

12 June 2009

Elections in Iran are accorded close scrutiny in the media, as if they matter in the grand scheme of nuclear brinkmanship. It is reported that the Iranian mullahs have approved each of the candidates running for president, and it is they, the mullahs who wield ultimate power. Ahmadinejad is hated and feared in Israel because of his constant verbal insults and threats to eliminate the Jewish state from off the map, but in the end Iran's policies are decided by the ayatollah Khomeini, and he's not at electoral risk.

According to a new report issued by the IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency), new traces of enriched uranium have shown up in Syria, prompting the conclusion that Syria is either back in the uranium enrichment business, or importing illicit material. It's still a mystery as far as the UN agency is concerned, as it is barred from further investigation. Three new locations are believed to be Syrian nuclear installations.

Iran has also been uncooperative, to say the least. What they know for sure is that Iran has been in the process of adding to its 7000 centrifuges and is expected to have 10,000 centrifuges at one site alone by the end of the year. That means, according to estimates, at least one nuclear weapon is possible this year, perhaps another two by 2010. According to a Debka/file report, the U.S. administration has in essence given Iran a full year to continue their nuclear program as a direct dialogue is to be engaged with a six month and one year review of progress. The report states, "Iran has therefore been granted plenty of time to make hay, i.e. make nukes – free of diplomatic or military constraints."

Many in Israel feel their nation was snubbed by the recent Middle Eastern presidential trip which did not include their country, but did include references to the debt the world owes to Islam. The famed speech also equated the plight of the Palestinians to (on the other hand) the holocaust, a reference which has further alarmed our traditional ally, Israel, the only free democracy in the entirety of the region. According to numerous sources, Israel is warned regularly that interference with Iran's nuclear facilities will not be tolerated.

Whether or not it will ever be proven beyond a reasonable doubt, the Air France airliner that mysteriously disappeared mid flight without so much as a distress transmission may well have been the result of terrorism. It has come to light in the French media that two names on their classified list of radical Muslims considered a threat to France were on that flight. It is also reported that there have been a number of threats recently of a 9-11 style attack on Paris by al Qaeda.

You may have seen the news of the terrorist bombing in Lahore, Pakistan last week, though it was thinly reported. This one targeted a hotel in Peshawar, and is the latest in a long series of such attacks. Some have speculated the timing may suggest that it was a reply to the new stance taking shape in American foreign policy toward "the Islamic world."

The UN just passed more sanctions against North Korea in response to their second

nuclear test. South Korea is reportedly braced for another nuclear test explosion and is sending tens of thousands of troops to the DMZ border. As we mentioned last week, North Korea has shown total defiance toward the U.S. and the rest of the “international community,” firing off ballistic missiles in response to international condemnation of their nuclear test. They’ve also declared their 1953 armistice agreement with South Korea null and void. No wonder tensions are at a fever pitch in Seoul. Apparently those “six party talks” didn’t help much.

It’s been noted, and demonstrated, that North Korea has long-range missiles capable of reaching the West Coast of the U.S. Wasn’t it reassuring when a senior weapons evaluator for the U.S. Dept. of Defense declared last week that our missile defense system could “likely” intercept a North Korean weapon on its way to the United States.

National elections to the European Union last week saw numerous “conservative” gains across Europe. Bear in mind, the classification of “conservative” in Europe carries connotations that are not applicable to our domestic use of the term. Though the recent trend is seen to apply to economic issues as we might expect, it also carries baggage of the mid 20th century in terms of virulent intolerance of different races. An article in the Jerusalem Post carried the headline, Jews: Far-right Gains in Europe Alarming. The article quoted the European Jewish Congress saying that EU electoral victories based on philosophies of “racist, anti-Semitic and xenophobic platforms” raises some troubling concerns. They have not forgotten. Those concerns obviously apply to Europe’s Muslim population too, and may well be a factor in the future.

Realizing this update is getting overly lengthy, may I direct your attention to an article in the Herald Sun in Australia [[see below](#)]. It is one of the more frightening I’ve encountered on the subject of “policing” violations of Australia’s “carbon trading laws.” It is entitled, Climate Laws add to Police Workload, and it explains a plan to make the breach of “carbon trading laws” federal crimes on a par with drug smuggling, human trafficking, terrorist threats etc. It also indicates virtually limitless powers of Federal Police agents or deputized staff of the Climate Change Ministry to enter premises and demand proof of compliance. “AFP (Australian Federal Police) agents would be expected to enter premises and request paperwork to monitor firms’ emissions reductions. They would act on the 30-strong Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority’s orders.” It may provide a glimpse into the kind of future we can all look forward to, as it has become heresy in p.c. terms to balk at any loss of rights and freedoms that may infringe on plans to “save the planet” from global warming.

The Garner Ted Armstrong program this week offered material on the doctrine of the Rapture, Way of Escape, and Heaven on Earth, looking forward to the coming Kingdom of God. It brought in 502 requests with two hundred one first time contacts. We even got a couple of calls from the UK!

Hope you all have a good Sabbath. We’ll be in touch.

Mark Armstrong

Climate laws add to police workload

by Ben Packham

EXCLUSIVE: FRONTLINE police will be forced to become "carbon cops" under the Government's blueprint to cut greenhouse emissions.

The Herald Sun can reveal Australian Federal Police agents will have to prosecute a new range of climate offences.

But they are yet to be offered extra resources, stretching the thin blue line to breaking point.

"The Government is effectively saying to us, 'Ignore other crime types'," Australian Federal Police Association chief Jim Torr said.

The group had been trying for months, without success, to discuss the issue with Climate Change Minister Penny Wong, he said.

Interpol has warned the carbon market will be irresistible to criminal gangs because of the vast amounts of cash to be made. Possible rorts include under-reporting of carbon emissions by firms and bogus carbon offset schemes.

"If someone is rorting it by even 1 per cent a year, we're talking about many, many millions of dollars," Mr Torr said.

Ms Wong's office said AFP agents would be expected to enter premises and request paperwork to monitor firms' emissions reductions. They would act on the 30-strong Australian Climate Change Regulatory Authority's orders.

It said the authority could appoint staff members or police as inspectors.

She said the Department of Climate Change had spoken to the AFPA and the parties would talk again. Carbon trading involves carbon emissions rights buying and selling. Businesses can offset emissions by investing in climate-friendly projects, or carbon credits.

Ms Wong's office said provisions had been made to ensure compliance. "Inspectors may enter premises and exercise other monitoring powers," she said. "The inspectors may ask questions and seek the production of documents. There is provision for the issue of

monitoring warrants by magistrates."

The AFP's 2855 sworn agents are involved in law enforcement in Australia and overseas, investigating terrorist threats, drug syndicates, people trafficking, fraud and threats against children.

Mr Torr said breaking carbon trading laws would be like breaking other laws. "These offences will constitute another federal crime type, along with narcotics importing, people smuggling and all the rest of it, that the AFP will be expected to police," he said. "I can see very complex, covert investigations . . . a lot of scientific expertise required."

The Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme is facing Senate defeat unless it can secure the support of key cross-benchers or the Opposition.

Opposition climate change spokesman Andrew Robb said the scheme was problematic.

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[Source](#)