Cape Breton Post

## Officials debate Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: B9  
Section: International  
Source: AP

Government officials urged parliament on Thursday to keep Germany's 3,000 troops and six reconnaissance jets in Afghanistan for another year, saying a pullout now would endanger progress made since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001.

Recent opinion polls show most Germans want the troops to come home, but Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier argued that would be a mistake.

"Anyone who demands withdrawal of the troops from Afghanistan puts at risk everything that we have built up in the last six years," Steinmeier said, while conceding that "the way has been harder than many of us had hoped."

Public support for the mission has dwindled amid attacks on German forces and the kidnappings of Germans there.

The debate took on more urgency after a militant group said it had planned bombings against U.S. and other targets in Germany to try to force the Germans out of an air base at Termez, Uzbekistan. The base supports the Afghanistan deployment.

The three suspects, all alleged members of the Islamic Jihad Union - defined by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida - were arrested Sept. 4 at a rented cottage in central Germany on suspicion of planning bombings.

Defence Minister Franz-Josef Jung said civil reconstruction work and the military presence were mutually supporting, adding it was in Germany's interest that Afghanistan did not again become "a training centre for terrorism," as under the Taliban.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government of conservative Christian Democrats and centre-left Social Democrats enjoys a broad majority of 446 seats in the 613-seat Bundestag, or lower house.

Parties that openly oppose extending the mandate - the environmentalist Greens and the Left party, made up of former Communists and disgruntled Social Democrats, hold only 104 votes between them.

The passage of the renewal has been complicated because the government decided to bundle the two mandates - for the ground troops and the reconnaissance jets - together.

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# MCT Regional News

## You'll Fall For These Flicks

Friday, September 21, 2007

Byline: By Kevin Walker, Tampa Tribune, Fla.  
Source: McClatchy-Tribune Regional News

Sep. 21--There sure are a lot of films coming out this fall. I wish some publication would give us a rundown of what looks best -- or, in lieu of the best, at least the biggest releases.

Say, let's go pick up a Tampa Tribune -- maybe Friday Extra did it!

"The Kingdom" (Sept. 28): When a terrorist attack kills Americans in Saudi Arabia, an elite FBI team (including Jamie Foxx and Jennifer Garner) tracks down the perps. The first of many films this fall to deal with post-9/11 themes.

"The Heartbreak Kid" (Oct. 5): Ben Stiller and the Farrelly brothers team up for the first time since their 1998 hit, "There's Something About Mary," this time remaking the 1972 film about a man who pursues a hot coed while on his honeymoon.

"Michael Clayton" (Oct. 12): George Clooney stars as a corrupt attorney who operates as a "fixer" -- the guy who does whatever it takes to win cases. But when he's thrown into a billion-dollar class action lawsuit, he must choose between what's right and what's profitable.

"Elizabeth: The Golden Age" (Oct. 12): Playing Queen Elizabeth in the art film "Elizabeth" catapulted Cate Blanchett to stardom. Now she's back in a sequel, wearing armor if the advance pictures are to be believed. Geoffrey Rush also returns as the queen's devious chief counselor, and Clive Owen joins the cast as Sir Walter Raleigh.

"Rendition" (Oct. 19): Reese Witherspoon stars as a Midwestern woman whose Egyptian husband (Omar Metwally) is kidnapped by the U.S. government and transported to another country, where he can be tortured to extract information. Meryl Streep is the government official who orders the kidnapping, and Jake Gyllenhaal is the CIA agent conducting the interrogation.

"Things We Lost In The Fire" (Oct. 19): Halle Berry stars as a mother who invites a heroin addict trying to kick the habit (Benicio Del Toro) into her home after the death of her husband (David Duchovny). They've got Oscar on their minds.

"American Gangster" (Nov. 2): Denzel Washington plays a 1970s Harlem drug lord and Russell Crowe is the womanizing-but-otherwise-moral cop trying to bring him down in this Ridley Scott crime drama, based on a true story.

"Lions for Lambs" (Nov. 9): Robert Redford stars as a professor anguished over two students who join the military to fight in Iraq. This allows him to make

several speeches about the insanity of war and the responsibility of citizens in a democratic society. Meanwhile, Tom Cruise is a congressman with a plan to end the war, and Meryl Streep is a journalist he tries to influence.

"Enchanted" (Nov. 21): McDreamy hits the big screen in a Disney film. Patrick Dempsey, who plays a hunky doctor on television's "Grey's Anatomy," is a single father who meets Amy Adams, a cartoon character who escapes the animated world and lands in Manhattan. Even if you read that again, it won't make much more sense. Oh, and it's a musical.

"Cassandra's Dream" (Nov. 30): This is that dead week after Thanksgiving, so of course it's when they release the new Woody Allen film. This one stars Colin Farrell and Ewan McGregor as brothers who have their lives torn apart by a femme fatale (Hayley Atwell).

"The Golden Compass" (Dec. 7): This is the first in a planned trilogy adapting Philip Pullman's "His Dark Materials" books for the big screen. Daniel Craig (the latest James Bond) plays the uncle of a 12-year-old girl (Dakota Blue Richards) who embarks on an amazing quest through a parallel universe. Nicole Kidman is the evil Mrs. Coulter.

"I Am Legend" (Dec. 14): Yet another adaptation of the classic 1954 novel by Richard Matheson about the lone regular guy (Will Smith) living in a world of blood-sucking freaks after a plague wipes out the population. You might have seen the earlier adaptations: Vincent Price in "The Last Man on Earth" (1964) and Charlton Heston in "The Omega Man" (1971).

"National Treasure: Book of Secrets" (Dec. 21): See what you did? Too many of you went to the theater to see Nicolas Cage in "National Treasure," an obvious "Da Vinci Code" rip-off, and now they've gone and made a sequel. Shame, shame.

"Charlie Wilson's War" (Dec. 25): The star power is lined up for this Christmas release, based on the nonfiction book from 2003 by "60 Minutes" journalist George Crile. Tom Hanks plays Charlie Wilson, the fun-loving congressman from East Texas who leads the effort to funnel aid to Mujahedin rebels in Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion in 1979. Wilson is joined by a rogue CIA operative (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and a Houston socialite (Julia Roberts). The movie is directed by Mike Nichols and written by Aaron Sorkin.

Kevin Walker can be reached at  
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# MCT Regional News

## Rangers prepare at West Point for preseason opener

Friday, September 21, 2007

Byline: By Steve Zipay Steve, Newsday, Melville, N.Y.

Source: McClatchy-Tribune Regional News

Sep. 21--WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Who shot Henrik Lundqvist?

"Right in the chest. In the heart," the Rangers' No. 1 goaltender said yesterday.

Luckily, it was a paintball, not a bullet.

"I don't know who it was. I was hiding behind a big tree," Lundqvist said while walking to the Tate Rink on the U.S. Military Academy campus here yesterday morning.

Not big enough, obviously.

With a group of seven other teammates in his squad during the first of six military-training style "missions" in a nearby swampy forest late Wednesday afternoon, Lundqvist peeked around the trunk and got nailed. "A couple times," he said.

Jason Strudwick denied that he was the sniper.

"No, not me," the veteran defenseman said. "Didn't shoot anyone. Especially a goalie."

Sore but undaunted, Lundqvist and the Rangers practiced here to prepare for tonight's preseason opener against the Devils at Madison Square Garden.

Lundqvist, however, along with the team's top free-agent acquisitions, centers Scott Gomez and Chris Drury, won't play against the Devils. Along with Jaromir Jagr, they will debut tomorrow against the Flyers at the Garden as coach Tom Renney divided the 39 players into two teams for the back to backs.

"No big deal, I've seen enough of those guys," Gomez said of the Devils, his former team, while signing autographs for fans in the 2,700-seat arena. Against the Flyers, Gomez will be between Jagr and Nigel Dawes, a line that skated together yesterday. It seems to be another audition for the swift, sharp-shooting Dawes, who made the team out of camp as a rookie last season, but played just eight games before being returned to Hartford (AHL).

Several Rangers youngsters said they were tested both physically and mentally by Wednesday's military-run, team-building exercises, which included a mock ambush of their bus. "We had to run down a path, people were shooting, it was so loud, like a bomb went off," said 21-year-old Brandon Dubinsky.

Then, broken up into five groups of eight, the players competed in timed events, similar to ones in which the team participated here two years ago.

"We had to drag a 500-pound tire down a hill and back," goaltender Al Montoya said. "Carried the heaviest guy in the group on a stretcher up and down hills . . . so it really brought the guys together and got them motivated."

Forward Ryan Callahan said: "Never been through anything like that. It was awesome."

For Montoya, who attended the session in 2005, this was a little more special. "I feel like I have this connection or something that maybe some of these guys don't," said the Cuban-American goaltender. "I have a brother in the Navy who went to Afghanistan this Sept. 11. That's the tough part, you don't know what can happen and you can't always keep in touch. You hope they're prepared enough, but you know that these facilities and these academies prepare these guys enough to fight for us overseas."

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# MCT Regional News

## EDITORIAL: For Iraq, GOP orders more of the same

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: Government  
Byline: The Kansas City Star, Mo.  
Source: McClatchy-Tribune Regional News

Sep. 21--For much of the year, the American public has been led to believe that this month would be a time of serious re-evaluation of U.S. policy in Iraq.

Administration officials and lawmakers were to take a realistic look at the situation, make tough decisions about which U.S. objectives were still obtainable and develop a concrete plan to move forward.

The public's hopes, however, have been dashed.

Where benchmarks have not been met, administration officials now simply shrug them off. Statistics have been selectively gathered and pruned to draw attention away from the many failures and disappointments that have been noted by government reports, retired military figures, troops who have served in Iraq, human-rights groups, filmmakers, journalists and others.

Now, we are told, the big decisions on Iraq must wait until next spring. Or maybe next summer. Or maybe ... well, who knows?

It looks more and more like a stalling game, designed to let President Bush hand the Iraq mess off to his successor.

Voters should have no trouble placing the blame for this costly delay. It belongs to the Republicans in the White House and most of the Republicans in Congress.

Bush unfortunately politicized the congressional testimony of a single general, presenting his views as if there were no other opinions in the Pentagon worth considering. The president quickly followed up by announcing plans that, aside from token withdrawals this year, basically just committed to troop departures next year that were already necessary under current policies.

Democrats in Congress objected, and with good reason. This plan would continue the fatal flaw of an open-ended military commitment. As the bipartisan Iraq Study Group pointed out last year, such a commitment provides cover for Iraqi political leaders and their factions to continue behaving irresponsibly.

And the president's narrow focus on Iraq is draining military resources that are needed to protect the United States from other threats -- including those in Afghanistan, where the 9/11 attacks originated.

Some lawmakers in both parties have tried hard to put U.S. policy on a better path in Iraq. This week the Senate voted 56-44 on a measure that would have accomplished that and given some well-deserved

respite to battle-weary U.S. troops.

But 60 votes were needed. The three GOP senators who represent the Kansas City area -- Kit Bond, Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback -- all voted against the measure.

This was a serious and costly mistake.

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# The Wichita Eagle

## READER VIEWS: ON EARMARKS, PETRAEUS, MOVEON.ORG, ARENA COST, BLOOD DONORS, PEACE DEMONSTRATION

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 2  
Section: A

Maybe al-Qaida

is winning after all

Reps. Nancy Boyda, D-Topeka, and Dennis Moore, D-Lenexa, are to be commended for making the earmarks they seek available to their constituents and others for review ("Boyda breaks ground: reveals budget requests," Sept. 10 Eagle). But earmarks seem minute in the \$3.25 trillion increase in our national debt since George W. Bush took office. Our national debt was officially \$8.98 trillion on Aug. 23.

There seems no end in sight to our costly war in Iraq, along with Afghanistan. And the growth in entitlement spending will continue to increase in the years ahead. Figuring interest at 5 percent, \$449 billion is needed to pay just the annual interest on our national debt, which should continue to escalate. Not to be overlooked are the continued added security costs associated with Sept. 11.

Unfortunately, some of our nation's debt holders (the Saudis) already are seeking greater returns as they turn to the higher returns provided by leveraged payout funds, etc. This and the continuing increase in our humongous national debt suggest there will be a meaningful rise in the interest rates to finance our debt in the years ahead. Might al-Qaida succeed in bankrupting our nation?

RUSSELL MAIKWichita

Echoing Bush?

Perhaps MoveOn.org went a bit overboard in playing with the similarity of Gen. David Petraeus' name to "betray us" ("Good, bad and very ugly," Sept. 13 Opinion). But keep in mind that anti-war people have endured six years of name-calling. The war hawks, from the vice president on down, seem to think that just about any derogatory name that comes to mind is fit to apply to anyone not completely in line with the Bush administration's policies.

Keep in mind also that several independent investigations of the changing situation in Iraq came to conclusions very different from the general as to whether President Bush's "surge" is working.

Even if you ignore the continuation of violence, the president's own definition shows the surge is failing. The purpose was to give the Iraqi government time for reconciliation. Since that hasn't even started, how can the surge be succeeding?

I'm sure that Petraeus is an honorable man, but is it just a coincidence that his report matches just what

his boss is espousing?BRUCE BALESAndover

MoveOn's smear

MoveOn.org is an organization begun in 1998 in an effort to stop the Bill Clinton impeachment proceedings. It is composed of two separate legal entities, MoveOn.org Civic Action and MoveOn.org Political Action. The former gives it tax advantages that individuals cannot get, while the latter enables it to raise money for political candidates.

The executive director for MoveOn is Eli Pariser, 26, who left high school prematurely to graduate with a degree in liberal arts from Bard College at Simon's Rock located in Great Barrington, Mass. The school accepts candidates who have not received a high school diploma. Pariser is believed to be the one who created the "Petraeus/Betray Us" advertisement. Whether or not he did, he has defended it.

Pronouncements that demonstrate such lack of thought, show no intellectual preparation, and offer only the device of deception do not serve the interests of those who wish to engage civil debate. Smearing and contentious rhetoric is what is done by charlatans to nurture their rank-and-file duffers. Pariser, we may conclude, is one who putters.

RON HOFFMANRose Hill

Hold arena hearing

Laws have been enacted in Kansas for more than a century. And for nearly as long, those laws have been subject to interpretation. Judges, district attorneys, county commissions and others statewide have decided issues after interpreting a law. But one thing has always been consistent: The intent of a law was paramount.

The downtown arena construction cost is tens of millions of dollars over the budget published under state law in 2004 ("Arena to cost \$60 million more than expected," Sept. 15 Eagle). Our Sedgwick County Commission appears to be ready to shift some costs to the city of Wichita and cut some needed areas of the project to avoid holding a public hearing. State statute K.S.A. 12-6,122 requires the commission to hold a public hearing, because the project exceeds the budget by more than 20 percent. The commission then can decide to proceed, cancel or revoke the project.

The intent of our state law is clear: Hold the public hearing. Anything less is an attempt to be above the law. And that cannot be tolerated in a free society.

DARRELL E. LEFFEWWichitaCalling all donors

This week the American Red Cross Central Plains Region is joining other blood centers across the country in celebrating Blood Collectors Week, sponsored by AABB and Fenwal Blood Technologies.

During this special week, the Red Cross honors its blood collection staff members, who serve an important role in educating donors and helping to ensure a safe and comfortable donation experience. Blood collection professionals help facilitate donations, allowing residents to give the gift of life.

Each year, the Red Cross collects 6.5 million units of blood from 4.5 million volunteer blood donors. From these donations, the Red Cross distributes 9.5 million blood products each year to patients at 3,000 hospitals and transfusion centers across the country.

Blood products are routinely transfused to those with cancer and other diseases, organ transplant recipients, and accident and trauma victims. Volunteer blood donors are the primary source of blood used for transfusions, and the American Red Cross supplies more than 40 percent of the nation's blood supply.

Community members are encouraged to show their support by making blood donations to help the Red Cross meet local blood supply needs. To schedule your donation, please call 800-GIVE-LIFE.

PAM HEADChief executive officerAmerican Red Cross Central Plains Blood RegionWichita

Big Brother lives

Have you read the novel "1984" by George Orwell? In that book, people are under the watch of Big Brother, the government. I found out that Big Brother does exist.

One afternoon rush hour in early September, three young ladies decided to hold signs saying "Peace" or "Love each other," just for a good cause. Some people honked and waved, but some Big Brothers called the police, complaining those protesters were causing distractions just by standing in a public place with peace signs. It wasn't even a protest. Even so, two officers showed up and told those young ladies to leave, because the police were getting too many complaints. Later, the young ladies found out that they were not breaking any laws.

Most people are too afraid to speak up and express their thoughts, unlike those young brave ladies. People themselves are becoming Big Brother, because only a few demonstrate freedom of speech. Why should we treat those brave young girls like that?

ISAMU KISHIWichita

# The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)

## Afghan mission 'not just military'

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: D13  
Section: News  
Dateline: MONTREAL  
Source: Canadian Press

Canada's contributions and sacrifices to Afghanistan are a "positive influence," stressed the war-torn country's ambassador to Canada.

Omar Samad made his comments yesterday at an international conference in Montreal, which brought together diplomats and military experts to discuss Canada's role in Afghanistan.

Samad told reporters that many Canadians are starting to understand what the Afghan mission is all about.

"All of us collectively are doing a better job of explaining . . . that it's not just a military one."

He said Canadians are there to help the Afghan people and their government become self-sufficient as soon as possible.

Since Canada began its involvement in Afghanistan, 70 soldiers and one diplomat have died.

Canada's troop commitment to Afghanistan expires in February 2009, and the ambassador called on Canadians to be patient for signs of progress.

"History has shown us that all nations that have been post-conflict have had to go through many years of rebuilding and Afghanistan is no exception," Samad said.

Chris Alexander, the deputy head of the United Nations mission in Afghanistan, said everyone has to remain focused on bringing security to a country that has been ravaged by conflict.

"It's going to be a team effort every step of the way and that means all the players on the team have to be there," he said in an interview.

But Alexander stressed that the lives of Afghans have improved over the past six years.

Stephen Wallace, vice-president of the Canadian International Development Agency's Afghanistan Task force, agreed.

He said there had been remarkable progress in the fields of education and health.

"We have saved 80,000 more infant lives a year," Wallace claimed.

He also described the refugee situation as a success

story, pointing out that since 2002 more than four million Afghans have returned to their country.

"Canada is playing a role (and) with patience and perseverance, we will make progress," Wallace said.

Most conference participants agreed NATO forces will be in Afghanistan for the long term.

And though there were calls for Canada to stay beyond its 2009 commitment, many agreed the decision should be taken by Parliament and the government.

Martin Howard, a NATO official, pointed out that Canada has been successful in Kandahar, what he called "the heartland of the Taliban."

"We think Canada is a major player in Afghanistan, both militarily and diplomatically and on the development front and we want it to stay," he said. "It's not something we can force nations to do."

But military historian Desmond Morton said a withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan would be seen as a military setback. "We would be seen as the people who left and more people would have to be found to deliver the success," he said.

The conference, which was organized by the Universite de Montreal, opened Wednesday evening with a speech by Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier. His speech was interrupted repeatedly by about a dozen hecklers, two of whom were later arrested.

