

Table of Contents

<u>Rae ready to rumble on Afghanistan.....</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>NEWS IN BRIEF.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Voice of the people.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Don't push genocide talk, Turkey warns U.S.....</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>Oppositions let their focus stray.....</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>A war won and lost.....</u>	<u>11</u>
<u>Muslim scholars appeal for peace; Letter To Pope.....</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Turks angered by resolution; U.S. Congress to debate 'genocide' of Armenians.....</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Afghan police complicit in kidnapping, victims say; Officers escorting contractors knew to expect Taliban.....</u>	<u>18</u>
<u>Ottawa couple hoping to find some clues after an ass shot their pet mule.....</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>bc-CCN-ON-GOV-ART.....</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Duceppe blasts Conservative overtures to Quebec in speech to students.....</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Tories plan to use throne speech to embarrass Liberals into abandoning Kyoto.....</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Rae ready to rumble on Afghanistan, foreign policy.....</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Turkey recalls ambassador to U.S., warns of fallout over genocide resolution.....</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>Quiet ceremony as Canadian soldier's name added to Wall of Honour.....</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>The World at 4 p.m. Thursday.....</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>CTV National News, Thursday, October 11.....</u>	<u>39</u>
<u>CP News Agenda for Friday, Oct. 12.....</u>	<u>40</u>
<u>Canada worried about hungry Afghans, but won't do deliveries.....</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>PM to announce committee to study Canada's role in Afghanistan; CTV.....</u>	<u>46</u>
<u>Afghanistan cracks down on private security firms, closes 2, more to follow.....</u>	<u>47</u>
<u>The Canadian Press World News Budget – Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007.....</u>	<u>48</u>

Table of Contents

<u>Afghanistan struggles to preserve rich past despite ongoing war.....</u>	49
<u>U.S. government says more warfare technology being smuggled to China, Iran.....</u>	51
<u>Alta-Dion.....</u>	53
<u>--Fifth NewsWatch--.....</u>	54
<u>INDEX:Defence.....</u>	56
<u>INDEX:Advisories.....</u>	57
<u>CP News Agenda for Friday, Oct. 12.....</u>	59
<u>INDEX:Defence, International, Politics.....</u>	63
<u>INDEX:Defence, International.....</u>	64
<u>Food aid vital for Afghans, minister says.....</u>	65
<u>Allies must do more to counter Taliban propaganda, general says.....</u>	66
<u>Panel to study Afghan role.....</u>	67
<u>Kabul shuts down 2 private Afghan security firms; Other contractors, some suspected of murder, robbery, to be targeted in crackdown.....</u>	68
<u>Young Canadians respond.....</u>	70
<u>Afghan film delayed for actors' safety.....</u>	72
<u>U.K. general urges more action against Taliban propaganda.....</u>	73
<u>Survival of world 'is perhaps at stake'; Muslim scholars issue unprecedented call for peace between Islam and Christianity.....</u>	75
<u>Heroes behind the headlines Focus back home on casualties frustrates hard-working reconstruction team in Kandahar.....</u>	77
<u>Young Canadians respond.....</u>	79
<u>Housing message delivered.....</u>	81
<u>Young Canadians respond.....</u>	82
<u>Letters to the Editor Column.....</u>	84