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# The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)

## Doctor won't face charges for article on soldier's death

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: D13  
Section: News  
Dateline: OTTAWA  
Source: Canadian Press

Military police have decided not to charge a Canadian doctor who published a graphic description of the last moments of a wounded soldier's life in Afghanistan.

The National Investigative Service (NIS) looked at whether Dr. Kevin Patterson broke any laws in an article written last summer about the operating room death of Cpl. Kevin Megeney, a 25-year-old reservist from Stellarton, N.S.

"There was no evidence to support criminal or service charges under the National Defence Act," said Capt. Cindi Tessier, a spokesperson for the NIS.

The article, which appeared in the July-August issue of Mother Jones magazine, resulted in a storm of criticism from the friends and family of the soldier, who said the account was tasteless and violated medical ethics standards.

The Defence Department launched two investigations into the article in which Patterson described in graphic detail the wounds suffered by Megeney, who was shot in the chest in his tent at Kandahar Airfield, the main NATO base in southern Afghanistan.

While deciding no charges will be laid, the military has yet to decide whether Patterson, who worked as a doctor at the airfield's coalition medical facility -- known as the Role 3 -- breached any ethical guidelines.

The review by the military's medical services branch will determine, among other things, whether he is allowed to work for the military ever again under contract.

"There are a whole bunch of options that could come out of the medical group's investigation," Tessier said.

The shooting of Megeney -- on March 6, 2007 -- is also still under investigation by military police officers and it's not clear when it will be completed, she said.

Even though he was essentially a civilian contractor, Patterson was subject to the National Defence Act and to the military code of service discipline while overseas. He could have faced criminal charges or even administrative sanctions, such the docking of pay, just like soldiers.

Since returning from Kandahar, his contract with the

military has expired.

Patterson's 7,000 word memoir recounts the six weeks he spent at the Kandahar military base, the climax of which was Megeney's shooting.

His vivid description of the young's soldier's massive bleeding wound and the desperate, ultimately unsuccessful effort to save him angered not only the family, but Defence Minister Peter MacKay, who comes from the same hometown and attended the funeral.

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# The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)

## Austrian-Canadian terror cell targeted politicians, public sites

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A11  
Section: Front  
Dateline: MONTREAL  
Source: Canadian Press

An Austrian-Canadian jihadist cell was targeting European politicians in addition to a number of physical targets in Austria and Switzerland, according to communications obtained by a terrorist watchdog group.

The SITE Intelligence Group, a U.S.-based research organization that tracks and analyzes terrorist groups for corporate and government clients, said yesterday human beings were also among targets that included next June's Euro 2008 soccer tournament.

"The member of the cell enumerated several physical targets to attack, specifically mentioning the Euro 2008 championships to be held in Austria and Switzerland, UN buildings in Vienna and Geneva, and OPEC's headquarters in Vienna," SITE said in a statement.

The person also listed human targets, naming certain British, German and Austrian politicians.

SITE says there was no indication that any member of the cell was ready to carry out an attack or had the operational capabilities to do so. "However, the individual did describe rough, general plans of how to carry out some of the attacks," the release said.

The news comes as the alleged Canadian component to the cell appeared in court yesterday in Montreal.

Said Namouh, 34, who is charged with conspiring to bomb unspecified targets in Vienna, was arrested in the small Quebec rural town of Maskinonge last week as authorities in Austria and Canada swept down and arrested four people in a suspected international bomb plot. One was later released for lack of evidence.

Authorities identify the Austrian man still detained as Mohammed Mahmoud, the prime suspect and a leader of the Global Islamic Media Front, an al-Qaida propaganda group increasingly tied to terrorism operations.

Mahmoud's name appears on a Canadian charge sheet filed in Montreal that says Namouh and Mahmoud conspired between March and September "for the purpose of delivering, placing, discharging or detonating an explosive in a place outside Canada."

None of the allegations against Namouh has been proven in court.

The three people arrested in Europe were nabbed in

connection with a video that surfaced in March threatening to attack Germany and Austria unless the two countries withdrew their troops from Afghanistan.

SITE says the incident "once again shows the nexus between those jihadists who produce propaganda and those who seek to carry out or facilitate terrorist attacks."

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# The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)

## Civilian dead after traffic collision with convoy

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A10

Section: Front

Dateline: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

Source: Canadian Press

An Afghan civilian was killed and two others remained in hospital yesterday after a traffic accident involving a Canadian convoy in Kandahar city.

The accident occurred just before 11 a.m. Wednesday as a Canadian combat logistic patrol was heading back to the international base at Kandahar Airfield.

The driver of the civilian vehicle coming toward the convoy pulled out to pass and lost control as he tried to pull back into his lane.

The lead vehicle in the Canadian convoy, an RG-31, tried to swerve but was unable to avoid the vehicle, said a military spokesperson.

Five passengers in the civilian vehicle were injured, three seriously.

Canadian soldiers secured the scene and called for a medevac. Three Afghan civilians were taken to a medical facility at the Kandahar military base, where one civilian was later confirmed dead.

The two others remained in hospital yesterday in stable condition.

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# Cape Breton Post

## Canada showing 'reckless indifference': U.S. lawyer

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A12  
Section: National  
Source: CP

The American military lawyer defending a Canadian terror suspect being held in Gauntanamo Bay says the Canadian government is showing "reckless indifference" to the plight of one its citizens.

Lt.-Cmdr. William Kuebler says Canada's indifference is doubly confounding in that Canada has been an international leader on the issue of child soldiers.

Omar Khadr is accused of murdering a U.S. officer in Afghanistan in a 2002 firefight at an alleged al Qaida compound when he was just 15.

Khadr has been held ever since at the notorious U.S. detention facility in Cuba.

Kuebler was speaking at the University of Ottawa's law faculty, one of three Canadian schools - along with the University of Toronto and the University of British Columbia - helping to research the legal case for returning Khadr to Canada.

Khadr turned 21 this week

The Canadian government last publicly raised concerns about Khadr's transfer to Guantanamo shortly after his arrest in 2002.

At the time, the Foreign Affairs department issued a news release underlining it was concerned about his age.

Only this week, Opposition Leader Stephane Dion met with Kuebler and took up the cause of returning Khadr to Canada for trial.

Kuebler says the military commission in the U.S. amounts to a "show trial in front of a Kangaroo court."

He says the evidence would not be accepted in any court in the western world.

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# CBC.CA Video

## Hecklers disrupt minister's speech on Afghanistan

Broadcast Date: Friday, September 21, 2007  
Network: CBC

Two protesters were arrested and others detained after they heckled Canada's newly minted foreign affairs minister during his inaugural speech on the country's role in Afghanistan.

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# Bbc Monitoring South Asia

## Two ISAF soldiers reportedly killed in road accident in southern Afghanistan

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by PAJHWO Afghan independent Pajhwok news agency website

Kabul, 21 September: Two ISAF soldiers have been killed in a road accident in southern Afghanistan.

A statement issued here late last night said the soldiers died "when the vehicle they were travelling in was involved in an accident". No enemy forces were involved, said the brief statement.

[Passage omitted: Exact location of the accident was also not mentioned in the statement]

Source: Pajhwok Afghan News website, Kabul, in English 0414 gmt 21 Sep 07. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. (c) BBC 2006.

## NATO needs to 'step up' in Afghanistan, says MacKay after U.S. talks

Section: World  
Broadcast Date: Friday, September 21, 2007  
Time: Thu September 20 15:22:04 2007 EDT  
Network: CBC

Peter MacKay met with his American counterpart in Washington on Thursday to discuss the "pressing need" for NATO members to contribute more troops to the Afghanistan mission, the defence minister said.

"We had some discussions about the ongoing need to encourage the members of NATO to step up and play a larger role in the work that's taking place in Afghanistan," MacKay said following his hour-long meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates at the Pentagon.

"There is a pressing need from other partners to step forward and share that burden."

The meeting came a day after MacKay made a direct appeal in Amsterdam to representatives of European NATO countries to send more troops to the mission.

Canadian, U.S., British and Dutch troops are engaged in the bulk of the fighting in Afghanistan's volatile southern and eastern provinces, while other nations have limited the use of their forces through specific caveats with the alliance.

Spain, Italy, Germany and France, all members of NATO, have refused to send additional troops to Afghanistan, but other countries have pledged help in other areas of the mission, such as reconstruction and development efforts, MacKay noted.

"We have had responses," he said, citing Poland and Romania's offer of more assistance in equipment and training the Afghan national army and police.

But MacKay added that such help, while appreciated, cannot replace combat-ready troops in areas such as Kandahar province, where Canadians are battling Taliban militants.

"Clearly, we need people that are prepared by all means to do the business ... to share the heavy lifting."

Several NATO members have said opposition to the Afghan mission among politicians and the public in their respective countries makes it impossible to deploy their troops in the line of fire.

"We understand the caveats," MacKay said. "But these countries ... have to also understand that their obligations are as real as any."

The Conservative government supports extending Canada's current mandate beyond 2009, but the Liberals and Bloc Qu?b?cois are opposed. The NDP wants Canadian troops withdrawn immediately from the war-torn country.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said the current mission would continue only if his minority government could get a consensus in Parliament.

Earlier this week, Afghan President Hamid Karzai appealed to Canadians to continue the mission beyond the deadline, warning that Afghanistan will fall back into the anarchy that led the Taliban to power if Canada's troops are withdrawn.

MacKay was named defence minister in Harper's cabinet shuffle last month after holding the Foreign Affairs portfolio.

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# Bbc Monitoring Middle East

## Commander says US pressures increase Iran's resilience

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by VIRI Iranian radio

America's pressures on Iran will increase our resilience. This has made Iran an influential political power in the region and the Islamic world. The Americans and the Europeans have to submit to the undeniable rights of the Iranian nation and government.

Iran's wise and powerful leadership, its united and brave nation, the three branches of power, the strong armed forces, the heroic army, the upright Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the bold basijis and the Law Enforcement Force are ready to defend the security, independence and the interests of our dear country Iran. Tomorrow during the 31 Shahrivar [22 September] parade, some aspects of this power will be demonstrated. [People chanting God is great]

O God, I call on you to sever the hands of the American and Zionist occupiers from the Islamic lands of Iraq, Palestine and Afghanistan.

O God, I swear you on the soul of the martyr of Ramadan, the master of the believers [Ali, first Shi'i imam] to enlighten the hearts of our nation and the world Islamic nations with the understanding of Koran and practicing of the divine Islamic teachings.

O God, Make the fruit of the unjust-spilled blood of our 200,000 martyrs, the freedom of Karbala, Al-Qods al-Sharif and the oppressed people from the hands of the Americans and Zionists.

O God, expedite the advent (NYSE:AGC) of the Lord of the Age [twelfth Shi'i imam] and make the lord happy with us.

O God, promote the spirit of Jihad for God and resistance in our great nation and other Islamic nations day after day.

O God, grant us the privilege to be your servant and to serve the oppressed and downtrodden of the society.

O God, don't cut our hands from Koran and the household of the prophet.

O God, unite our nation and the Islamic nations of the world so that they would be able to liberate Al-Qods al-Sharif.

Peace and greetings on all of you.

Source: Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tehran, in Persian 0800 gmt 21 Sep 07. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. (c) BBC 2006.

# Bbc Monitoring European

## Two Danish soldiers injured in Afghanistan gun battle with Taliban fighters

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by POLDPI Danish newspaper Politiken website

[Ritzau Bureau report: "Danish Soldiers Survive Shots in Afghanistan"]

Two Danish soldiers are out of danger after having been injured in battle in Afghanistan. They were part of an international operation against the Taleban.

Two Danish soldiers, who were hit by bullets during a battle with the Taleban in the central part of the Helmand Province in Afghanistan, are out of danger.

Both are now being treated at the field hospital at Camp Bastion and will be transported back to Denmark as soon as possible, says the Danish Army Operative Command (HOK).

One soldier was hit by bullets in the chest and hand, and the other soldier was hit in the leg.

Both soldiers have been in contact with their families.

### British Operation

The Danish battalion in Afghanistan is currently participating with units in an operation led by a British battle group.

The operation is being carried out in the central part of the Helmand Province and has as its objective to push the Taleban forces northwards in an attempt to make the central part of the Helmand Province safer.

The operation is called "Forhammer" [sledgehammer] in Danish.

Source: Politiken website, Copenhagen, in Danish 19 Sep 07. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. (c) BBC 2006.

# Bbc Monitoring European

## PM, NATO general discuss activities for Macedonia's NATO accession

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by MCDMIA Macedonian state news agency MIA

["PM Gruevski Meets NATO General Henault" - MIA headline]

Skopje, 20 September: Prime Minister Nikola Gruevski met Thursday [20 September] with NATO Military Committee chairman, General Ray Henault, reads government press release.

PM Gruevski informed General Henault on the reforms for strengthening of the country's economy, fight against organized crime and corruption, as well as activities for full implementation of the Framework Agreement.

The meeting also focused on the government's activities regarding Macedonia's NATO and EU integration, with the expectation voiced by Prime Minister Gruevski on an invitation for full-fledged Alliance membership at the Bucharest summit in 2008.

General Henault expressed gratitude for the participation of Macedonian soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan peacekeeping missions, as well as their efforts for securing peace in the Middle East.

He positively assessed the progress of reforms for Macedonia's integration in the Alliance, providing an incentive for achievement of the ultimate goal - NATO accession, reads the press release.

Source: MIA news agency, Skopje, in English 1908 gmt 20 Sep 07. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. (c) BBC 2006.

# Bbc Monitoring Middle East

## Iranian broadcasting company opening university in Sistan-Baluchestan

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by IRNAP Iranian news agency IRNA

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Zahedan, 20 September: The head of the University of IRIB [Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting] has said that Sistan-Baluchestan is a gateway for sending information and transferring the values of the Islamic Revolution to the Indian Subcontinent.

Speaking to the correspondents of IRNA in Zahedan on Thursday [20 September], Ruhollah Ahmadzadeh-Kermani said that the long sea and land borders of the province have created a historic opportunity to expand the country's relations with Pakistan, Afghanistan and even India in various fields.

He added that cultural and especially enlightening subjects should be a base for the establishment of ties with the neighbouring countries, and should focus on the common characteristics of these countries that are Islam, friendship and brotherhood.

He said that Sistan-Baluchestan Province has been facing various historic deprivations but fortunately the ninth government has taken effective actions to eliminate this issue.

He added that the ninth government is doing its best to remove all those historic deprivations and make grounds ready to flourish talents of the people of this vast territory.

Ahmadzadeh-Kermani said that cultural and informative fields can be the basis for hidden talents in the province to blossom.

He pointed to the key role of the staff of IRNA, as the official news agency of the country which is affiliated to the government, and said that the staff have crucial tasks in transferring the news, and especially objective analyses, to the authorities of the country.

The head of the university added that regarding various capabilities in the province, dealing with news from various aspects should be the objective of the correspondents of IRNA at their Zahedan office.

Ahmadzadeh-Kermani said that the IRNA correspondents should create happiness in society and demonstrate the extensive services rendered by the Islamic establishment and the justice-oriented government in the province.

Dr Ahmadzadeh-Kermani has travelled to Sistan-Baluchestan to organize the opening of the branch of IRIB University in Zahedan.

Source: IRNA news agency, Tehran, in Persian 0937 gmt 20 Sep 07. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation

# Bbc Monitoring South Asia

## Afghans welcome World Peace Day, call for an end to war

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by JOWAI Afghan independent Aina TV

[Presenter] On World Peace Day, residents of Afghanistan call on all the conflicting sides to address insecurity problems through negotiations.

MPs also call on the people of Afghanistan to work for national unity and replace the culture of violence and war with the culture of peace.

[Hajji Mohammad Mohaqeq, MP from Kabul Province] I ask all the people of Afghanistan, especially residents of Kabul city, to take strong and important steps towards brotherhood among themselves. As the government of Afghanistan has announced [Unnamed person] Peace is one of the most important [Correspondent] Kabul residents have also hailed the arrival of World Peace Day.

[First man] We expect all jihadi and political party leaders of Afghanistan to ensure nationwide peace in Afghanistan. They should sit at the [negotiating] table [A woman] We want them to stop the war. The people are fed up.

[Second man] Peace does not only mean laying down your weapons. Peace can be noticed in one's way of speaking and behaviour.

[Third man] My message to the people of Afghanistan is to stop the war and bring peace as it leads to development.

[Correspondent] Husn Banu Ghazanfar, the minister of women's affairs, however, warned that if Afghanistan's citizens did not make sacrifices for the sake of peace and stability in their country, continuation of poverty and disaster would pose threats to everyone's life.

[Husn Banu Ghazanfar] The Women's Affairs Ministry very cordially asks all the compatriots, especially dear sisters, to think of ways of bringing peace and to be ready for any devotion for the sake of peace. Otherwise, our life will fall victim to the continuation of poverty, and then it will be too late to recover any loss.

Peace leads to employment opportunities. Employment creates wealth, and wealth meets our requirements. When the requirements are met, poverty, hunger, diseases, confusion, war and disaster will not be able to harm us.

[Correspondent] Following the September 11 incident, the UN named 21st of the month as World Peace Day. On the this day every year, countries of the world cherish peace.

This day is marked for the second time in Afghanistan at a time when more than 4,000 people

have fallen victim to violence so far this year.

Source: Aina TV, Kabul, in Dari 1730 gmt 20 Sep 07. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. (c) BBC 2006.

# Bbc Monitoring South Asia

## Paper comments on parliament activities two years after establishment

Friday, September 21, 2007

Published by CHERP Afghan newspaper Cheragh

After decades of war and lawlessness, the people of Afghanistan took steps towards the rule of law, meritocracy and democracy with a belief and hope that they would be able to overcome the difficulties of the past wars and have a better future under legal institutions, an elected president and national assembly, judicial power and an elected and popular executive.

That was why after the approval of the constitution and the presidential election, on 27 Sonbola 1384, parliamentary elections started, and the people elected their representatives officially representing them in the body of power.

There is no need to explain what slogans the MPs were chanting, how big their reception halls were, and what oaths they were taking during their electoral campaigns. The question is: To what extent are the activities and efforts of the MPs and the parliament in general in line with the slogans they were chanting? How useful have they been for the people? This is a question worth consideration!

Has the parliament, and the government in general, managed to root out unemployment through the constitution? How successful have they been in reducing the level of poverty and crime, and to what extent has security improved? Has administrative corruption, against which a jihad was announced, been curbed or not? To what extent have terrorism, narcotics and fierce attacks by insurgents been countered? How successful have they been in keeping terrorists off green security belts even in the capital Kabul? And there are hundreds of other questions.

If we take a look at other war-torn countries like Afghanistan, over a period of six years, their legitimate governments were able to meet the main demands of their peoples, including public welfare, public security, development of higher education, reconstruction and the tackling of unemployment, and... [ellipsis as given] or at least reduce problems. But in our country where we have thousands of fully armed foreign troops alongside the Afghan armed forces, and billions of dollars have come to the country, the people still live in insecurity. Some people do not even have a dry piece of bread to eat, and the queues of unemployed people have grown so long on the roads that sometimes make it difficult for passers-by to pass through intersections and bus stops, and ... [ellipsis as given]

When can we achieve our objectives, and with what capacity can we do it? What type of government, how much money and what superpower's cooperation do we need to achieve these objectives?

Who has so far had responsibility for everything, and who will be responsible for the future?

The parliament, the government, the judicial power, and the state in general should identify the main causes of the problems, and work hard day and night to address the problems and existing challenges in coordination with international friends and the [Afghan] people's generous cooperation. They should work hard to remove this big national problem so that we can have a national achievement in a short space of time.

Source: Cheragh, Kabul, in Dari 18 Sep 07 p1. "BBC" and the BBC logo are trademarks of the British Broadcasting Corporation and are used under licence. (c) BBC 2006.



# The Record (Kitchener, Cambridge And Waterloo)

## MacKay calls for help in Afghanistan: Germans deliberate

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A10

Section: Front

Source: Associated Press and Canadian Press

Defence Minister Peter MacKay says Afghanistan is a no-fail mission that requires more commitment from NATO countries to prevent the export of terror.

After an hour-long meeting in Washington with his U.S. counterpart Robert Gates, MacKay said the Taliban could become a threat outside Afghanistan if countries like Canada give up and leave.

He says no one is safe so everyone must share the burden.

MacKay's visit caps a series of whirlwind meetings with officials from England, Norway and the Netherlands.

Talks centred on how to get more help in the dangerous southern part of Afghanistan.

MacKay says some countries are stepping up by sending equipment and helping with training and reconstruction. But he says there is a pressing need for more troops.

Canada has about 2,300 troops in Kandahar province. Seventy Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have lost their lives in Afghanistan since 2002.

Meanwhile, German government officials urged parliament yesterday to keep Germany's 3,000 troops and six reconnaissance jets in Afghanistan for another year, saying a pullout now would endanger progress made since the overthrow of the Taliban in 2001.

Recent opinion polls show most Germans want the troops to come home, but Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier argued that would be a mistake.

"Anyone who demands withdrawal of the troops from Afghanistan puts at risk everything that we have built up in the last six years," Steinmeier said, while conceding that "the way has been harder than many of us had hoped."

Public support for the mission has dwindled amid attacks on German forces and the kidnappings of Germans there.

The debate took on more urgency after a militant group said it had planned bombings against U.S. and other targets in Germany to try to force the Germans out of an airbase at Termez, Uzbekistan. The base supports the Afghanistan deployment.

The three suspects, all alleged members of the Islamic Jihad Union -- defined by the U.S. State Department as a terrorist organization with links to al-Qaida -- were arrested Sept. 4 at a rented cottage in central Germany on suspicion of planning bombings.

Defence Minister Franz-Josef Jung said civil reconstruction work and the military presence were mutually supporting, adding it was in Germany's interest that Afghanistan did not again become "a training centre for terrorism," as under the Taliban.

Chancellor Angela Merkel's government of conservative Christian Democrats and centre-left Social Democrats enjoys a broad majority of 446 seats in the 613-seat Bundestag, or lower house.

Merkel, mindful of potential opposition, has resisted any notion that German troops would operate beyond their area in the relatively quiet north of the country.

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# Vancouver Sun

## Even for a guy with a no-fun job, Dion has had a bad week

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A15  
Section: Editorial  
Byline: Barbara Yaffe  
Column: Barbara Yaffe  
Source: Vancouver Sun

Being Opposition leader in the Canadian parliamentary system is, by definition, a no-fun job -- despite the \$223,000 paycheck.

It has a single urgent imperative: Defeating the government so the job holder can become prime minister. And the task must be undertaken without the individual ever appearing power-hungry or self-interested.

Everyone has advice for an Opposition leader. And some have knives poised, ready for backstabbing in the event an opportunity arises to crush the prime-ministerial wannabe.

Such is the lot of Stephane Dion on a good day.

But this past week has been composed of bad days in the aftermath of the Liberals' poor performance in Monday's three Quebec byelections.

The losses should not be exaggerated. Liberals won a bigger share of the vote in Roberval-Lac St. Jean than in the 2006 general election, and lost only a marginal share of their vote in the two other ridings.

But the point is, with separatist forces in disarray, Quebec is wide open politically for the first time in a long time. It's essential that Liberals find a formula for winning back their standing there if they're to have a shot at governing in the future.

Early signs are that the Harper Conservatives, with the provincial backing of the Action democratique du Quebec, may be putting down fertile new roots in Quebec.

Because neither Dion nor Stephen Harper personally are catching on with the electorate, the quality of candidates that the parties choose to run in the next election could be pivotal.

In Roberval, it's noteworthy that a popular Conservative mayor won; in Outremont a high-profile candidate captured the prize for the NDP. Liberals, who have nominated 189 of 308 candidates so far, better be working to get some stars in place.

And crucially important will be policy.

Harper has shown he can clearly articulate and sell priority policies during a campaign. Dion's challenge will be to match Harper's skill.

To date, 10 months after being chosen leader, no firm policy platform has been put forward by Liberals.

Thus, they've given people nothing to vote for.

In fact, Dion has told me, the platform is in place but not yet released.

Liberals surely will have problems staking out distinctive policies -- more so than Harper, head of a party that stands alone on the right of the political spectrum.

By contrast, Grits are crowded in a field of left-leaning parties championing similar causes: Poverty reduction, national daycare, improved health care and environmental action.

Dion must identify the party's target voters. Harper cleverly set sights on, and devised election goodies for, a large and amorphous swath of so-called ordinary hard-working Canadians and families raising children. He further devised a plan that appealed to Quebec nationalists.

Dion must be careful in enunciating party positions that he doesn't let his highly principled approach overtake common sense.

For example, he spoke Wednesday for the release from Guantanamo Bay of suspected al-Qaida fighter Omar Khadr, a Canadian. How many voters are losing sleep over Khadr's detention?

Dion would better use his time to embrace an issue Canadians really worry about -- the potentially open-ended nature of the combat mission in Afghanistan.

Another challenge for Dion will be to start disciplining the Liberal rank and file.

He need not adopt a dictatorial approach as Harper has done. But he must silence a growing crowd of whisperers publicly issuing unhelpful commentary that contributes to the Liberals looking weak and in disarray.

And he definitely must put to rest any idea that there will be infighting between himself and deputy leader Michael Ignatieff.

The memory of Paul Martin's counterproductive ambition should be fresh enough in the party's memory to convey a message to Ignatieff that he's under 24-hour watch.

The natural governing party clearly has yet to find its feet in Opposition.

And the fact is, an official Opposition can thrive only when Parliament sits and its MPs get their best chance to criticize government in full public view.

Harper cleverly has minimized that exposure time. The Commons was in session from Jan. 28 to June 20 -- with five weeks of break time. It won't reassemble again until Oct. 16.

byaffe@png.canwest.com

# Calgary Herald

## Going Out. Sept 21-27. (Part 1)

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: SW7  
Section: Swerve  
Source: Calgary Herald  
Illustrations: Photo: Maria Muldaur

Photo: Let the gould Times Roll

Colour Photo: Kickin' it for the dawgs

### Concerts

#### Pop, Rock + Hip-Hop

Fri Sept 21

The Rocky Fortune

At Big Secret Theatre, Epcor Centre. \$15. MG, SL.

Sat Sept 22

Eagles Tribute Band

At Frank Sisson's Silver Dollar Casino Showroom,  
1010 42nd Ave. S.E. \$25. 287-1183.

Prism and Harlequin

At Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome Showroom, 11500  
35th St. S.E. \$39.

Noctis Valkyries

Metal fest at MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$20. MG.

Sun Sept 23

Cannibal Corpse

With The Black Dahlia Murder, The Red Chord,  
Goatwhore. All Ages. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of  
C. \$29.50. TM.

Mon Sept 24

Jethro Tull

At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$45.50 - \$79.50. TM.

Tue Sept 25

Matthew Good

With Dala. At Jack Singer. \$25.50 - \$34.50. TM.

Upcoming

Built to Spill

Friday, Sept. 28. With Attack In Black. At MacEwan  
Ball- room, U of C. \$25. MG, SL, TM.

Tegan and Sara

Saturday, Sept. 29. With Northern State. At the  
Jubilee Auditorium. \$25 - \$29.50. TM.

Chucky Danger Band

Saturday, Sept. 29. At Margaret Greenham Theatre,  
Banff Centre. 8 p.m. \$10 - \$17. 1-800-413-8368.

Chris Cornell

Sunday, Sept. 30. With Earl Greyhound. At  
MacEwan Hall, U of C. 7 p.m. \$49.50. TM.

Def Leppard and Styx

Sunday, Sept. 30. At Pengrowth Saddledome. \$59.50  
- \$79.50. TM.

Paul Anka

Sunday, Sept. 30. At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$75.  
TM.

The Temptations

Friday, Oct. 5. Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome  
Showroom \$49.

The Northern Pikes

Saturday, Oct. 6. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino. \$30.74.  
TM.

Kalan Porter

Sunday, Oct. 7. With Skye Sweetnam. At MacEwan  
Ballroom, U of C. \$29.50. TM.

Jimmy Eat World

Monday, Oct. 8. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$25. TM.

The Weakerthans

Tuesday, Oct. 9. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C.  
\$20. TM, MG.

Rain

Thursday, Oct. 11 to Sunday, Oct. 21 (eight shows).  
Beatles tribute act. At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$31 -  
\$52. TM.

Rain For Afghanistan

Monday, Oct. 15. Special benefit presentation of Rain Beatles tribute concert. Jubilee Auditorium. 8 p.m. Tickets \$75 at TM; VIP tickets \$250, including gala reception with hosts Hon. Flora MacDonald and David Suzuki at 6:30 p.m.

The New Pornographers

Friday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 13. With Emma Pollock. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$30 at TM, MG, SL.

April Wine

Saturday, Oct. 13. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome Showroom. \$41.34. TM.

Arch Enemy & Unearth

Wednesday, Oct. 17. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$28.50. TM, MG, SL.

Olivia Newton-John

Wednesday, Oct. 17. At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$66.08 at TM.

Sum 41 and Finger Eleven

Wednesday, Oct. 17. With Die Mannequin. At Pengrowth Saddledome. \$44.50. TM.

Rob Zombie

Tuesday, Oct. 23. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$36.50. TM.

David Wilcox

Friday, Oct. 26. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome Showroom. \$49. TM.

Led Zepplica

Saturday, Oct. 27. With Back in Black. At Stampede Corral. \$39.50 - \$49.50. TM.

Do Make Say Think

Saturday, Oct. 27. With Apostle of Hustle. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$20. TM.

Heart

Sunday, Oct. 28. At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$55 - \$75. TM.

Bright Eyes

Wednesday, Oct. 31 at MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$29.50. TM, MG, SL.

Glass Tiger

Friday, Nov. 2. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome Showroom. \$51.94. TM.

Billy Joel

Monday, Nov. 5. At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$69 - \$149. TM.

HIM

Tuesday, Nov. 6. With Bleeding Through. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$30. TM, MG, SL.

Dropkick Murphys

Thurs., Nov. 8. At MacEwan Hall. \$26. TM, MG.

Chad VanGalen

Saturday, Nov. 10. At the Grand theatre, 608 1st St. S.W. \$22.50. 205-2922, atthegrand.ca.

Stars

Tuesday, Nov. 20. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$22.50. TM, MG, SL.

Zappa Plays Zappa

Thursday, Nov. 22. At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$45.50 - \$59.50. TM.

Alexisonfire

Monday, Dec. 3 and Tuesday, Dec. 4. With Anti-Flag. At MacEwan Hall. \$32.50. TM.

Van Halen & David Lee Roth

Dec. 11. At the Saddledome. Tickets TBA.

Folk, Roots + Country

Fri Sept 21

Keri Lynn Zwicker

With Harp Rouge Trio and Nathan

McCavana. Rocky Mountain Folk Club at Hillhurst Sunnyside Community Hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W. \$15, MG. 283-4525.

Fri Sept 21 + Sat Sept 22

David Francey

Friday, Sept 21 at Cochrane Alliance Church, 902 Glenbow Dr., Cochrane. \$22. [www.cochranefolkclub.com](http://www.cochranefolkclub.com). Saturday, Sept 22 at Strathcona Community Centre, 277 Strathcona Dr. S.W. \$20. 287-2299. [bowvalleymusicclub.org](http://bowvalleymusicclub.org).

Sat Sept 22

CKUA 80th

Birthday Party

With Kris Demeanor and Steve Fisher Trio. 8 p.m.  
\$25. At Empress Theatre, 235 Main St., Fort  
Macleod. 1-800-540-9229.

Canmore Indie

Music Festival

With Sam Bailey, The Ory no'man Too, Peace, The  
Shook Twins, Equal Eyes, Liza Hendrix and Hugh  
Mungus. At Stan Rogers Stage, Canmore.

Noon to 7 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

Lunasa

At The Gateway Lounge, SAIT Campus Centre. \$27.  
282-6717.

Upcoming

Loreena McKennitt

Friday, Sept. 28. At the Jubilee Auditorium. 8 p.m.  
\$49.50 - \$69.50. TM.

Doc Walker

Friday, Sept. 28. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome  
Showroom, 11500 35th St. S.E. \$51.94. TM.

George Canyon

Friday, Sept. 28. At Bragg Creek Centre, 23 White  
Ave, Bragg Creek. 8 p.m. \$53. 949-4277.

Ray Bonneville

Saturday, Sept. 29. Nickelodeon Music Club at  
Crescent Heights Community Hall, 1101 2nd St.  
N.W. \$20. 284-5440.

Martin Sexton

Wednesday, Oct. 3. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$25.  
TM.

Marcel Khalifé and The Al Mayadine Ensemble

Thursday, Oct. 4. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C.  
\$30 - \$52. TM.

Dervish

Friday, Oct. 5 at the Banff Centre's Margaret  
Greenham Theatre, 8 p.m. \$18 - \$23,  
1-800-413-8368. Saturday, Oct. 6. At the Irish  
Cultural Centre, 6452 35th Ave. N.W. 8 p.m. \$25 -  
\$27. 238-5303.

The Wailin Jennys

Saturday, Oct. 13. At Knox United Church, 506 4th  
St. S.W. 9 p.m. \$22.50 TM.

Harry Manx

Sunday, Oct. 14. At Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff  
Centre. 8 p.m. \$20 - \$25.

Brad Paisley

Friday, Oct. 19. With Taylor Swift and Rodney  
Atkins. At the 'Dome. \$37.50 - \$65.50. TM.

The Barra MacNeils

Monday, Oct. 22. At Margaret Greenham Theatre,  
Banff Centre. \$21 - \$26.

The McDades

Friday, Nov. 23. At Southwood United Church,  
10690 Elbow Dr. S.W. \$35. MG.

Paul Brandt

Saturday, Nov. 24. With Jason Blaine. At the Jubilee  
Auditorium. \$32.50 - \$42.50. TM.

Blues, Jazz + Big Band

Fri Sept 21 + Sat Sept 22

Club Swing

Theatrical swing revue with the CPO. At Jack Singer.  
Concert at 8 p.m. \$20 - \$80. 571-0849. cpo-live.com.  
Pre-concert receptions featuring hors d'oeuvres and  
dancers, 6-7:15 p.m., \$40 per person.

Sat Sept 22

Maria Muldaur

Carma Acoustic Blues Series. Engineered Air  
Theatre, Epcor Centre. 8 p.m. \$35. TM.

Mon Sept 24

Simon Fisk Trio

Monday Night Jazz Series. At University Theatre, U  
of C. 8 p.m. \$12 - \$18, UC. 210-7576.  
finearts.ucalgary.ca.

Wed Sept 26

Kelly Joe Phelps

At Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr.  
S.W. 7:30 p.m. \$20 at MG and  
fishcreekconcerts.com.

Upcoming

Dionne Warwick

Saturday, Sept. 29. At Frank Sisson's Silver Dollar  
Casino, 1010 42nd Ave. S.E. \$50. 287-1183.

Joss Stone

Friday, Oct. 5. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$39.50.

TM.

Sinatra and the Best of Broadway

Friday, Oct. 12 and Saturday, Oct. 13. At Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, 4612 Varsity Dr. N.W. \$35. 289-4243.

Holly Cole

Tue., Oct. 16. With Michael Kaeshammer. At Jack Singer. \$35.50 - \$59.50. TM.

Tri-Continental

Wednesday, Oct. 17. At Margaret Greenham Theatre, Banff Centre. \$17 - \$22. 1-800-413-8368.

New Voices In Slide Guitar

Friday, Oct. 19. With Doug Cox, Steve Dawson, Ivan Roosenberg and Rachele Van Zanten. At Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. S.W. \$20. MG.

Frank Sinatra, Jr.

Tuesday, Nov. 6. At Jack Singer. \$49.50 - \$79.50. TM.

Compadres

Thursday, Nov. 15 at Jack Singer. \$27.50. TM.  
Sunday, Nov. 18. At Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff Centre. \$20 - \$25.

Colin James with Craig Northey

Saturday, Nov. 24. At Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff Centre. 8 p.m. \$31.25.

Classical, Choral + Opera

Sat Sept 22

Music in the Library

Minsoo Sohn performs Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf". 2-3 p.m. At Fish Creek Library, 11161 Bonaventure Dr. S.E. calgarypubliclibrary.com.

Tue Sept 25

Gould and The Goldbergs

At Arrata Opera Centre, 1315 7th St. S.W. 7:30 p.m. \$30. 299-0140. honens.com.

CPO Community Outreach Concert

At Bert Church Theatre, 1010 East Lake Blvd., Airdrie. 7:30 p.m. cpo-live.com.

Wed Sept 26

Dame Kiri Te Kanawa

Farewell tour. Presented by Calgary Opera. At Jubilee Auditorium. 8 p.m. \$20 - \$133. 262-7286.

calgaryopera.com.

Lunch, Learn and Live!

CPO discussion series. At Jack Singer Lobby, Epcor Centre. 12:15-12:45 p.m. cpo-live.com.

Ongoing

Music at Noon

Wednesdays at Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, 604 1st. St. S.E. 12:10-12:50 p.m. Sept. 26: C.P. Jenny Jen, piano. Free. 214-1811. proartsociety.ca.

Midweek Medley

Wednesdays at Music and Sound Building, Banff Centre. 4:30 p.m.

Upcoming

Concert Night Out

Friday, Sept. 28 (launch). Weekly classical music series at the Banff Centre. 7:30 p.m. banffcentre.ca.

Beethoven's 5th

Friday, Sept. 28 and Saturday,

Sept. 29. CPO Classics Masterworks series. With baritone John Fanning. At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$20 - \$80. 571-0849. cpo-live.com.

A Night In Seville

Friday, Sept. 28 and Saturday, Sept. 29. U of C Celebrity Series featuring Renée Lapointe, mezzo-soprano and Rémi Boucher, guitar. At the Rozsa Centre, U of C. 8 p.m. 210-7576. finearts.ucalgary.ca.

Canadian Tenors

At Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. S.W. \$20. 668-4145. fishcreekconcerts.com.