Table of Contents

<u>Young Canadians respond.....</u>	86
<u>Turkey recalls U.S. envoy as officials warn of fallout.....</u>	88
<u>Muslim scholars unite for peace; Common future at stake, unprecedented letter to Christian leaders says.....</u>	89
<u>Security firms in Afghan's sights.....</u>	91
<u>Food a weapon in Afghanistan.....</u>	92
<u>Young Canadians respond.....</u>	94
<u>Latest GM deal.....</u>	96
<u>PM strikes up band to study Afghan role Panel to explore divisive mission.....</u>	97
<u>Young Canadians respond.....</u>	98
<u>Turkey recalls U.S. ambassador over genocide vote; Diplomatic row may shut U.S. out of military bases.....</u>	100
<u>Romanian soldiers home at operating base Dracula; Little-known force fights alongside Canada in southern Afghanistan.....</u>	102
<u>Allies must attack Taliban propaganda: British general.....</u>	104
<u>The mission in Afghanistan; Canadian food aid crucial to Afghans, minister says.....</u>	106
<u>Vital to remember why Canada is in Afghan war.....</u>	108
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION Afghanistan tightens leash on security firms Like their controversial counterparts in Iraq, companies are under fire for aggressive tactics.....</u>	109
<u>THE AFGHAN MISSION CANADIANS CLEARED IN POLICE OFFICER'S DEATH.....</u>	111
<u>Add to the Afghan payroll.....</u>	113
<u>ROYAL VISIT: 'IT'S A LOT MORE TROUBLED WORLD' Troops' link with monarchy important, Prince says On his 25th trip to Canada, Edward says Canadian troops doing a 'fantastic job'.....</u>	114
<u>FACTS & ARGUMENTS: THE ESSAY E-gawk daily I realized that celebrity websites are the same for me as the National Enquirer was for my mother.....</u>	116
<u>PRISONS Guards ignored man in distress, eyewitness says 'They looked at him as though he was a circus animal in a cage,' says Quebecker who was in cell next to prisoner who died.....</u>	118

Table of Contents

<u>FEDERAL POLITICS: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT LIKELY TO COME TODAY Manley to lead Afghan mission review Harper appoints former Liberal minister to chair committee determining Canada's future role in Afghanistan.....</u>	121
<u>'Pretty nasty, mean business'; Linda Leonard thought her pet mule was out of sorts, but she was shocked and angered when she discovered that he had been shot seven times, Laura Drake reports.....</u>	123
<u>Trouble's brewing in Turkey.....</u>	125
<u>Enemy handily winning propaganda war: general.....</u>	127
<u>Taliban threaten food deliveries, Oda says.....</u>	128
<u>Pakistan. 50 foreign militants die in border clashes.....</u>	129
<u>Angry Turkey strikes back; Ambassador recalled over 'genocide' spat with the U.S.....</u>	130
<u>Election reflects unsettled political times.....</u>	132
<u>Three area soldiers honoured.....</u>	134
<u>Canadian aid brings Afghans safety Mine-clearing job has high risk, high pay.....</u>	135
<u>Death penalty dilemma Australians agonize over how to punish terrorists.....</u>	137
<u>Caption Only.....</u>	139
<u>Silent service making noise in Afghanistan.....</u>	140
<u>Combat duty tests mettle of city cop; 6-month stint with reserves in Afghanistan 'right thing to do'.....</u>	143
<u>The Calendar; A selection of events happening this week.....</u>	145
<u>Muslim scholars call for peace.....</u>	150
<u>Going Out. Oct 12-18. (Part 1).....</u>	151
<u>Food aid critical to Afghans, says Oda.....</u>	165
<u>Romania proud to join Afghanistan war 'parade'; New NATO member has low profile.....</u>	166
<u>Bhutto rejects Musharraf request.....</u>	168
<u>Turkey pulls envoy to U.S. over genocide vote.....</u>	169

Rae ready to rumble on Afghanistan

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BYLINE: Jennifer Ditchburn
DATELINE: OTTAWA
ILLUSTRATION: RAE: Liberal foreign affairs critic.
WORD COUNT: 788

Bob Rae is about to become the statesman snob when it comes to his new foreign affairs beat.

The former Liberal leadership candidate and Ontario premier has worked in the world's war zones, including Iraq, Sudan and Sri Lanka, and he doesn't hide his disdain for the international credentials of the Conservative government.

"There's a serious lack of experience and lack of a world view on the part of the [Stephen] Harper government and that means that our policy is much more restricted and confined since any other time since the Second World War," Rae said in an interview.