Aileen Bache

Saturday, Oct. 13. Classical Guitar Society of Alberta. At St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 1121 14th Ave. S.W. 8 p.m. \$13 - \$22. 605-1724.

Colm Wilkinson

Monday, Oct. 29. At Jack Singer. \$47.38 - \$122.88. TM.

Clubs

Pop, Rock + Dance

Fri Sept 21 to Thur Sept 27

Amsterdam Rhino

Fridays: Funkdub and Jody Crowe. Lower Level, Red

Light Sessions with Drunken Monkey, Groovekitchen, Foundation, Area709 and Freshsphere. Saturdays: Disoriental and Reece. Lower level, Shureshot drum 'n' bass with Proph and Cykosis. Tuesdays: Interactive with Damien Blunt and Shane Rempel. Wednesdays: Isis Graham and Dylan Leroy. Thursdays: Beat Down Babylon with I-Jah. 607 11th Ave. S.W. 233-0056.

#### The Atlantic Trap and Gill

Friday and Saturday: Smokin' Clovers. 3828 Macleod Tr. 287-8811.

#### Aussie Rules

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays: Duelling Pianos. 1002 37th St. S.W. 249-7933.

#### Bamboo

Fridays: Jon Delerious. Saturdays: Mojo with Rob Faust. Mondays: Snakes and Ladders with Noah York City. Thursdays: Mod Club Calgary with Faust and DJewel. 1205 1st St. S.W. 261-6674.

#### Bent Elbow Pub

Sundays: Open mic. 1065 Canyon Meadows Dr. S.W. 386-2368.

#### Boomtown

Thursdays: Open mic with Gerd Krause. Delta Calgary South, 135 Southland Dr. S.E. 278-5050.

#### Border Crossing

Sundays: City Limits, 6-10 p.m. 1814 36th St. S.E. 272-8333.

#### Broken City

Friday: The Paperbacks with The Grass and The Pack. Saturdays: The Spread with Marco Primo. Sundays: Rock 'n' roll open stage jam with Hurricane Felix, 4-8 p.m. Monday: Rocketaco with The Pinetarts. Tuesdays: Irie Tuesdays with MC Black Rose and DJ Big Worm. Wednesdays: Celebrity! Hot! Tub! with Noah and Big Buddy Colin. Thursday: Ladyhawk with The Perpetrators and The Uncas. 613 11th Ave. S.W. 262-9976. [www.brokencity.ca](http://www.brokencity.ca).

#### Bugaboo Creek Pub

Friday and Saturday: Third Gear. Tuesdays: Open Mic with Bryan Rumsey. 5353 Crowchild Tr. N.W. 288-5353.

#### The Castle Pub

Friday: Nourish The Grave. Saturday: Kilbourne with Whitey. Thursday: The Smokin' 45s. 1217 1st St. S.W. 264-5759.

#### Cecil Hotel

Friday to Thursday (no show Sunday): Sideburns. 405 4th Ave. S.E. 266-2982.

#### Chelsea's Pub and Grill

Wednesdays: Jam with the band. 200 52nd St. N.E. 248-1878.

#### The Cherry Lounge

Fridays: DJ Pump and DJ Digs. Saturdays: Blush house music night with Jon Delerious, Isis Graham Dylan Leroy and joshua vN. 1219 1st St. S.W. 266-2540.

#### DB's Bar & Grill

Mondays: Rock/metal Jam hosted by Jane Doe. 3106 4th St. N.W. 230-3253.

#### The Dog and Duck Pub

Friday: Illicit Business. Saturday: Lobster Boil featuring Claymore. Thursdays: Derrek Spencer and Scott Donovan. 5340 2nd St. S.W. 253-2489.

#### Drum & Monkey Pub

Tuesdays: Dub at the Pub with Ouda Ouda. 1205 1st St. S.W. 261-6674.

- - -

#### After Midnight

A Grammy-nominee for song of the year in 1974 (for "Midnight at the Oasis"), New York blues diva Maria Muldaur (who sang with Dylan in the '60s and, later, with Jerry Garcia's band) is currently known for her masterful tributes to otherwise forgotten female blues pioneers of the '20s, '30s and '40s. Muldaur kicks off the Epcor Centre's 2007-08 Carma Acoustic Blues Series. Saturday, Sept. 22, at Engineered Air Theatre, [epcorcentre.org](http://epcorcentre.org).

#### Let the gould Times Roll

Honens honours the late, great pianist on what would be his 75th birthday with a trifecta of events over the fall season. Gould-fest kicks off with a performance by 2006 international piano competition laureate Minsoo Sohn of Bach's Goldberg Variations. Hosted by CBC Radio Two's Katherine Duncan. Tuesday, Sept. 25, at Arrata Opera Centre, 1315 7th St. S.W. [honens.com](http://honens.com)

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#### Fuel Lounge

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: DJ Cary Chang. 315 8th Ave. S.W. 265-3275.

#### The HiFi Club

Fridays: Flashlight with Rob Faust and Sideshow Sid. Saturday: Free Form Five with Smalltown DJs.



Sundays: Sunday Skool with DJ Rice. Monday: Slyde with Mama Mische and Reed Rock. Tuesday: Calgary Burlesque Collective with Tara Lee Combs. Wednesday: Mike Relm. Thursdays: Hai Karate with Smalltown DJs. 219 10th Ave. S.W. 263-5222.

#### Jackdaw's Pub

Saturdays: Open jam with Troy Kokol. Wednesdays: Open jam with Sheri Young and Nathan Johnson. Thursdays: Real jam hosted by Soultree with Captain Steve. 1901 10th Ave. S.W. 245-8833.

#### Karouzos

Sundays: Jam with Sideshow Bob Band. 2620 4th St. N.W. 277-0096.

#### King's Head Pub

Friday and Saturday: Playground Zone. Sundays: Drowning City. Wednesdays: The King's Krue. 9116 Macleod Tr. 259-0111.

#### Koi

Saturdays: DJ Fatrok. 1011 1st St. S.W. 206-1564.

#### Len's Den

Friday and Saturday: Special Ed. Sundays: Jam with Special Ed, 5-9 p.m. 802 16th Ave. N.E. 276-2271.

#### The Liberty Lounge

Friday: Greg MacPherson with the Ryan Bourne Band. Mount Royal College. 440-6403.

#### Lucky Lounge

Fridays: Aqua\_Audio Mikey Da Roza & Joey Camacho. 510 17th Ave. S.W. 229-4036.

#### The Marquee Room at the Uptown

Fridays: Haute Purse Suit with DJs Disoriental and Wax Romeo. Saturday: Ford Pier. Thursdays: Candy Paint with Gary Powers and Dwight Christmas with DJ Fordinho. 612 8th Ave. S.W. 265-0122.

#### Opus on 8th

Saturdays: Muzik with DJ Anthem. 628 8th Ave. S.W. 269-4110.

#### Paddy O'Leary's

Friday and Saturday: Big Yellow Van. 8294 Centre St. N.E. 275-6601.

#### The Palomino

Friday (5-9 p.m.): The Smokin' 45s (upstairs). Friday: Reverance Black Sabbath Tribute with Piston. Saturday: Secret Broadcast with The Fast Romantics and The Nods. 109 7th Ave. S.W. 532-1911.

#### Regis Plaza Hotel

Friday to Thursday (no show Sunday): Crazy Legs. 124 7th Ave. S.E. 262-4641.

#### Richmond's Pub

Friday and Saturday: SugarPuss. 3919 Richmond Rd. S.W. 217-7744.

#### Rose and Crown

Friday and Saturday: Lack of Prozac. 1503 4th St. S.W. 244-7757.

#### Royal Canadian Legion 264

Saturdays: Vintage Jam, 1-5 p.m. 1910 Kensington Rd. N.W. 283-5264.

#### The Rusty Cage Bar and Grill

Friday and Saturday: Curious George. Thursday: Playground Zone. 1690 37th St. S.W. 240-4590.

#### Sambuca Lounge

Saturdays and Tuesdays: jam. 720 8th Ave. S.W. 248-7000.

#### The Shamrock Hotel

Wednesdays: Three-O-Seven hosts Industry Nite. 2101 11th St. S.E. 290-0084.

#### The Ship and Anchor Pub

Saturday (2-6 p.m.): Open Jam with Danielle French and The Square Root of Margaret. Sundays (2-7 p.m.): Back Home with DJ Sideshow Sid. Thursday: DJ Rice. 534 17th Ave. S.W. 245-3333.

#### Shuckaluck's

Friday: Jeff Brock. Saturday: Steve Chmilar. 11440 Braeside Dr. S.W. 251-6619.

#### The Soda Lounge

Fridays: Infectious Grooves with The Jedi Master, Constance and guest DJ. Saturday: Calgary MultiArts Variety Show. Monday: The People Versus with Cities and Plains and Better Friends Than Lovers. 211 12 Ave. S.W. 264-5151.

#### Station 52 Bar and Grill

Saturdays: Blues in the Lawn. Thursdays: Jam with Jim Baxter. 1806 52nd St. S.E. 273-5224.

#### The Stetson

Saturday: Supershift with The Colin Decker Free Fall and Melody Unwinding. Thursday: Burn the Eight Track with Atrophy Manuscript. 10002 Macleod Tr. 278-0088.

#### St. George & Dragon

Friday and Saturday: Sharon and Al. 13750 Bow Bottom Tr. S.E. 225-1881.

#### Stavro's Ranchlands

Friday and Saturday: Out of the Blue. 7759 Ranchview Dr. N.W. 239-5531.

#### Sunset and Vine

Friday and Saturday: Playback. 2220 68th St. N.E. 280-7333.

#### Twisted Element

Fridays: Peter Chabanowich, piano, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays: DJ Krazay Steve. Sundays: DJ Krazay Steve and drag show. Wednesdays: DJ GDO with open-stage drag shows. Thursdays: DJ Krazay Steve and drag show. 1006 11th Ave. S.W. 802-0230.

#### The Underground

Wednesday: Boys Night Out with Sick City, Sights & Sounds and Living with Lions. All ages. \$15.50. TM, MG, SL. 733 10th Ave. S.W. 266-6629.

#### Vern's

Friday (early show): Smith On A Sunday and Out of the Garage with Liquid Illusions, Bitter Pill and Hypnopilot. Friday (late show): Jocelyn. Tuesday: The Nods with Inspected by Fourty. Thursday: Dave McCaan and the Ten Toed Frogs. 622 8th Ave. S.W. 237-VERN.

#### Victoria's

Fridays: Stuck In the '80s night. 306 17th Ave. S.W. 245-5357.

#### The Warehouse

Fridays: Horizon featuring Marco V with Domenic G, Tyler C and Special Agent. Saturday: The Dudes with Hot Little Rocket and Two Hours Traffic. Saturday afterhours: Slide with Gemini and Will D. Tuesday: All That Remains. Wednesday: The Toasters with The Flatliners, Saint Alvia Cartel and The Peacocks. \$18, MG, SL. Thursday: The Supersuckers. \$17.50. TM, MG, SL. 731 10th Ave. S.W. 264-0535. [warehousenightclub.ca](http://warehousenightclub.ca).

#### The Whiskey Nightclub

Wednesday: DJ Champion and His G-Strings. \$19 TM, MG. 341 10th Ave. S.W. 770-2323.

(continued on next page)

# The San Luis Obispo County Tribune

## Biz buzz; New chef installed at Morro eatery

Friday, September 21, 2007

Diners at the Windows on the Water restaurant in Morro Bay will have something new to enjoy today: the leadership of a new executive chef.

Thursday was the last day for former executive chef Pandee Pearson. She is leaving to start a new restaurant venture at the Shea Homes project in Nipomo, Trilogy at Central Coast.

Neil Smith has taken the reigns at the upscale restaurant on Morro Bay's Embarcadero. Smith had previously worked with Pearson as a sous chef for more than two years. Most recently, he worked at Pacific Harvest Catering, a nearly 3-year-old business he co-owns.

"I'm really excited to be going back to Windows," said Smith. "I've worked all these years to really get to this point."

Smith described his food style as similar to Pearson's, noting a focus on fresh ingredients and world cuisine. He added that he would like to create more seasonal menus. Since moving to the Central

Coast from Colorado in late 1999, Smith has worked at several establishments, including Gardens of Avila and the Embassy Suites hotel.

Pearson devotees will be able to enjoy her cooking at Adelina's Bistro, a new restaurant in Nipomo, that "celebrates the bounty of the Central Coast," she said. The bistro is expected to open in early 2008.

"I am sad to be leaving Windows after five-and-a-half years," said Pearson. "But I am looking forward to this new opportunity."

--Ermina Karim

The Olallieberry Inn, a bed-and-breakfast inn on Cambria's Main Street, tops the 2007-08 "Best of the West" list compiled by BedandBreakfast.com. The only other California lodging among five named was The Old World Inn in Napa, which was fourth.

No Western inns were on the nationwide top-10 list, based on nearly 10,000 reviews submitted to the Web site.

The Olallieberry Inn was the only San Luis Obispo County bed and breakfast named in 11 award categories, and one of only four California lodgings listed.

Web site Editor Sandy Soule said reviewers praised "fine accommodations, romantic amenities and wonderful hospitality and service" at the Olallieberry, which is run by Marjorie Ott.

--Kathe Tanner

The Pismo Coast Association of Realtors Charitable Foundation raised more than \$10,000 at its annual Cypress Ridge charity golf tournament and recently distributed checks to four San Luis Obispo County charities. Local recipients included the Jacquelyn Palchak Cancer Fund, for \$2,195; Big Brothers Big Sisters, for \$1,829; Boys and Girls Club of South County, for \$1,829.20; and the South County Education Foundation, for \$1,463.35.

Six local students from Arroyo Grande, Nipomo and Lopez high schools also received \$500 scholarships from the event's proceeds.

The annual golf tournament has raised more than \$87,000 for local charities and scholarships since 2000, Lenny Jones, foundation president, said.

The foundation is the charitable arm of the professional organization for realtors and affiliate members in the Five Cities area.

The San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation is holding its fifth annual Women's Legacy Fund luncheon from noon to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27, at the Atascadero Lake Pavilion. The keynote speaker is Katie Tamony, vice president and editor-in-chief of Sunset Magazine. For ticket information, call 543-2323 or visit [www.slocf.org](http://www.slocf.org). Nine local dentists recently raised more than \$31,000 for the Women's Shelter during a "Restore a Smile, Restore a Life" teeth bleaching fundraiser.

The funds were generated from each office's teeth bleaching service proceeds in the month of June.

Participating offices and their staffs included Dr. Guy Jones at Central Coast Smiles; Dr. Randy Voss; Dr. Mark Leopold; Dr. Jason Leroux at Palm Dental; Dr. Craig Main; Dr. Kathryn Mc-Farland; Dr. Michael Morrison; Dr. Nicholas Murphy; Dr. Andrew Kim; Dr. Edith Pallancao; and Discus Dental. SLO Data Printing also helped.

More than 60 businesses donated prizes to a recent Texas Hold'em Tournament fundraiser to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, a nonprofit organization that seeks to assist those men and women in the armed forces who have been severely injured during the war in Iraq and Afghanistan or in other assignments around the world.

Hosted by San Luis Sports Therapy, Athlon Health & Fitness and Downtown Brewing Co., the benefit raised more than \$10,000 for the local group.

More than 100 prizes were awarded, and 57 players attended. Every player left with at least one prize and a gift bag, organizers said.

# CBC.CA News

## Bomb kills French soldier, wounds Afghan civilians

Section: World  
Broadcast Date: Friday, September 21, 2007  
Time: Fri September 21 05:39:17 2007 EDT  
Network: CBC

The blast from a bomb attack on a French convoy killed one French soldier in Kabul on Friday and wounded several Afghan civilians, officials said.

A passing bus had its windows blown out and at least one other vehicle was destroyed by fire, local police Chief Zormai Rasa said.

At least six civilians were in serious condition and many others had less severe injuries, Rasa said.

The International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan confirmed that one French soldier was killed, but a spokesman for ISAF offered no further details.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued in the south, with around 75 Taliban militants killed in the last 48 hours, the U.S.-led coalition said.

An air strike on Wednesday in Helmand province targeting Taliban fighters also killed six civilians, including women and children, after the militants sought shelter in their homes, Gereshk district chief Abdul Manaf Khan said.

ISAF said there were "a number" of civilian casualties caused by the fighting, adding it had been unaware civilians were still in a housing compound from which Taliban fighters launched their attack.

With files from the Associated Press

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## AFP 1000 GMT News Advisory

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: Notes, News Advertisement  
Dateline: PARIS  
Time: 10:18:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

PARIS, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - Duty Editor: Simon Sturdee

Tel: (33) 1 4041 4636

- + Lebanon buries assassinated MP
- + Euro powers to new high against weakened dollar
- + Buddhist monks step up pressure on Myanmar junta
- + Major powers to hold new talks on Iran

Lebanon-unrest,3rdlead

### BEIRUT

Lebanese political leaders turn out for the funeral of anti-Syrian MP Antoine Ghanem whose assassination has stirred fears of more instability in the tense runup to a key presidential vote.

700 words 1100 GMT by Rana Moussaoui. Picture and Graphic.

We will also move: Lebanon-unrest,SCENE

Forex-Europe,lead-WRAP

### LONDON

The euro races to a record high of 1.4120 dollars as the US currency faces heavy selling pressure on expectations of further interest rate cuts in the United States.

450 words 1030 GMT

Myanmar-protest-monks,3rdlead-WR AP

### YANGON

At least 3,000 people led by Buddhist monks march along flooded streets in Myanmar's main city Yangon, increasing pressure on the ruling junta as it faces the most sustained challenge to its rule in nearly 20 years.

650 words 1130 GMT

Iran-nuclear-politics,lead-WRAP

### WASHINGTON

The French and US presidents step up demands for tough action over the Iran nuclear standoff ahead of a meeting of the major powers in Washington to

discuss the dispute.

650 words moved

-- EUROPE --

Russia-politics-economics,WRAP-lead

### SOCHI, Russia

President Vladimir Putin addresses international investors as Russia awaits a government shake-up from its new prime minister.

500 words 1130 GMT by Dario Thurn

Britain-politics-Labour,newseries-ADVANCER

### LONDON

Gordon Brown leads Britain's Labour Party into its first annual conference of his premiership this weekend, buoyed by rising support despite a banking crisis and reportedly set to pull more troops out of Iraq.

700 words 1200 GMT by Katherine Haddon.

-- MIDDLE EAST --

Iraq,WRAP

### BAGHDAD

Despite opposition from Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki, US private security company Blackwater is back on the streets of Baghdad four days after being grounded following a fatal shooting incident.

650 words 1130 GMT

Iraq-unrest-US-Qaeda,SCENE

### ISKANDIRIYAH, Iraq

Dozens of US soldiers raid an Al-Qaeda hideout south of Baghdad to capture a high-profile kidnapper but the militant escapes under cover of darkness.

750 words 1300 GMT by Jay Deshmukh. Pictures

Mideast-conflict-Israel-religion ,3rdlead

### JERUSALEM

Israel shuts off the Palestinian territories for the holy Jewish day of atonement and goes on alert for possible attack, 34 years after Syria and Egypt

launched a surprise assault that sparked war.

550 words 1030 GMT by Marius Schattner. Picture

-- ASIA --

Afghanistan-unrest,lead-WRAP

KABUL

A suicide attacker kills a French soldier in Kabul and around 40 Taliban rebels die in fighting elsewhere in Afghanistan as bloodshed mars the United Nations' International Day of Peace.

600 words 1100 GMT by Waheedullah Massoud. Picture

Pakistan-politics,2ndlead-WRAP

ISLAMABAD

Hundreds of opposition supporters in Pakistan call for the downfall of President Pervez Musharraf in a turbulent start to the countdown to presidential elections set for next month.

600 words 1130 GMT by Nasir Jaffry. Picture

Oly-2008-CHN-TPE-torch,3rdlead

TAIPEI

The Olympic torch for the 2008 Beijing Games will bypass Taiwan after the collapse of talks with China about hosting a leg of the relay, officials here say.

600 words 1130 GMT

NKorea-nuclear-weapons-talks-Chi na,3rdlead

BEIJING

The much-anticipated next round of six-party talks on disarming North Korea's nuclear programmes will be held next week, China's foreign ministry announces.

500 words 1100 GMT by Robert J. Saiget

AFP

News-advisory

AFP 211018 GMT 09 07

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# The Globe And Mail

## Dion launches foreign-policy attack

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A17

Section: International News

Byline: Campbell Clark

Dateline: MONTREAL

Source: With a report from The Canadian Press

MONTREAL -- Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion yesterday fired a series of sharp blasts at what he called the Conservative government's "mediocre," "simplistic," and "incompetent" handling of foreign affairs, as he outlined his own call for a staunchly made-in-Canada foreign policy less aligned with the U. S. course.

In an interview later, he insisted that it is up to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to propose a post-2009 role for Canada in Afghanistan if he wants opposition support for some kind of mission there - and that he is open to discussions of a non-combat peacekeeping role.

Mr. Dion's broad indictment of Conservative foreign policy came one day after he personally took up the cause of accused terrorist Omar Khadr - and he again attacked the Tories as the only Western government that has failed to fight for the rights of its citizens imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay.

This time, in a speech to a foreign-policy group in Montreal, Mr. Dion delivered a broader accusation that the Conservatives have drifted from the independent-minded, multilateral policies of previous governments to divisive U. S.-inspired actions that are not broadly supported by Canadians.

"How can the Harper government's foreign policy have achieved such depths of mediocrity? Incompetence cannot be the only reason," he said.

"A deeper explanation seems to be an ideological kinship between the Harper government and the Bush administration. Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canada's interests."

Among his examples: that the Conservative government "insults China and absolves Colombia" of human-rights abuses "without doing anything whatsoever to advance the cause of human rights;" that it committed \$30-billion for military- equipment spending that was often ordered without competitive bids and "was in many cases neither necessary nor wanted by the army;" and that it's a "government that plays no mediation role whatsoever, anywhere in the world."

Mr. Dion said that the government's decision to ignore the country's Kyoto Protocol obligations undermines Canada's credibility and will diminish its future influence in striking such a deal.

However, he said the Conservatives' worst blunder

was its handling of the Afghanistan mission. The Tories "blackmailed" Parliament into extending the mission to 2009 under threat of an election before they obtained commitments from allies to play a greater role, and now the Tories are refusing to come clear on whether they want to extend the mission, he said.

"It's always worrisome when a politician constantly flip-flops, but when people's lives are at stake, it's inexcusable," Mr. Dion said.

The Conservatives responded that Mr. Dion was trying to distract from his own weak leadership, and charged that he did a flip-flop of his own because the Liberal cabinet he served in sent Canadian troops to Kandahar in the first place. "He helped put our troops in heavy combat," said Ottawa Tory MP Pierre Poilievre.

Mr. Dion said that if Mr. Harper notifies NATO allies that Canada will not extend its mission, then he can negotiate some other role and propose it to the other parties in the Commons.

"And it's for the government to come with leadership, and to say, this is what we have negotiated, with the premise that it's not a combat mission, and say this is what we are ready to do," Mr. Dion said in an interview.

All three opposition parties have threatened to vote against the Throne Speech that Mr. Harper's government is set to deliver Oct. 16 - which would defeat his government and trigger an election - over Canada's role in Afghanistan.

But Mr. Dion said that an appeal this week from Afghan President Hamid Karzai for Canadian troops to stay in the country shows that Mr. Harper has not been clear enough.

"The Prime Minister has not been clear, so we have President Karzai panicking, if I understand well," he said. "Replacement after three years in a military mission is normal practice in a multilateral body. And we need to know if NATO works."

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# The Globe And Mail

## Dion takes the blame for by-election losses, says he'll switch tactics

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A4

Section: National News

Byline: Campbell Clark

Dateline: MONTREAL

MONTREAL -- A contrite Stéphane Dion, taking the blame for this week's by-election losses, has pledged to bare more of his soul in public to overcome a "caricature" that has hardened against him in Quebec public opinion.

In an act of *mea culpa*, Mr. Dion admitted that he bears responsibility for his party's defeat in three Quebec by-elections this week, including the stunning loss of the long-time Liberal bastion of Outremont.

He was too slow to realize that his personality is part of the debate, and that he should have acted sooner to redefine himself, especially in Quebec, after 11 years of being a target of separatists and this year's series of Conservative attack ads, Mr. Dion said yesterday.

"It's more in my personality to talk about what I want to do, and to talk about dossiers. But I cannot continue to be a leader as I have been a minister. I'm not responsible for a file, I'm responsible for a leadership, involving all the aspects of the daily life of my fellow citizens.

"And so, since in Quebec there is a perception of me that is not me, that has been a caricature developed by my opponents. ... I need to tackle this problem. I have seen that on the ground in the by-elections - people are saying Mr. Dion, we don't know you, or Mr. Dion, we know who you are, and we don't like it - so I need to help my party in solving this problem and in showing to Quebecers how much I am proud of what I am as a Quebec City kid."

The loss of Outremont was amplified by weak showings in races in Roberval- Lac-Saint-Jean and Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, where the Liberal candidates polled less than 10 per cent. And it has led to a round of finger-pointing and emerging criticisms from some inside his own party.

Yesterday, the party's former Quebec director, Hervé Rivet, argued in a letter to Montreal newspaper *Le Devoir* that Mr. Dion is out of touch with francophone Quebec.

But, starting with a surprising interview with Radio-Canada television on Wednesday night, Mr. Dion has embarked on a round of *mea culpas* that were hailed by Quebec members of his own party - as he pledged to tackle his own image as a "rigid, closed, centralist" head-on.

He promised to "bare himself" in that interview and admitted in his interview with *The Globe* yesterday that he will find it hard to open himself up on the public stage. "Yes. I know it will be difficult for me,

but that's the case - I need to be more personal."

Mr. Dion said he'll make the real Stéphane Dion a part of the political debate, and insisted that Quebec MPs and others in the party have been motivated by his request for their help in tackle the "caricature" of his personality and his image problems in the province.

"I never asked them to do that - it's my mistake. But now they are very motivated." He said that separatists portrayed him as rigid and centralizing, when in fact he is proud of Quebec institutions, respectful of Quebec's role, and a defender of Quebec and the French language across the country. The Tories piled on with attack ads, and when some Liberals called for Mr. Dion to respond quickly, he did not.

Yesterday, he admitted that was mistake and that he should have fought to redefine himself before the Tories did.

"I assumed that the debate would be more on the substance of what I have to propose than the personalities. And their character assassination is powerful for many people. It works."

Liberal MPs attending Mr. Dion's foreign-policy speech in Montreal hailed the move, and Montreal MP Pablo Rodriguez called it an "act of humility" that shows he is taking lessons from his loss but is determined to forge ahead. Some Quebec Liberals who have been privately critical of Mr. Dion this week said they were impressed by his move.

What's unclear, however, is whether it will have any effect on the party's fortunes in Quebec, where Liberal support among francophone voters is very weak, and the NDP have just established a beachhead in their core constituency in Montreal.

Mr. Dion still insisted that there were other factors involved in the crushing defeats - Liberal voters in Outremont did not have to make too much of a leap to vote for NDP candidate Tom Mulcair, a former Liberal minister, he said. And the NDP's call for the immediate withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan struck a chord, even if it is irresponsible, he added.

But he conceded the Liberal brand has been "damaged deeply" by the sponsorship scandal, and that the party must establish more of a presence in some parts of the province. His job, he said, is to stimulate people to volunteer to do the needed ground work.

The Liberal Leader has also faced criticism from some inside the party who say that he has few senior



Quebeckers in his office and at Liberal Party headquarters, after the departures of principal secretary Marcel Massé, the party's deputy national director; Quebec organizer Marc Lavigne; and, just last week, Quebec strategist Robert Asselin.

Mr. Dion said that he is working on attracting more prominent Quebeckers to his staff, but does not want to talk about changes or a possible shake-up in the party's Quebec organization.

"We need to be disciplined about that. We need to stop the blame game in public. And in private, it should not be a blame game, either. It should be brainstorming, a postmortem, but I'm not the kind of leader to say it's the fault of my advisers," he said.

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# The Globe And Mail

## Canada needs NATO - and it needs us

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A21

Section: Comment

Byline: J. L. Granatstein

Source: Writes on behalf of the Council for Canadian Security in the 21st Century

Illustrations: Illustration

Almost two weeks ago, the senior military commanders of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 26 member countries gathered in Victoria for their annual meeting. Inevitably, protesters congregated around their hotel, and all the predictable demands were shouted: for NATO to get out of Afghanistan; for the United States and its coalition partners to pull out of Iraq; and, as is the norm on such ritual occasions, to call U.S. President George W. Bush and (because this meeting was in Canada) Prime Minister Stephen Harper "killers." As one protester, 86-year-old Janet Hawksley, said, "I'm here to say, 'No to NATO,' so that Canada can maintain its peaceful reputation."

Ms. Hawksley lives in a dream world. Her parents surely knew that Canada fought in the South African War and in the Great War. She herself is old enough to remember that Canada fought in the Second World War, in Korea, in Croatia and Kosovo. She must know that NATO opposed the Soviet Union in a long standoff in Central Europe, and that Canada kept troops in Europe from 1951 to 1994 as part of the alliance. Those soldiers and airmen, along with most of the Canadian navy, prepared daily to fight the Red Army if necessary. The fact that they were there kept the peace.

Yes, Canada has a "peaceful reputation," thanks to NATO's existence and the way it prevented a global war in the second half of the 20th century. It is, of course, also due to the fact we live in a democracy and participate in United Nations and other peacekeeping operations. But Ms. Hawksley has clearly forgotten that peacekeeping was a sideline for Canada during the Cold War, a task Canada undertook ordinarily to support the West in disputes in the Congo, for example, or to stop NATO members from falling out with each other, as at Suez in late 1956, or going to war, as in Cyprus several years later. There was idealism there, to be sure, but there was also cold calculation of the need to keep the balance of power intact.

When the Soviet Empire collapsed, most of Moscow's satellites hurried to join NATO. That helped restrain nationalist revanchism in much of Europe but, freed of the restraints imposed by the Cold War, not every ethnic group could be reined in. Yugoslavia tore itself apart in bloody civil strife, and nations as far away as the Congo and Afghanistan suffered mightily. Peacekeeping turned from relatively simple "blue beret" operations into dangerous peacemaking and then to even more heavily armed peace enforcement. With well-trained armies, NATO members provided troops to the UN and to coalitions; even the United States, traditionally

wary of UN peace missions, provided troops in substantial numbers, recently offering more than Canada with its "peaceful reputation."

Now NATO is providing soldiers to fight against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, the first major "out-of-area" operation mounted by the alliance in its almost six decades of existence. It's not easy for the member states. Some don't want to participate other than by providing a staff officer or two. Some put caveats on the use of their troops -no fighting, please. Some others, such as the Americans, British and Canadians, have committed their soldiers to the fight and are suffering casualties as a result. These differences inside NATO are not unique. Canada, for example, cut its European-based NATO forces in half in 1970, unilaterally. Under Charles de Gaulle, France pulled completely out of NATO's military side, and successive British governments cut back on troop strength on the continent during the Cold War. Defence Minister Peter MacKay is right to press NATO members to do more, but it is clearly going to be a struggle.

This internal NATO fight, however, is immaterial to Ms. Hawksley and her fellow protesters. They don't care about governmental differences and difficulties. To them, Afghanistan is flat out wrong. They completely neglect that the UN authorized this mission and that NATO, including Canada, took on this difficult, costly and unpleasant chore at the request of the world body. If such a mission, authorized by the UN and fought by a broad alliance of democratic states against fundamentalist zealots, cannot satisfy the Hawksleys as just and right, what could? The answer, of course, is "nothing," and Ms. Hawksley and her friends care not a whit that a defeat in Afghanistan will threaten NATO's cohesion and its ability to respond to crises abroad - or at home. They care not at all for the Afghans whose lives would be made indescribably miserable if NATO pulls out.

There is, unfortunately, a pacifist mentality in Canada that believes only the most benign form of peacekeeping is fit duty for Canada's soldiers. This attitude meshes seamlessly with the anti-Americanism that asserts regularly that Canadian co-operation with Washington in any military activity (let alone anything else) is inevitably wrong and designed to serve the evil ends of U.S. imperialism. NATO is not perfect, nor is the United States. But if democracy is to flourish or, even better, spread to the benighted regions of the world where dictatorship and religious fundamentalism run unchecked, then NATO remains essential.

Canada is a peaceful country, but Canadians

historically have recognized that sometimes they must be prepared to fight. We have never waged an aggressive war; we have only gone to war to defend our deepest values and our friends. The members of NATO are our best allies in the world; their democratic values are our values; their national and international interests are as close to ours as can be; and NATO is a protector of the uneasy circumstances in which we live and thrive. We simply must not forget that.

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## Dion pledges to get personal; Byelection Mea Culpa; 'People have to see what inspires me,' Liberal leader says

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A4  
Section: Canada  
Byline: Graeme Hamilton  
Dateline: MONTREAL  
Source: National Post

MONTREAL - It was last October, in the thick of the federal Liberal leadership race, and Bob Rae had recently caused a stir by being filmed skinny-dipping on a CBC comedy show. Stephane Dion, the eventual winner, was not impressed. "I think most people accept the privacy of every human being, and I will not show the colour of my underwear," he said in an interview. "I don't think people are impressed with that."

Eleven months and one byelection debacle later, Mr. Dion has concluded that ideas are not enough and, in a remarkable mea culpa, has promised to bare more of his soul, if not his boxers. Responding to Monday's three federal byelections in Quebec, Mr. Dion accepted full blame for the Liberal shutout, including the loss of former stronghold Outremont. The fault, he said, lay in his reluctance to show Quebecers the real Stephane Dion.

"Up to now, I have been a leader like I was a minister. I responded to files.... If you want to talk to me about water policy, let's talk about it," he said after a speech in Montreal yesterday. "People have to see what inspires me, because they want to know me. That's normal. You want to know the prime minister a lot more than you know the ministers, because the prime minister has responsibilities and an important impact on our daily lives, and I have not really played that role. Now I am going to play it more often."

A night earlier, Mr. Dion had gone on the main Radio-Canada television newscast to deliver a similar message to Quebecers.

"The principle mistake is that I hesitated to put myself at the forefront," he said. As a result, he said, the public in Quebec has come to believe in a caricature of Mr. Dion as being anti-Quebec. "If people think, for example, that I don't recognize the Quebec identity, I was the first to talk about the Quebec nation," he said, boasting that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's office had called him to consult on the wording of the motion passed by Parliament last year to recognize the Quebecois nation.

There is little doubt that the challenge facing Mr. Dion is immense. In yesterday's *La Presse*, Herve Rivet, who was director-general of the Liberals' Quebec wing until he quit in February, tore into Mr. Dion under the headline, "Wake up! More than ever, the Liberals under Stephane Dion seem disconnected from Quebec political reality."

In the article, Mr. Rivet accused the Dion Liberals of

"firmly entrenching themselves in their obsolete positions" rather than proposing a project to strengthen the Quebec identity within Canada. Next to Mr. Rivet's essay, as if to rub salt in Mr. Dion's wounds, columnist Lysiane Gagnon wrote about Mr. Dion under the headline, "The problem is the leader," saying he does not seem to have the charisma or political instincts necessary to lead a major party.

Even as he professed yesterday to be turning over a new leaf, it was clear that he was more at ease delivering a speech on foreign policy than talking about himself. The speech attacked Mr. Harper's handling of the Afghanistan mission. He called it "the most appalling example among a series of foreign policy blunders." Mr. Harper "wrested consent from the House of Commons" to extend the combat mission in Kandahar to February, 2009, Mr. Dion said.

# National Post

## Caption Only

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A2

Section: News

Source: National Post

Illustrations: Graphic/Diagram: RICHARD JOHNSON, NATIONAL POST / THE FACES OF WAR: CORPORAL VAY TU, 24, OTTAWA (1st Canadian Field Hospital, FOB Ma'Sum Ghar) "I worked at a five-star French restaurant before I joined the military ... I didn't tell them [the army] because I didn't want to be a cook ... I really wanted to be in the infantry ... They pushed me towards medic because I had my high school biology." "I shouldn't say this but I lied to them [my parents] ... I told them I would be working in a hospital in Kandahar Air Field ... not foot patrolling with the infantry." "I don't really like to put politics behind what i do ... I am here as a medic ... I am here to patch their injuries ... send them home." "The kids are fantastic ... they are always smiling, even though they don't have a lot in this country ... it makes you think of the kids back in Canada ... They don't know how lucky they have it." Cpl. Tu missed his girlfriend, Jen, father, Atu, mother, Hongphong, sister, Jessica and her children, Sean Tyler, 4, Joy, 3, and Lila, 6. - - - The National Post's Richard Johnson spent six weeks chronicling the daily lives of Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan in a very old-fashioned way: with pencil and sketch pad. Throughout September, one of his portraits will appear every weekday on Page A2. For more, check his blog at [nationalpost.com/Afghanistan](http://nationalpost.com/Afghanistan).

# Agence France Presse (English)

## French soldier, 40 rebels killed in Afghanistan on Peace Day

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: KABUL  
Time: 10:51:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

KABUL, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - A suicide attacker killed a French soldier in Kabul and about 40 Taliban rebels were killed elsewhere in Afghanistan on Friday as bloodshed marred the United Nations' International Day of Peace.

An Afghan official said meanwhile that six civilians had been killed earlier in the week in an airstrike by NATO-led forces during a major operation against the Islamic extremist fighters.

The Al-Qaeda-linked Taliban movement claimed responsibility for the suicide attack, the first inside the heavily barricaded capital in three weeks.

The French military, which has around 1,000 soldiers in Afghanistan as part of the NATO-led International Security Assistance force (ISAF), confirmed that its soldiers were struck while on patrol and that one died.

Eight Afghan civilians were injured in the blast, ISAF said.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy expressed his condolences to all the victims, adding in a statement that he was "more determined than ever to continue the fight against terrorism."