"We really haven't had a government that has such a limited and parochial view of foreign policy since that time," Rae said.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion earlier this week named Rae as his party's foreign affairs critic, even though the former New Democrat does not yet have a seat in the Commons. Rae plans to be in Ottawa next week to carve into the foreign policy aspects of the Speech from the Throne but he's not waiting until then to launch into a critique of the Harper government's foreign policy.

In essence, Rae said the Harper government's policy amounts to following Washington's lead.

"Everything [Harper's] done so far on climate change, on Colombia, on a whole variety of issues, responds very much to the Republican view of the world and the Bush administration's view of the world." Afghanistan will be the main subject dissected after the throne speech. Harper has committed to holding a vote in Parliament on extending the combat mission past the end-date of February 2009, and has made it plain he intends to try to persuade as many Liberals as possible to support staying on to better secure Kandahar province.

When Rae was appointed foreign affairs critic Tuesday, the Tories almost simultaneously circulated a collection of statements he made during last year's leadership race about not setting arbitrary deadlines for pulling troops out of Afghanistan – essentially the same position Harper has taken.

But Rae said Liberals are united in their position that the combat portion of the mission should end in 2009.

"There's one position of the party and Mr. Dion has articulated it," Rae said.

Rae's exposure to the world beyond Canada came at an early age. His father, Saul, was a career diplomat posted to cities including Washington and Geneva. Rae became a Rhodes scholar and studied at Oxford's

Balliol College.

Rae travelled widely during his provincial political career, but earned his chops as a statesman in the last decade. He was the first head of the Forum of Federations, an organization created by Jean Chretien's Liberal government to promote federalism and governance around the world.

Through the forum, Rae wound up consulting with both sides of the Sri Lankan conflict. He also became an adviser to the Iraqi parliament two years ago as they drafted their constitution, landing in Baghdad's Green Zone as suicide bombers and kidnappers conducted their business nearby. Rae also saw firsthand the devastation civil war has wrought on Sudan.

Rae lamented the slippage Canada has faced on the world stage in recent years – a complaint that Harper and most other federal politicians are also fond of voicing. He said a Liberal government would restore funding to the Department of Foreign Affairs, which both the Conservative government and previous Liberal regime slashed.

"The Department of Foreign Affairs has been decimated by this government, " Rae said.

"You can't travel around the world without encountering the fact that offices have been closed, that diplomats have been muzzled, that some of our most creative and talented public servants have basically been told to shut up and do as they're told. This comes at a huge cost."

He said there should be a more co-ordinated approach to funding the three linked departments of Foreign Affairs, National Defence and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Rae also took a swipe at the Conservatives for what he called a "bureaucratic response" to the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters in Burma – another example he says of where squeezing the department's budget has a negative effect.

"We have to be working much more energetically with other Asian countries ... and you can't do that without resources and without the credible relationships with China, with India, with Japan, with Burma's significant neighbours."

Rae said people will be seeing a lot more of him in Ottawa over the coming months. He intends on attending weekly caucus meetings, and will be more available to comment on government policy after Question Period. During Question Period, his associate critic Bryon Wilfert will take the baton.

It won't be the first time Rae has had to cool his heels in the corridors. When he won the leadership of the Ontario NDP in 1982, he waited nine months before he was able to enter the legislature via a byelection. Barring defeat of Harper's minority government and a subsequent general election, Rae will likely face a byelection in the riding of Toronto Centre early in 2008.

NEWS IN BRIEF

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GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba (AP) – The U.S. military is reviewing its decision to classify hundreds of Guantanamo Bay inmates as "enemy combatants," a step that could lead to new hearings for men who have spent years behind bars in indefinite detention.

Navy Capt. Theodore Fessel Jr., the lead officer at Guantanamo for the Defense Department agency that oversees the panels, said authorities have begun seeking new or previously overlooked evidence that may warrant new hearings after the process came under fire.

"With all the outside eyes looking in at the process, it's forcing us to say, 'OK, did we take everything into consideration when we did the Combatant Status Review Tribunals?' " Fessel told journalists Wednesday at the naval base in southeast Cuba.