Around 168 international soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan this year - - the bloodiest since the insurgent Taliban were removed from government in late 2001. A Dutch soldier was killed Thursday in the south.

France has lost 12 troops since deploying to the country.

One side of the armoured vehicle struck by the blast was damaged but the car that carried the bomb was completely destroyed, reduced to a heap of blackened metal.

The attacker's flesh littered the site, his torso flung metres away.

There have been more than 100 suicide attacks in Afghanistan this year, most of them blamed on the Taliban's intensifying insurgency, which sees almost daily attacks in the southern and eastern parts of the country.

Soldiers led by the US military struck militant hideouts in the volatile south early Friday, killing about 40 rebels and destroying one of the largest caches of weapons they have ever found, the US-led coalition said.

The operation was in the southern province of Helmand, Afghanistan's top opium-growing area, which sees some of the worst fighting of the Taliban's anti-government insurgency, funded in part by the drugs trade.

The coalition, which operates alongside the 37-nation NATO deployment and Afghan security forces, said about 40 "anti-coalition militants" were killed. This makes it one of the deadliest strikes in weeks.

"This was one of the largest caches of weapons found to date," said spokesman Major Christopher Belcher. "Several rooms were found, filled with small-arms, explosives, rocket-propelled grenades and large-calibre ammunition."

NATO admitted separately that it had killed civilians in the course of a new anti-Taliban operation launched in Helmand on Wednesday.

It did not give a figure but a district governor said six civilians, most of them women and children, were killed in an air strike called against Taliban fighters during the course of the operation.

The new carnage comes on the UN's International Day of Peace, for which the UN mission in Afghanistan called for a cessation of the violence between militants and international security forces.

Posters and "blue flags for peace" have been strung up around Kabul for the UN event and various events have been held, including a kite-flying competition.

Kites were banned by the ultra-Islamic Taliban, who have stepped up their insurgency since being driven from government in a US-led invasion launched weeks after the September 11, 2001 attacks by Al-Qaeda.

More than 5,000 people have been killed this year -- the bloodiest of the insurgency -- according to an AFP count.

Most of the dead are rebels but more than 700 civilians have also been killed, around half in Taliban attacks and half in action by Afghan and international military forces.

bur-br/dk/jw

Afghanistan-unrest

AFP 211051 GMT 09 07

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## Japan probes alleged fueling of US ship in Iraq war

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: TOKYO  
Time: 10:48:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

TOKYO, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - Japan on Friday ordered an investigation and admitted initial under-reporting after activists charged that fuel meant to supply US-led forces in Afghanistan was diverted to US operations in Iraq.

The probe comes as the government struggles to extend legislation on the naval mission in the Indian Ocean, which the opposition has vowed to fight since it took control of one house of parliament in July elections.

Under the legislation passed after the September 11, 2001 attacks in the United States, Japanese ships refuel and give other logistical support to the "war on terror" that overthrew Afghanistan's extremist Taliban regime.

An activist group alleged Thursday that a Japanese ship indirectly supplied fuel just ahead of the Iraq invasion to the USS Kitty Hawk aircraft carrier, which was in the Gulf of Oman.

Defence Minister Masahiko Komura told reporters he had ordered subordinates to make "a serious inquiry into this and give results as quickly as possible."

Peace Depot, a pacifist group, said it calculated from ship records that 18, 704 barrels of fuel which the Japanese ship Tokiwa supplied on February 25, 2003 to the US navy oiler Pecos then went to the Kitty Hawk.

The group also said the Japanese ship supplied 800,000 gallons (3.03 million liters) of diesel to the Pecos on that day, more than the 200,000 gallons initially reported by Tokyo.

A defence ministry spokesman Friday confirmed the error.

"There were no intentions to it at all. It was a simple clerical mistake," the spokesman said.

"At the time we confirmed with the American side that the oil was being provided under the anti-terror law, but we are trying to reconfirm this through diplomatic channels," he said.

While Japan also supported the war in Iraq, such refuelling would violate the legislation on the Indian Ocean mission which is now up for renewal.

Japan's opposition has vowed to end the mission, saying the officially pacifist nation should not be part of "American wars."

Conservative Prime Minister Shinzo Abe resigned

last week after effectively staking his job on renewing the mission.

Both his potential successors, Yasuo Fukuda and Taro Aso, said Friday they will seek the mission's renewal.

kdf-mis/sct/km

Japan-politics-US-military-Iraq- Afghanistan

AFP 211048 GMT 09 07

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## Japan's likely next PM shows moderate streak

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: TOKYO  
Time: 09:31:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

TOKYO, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - The frontrunner to be Japan's next prime minister, Yasuo Fukuda, signalled a new approach from conservative premier Shinzo Abe Friday and criticised him for not quitting earlier.

Fukuda said Abe should have stepped down after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) was trounced in upper house elections in July.

The party's lawmakers are expected Sunday to select Fukuda, a veteran lawmaker, over his only rival, former foreign minister Taro Aso, for the job of party president. The parliament would then vote him in as premier Tuesday.

A poll Friday by public broadcaster NHK showed that Fukuda had a strong majority among LDP lawmakers two days ahead of the vote against Aso.

Fukuda, a mild-mannered 71-year-old, is regarded as a dove in relations with China and other Asian nations. He on Friday refuted Aso, who like Abe is an outspoken conservative who believes Japan should be prouder of its past.

"It is problematic to dismiss everything as being 'a masochistic view' of history," Fukuda said at a debate between the two hopefuls, citing a phrase often used by Japanese revisionists about wartime history.

Aso in turn took a swipe at Fukuda, pressing him on past statements indicating a more conciliatory approach towards arch-enemy North Korea.

"We need both dialogue and pressure in any kind of negotiations," Fukuda replied.

Abe built his career advocating a tough line on North Korea over its past kidnappings of Japanese civilians.

Abe marked his 53rd birthday Friday in a hospital where he is being treated for stress and exhaustion. He abruptly resigned last week after a slew of scandals that caused the LDP to lose the July elections.

Fukuda made unusually open criticism of Abe, saying he should have stepped down earlier.

"Mr Abe resigned at the wrong time," Fukuda told the debate. "It should have been when he was defeated in the upper house elections."

Fukuda, himself the son of a former prime minister and a top aide to past holders of the post, is seen as a technocrat adept at managing bureaucracy, unlike Abe, who struggled to control his own cabinet.

Fukuda has said easing the pain in rural areas that have borne the brunt of free-market reforms would be a priority.

Analysts say the LDP, which has ruled Japan almost continuously since 1955, wants respite from ideological leaders such as Abe and predecessor Junichiro Koizumi, who was popular but pushed through controversial economic reforms.

"Japan used to need strong-minded leadership. But it looks like the country is looking for a break and seeking a moderate leader," said Yoshinobu Yamamoto, professor of politics at Aoyama Gakuin University.

"Fukuda is a man who suits the conditions," he said.

But he will enter a political minefield, after the centre-left opposition seized control of the upper house.

One key imminent task for the new prime minister is to pass legislation to continue a Japanese naval mission supporting US-led operations in Afghanistan, on which Abe had effectively staked his job.

Fukuda supports the Afghan mission but has suggested he will not make Abe's signature policy -- rewriting the US-imposed 1947 pacifist constitution -- a priority for his government.

Fukuda also said Friday that Japan "should not leave untouched" the highly controversial issue of whether to allow a woman to assume the Chrysanthemum throne.

Moves to allow a woman to lead the world's oldest imperial line all but ended last year after a boy was born to the imperial family for the first time in 41 years.

While Fukuda said he also wanted to avoid public divisions on the issue, his view is a sharp change from Abe and Aso, who both strongly support preserving male-only succession.

si-mis/sct/jw

Japan-politics

AFP 210931 GMT 09 07

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# The Globe And Mail

## MacKay assails Europeans for not sharing burden

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A17  
Section: International News  
Byline: Paul Koring  
Dateline: WASHINGTON  
Illustrations: Illustration

WASHINGTON -- Defence Minister Peter MacKay lashed out at Liberals and Europeans yesterday, accusing the former of sending Canadians to war in Afghanistan lacking proper protection and some unnamed NATO allies of shying away from combat.

"The question might be asked of the previous government how they could have sent them there without that type of equipment," the new Defence Minister said when asked why Canadian troops in Afghanistan have yet to receive the latest armoured vehicles designed to detect and destroy improvised explosive devices, currently the most common cause of casualties.

Mr. MacKay, who was in Washington to meet with U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates, said the Tory government "has been working extremely hard to provide the brave men and women of the Canadian Forces with the necessary protection and the best gear we can possibly supply."

However, the \$30-million fleet of new anti-IED vehicles weren't ordered until May of this year, 15 months after the Tories formed the government in early 2006 and long after it became clear that IEDs posed the gravest threat to Canadian soldiers.

Canadians have suffered a killed-in-action rate, mostly from IEDs, three times higher than other NATO nations with troops in southern Afghanistan.

The new anti-IEDs vehicles were supposed to be delivered last month, but still haven't reached Afghanistan. When they were ordered in May, Mr. MacKay's predecessor, retired brigadier-general Gordon O'Connor, said: "Providing Canadian soldiers with the protection they need is of the utmost importance. That is why this government is making sure that they have a capability to detect, investigate and dispose of IEDs."

Mr. MacKay sounded a similar theme yesterday, saying the Tory government is "committed to providing the best possible security, the best possible protection" for Canadian troops. "That's why we got tanks," he said.

The Conservative government, however, didn't ship Leopard tanks to Afghanistan until after the battle for Panjwai District - the biggest combat clash for Canadian troops since the Korean War. In the Panjwai battle, seven months after the Conservative government took office, Canadian infantry troops went into action behind rented yellow construction bulldozers with steel plates hastily welded over the exposed operator's cab.

Mr. MacKay spent the past two days on a whirlwind tour of several NATO capitals seeking to get recalcitrant allies to send their soldiers into combat in the south.

"Clearly, we need people that are prepared to do the business," he said, referring to the few nations such as Canada, Britain, the Netherlands and the United States willing to wage war and suffer the bulk of the casualties in southern Afghanistan, where a raging Taliban insurgency threatens to further destabilize the country.

Echoing U.S. President George W. Bush's stark warnings, Mr. MacKay said if Canada and other countries quit Afghanistan, it will again become a haven for Islamic terrorism.

"If countries like Canada leave, the Taliban can follow them, and by that I mean ... Afghanistan was an incubator and an exporter of terror," he said, after meeting with Mr. Gates.

Mr. MacKay raised the spectre of new and massive terrorist attacks - like the Sept. 11 attacks - if NATO retreats from Afghanistan and allows the Taliban to take over.

"North America is not immune, continental Europe is not immune, nobody is immune," he said.

So far, the Canadian government has failed to persuade major European nations - notably Germany, France, Italy and Spain, all of which have large numbers of soldiers in Afghanistan but keep them far from combat - to send their soldiers south to share the counterinsurgency's twin burdens of fighting and dying.

Mr. MacKay said a forthcoming NATO meeting would provide an opportunity to "look in the whites of their eyes ... and find out if those countries truly appreciate the necessity, the need and the impact."

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## AFP World News Summary

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: PARIS  
Time: 08:42:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

PARIS, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - Top world news stories at 0900 GMT Friday:

### Lebanon-unrest

BEIRUT: Huge crowds turned out for the funeral of anti-Syrian MP Antoine Ghanem whose assassination has stirred fears of more instability in the tense runup to a presidential vote in parliament.

### China-religion-Vatican-bishop

BEIJING: China's official Catholic church installed a new Vatican-approved bishop of Beijing in a sign of quiet dialogue between China and the Holy See despite the lack of diplomatic relations.

### Myanmar-protest-monks

YANGON: Buddhist monks staged a new protest against Myanmar's ruling junta, which is under mounting international pressure as it faces the most sustained challenge to its rule in nearly 20 years.

### Mideast-conflict-Israel-religion

JERUSALEM: Israel shut off the Palestinian territories for the holy Jewish day of atonement Yom Kippur and went on alert for possible attack, 34 years after Syria and Egypt launched a surprise assault that sparked war.

### Afghanistan-unrest

KABUL: A suicider bomber killed several people including a French soldier in the Afghan capital Kabul as NATO-led forces admitted there were civilian casualties in an airstrike during a major operation against the Taliban.

### Pakistan-politics

ISLAMABAD: Hundreds of Pakistani opposition supporters called for the downfall of President Pervez Musharraf, in a turbulent start to the countdown to presidential elections set for next month.

### Forex-Europe

LONDON: The euro raced to an all-time high at 1.4120 dollars as the US currency came under heavy selling pressure on expectations of further interest rate cuts in the United States.

### Chile-Peru-Japan-Fujimori-extrad ite

SANTIAGO: Chile's Supreme Court was set to announce whether former Peruvian president Alberto

Fujimori will be extradited to Peru to stand trial over human rights crimes during his 1990-2000 rule.

### Russia-politics-economy

SOCHI, Russia: President Vladimir Putin was to address international investors at a high-powered economic forum, while Russia awaited a government shake-up from its new prime minister.

### Japan-politics-Abe

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's likely successor criticised him for not stepping down earlier in an unusually public show of dissent.

### Women-business

WASHINGTON: Women are thin on the ground in corporate boardrooms, and large companies -- especially in Asia -- are doing little to promote female executives to the highest corporate ranks, a report showed.

afp

World-news-summary

AFP 210842 GMT 09 07

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## About 40 rebels killed in Afghan strike: US military

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: KABUL  
Time: 08:14:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

KABUL, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - Soldiers led by the US military struck militant hideouts in southern Afghanistan Friday, killing about 40 rebels and destroying one of the largest caches of weapons it has ever found, the US-led force said.

The operation took place in the southern province of Helmand, Afghanistan's top opium-growing area which has seen some of the worst fighting in an insurgency led by the extremist Taliban since their ouster in late 2001.

About 40 "anti-coalition militants" were killed, the US-led force said in a statement. It was one of the deadliest strikes in weeks.

More than 20 rocket-propelled grenades, as well as significant amounts of ammunition and landmines, were uncovered, the statement said.

"This was one of the largest caches of weapons found to date," said coalition spokesman Major Christopher Belcher.

"Several rooms were found filled with small-arms, explosives, rocket propelled grenades and large calibre ammunition."

The statement said US-led forces had used "precision munitions" in the operation, but Belcher could not give further details.

The weapons caches were destroyed. The statement said there was some damage to the surrounding area but no non-combatant casualties.

br/dk/sst

Afghanistan-unrest-Taliban

AFP 210814 GMT 09 07

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## Six Afghan civilians killed in air strike: governor

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: KABUL  
Time: 07:39:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

KABUL, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - NATO warplanes killed six Afghan civilians, most of them women and children, in an air strike during a battle with Taliban fighters in southern Afghanistan, a district governor told AFP Friday.

The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) admitted civilians were killed in the attack in the southern province of Helmand but it did not say how many died.

ISAF said the civilians were killed Wednesday but the district governor said they died Thursday. Despite the confusion, the incident appeared to be same, as both said it had taken place in Gereshk district.

District governor Abdul Manaf told AFP Taliban fighters had been sheltering among villagers, who were being used as "human shields."

"The NATO forces called for air support. At this time the Taliban had fled the area and due to aerial bombing six civilians, mostly women and kids, were killed," he said.

In a statement, the 37-nation ISAF said that Taliban fighters had attacked its soldiers from a compound and an air strike was called in against them.

"ISAF was unaware of civilians in the vicinity of the target and unfortunately it appears that a number of non-combatants were caught in the attack and killed."

The NATO-led coalition said it had opened an investigation into the deaths in Helmand, which is the most violent region in Afghanistan and its main opium- growing area.

"We take every possible precaution to avoid civilian casualties while conducting our operations and we warn people in advance about operations where possible," ISAF spokesman Wing Commander Antony McCord said.

ISAF troops were operating in that part of Helmand as part of a new operation launched on Wednesday to clear Taliban out of the area.

More than 50,000 US- and NATO-led troops are battling the resurgent Taliban Islamist militia and are under pressure from rights groups and the government to avoid civilian deaths during their operations.

More than 700 civilians have been killed this year, around half in Taliban attacks and half in action by Afghan and international military forces.

The Taliban have waged an insurgency since being ousted from power nearly six years ago in a US-led invasion.

str-br/dk/sst

Afghanistan-unrest-civilians-NAT O

AFP 210739 GMT 09 07

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## Kabul suicide blast kills French soldier

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: International News  
Dateline: KABUL  
Time: 07:01:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

KABUL, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - A suicide car bomber blew himself up in the Afghan capital Kabul on Friday, killing a French soldier with NATO's International Security Assistance Force, the French military and police said.

Around six Afghan civilians were wounded in the suicide car bombing on the southwestern outskirts of the city, Afghan officials said, stepping back from initial reports that some Afghans had been killed.

"The foreign national killed is a French ISAF soldier," said Alishah Paktiawal, the head of the Kabul police force's anti-crime branch.

The French military, which has around 1,000 soldiers in Afghanistan, confirmed that its soldiers were struck and "one of them died," squadron leader Jean-Philippe Mouille told AFP.

One side of the targeted armoured vehicle, which was bearing the French flag, was damaged but the car that carried the bomb was completely destroyed, an AFP reporter at the scene said.

A smouldering civilian car was nearby and a bus stood empty, all its windows shattered. Two NATO helicopters circled above the area, which is in a residential area near a river and was cordoned off by officials.

A witness, Jan Mohammad, told AFP he saw five foreign soldiers being carried away after the blast but could not say if they were dead or wounded.

One of the wounded was trapped inside a burning car and pulled out by an Afghan policeman, said another witness, who did not give his name.

Gul Mohammad, who had been working on the building of a bridge over the river, said: "I heard a big blast followed by thick smoke. I laid down on the ground."

The attack was the first inside the heavily barricaded city since August 31, when a suicide car bomb outside a NATO military airport killed an Afghan soldier and wounded several people including five international troops.

It came on the United Nations' International Day of Peace, for which the UN mission in Afghanistan called for a cessation of the violence between militants and international security forces.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack. There have been more than 100 suicide attacks in Afghanistan this year, most of them blamed

on the Taliban's intensifying insurgency.

While most of the violence is in remote areas in the south and east of the country, there have been a series of suicide attacks inside Kabul.

On August 15, three German security officers attached to the embassy were killed when their vehicle struck a bomb.

The deadliest was on a police bus on June 17. Officials said at the time 35 policemen were killed, which would make it the worst such attack in Afghanistan since the Taliban launched an Al-Qaeda-backed insurgency.

The hardliners were ousted from government in late 2001 after a US-led invasion launched weeks after the 9/11 attacks blamed on Al-Qaeda.

wm-br/dk/sst

Afghanistan-unrest-Kabul-suicide

AFP 210701 GMT 09 07

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# Agence France Presse (English)

## AFP 0700 GMT News Advisory

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Section: Notes, News Advertisement  
Dateline: PARIS  
Time: 07:00:00 GMT  
Priority: Urgent

PARIS, Sept 21, 2007 (AFP) - Duty Editor: Sarah Shard

Tel: (33) 1 4041 4636

-- TOP STORIES --

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- + Suicide bombing in Afghan capital
- + Lebanon buries assassinated MP
- + Monks pile pressure on Myanmar junta
- + China ordains first pope-approved bishop

Afghanistan-unrest,WRAP

KABUL

A suicide bomber kills several people including a French soldier in the Afghan capital Kabul as NATO-led forces admit an air strike during a major operation against the Taliban caused an unknown number of civilian casualties.