Critics called it an overdue acknowledgment that the so-called Combatant Status Review Tribunals are unfairly geared toward labelling detainees the enemy, even when they pose little danger.

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) – Turkey, which is a key supply route to U.S. troops in Iraq, recalled its ambassador to Washington on Wednesday and warned of serious repercussions if Congress labels the killing of Armenians by Turks a century ago as genocide.

Ordered after a House committee endorsed the genocide measure, the summons of the ambassador for consultations was a further sign of the deteriorating relations between two longtime allies and the potential for new turmoil in an already troubled region.

Egeman Bagis, an aide to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, told Turkish media that Turkey – a conduit for many of the supplies shipped to American bases in both Iraq and Afghanistan – might have to "cut logistical support to the U.S."

Analysts also have speculated the resolution could make Turkey more inclined to send troops into northern Iraq to hunt Turkish Kurd rebels, a move opposed by the United States because it would disrupt one of the few relatively stable and peaceful Iraqi areas.

BAGHDAD (AP) – A U.S. attack killed 19 insurgents and 15 civilians, including nine children, northwest of the capital Thursday, one of the heaviest civilian death tolls in an American operation in recent months. The military said it was targeting senior leaders of "al-Qaida in Iraq."

American forces have applied fierce and determined pressure on militants, especially "al-Qaida in Iraq," since the full contingent of additional U.S. troops arrived June 15. But Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has recently confronted top American commander Gen. David Petraeus about what he sees as overly aggressive U.S. tactics that harm innocent civilians, according to Iraqi officials.

The military statement detailing Thursday's air and ground assault said soldiers were acting on intelligence reports about an al-Qaida meeting in the Lake Tharthar region.

MONTREAL (CP) – More than 300 caribou have been reported floating down the Kuujjuaq River in northern Quebec.

Quebec wildlife officer Valley Saunders told CBC the caribou were drowning at Limestone Falls. About 10,000 caribou drowned at the same spot in 1984, prompting the province to erect a fence on the south side of the falls to divert the animals during migration.

Saunders said Thursday the caribou were approaching this time from the west side.

The mayor of Kuujjuaq said Wednesday that a helicopter had been sent in with more fencing in the hopes of making the caribou switch routes again.

Voice of the people

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Re: "Uplifting dream was born century ago."

In your recent piece on Alexander Graham Bell and the flight experiments on the Bras d'Or, the only mention of Mabel Bell was, "Backed with \$30,000 from Mr. Bell's wealthy socialite wife &hellip" which gives a falsely shallow picture of a woman who was not only strong in her own right, but a partner in Bell's life work, giving practical and moral support to his many scientific experiments and pursuits.

Refusing to be stopped by the obstacle of total deafness, she also marched for women's rights in 1910, was instrumental in establishing the Canadian Home and School Association, the first Montessori School in Canada, the public library in Baddeck; and she convinced Bell to include photographs in the family publication, the National Geographic. They were a team.

Taiya Barss, Halifax

As a longtime admirer of Flora MacDonald, I was pleased to learn that she has been recently honoured by her native province. I was nevertheless disappointed to read last week that Ms. MacDonald accepted the distinction by proxy and that she was unable, due to a commitment abroad, to attend the ceremony of induction at Province House.

When accepting Nova Scotia's highest honour, inductees into the Order of Nova Scotia should feel duty-bound to attend the formal ceremony in Halifax. If the honouree is in sound health, but cannot attend the ceremony, presentation should be deferred.

E.M. Langille, Antigonish

The Chronicle Herald gave a wonderful tribute to a husband and father who died in a tragic situation involving a motorcycle versus a car (Oct. 6 story). I have seen Larry Patterson and his fellow club members on the road and at motorcycle events, and he always had a smile on his face.

Then, for no apparent reason, this article brings up the feature on the club published earlier this year. It mentions that anyone with a criminal record can't drive with the Buffalo Soldiers and quotes Mr. Patterson from that article: "If you sold drugs, you can't drive with us."