550 words 0730 GMT

Lebanon-unrest,lead

BEIRUT

Lebanon's top leaders turn out for the funeral of the anti-Syrian MP Antoine Ghanem whose assassination has stirred fears of more instability in the tense runup to a presidential vote in parliament.

600 words 0800 GMT by Rana Moussaoui. Graphic

Myanmar-protest-monks,lead-WRAP

YANGON

Myanmar's military junta comes under growing international pressure as it faces the most sustained challenge to its rule in nearly two decades, led by Buddhist monks.

600 words 0800 GMT

China-religion-Vatican-bishop,2n dlead

BEIJING

China's official Catholic church anoints Joseph Li Shan as the new bishop of Beijing in an ordination service carried out with the apparent blessing of the

Vatican.

600 words 0730 GMT by Robert J. Saiget. Pictures

-- OTHER FILING PLANS, BY REGION --

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-- MIDDLE EAST --

Mideast-conflict-Israel-religion ,lead

JERUSALEM

Israel shuts down to mark Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish calendar, as security forces go on alert to guard against attack 34 years after Syria and Egypt launched a surprise assault on the Jewish state.

450 words 0930 GMT by Marius Schattner

-- EUROPE --

Forex-Europe

LONDON

The euro soars to a record 1.4113 dollars as the US currency comes under heavy selling pressure on expectations of further interest rate cuts in the United States

500 words 0830 GMT

Russia-politics

SOCHI, Russia

President Vladimir Putin is to address investors at an economic forum amid expectations that Russia's new government will be announced shortly.

450 words 0800 GMT by Dario Thuburn

Belgium-politics-crisis-language

BRUSSELS

Amid concern that Flanders might yet declare independence as Belgium's political crisis drags on, French-speakers have begun to ponder the future of their Wallonia region and mainly Francophone Brussels.

550 words 0730 GMT

-- AMERICAS --

Iran-nuclear-politics,lead-WRAP

News-advisory

WASHINGTON

AFP 210700 GMT 09 07

US and French presidents George W. Bush and Nicolas Sarkozy step up demands for tough action against Iran's nuclear programme ahead of a Washington meeting of the major powers on the standoff.

© 2007 AFP

650 words 0830 GMT

Chile-Peru-Japan-Fujimori-extrad ite,4thlead

SANTIAGO

Chile's Supreme Court is set to announce whether former Peruvian president Alberto Fujimori will be extradited to Peru to stand trial for human rights crimes under his watch as president from 1990-2000.

650 words 0730 GMT

-- ASIA --

Pakistan-politics

ISLAMABAD

Opposition supporters stage a protest against Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf's plans for re-election in uniform as the countdown to next month's crunch vote begins.

500 words 0730 GMT by Nasir Jaffry. Picture

Oly-2008-CHN-TPE-torch,2ndlead

TAIPEI

The Olympic torch for the 2008 Beijing Games will bypass Taiwan after talks between the island and China over hosting a leg of the relay collapsed amid a bitter row, officials here say.

550 words 0800 GMT

Japan-politics,lead-WRAP

TOKYO

Japan's ruling party is poised to elect Yasuo Fukuda as the country's next prime minister this weekend, hoping he can bring much-needed stability after a disastrous year under Shinzo Abe.

650 words 0800 GMT by Shingo Ito. Picture

We have also moved:

Japan-politics-Fukuda,PROFILE

Japan-politics-Aso,PROFILE

Japan-politics,FACTS

afp

# The Globe And Mail

## 'Reasonable accommodation' debate hits heartland

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A4  
Section: National News  
Byline: Ingrid Peritz  
Dateline: SAGUENAY, QUE.

SAGUENAY, QUE. -- No one's ever seen a Muslim woman in a face veil in the Saguenay. Kirpans aren't an issue in schools because there are hardly any Sikhs in town. Hassidic Jews? They're seen a lot - on television.

Religious minorities are rare birds in Saguenay-Lac St. Jean, a remote corner of Quebec that's far from everywhere. Yet they seem to loom large in the minds of local residents.

More than 300 people filed through a hotel ballroom over the past two days for Quebec's Bouchard-Taylor Commission, a roving road show that has given an open mike to anyone who wants to muse out loud about religion and minorities. And Saguenay, a slice of the Quebec heartland that is about 95-per-cent French and Catholic, offers a porthole into why the so-called reasonable accommodation debate has flared into such a hot-button issue in the province.

"We don't know who we are any more," lamented Dominique Dufour, a 31-year-old master's student who, like many Quebeckers, no longer goes to church and never married the mother of his two children. "We're discovering who we are when we're confronted with others. That's why this is an historic event: It's the first time we're asking ourselves questions about the Québécois identity."

Gilles Morasse is old enough to remember being forced to speak English to his bosses at the local Alcan plant, and how religion dominated his youth. "I got rid of religion and don't want it to return. It's slavery."

Now Mr. Morasse, a 67-year-old retired engineer, sees a menace in a Sikh boy who was allowed by the courts to attend class with a kirpan, or ceremonial dagger.

"It's not so much the kirpan as what lies behind it: A family that wants to impose its will on six million people who have been here for 400 years," said Mr. Morasse, 67, speaking of French Quebeckers. "I fear that foreigners will impose their values on us, so we'll lose our place. It's like I invite someone into my home and he slowly shows me the door."

Nationalism has always run deep in Saguenay-Lac St. Jean, a proud and independent-minded region that produced former Parti Québécois premier Lucien Bouchard and his historian brother, Gérard, who is co-chairing the commission.

The region is so cut off from the rest of Canada, and even Quebec, that it calls itself the Kingdom of the Saguenay. Only 0.7 per cent of the 275,000 residents

are immigrants, and the leading source for them is France.

There's a low-profile mosque in town, but no one seems to pay much attention to it. The doctors who have come to solve the staff shortages at the local Jonquière hospital hail from Lebanon and Syria. The region hasn't had to deal with a single nettlesome problem of accommodating anyone.

In fact, the biggest religious conflict in town is between practising and non-practising Catholics. Saguenay Mayor Jean Tremblay is facing a challenge from secular Catholics over his insistence on maintaining a crucifix and a council prayer at city hall.

"It isn't Muslims asking to remove crucifixes and the prayer. It's Catholics," fumed Mr. Tremblay, addressing the commission. While most called for less religion in the public realm, the mayor called for more room for Catholicism. "I'm not saying the Catholic religion should crush others, but Catholics aren't being respected."

As with many outlying regions in Quebec, the Saguenay-Lac St. Jean's population is shrinking and immigrants will be needed to help the region survive.

While most spoke with openness toward minorities, some were more hostile and cautious. Marcien Bisson came to the commission yesterday to complain about Kosher foods sold in Quebec supermarkets, which he said drove up prices for everyone. He said French-Canadians were third-class citizens after natives and immigrants.

Louis-Charles Gagnon said he didn't want to start seeing burkas and the kind of oppressive religious practices that Canadian soldiers are giving their lives to fight against in Afghanistan. Lise Gauthier cautioned against "religious fanatics" and said that unless immigrants get jobs, they'd end up "in ghettos, like they are in France."

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# The Globe And Mail

## Portrait of a playwright's epiphany

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: R3  
Section: The Globe Review  
Byline: Marsha Lederman  
Dateline: VANCOUVER  
Illustrations: Illustration

VANCOUVER -- Dennis Garnhum has a quiet pact with Timothy Findley.

Over the past four years, through some 20 readings of Findley's epic First World War novel *The Wars*, and "thousands" of rewrites of a stage adaptation of the book, Garnhum - a playwright and director - has repeatedly returned to the time he spent with Findley during his life and asked himself whether he's remaining true to Findley's great work.

The answer, he feels, as he prepares for tonight's world premiere of the stage version of *The Wars*, is yes.

Garnhum was a 32-year-old theatrical wunderkind in 2000 when he was asked to adapt Findley's radio play *The Trials of Ezra Pound* for the Stratford Festival. Garnhum was "instantly terrified," he recalls. "But, of course, thrilled and honoured."

That project led to a partnership that lasted until the end of Findley's life, two years later. Garnhum was working with Findley on rewrites of the play *Shadows*, also for Stratford, when Findley became ill, and then died in June, 2002.

The following winter, Garnhum took Findley's partner, William Whitehead, to lunch, to ask him for the rights to adapt *The Wars* for the stage. But Garnhum lost his nerve, and said only that he'd like to help preserve Findley's legacy, any way he could. That's when Whitehead announced that Findley's one regret was that *The Wars* was never made into a stage play. "I teared up," says Garnhum. "That's when I thought this was meant to be." An hour later, they had a deal. "Bill said, 'Go ahead; I believe in you and I think Tiff would be very excited about this.'"

("Tiff," an acronym of the author's full name, Timothy Irving Frederick Findley, was what his friends called him; it was also what Findley called his beloved uncle Thomas Irving Findley - who inspired *The Wars* and is the "T.I.F." to whom the book is dedicated.) Four years - and thousands of rewrites - later, Garnhum's stage adaptation of *The Wars* will have its world premiere at Theatre Calgary tonight. It's an ambitious production, with a cast of 16 and a budget in the \$400,000 range.

Whitehead will be in the audience, watching.

"I think I'll be absolutely delighted," Whitehead, 76, says about the adaptation. "I've seen several drafts right from the beginning. It's been wonderful to watch the evolution of Dennis' sense of structure. It's not an easy book to adapt."

*The Wars* follows the story of 19-year-old Robert Ross, from his home in Toronto, to military training in Lethbridge, to the hell of the trenches in Europe. Written in 1977, it won the Governor-General's Award for fiction and is considered a Canadian classic.

With what Canadian soldiers are now facing in Afghanistan, the story has a currency today that Garnhum couldn't have imagined four years ago, when he began adapting it. "These stories remind us of the cost of war," Garnhum says from his office at Theatre Calgary, where he is also artistic director (and is directing the play). "You know, everybody should watch this play; every president or prime minister should read the novel before they sign up [to fight]."

That said, Garnhum has had an epiphany about war and Canada's involvement on world battlefields. "What's been life-changing for me is I went into this feeling very antiwar and very bring-our-troops home," he says. "Now that I've worked on [the play] I realize that we wouldn't have a country if we actually became the pacifists, pulling out of everything."

Garnhum also has a new-found respect for the military. He signed up the cast - and himself - for a day of basic training at CFB Calgary. It was a gruelling, humbling day of exercises, parades, and first-hand accounts from the battlefields in Afghanistan. The next day, in rehearsal, Garnhum made changes to his script, altering scenes he felt were naive, untrue or disrespectful. The basic training was "life changing," he says. "It's a different play because of that day."

The play also contains a few private nods to Timothy Findley. For example, Garnhum has Robert Ross utter the words "be well." That was what Findley used to say to his friends, instead of good-bye. And "be well" was the last line in the closing monologue of Findley's final play, *Shadows*. They were the last words, Garnhum reflects now, that Findley would ever write.

At the time of his death, Findley was planning a new novel, and a new theatrical project. He was hoping to adapt Euripides's ancient Greek play, *The Trojan Women*, for the Stratford stage. He wanted to do it with Garnhum, whose work on *Ezra Pound* he was "delighted" with, according to Whitehead. "He would have been very, very pleased to know [ *The Wars* ] is being done at Theatre Calgary by Dennis," Whitehead says.

And Garnhum is determined to do right by Findley, in this posthumous collaboration. Throughout the process, Garnhum says he has gone back again and again to that pact he made "to tell the story true." And he feels good about it. "I really do feel on track; that Tiff would approve of the direction I've taken this."

After its run in Calgary, *The Wars* will move to the Playhouse in Vancouver. There are no plans yet for it to be staged after that, but the production has attracted a lot of interest in the theatrical community, and Garnhum is anxious for it to be seen elsewhere. "I feel a personal responsibility to Mr. Findley," he says. "This was his beloved project."

*The Wars* is at Theatre Calgary until Oct. 7. It then runs at the Playhouse in Vancouver from

Oct. 13 to Nov 3.

More soldier stories

*The Wars* isn't the only First World War story coming to the Canadian stage this fall. Also premiering:

*Vimy* : Edmonton's Citadel Theatre presents the world premiere of Vern Thiessen's new play. *Vimy* is set in 1917, in a field hospital in France, after the storming of Vimy Ridge. The production was created to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Thiessen, the playwright-in-residence at the Citadel, has won awards and accolades for his plays, including Shakespeare's *Will* and Einstein's *Gift*. Directed by James MacDonald. Previews begin Oct. 20; the show opens on Oct. 25. The run ends on Nov. 11, Remembrance Day.

*No Good Reason* : This play by Stephen Baetz is set in an English convalescence hospital in 1918. It follows the recovery of two wounded soldiers - one Canadian, one American. While the hospital looks after their physical injuries, the young men try to help each other deal with their invisible wounds. Directed by Leslie O'Dell. The world premiere tour takes *No Good Reason* to London, Ont., (Baetz is from nearby St. Jacobs) and Toronto. London: Oct. 18-27 at the Grand Theatre's McManus Space. Toronto: Nov. 2-10 (with a preview on Nov. 1) at the Young Centre for the Performing Arts.

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# The Kansas City Star

For much of the year, the American public has been led to believe that this month would be a time of serious re-evaluation of U.S. policy in Iraq. ...

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 6  
Section: B

For much of the year, the American public has been led to believe that this month would be a time of serious re-evaluation of U.S. policy in Iraq.

Administration officials and lawmakers were to take a realistic look at the situation, make tough decisions about which U.S. objectives were still obtainable and develop a concrete plan to move forward.

The public's hopes, however, have been dashed.

Where benchmarks have not been met, administration officials now simply shrug them off. Statistics have been selectively gathered and pruned to draw attention away from the many failures and disappointments that have been noted by government reports, retired military figures, troops who have served in Iraq, human-rights groups, filmmakers, journalists and others.

Now, we are told, the big decisions on Iraq must wait until next spring. Or maybe next summer. Or maybe ... well, who knows?

It looks more and more like a stalling game, designed to let President Bush hand the Iraq mess off to his successor.

Voters should have no trouble placing the blame for this costly delay. It belongs to the Republicans in the White House and most of the Republicans in Congress.

Bush unfortunately politicized the congressional testimony of a single general, presenting his views as if there were no other opinions in the Pentagon worth considering. The president quickly followed up by announcing plans that, aside from token withdrawals this year, basically just committed to troop departures next year that were already necessary under current policies.

Democrats in Congress objected, and with good reason. This plan would continue the fatal flaw of an open-ended military commitment. As the bipartisan Iraq Study Group pointed out last year, such a commitment provides cover for Iraqi political leaders and their factions to continue behaving irresponsibly.

And the president's narrow focus on Iraq is draining military resources that are needed to protect the United States from other threats -- including those in Afghanistan, where the 9/11 attacks originated.

Some lawmakers in both parties have tried hard to put U.S. policy on a better path in Iraq. This week the

Senate voted 56-44 on a measure that would have accomplished that and given some well-deserved respite to battle-weary U.S. troops.

But 60 votes were needed. The three GOP senators who represent the Kansas City area -- Kit Bond, Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback -- all voted against the measure.

This was a serious and costly mistake.

# Times & Transcript (Moncton)

## Dion calls Harper foreign policy 'amateurish and incompetent'; Liberal leader raps PM's slavish adherence to U.S. policy

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: C1  
Section: News  
Byline: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephane Dion unleashed a string of insults yesterday to condemn Stephen Harper's foreign policy, describing it as mediocre, rigid, simplistic, amateurish and incompetent.

Taking aim at the government's unclear plan for the future of the Afghanistan mission, the Liberal leader outlined a foreign affairs agenda that includes a new role for Canada in Afghanistan after 2009 when combat operations are scheduled to end.

But Dion provided few details on what Canada would do instead, saying he would boost the number of Canadian development workers in the country and help provide Afghans with clean water.

Dion accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of slavishly following the lead of U.S. President George Bush on foreign policy -- abandoning the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases, ramping up defence spending, and ignoring human rights violations in the pursuit of terrorists.

"Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canadian interests," Dion told a foreign relations think-tank.

Dion said it's up to Harper's government to hammer out a plan with NATO allies, not the Liberals.

The government is working on it, according to Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre.

Poilievre accused Dion of his own flip-flop for demanding an end to an Afghan mission he helped launch while he was a Liberal cabinet minister.

"He helped put our troops in heavy combat," Poilievre said in an interview.

"Then he opposed their mission in an act of breathtaking hypocrisy."

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# Montreal Gazette

## Chances of a fall federal election are now 50-50; Tories don't want one, but opposition could force it

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A17  
Section: Editorial / Op-Ed  
Byline: L. IAN MACDONALD  
Column: L. Ian MacDonald  
Source: Freelance

You'd think given the results of Monday's by-elections, the odds on a fall election would have diminished and almost disappeared. After all, the Liberals got pummelled in all three by-elections and the Bloc Québécois took a serious hit in terms of the popular vote. The NDP made a spectacular breakthrough in Outremont, but remains a fringe party off the island of Montreal.

Only the Conservatives gained significant ground, winning a big majority of francophone votes in the two by-elections in Quebec profound, and emerging as the competitive federalist alternative to the Bloc. Those 50 Quebec ridings off the island hold the key to Conservative hopes for graduating to a majority in the next Parliament.

But the Conservatives are in no hurry for an election, and want to keep this House going, if possible, until new fixed elections kick in two years from now in October 2009.

Thus, a fall election should be a moot question, right off the table. The Oct. 16 Throne speech ought to be a done deal in terms of the Conservatives securing the support of at least one other party. After all, the Bloc is in decline and the Liberals are in disarray. Only the NDP, among the opposition parties, should be throwing its weight around in terms of a shopping list for the throne Speech.

But surprisingly, the odds in favour of an election have actually increased since Monday. Some senior Tory insiders now put the chances of the government surviving the confidence vote on the Throne Speech at no better than 50-50.

Go figure.

While Ottawa isn't in the grip of election fever, there is suddenly a sense of resignation in the air. If the government does fall, strange as it might seem, all sides will be okay with that.

The Bloc's body language on supporting the government is schizophrenic. First, Gilles Duceppe puts out conditions for supporting the Throne Speech, then his people let it be known they are tired of propping up the Tories because they find it increasingly difficult to justify to their own voters. And on Monday they lost Roberval-Lac-St.-Jean, a nationalist bastion, to the Conservatives by a 2-1 margin, and barely held off a late Conservative charge in Saint-Hyacinthe-Bagot, winning by less than five points in a riding they had won by 32 points

in 2006.

Long story short: With its brand in slow but long-term decline, Duceppe might want to have an election sooner rather than later.