For what purpose are drugs mentioned? I'm a biker and belong to the biker community. I'm also a mother and grandmother; my grandchildren find me "cool and crazy." However, the only drugs I carry are Tylenol for arthritis, and the only rebel group I belong to is the Red Hat Society.

Maybe instead of bringing up drugs or criminals in reference to bikers, we should start looking at the auto drivers. Every motorcycle death this year has been caused by some idiot behind the wheel of a car, and the car drivers only get a slight fine. Instead of a fine, maybe these drivers should be charged with the injury or death of a rider.

Sadly, every time I'm out on my bike and see a car, warning bells go off in my head; and I treat every vehicle as a possible tragedy.

Maybe we should have more ads in the media about motorcycles throughout the year because unless there is snow on the road, bikes are still out there.

Shan MacDonald, Dartmouth

I would like to convey my thanks and sincere congratulations to the mayor and people of Halifax on the marvellous hospitality shown to my wife and me on our recent week-long visit for the annual reunion of the Canadian Naval Air Group.

I left Halifax in 1955 after five years at Shearwater and on the Magnificent, and words cannot convey my sincere appreciation for the efforts to make a visitor feel at ease and welcome. Even your local weatherman was on our side (must have been ex-RCN).

Our thanks to all in Halifax!

Edward H. Lyons, Oliver, B.C.

As I opened the paper Monday, once again the lead story was about Afghanistan, with politicians falling over themselves expounding the successes of the mission. We are told it's a battle for human rights, education for girls, defeating the Taliban. Buried in the middle pages were stories of atrocities in other parts of the world. There was the repression in Myanmar by the military junta, with accusations of still live people being cremated. In Darfur, the government reportedly burned down an entire village, adding to the already millions of refugees in that area. In both of these situations, there is some talk, but little or no action, on the part of the world community, which includes Canada.

Sadly, the old adage of supporting human rights only if they don't interfere with politics and economics seems very true even in our own country. We decry abuses in Afghanistan yet support Saudi Arabi, a country with incredible government corruption, where women's rights are virtually nonexistent and the most repressive form of fundamental Islam is practised.

When countries like Zimbabwe and the Congo have their economies and rights trampled by ruthless governments, we say it is an internal problem. Canada should peruse the battle against human rights in all parts of the world with the same zeal that it now does in Afghanistan. The value and dignity of a human life should not depend on which country that person is born in.

Alex MacEachern, Dartmouth

The Oct. 5 letter "Get off the grid," from Ralph Pick, is a timely reminder of why we need to better understand the discussion about renewable energy and climate change.

It is easy to get distracted by the technology and ignore the real issues. Wind turbines normally only produce full power about 35 per cent of the time, so we do indeed require other sources of electricity; but these sources can be wind turbines somewhere else, where it is blowing. Tidal power, wave energy, solar energy and hydro power all can help make up the balance. Nuclear power is neither clean nor cheap, and is not the solution.

However, the real answer is to follow Mr. Pick's advice (sort of) and put one's money into reducing consumption. My home, which does not use power from NSPI as we make our own, only uses about three units a day. The average Canadian home uses 30 units a day. Anyone can do it, using readily available technology, with little loss in the level of convenience we all expect to enjoy. If our home was connected to

the grid, we would only have to buy about \$100 worth of power a year.

I only have to spend a total of \$1 a day for all my home energy requirements, while reducing my carbon footprint to a minimum, all for investing less than the price of a small car.

Being an environmentalist means caring about leaving something for all our children instead of debt, decay, destruction and garbage. We can reduce our fossil fuel dependence, tackle climate change and reduce our costs, if we bother to invest in ourselves instead of the power company's shareholders.

Simon Melrose, Chair of the board,

Ecology Action Centre

When changes to the rotary were first announced, I thought it was a good thing. Since the roundabout is now operational, I have had to change my mind.

There are no traffic control lights now, so in the morning, all traffic from St. Margarets Bay Road drives directly onto the rotary. The result is a huge backup coming into the rotary from Herring Cove Road. Traffic also backs up in the afternoon for vehicles coming into the roundabout down Chebucto, as the Quinpool Road motorists drive straight into the circle.

Another problem with traffic going into the circle from Herring Cove Road is that most people do not recognize that they can now enter the circle in two lanes, so they are all crowded into one. The right-hand lane that goes to the bypass to Quinpool Road can also be used to enter the roundabout.

Maybe part of the problem is education. I never saw any information published to educate people as to the lane usage on the new roundabout. This would ease some of the problems. Traffic control lights at the St. Margarets Bay entrance would also help. It would ease some of the backup on Herring Cove Road.

Over all, for the millions that were spent here, I have seen little if any improvement. It seems the backups just occur at different places and different times

Stan Gray, Halifax

Don't push genocide talk, Turkey warns U.S.

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Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.12
SECTION: World
PAGE: A5
SOURCE: The Associated
Press
BYLINE: Christopher Torchia
WORD COUNT: 367

ANKARA, Turkey – Turkey, which is a key supply route to U.S. troops in Iraq, recalled its ambassador to Washington on Wednesday and warned of serious repercussions if Congress labels the killing of Armenians by Turks a century ago as genocide.

Ordered after a House committee endorsed the genocide measure, the summons of the ambassador for consultations was a further sign of the deteriorating relations between two longtime allies and the potential for new turmoil in an already troubled region.

Egeman Bagis, an aide to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, told Turkish media that Turkey – a conduit for many of the supplies shipped to American bases in both Iraq and Afghanistan – might have to "cut logistical support to the U.S."

Analysts also have speculated the resolution could make Turkey more inclined to send troops into northern Iraq to hunt Turkish Kurd rebels, a move opposed by the United States because it would disrupt one of the few relatively stable and peaceful Iraqi areas.

"There are steps that we will take," Turkey's prime minister told reporters, but without elaboration. It also wasn't clear if he meant his government would act immediately or wait to see what happens to the resolution in Congress.

He declined to answer questions about whether Turkey might shut down Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, a major cargo hub for U.S. and allied military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkey's Mediterranean port of Iskenderun is also used to ferry goods to American troops.

"You don't talk about such things, you just do them," Erdogan said. The measure before Congress is just a nonbinding resolution without the force of law, but the debate has incensed Turkey's government.

The relationship between the two NATO allies, whose troops fought together in the Korean War in 1950–53, have stumbled in the past. They hit a low in 2003, when Turkey's parliament refused to allow U.S. forces use their country as a staging ground for the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

But while the threat of repercussions against the United States is appealing for many Turks, the country's leaders know such a move could hurt Turkey's standing as a reliable ally of the West and its ambitions to be a mediator on the international stage.

Oppositions let their focus stray

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PAGE: A7

COLUMN: National Affairs

BYLINE: Travers, James

DATELINE: Ottawa

WORD COUNT: 514

So, Ontario has spoken. But what's it saying to a national capital zigzagging toward the precipice of a federal election?

Well, that depends on the listener. The prime minister has reason to wonder whether provincial Conservatives are ready for a second fight so soon after being battered by faith-based schooling. An Opposition leader desperate to hold Ontario seats will worry that a Liberal majority at Queen's Park will make voters that little bit more comfortable with a Conservative counterweight on Parliament Hill. After last month's Quebec breakthrough, Jack Layton will gain more confidence from NDP momentum gained at Liberal expense, while rising Green support will encourage Elizabeth May and frustrated environmentalists.

Those are inevitable spillages from a province that decides federal elections. They will give strategists plenty to analyze before next week's charged throne speech.

Still, Wednesday night's results won't dramatically change opinions polarized by a looming election some think shrewdly opportunistic and others utterly foolish.

More influential are factors that turned Ontario's election upside down and could do the same to the country.