The NDP, feeling frisky, is certain to have a long list of outrageous conditions for supporting the Throne Speech, few of which the government will be able to meet. Although Jack Layton now holds a balance of power, he doesn't really want it. He has great difficulty justifying to his caucus, let alone explaining to his voters, why a party on the left should prop up a government on the right. And there is a certain implacable logic to this position. Even Stephen Harper understands and respects Layton's anomalous situation.

As for the Liberals, they are divided between those who now despair of their prospects in an election under Stéphane Dion, and those who think they might as well get it over with. In their thinking, the sooner an election is behind them, the sooner they can change leaders.

The latter faction includes the two leading leadership camps of Michael Ignatieff and Bob Rae, as well as Liberals from the party's pragmatic centre who worry that Dion is taking them too far to the left. They are not wrong about that. Dion did it again on Wednesday, taking up the cause of Omar Khadr, who turned 21 in a Guantanamo prison cell that day. Dion said he had no choice but to defend him, since the Liberals are the party for the Charter of Rights. Great, Khadr as the poster boy of the charter. There's never a notwithstanding clause around when you need one.

In any event, the Liberals will vote against the Throne Speech as a matter of course (although some of them may arrange to miss the vote), and the NDP will vote against it as a question of principle.

That leaves the Bloc, and Duceppe, feeling conflicted. But Harper likes doing business with Duceppe - the prime minister regards him as a man of his word who always delivers. It's difficult to imagine that Harper and Duceppe couldn't do business on the two items the Bloc leader says he needs in the Throne Speech - ending our role in Kandahar on schedule in 2009 (though not necessarily leaving Afghanistan), and limiting the federal spending power (a traditional request by all Quebec parties).

Yet, if Duceppe wants to wave goodbye, we could be outta here in a confidence vote on Oct. 18, and

headed to the polls in a five-week campaign ending with a vote on Nov. 26.

Stranger things have happened. And not all train wrecks can be prevented.

[www.lianmacdonald.ca](http://www.lianmacdonald.ca)

# Montreal Gazette

## Dion assails Tories on foreign affairs policy

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A12  
Section: News  
Byline: NATASHA AIMEE HALL  
Source: Freelance

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion lit into the Harper government's foreign policy during a speech in Montreal yesterday, zeroing in on the Afghanistan mission, which he called an "appalling example of a foreign policy blunder."

Addressing the Montreal Council on Foreign Relations, Dion outlined what a Liberal government's foreign policy would be - policies he described as being "in favour of peace, open economy and multilateralism," but his focus remained intently on the Conservatives' failings.

"There are many ways I would like to see Canada pick up where it left off before our foreign policy went astray under the Harper government," Dion said.

Describing the government's approach as "rigid, simplistic and incompetent," Dion drew comparisons between Prime Minister Stephen Harper and U.S. President George W. Bush on issues such as the environment, Iraq and Afghanistan.

"Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canada's interests," Dion said.

Dion listed the Arctic, softwood lumber and the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan as issues the Tories should pay closer attention to.

"The United States is Canada's ally, but not necessarily a model to mimic," Dion said. "That is a distinction that the Harper government doesn't understand."

As questions swirl about Dion's leadership of the Liberal party following three by-election losses Monday, including the long-time Liberal riding of Outremont, Dion struggled to convey a message of solidarity.

"I have to make sure people know the real Stéphane Dion."

Asked how he intends to do that, Dion responded: "Like this. Doing this more, talking to you like I am doing today."

Dion must change policies to appeal to Quebec:  
Legault, Page A18

# Montreal Gazette

## Alleged terrorist has Oct. 1 court date

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A6

Section: News

Column: Fast Track

Source: The Gazette

Saïd Namouh, a landed immigrant from Morocco who is alleged to have been plotting a terrorist attack, is to return to court Oct. 1 to have a date set for a bail hearing. Namouh, 34, of Trois Rivières, who faces a charge of conspiring to detonate an explosive, appeared briefly in Quebec Court yesterday in Montreal. The RCMP say Namouh and Mohammed Mahmoud, 21, of Austria are linked to an apparent al-Qa'ida threat to attack Germany and Austria, which have troops in Afghanistan.



# Montreal Gazette

Today at [montrealgazette.com](http://montrealgazette.com)

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A2

Section: News

Source: The Gazette

Illustrations: Photo: (Lt. Derrick Farnham)

## DISPATCHES FROM KANDAHAR

From Kandahar Air Field, Lt. Derrick Farnham of the Black Watch is sharing some of his emails home with Gazette readers. Gain some insight into the life of a Canadian soldier in Afghanistan by reading the excerpts at [www.montrealgazette.com](http://www.montrealgazette.com)

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**YEAR ONE:** A freshman diary by McGill student Michelle Wong and Concordia's Nori Evoy at [montrealgazette.com/yearone](http://montrealgazette.com/yearone)

**IN THE GAME:** Tyler Todd's take on the world of video games at [montrealgazette.com/game](http://montrealgazette.com/game)

# Montreal Gazette

## Inside Today

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A2  
Section: News  
Source: The Gazette

### Civil rights rally for Jena 6 points to a town divided

White residents of Jena, La., surrounded by thousands of demonstrators marching against racism, say they're not racist. Blacks say the only white support they have got is from out of town. Details, Page A14

### Beaconsfield tries to flip birds

The city of Beaconsfield, already in a flap over the mess of droppings left by flocks of roosting blackbirds, is considering the use of falcons and hawks to scare away the pesky interlopers. Details, Page A6

### Dion blasts PM's foreign policy

Liberal leader Stéphane Dion assailed the Harper government's foreign policy during a speech yesterday, calling the Afghanistan mission an "appalling example of a foreign policy blunder." Details, Page A12

### Business

#### Péladeau urges less regulation

Pierre Karl Péladeau, chief executive of Quebecor Inc., is urging the federal government to "throw off the regulatory yoke" to clear the way for development of a fourth wireless network. Details, Page B3

#### International forum begins

The quality of a company's product and its fiscal health have been replaced by environmental and social concerns as "top of mind" issues for consumers, Tremblant Forum is told. Details, Page B3

### Sports

#### Canada out in heartbreaker

An Aussie goal in extra time shocked Canada to a 2-2 draw and a premature exit yesterday at the 2007 Women's World Cup. The early exit is a sobering dose of reality for the Canadian Soccer Association. Details, Page C1

#### Landis stripped of Tour title

The 2006 Tour de France winner, Floyd Landis, lost his doping case yesterday when an arbitration panel upheld charges that he had used performance-enhancing drugs to win the race.

Details, Page C2

### PREVIEW

#### A movie with moonglow

In the Shadow of the Moon's archival footage of Apollo voyages is jaw-dropping, but the real stars are mission astronauts offering first-hand recollections of their historic adventures. Details, Page D1

#### Silky, but not quite smooth

Starring Keira Knightley and Michael Pitt, the eagerly awaited new movie from

Quebec director François Girard is a lushly beautiful adaptation of Alessandro

Baricco's novel Silk, but suffers from weak casting and a limp script. Details, Page D1

#### - Today's Columnists

"It is not possible to remain unmoved by kids who are sick."

MIKE BOONE, A7

JAMES MENNIE on closed streets and traffic:

Can city handle cars from a new bridge?  
MONTREAL, A3

Janet Bagnall on skinny models:

Get them off the runway. opinion, A17

peter HadekEl on the Canadian dollar:

At 100 cents, it's probably overbought. Business, B1

# The Daily News (Nanaimo)

## Caption Only

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: A3

Section: News

Dateline: MONTREAL

Source: CanWest News Service

Illustrations: Photo: CanWest News Service / Countries that pull their troops out of Afghanistan prematurely would be guilty of a moral failure, senior Canadian and United Nations diplomats warned on Thursday. If we were to withdraw tomorrow, our allies would feel betrayed,' Michel de Salaberry, Canada's new senior civilian co-ordinator for Kandahar, said. "We've said we'd stay until 2009. Morally, we have to live up to that pledge. I think we'll want to stay committed to Afghanistan, but that can take a variety of shapes." See story, A11

# The Globe And Mail

## Man in alleged Austrian bomb plot remains jailed

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A8  
Section: National News  
Dateline: Montreal  
Source: The Canadian Press and Staff

Montreal -- A 34-year-old Quebec man charged with conspiring to bomb unspecified targets in Austria, is still behind bars after making a brief court appearance yesterday in Montreal.

Said Namouh was arrested in the rural town of Maskinonge, northwest of Montreal, last week as authorities in Austria and Canada swept down and arrested a total of four people in a suspected international bomb plot.

The three alleged al-Qaeda sympathizers were arrested in connection with a video that surfaced in March threatening to attack Germany and Austria unless the two countries withdrew their troops from Afghanistan.

While one of the three Austrian suspects has been released in Vienna for lack of evidence, prosecutor Pierre Labelle said Canadian authorities have a valid case against Mr. Namouh.

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# New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal

## Dressing room staff will show support for troops

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: B12

Section: Sports

Byline: Marty Klinkenberg Telegraph-Journal

David Kelly saw the soldiers marching and shared a dining hall with them when the Saint John Sea Dogs spent a week of training camp at CFB Gagetown last month. He recognized how disciplined and professional they are, and wanted to thank them for serving the country.

So the team's equipment manager has decided to wear a red shirt during every Friday home game at Harbour Station this season, starting with tonight's 7:30 opener against Cape Breton.

"I was trying to think of something we could do in appreciation for them and it hit me as we were eating supper one night," said Kelly, who is being joined in the show of support this season by his assistant Nathan Belliveau and Jeff Kelly, the Sea Dogs' athletic therapist. "It struck me how special these people are to go through what they go through, and I wanted to do anything I could do to raise awareness.

"Not only would they take a bullet for one another, they would take a bullet for me or anyone else at any time."

In addition, Kelly has invited two guests to tonight's game.

On Thursday, he left tickets for Don and Laurie Greenslade, the parents of a fallen soldier from Saint John. Pte. David Greenslade, 20, died along with five comrades when the light armoured vehicle he was driving ran over an improvised explosive device in Afghanistan on Easter Sunday.

Since the incident, the Greenslades have asked New Brunswickers to wear red on Fridays to show support for Canadian troops, and are helping to promote a Red Friday rally on the Saint John waterfront a week from today.

Kelly said Thursday that he hopes fans attending home games on Friday will wear red shirts if they are not wearing a team sweater. He also is encouraging fans to pick up free red ribbons from the Greenslades during tonight's game.

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# New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal

## Dion blasts prime minister on foreign affairs

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A4  
Section: News;News  
Byline: THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stéphane Dion unleashed a string of insults Thursday to condemn Stephen Harper's foreign policy, describing it as mediocre, rigid, simplistic, amateurish and incompetent.

Taking aim at the government's unclear plan for the future of the Afghanistan mission, the Liberal leader outlined a foreign affairs agenda that includes a new role for Canada in Afghanistan after 2009 when combat operations are scheduled to end.

But Dion provided few details on what Canada would do instead, saying he would boost the number of Canadian development workers in the country and help provide Afghans with clean water.

Dion accused Prime Minister Stephen Harper of slavishly following the lead of U.S. President George Bush on foreign policy - abandoning the Kyoto Protocol to reduce greenhouse gases, ramping up defence spending, and ignoring human rights violations in the pursuit of terrorists.

"Mr. Harper has given Canada a foreign policy that draws its inspiration from the American right, a foreign policy that does little to advance Canadian interests," Dion told a foreign relations think-tank.

Dion said it's up to Harper's government to hammer out a plan with NATO allies, not the Liberals.

The government is working on it, according to Conservative MP Pierre Poilievre.

Poilievre accused Dion of his own flip-flop for demanding an end to an Afghan mission he helped launch while he was a Liberal cabinet minister.

"He helped put our troops in heavy combat," Poilievre said in an interview.

"Then he opposed their mission in an act of breathtaking hypocrisy. He's flip-flopped so many times it's impossible to keep track."

Dion said a Liberal government would return to a more multilateral approach that puts a little distance between Canada and the U.S.

Among other things, he said a Liberal government would champion global efforts to combat climate change and promote human rights.

Poilievre pointed out that Dion was in cabinet when Canada failed to meet climate change targets.

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# New Brunswick Telegraph-Journal

## MACKAY TRIES TO GET MORE HELP IN AFGHANISTAN

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: A4  
Section: News;News  
Byline: Associated Press

U.S. Secretary of Defence Robert Gates, right, escorts Defence Minister Peter MacKay through an honour cordon at the Pentagon Thursday in Washington. After an hour-long meeting with Gates, MacKay told reporters Afghanistan is a no-fail mission that requires more commitment from NATO countries to prevent the export of terror. His visit capped a series of whirlwind meetings with officials from England, Norway and the Netherlands on how to get more help in the dangerous southern part of Afghanistan.

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# The Charlotte Observer

## In Tribute

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 3B  
Section: Local

### U.S. TROOPS WHO HAVE DIED IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN

EDITOR'S NOTE: These tributes, published in alphabetical order as space permits, were supplied by The Associated Press this month.

#### Army Spc. George Libby

Challenges were nothing to George Libby. "George, when he enlisted, decided he was going to be an Army Ranger," said his mother, Nell Allen. "I don't know how many succeed. At some point, they do tough training. Each thing he approached, he would say something like, 'only 30 percent finish it.' He rose to every challenge presented to him. I was so impressed by my son.

"He took on and beat every challenge in his pursuit of becoming a warrior. That is how I see him: becoming the very best warrior he could, for the United States Army. That sounds a little corny, but that's how I feel."

Libby, 23, of Aberdeen, was killed Aug. 20 when the vehicle he was riding in rolled over during nighttime drivers' training near Khost, Afghanistan.

He was assigned to Fort Lewis, Wash., and had also served a tour in Iraq.

#### Army Spc. Braden Long

Braden Long met his future wife while both were high school students. Their romance moved quickly.

"I met him Aug. 18, 2004," Teresa said. "The first day of school, I heard about him. The second day of school, I saw him. The third day of school, I met him, and the fourth day of school, I started dating him."

They were married Nov. 4, 2005.

Long, 19, of Sherman, Texas, was killed Aug. 4 in Baghdad after his Humvee came under grenade attack. He was assigned to Fort Riley, Kan.



# Northumberland Weekly (On)

## Highway of Heroes officially dedicated in Port Hope

Friday, September 21, 2007  
Page: 2  
Section: Community

Firefighters, police, paramedics, dignitaries and community members gathered Friday, September 7, at the site where it all started - the Cranberry Road bridge in Port Hope - to again show their respect for Canadian soldiers who have died in Afghanistan and taken the long road from Trenton to Toronto.

They were there, along with others, for the official dedication of the 'Highway of Heroes' along Highway 401.

"Today we honour the sacrifices of the brave men and women who so nobly and unselfishly have given the ultimate gift to defend the interests of democracy abroad," said Lou Rinaldi, MPP for Northumberland-Quinte West. "For me what is so touching is the outpouring of compassion for the fallen by hundreds and hundreds, and thousands, of their fellow citizens who come out to stand on overpasses like this to pay their heartfelt respect to those who are no longer with us, and to show their support for the families left behind."

Mr. Rinaldi told the gathering at the bridge that the renaming was made possible by a grassroots swell of public sentiment and emotion. A movement of men, women and children, young and old alike, from all walks of life, many of whom have never had any direct involvement with the military, but they came together at the Cranberry Road bridge and then to the other bridges along the 401 route to show their respect for the soldiers and their families.

Port Hope Mayor Linda Thompson said she stood on the bridge just west of the Cranberry bridge as a mother and community member to show her respect and support for the soldiers and their families.

She and many others from Port Hope joined together to start this tradition.

"Port Hope is really a community of heart," she said.

"Our Highway of Heroes will forever stand as a testament of selflessness," said Mr. Rinaldi. "Every time a child passes, seeing these signs and asks, what is the Highway of Heroes, it will be an opportunity to explain what real heroism is, what real heroism means to us all, and most importantly, what the ultimate sacrifice of the truly heroic is.

"A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself," Mr. Rinaldi quoted.

"True heroism is remarkably sober and very undramatic. It is not the urge to surpass all others at whatever cost, but the urge to serve others at whatever cost."

Four signs are erected along the route - one at the Toronto end, one at the Glen Miller Road exit in Trenton, and one on either side of the Highway 115/35; other small markers are to be erected at various points in between.

Mr. Rinaldi thanked photographer/reporter Pete Fisher for his "tireless advocacy" and his "personal passion" that brought the Highway of Heroes to his attention.

"The emotion of covering it (the repatriation ceremonies) gave me the idea," said Mr. Fisher. "That and seeing the words of (newspaper columnist) Joe Warmington (Highway of Heroes)."

From that, Mr. Fisher said he thought it was a reachable goal and that if the support were there, it would be attainable.

"I see this with the greatest mixture of sadness and pride," he said. "We did it for the right reasons."

# Northumberland Weekly (On)

## Trucker's salute to military goes wherever he does

Friday, September 21, 2007

Page: 1

Section: Front

Illustrations: Cobourg trucker Larry Josie and graphic artist Chris McGregor stand in front of Mr. Josie's transport on Queen Street in Port Hope. The vehicle, which pays tribute to Canada's military, was unveiled September 8 at the rededication of the Dieppe Memorial Cairn in Port Hope.

A Cobourg trucker has decked out his cab and trailer in honour of the Canadian military.

recently renamed by the province in honour of fallen Canadian soldiers.

"It all boils down to supporting our troops and remembering our veterans," said Larry Josie, whose eye-catching vehicle was unveiled September 8 at the rededication of the Dieppe Memorial Cairn in Port Hope.

"I want them to stand proud for Canada and to remember our troops that are doing the job for freedom."

The cab was decorated in 2005 in honour of Year of the Veteran. It was done after Mr. Josie told his brother-in-law he was getting a new truck. The brother-in-law, who was president of the Sutton Legion, told Mr. Josie it was the Year of the Veteran.

"I thought it was a heck of an idea," Mr. Josie said.

A member of Cobourg Legion Branch 133 and an ex-serviceman, Mr. Josie said he had always planned to have the 53-foot trailer done and, just over a month ago, found Signdesign of Whitby on the Internet.

Graphic artist Chris McGregor of Signdesign took on the project and brought his work home with him.

"I told him that I wanted to keep it a Remembrance Day theme, but I also want to include the present-day boys (and girls) in Afghanistan," said Mr. Josie.

Mr. McGregor said he went through more than 300 pages of images on the Department of National Defence website.

Images on the trailer are in three parts - the salute, the rescue and watching and protecting.

On the back is a silhouette Mr. McGregor called "the unknown hero." A relative of one of Mr. McGregor's co-workers had just come back from Afghanistan and showed him the picture, which he put on the back of the trailer along with a yellow ribbon.

The artwork was created on computer, printed out on 53-inch pieces measuring nine feet in height and then put on the trailer.

When Mr. Josie said he was "awestruck" when he first saw his truck.

"The people on Highway 401 are going to look at it and think it's amazing."

The transport is on the 401 travelling from Cobourg to Montreal three times a week.

Mr. Josie said he has a message for people who see his truck on the highway and travelling along the Highway of Heroes, the Trenton-to-Toronto stretch