After parsing riding results for strengths, weaknesses and prospects, strategists will look hard at similarities between an unusual provincial election and a peculiar Ottawa situation. In both places and cases, an inept official Opposition let the focus stray from the government, its record and what frets voters most.

Instead of defending broken promises and parrying odious leadership comparisons, Dalton McGuinty was freed to attack John Tory while saying little about health care, the environment or vanishing manufacturing jobs. Instead of explaining federal reversals or why he should be trusted with more power, Stephen Harper is making Stéphane Dion the issue, not Afghanistan, climate change or economic competitiveness.

Comforting as that is for a prime minister sensing a win and even a majority, there's a caveat. Just as a single issue dominated Ontario's election, the coming federal campaign is equally vulnerable to variables that won't necessarily tilt in Conservative favour.

It has been generations since Canadians went to the polls with the country at war. Anything from spiking casualties to fresh evidence the Kabul government is corrupt or careless with prisoner lives could draw public attention to this government's ever-changing, never-quite-convincing Afghanistan story.

It's also true that voters have rarely, if ever, marked their ballots in the shadow of threat as existential as keeping the planet fit for human habitation.

Harper's attempts to be just green enough leave Conservatives out of sync with voters, and with that disconnect come the dangers that dashed great Ontario Conservative expectations.

Elections often abruptly change lanes – the last federal campaign veered into law and order after a Boxing Day shooting in Toronto's shopping core.

Still, what happened over the past few weeks in Ontario is a timely reminder to federal politicians that these are unsettled political times.

That many voters were so easily dragged away from their core concerns will be as carefully considered here as the success of peripheral parties in nibbling at mainstream support and Conservative failures to control a wedge issue or turn their leadership advantage into victory.

Each says something federal politicians will consider long and hard before pushing the country over the election cliff.

James Travers is a national affairs columnist. Copyright 2007 Torstar Syndication Services.

A war won and lost

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PAGE: A7

SOURCE: Commentary

BYLINE: Gwynne Dyer

WORD COUNT: 747

Last week was the sixth anniversary of the start of U.S. air strikes against al-Qaida and its Taliban hosts in Afghanistan. It was a very clever politico-military operation, and by December 2001 all of Afghanistan was under the control of the United States and its local allies for a total cost of 12 American dead. Then, for no good reason, it fell apart, and now the war is lost.

In the days just after 9/11, George Tenet, the Central Intelligence Agency's chief, came up with a bold proposal. Why invade Afghanistan with a large American army, deploying massive firepower that kills large numbers of locals and alienates the population? Why give Osama bin Laden the long anti-American guerilla war that he was undoubtedly counting on?

Instead, Tenet proposed sending teams of CIA agents and special forces into the country to win the support of the various militias, loosely linked as the Northern Alliance, that still dominated the northern regions of the country. Although the Taliban had controlled most of the country since 1996, they had never decisively won the civil war. So why not intervene in that war, shower their opponents with money and weapons, and tip the balance against the Taliban?

By mid-December 2001 the United States effectively controlled Afghanistan through its local allies, all drawn from the northern minority groups: Tajiks, Uzbeks and Hazara. There had not been the mass killing of innocent bystanders that would inevitably have accompanied a conventional U.S. invasion, so there was no guerilla war. The traditional ruling group and biggest minority, the Pashtun, who had put their money on the Taliban and lost, would have to be brought back into the game somehow, but the usual Afghan deal-making would suffice.

Washington had the wit to make Mahmoud Karzai, a Pashtun from a clan that never had much to do with the Taliban, its puppet president in Kabul, but it didn't carry through. It froze out all the prominent Pashtun political and religious leaders who had had dealings with the Taliban – which was, of course, almost all of them.

The Taliban had been the government of Afghanistan for almost five years, and were at the time the political vehicle of the Pashtun ascendancy in the country. If you were a traditional Pashtun leader, how could you not have had dealings with them? An amnesty that turned a blind eye to the past, plus pressure by the United States on its recent allies to grant the Pashtuns a fair share of the national pie, would have created a regime in Kabul to which Pashtuns could give their loyalty, even if they were less dominant at the centre than usual. But that never happened.

Afghanistan has usually been run by regional and tribal warlords with little central control: nothing new there. But now it is also a country where the biggest minority has been largely excluded from power by foreign invaders who sided with the smaller minorities, and then blocked the process of accommodation by which the various Afghan ethnic groups normally make power-sharing deals.

The current fighting in the south, the Pashtun heartland, which is causing a steady dribble of American, British and Canadian casualties, will continue until the Western countries pull out. (Most other NATO members sent their troops to various parts of northern Afghanistan, where non-Pashtun warlords rule non-Pashtun populations and nobody dares attack the foreigners.) Then, after the foreigners are gone, the Afghans will make the traditional inter-ethnic deals and something like peace will return. Will Karzai still be the president after that? Yes, if he can convince the Pashtuns that he is open to such a deal once the foreigners leave. Will the Taliban come back to power? No, only to a share of power, and only to the extent that they can still command the loyalty of the Pashtuns once it is no longer a question of resistance to foreigners. Will Osama bin Laden return and recreate a "nest of terrorists" in Afghanistan. Very unlikely. The Afghans paid too high a price for their hospitality the first time round.

Gwynne Dyer is a London-based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

Muslim scholars appeal for peace; Letter To Pope

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DATELINE: LONDON
BYLINE: Peter Graff
SOURCE: Reuters
WORD COUNT: 429

LONDON – More than 130 Muslim scholars from around the globe called yesterday for peace and understanding between Islam and Christianity, saying "the very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake."

In an unprecedented letter to Pope Benedict and other Christian leaders, 138 Muslim scholars said finding common ground between the world's biggest faiths was not simply a matter for polite dialogue between religious leaders.

"If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace. With the terrible weaponry of the modern world; with Muslims and Christians intertwined everywhere as never before, no side can unilaterally win a conflict between more than half of the world's inhabitants," the scholars wrote.

"Our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake," they wrote, adding that Islam and Christianity already agreed that love of God and neighbour were the two most important commandments.

Relations between Muslims and Christians have been strained as al-Qaeda terrorists have struck around the world and as the United States and other Western countries intervened in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Such a joint letter is unprecedented in Islam, which has no central authority that speaks for all worshippers.

The list of signatories includes senior figures throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. They represent Sunni, Shiite and Sufi schools of Islam.

Among them were the grand muftis of Egypt, Palestine, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Bosnia and Russia. Iraq was represented by both Shiites and Sunnis.

Mustafa Cagrici, the mufti who prayed with Benedict in Istanbul's Blue Mosque last year, was also on the list, as was the popular Egyptian television preacher Amr Khaled.

The letter was addressed to the Pope, leaders of Orthodox Christian churches, Anglican leader Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the heads of the world alliances of the Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and Reformed churches.

Archbishop Williams said he welcomed it as "indicative of the kind of relationship for which we yearn in all parts of the world. The call to respect, peace and goodwill should now be taken up by Christians and Muslims at all levels and in all countries."

A Vatican official said the Roman Catholic Church would not comment until it had time to read the letter.

Aref Ali Nayed, one of the signatories and a senior advisor to the Cambridge Interfaith Programme at Cambridge University in Britain, said the signatories represented the "99.9% of Muslims" who follow mainstream schools and oppose extremism.

"In Islam we have had a problem for some time now where the mainstream voices are drowned out by a minority that choose violence," he said.

The letter argues in theological terms, giving quotes from the Koran and the Bible.

"The basis for this peace and understanding already exists," it said. "It is part of the very foundational principles of both faiths: love of the one God and love of the neighbour."

KEYWORDS: RELIGION; CLERGY

Turks angered by resolution; U.S. Congress to debate 'genocide' of Armenians

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DATELINE: ISTANBUL
BYLINE: Amberin Zaman
SOURCE: The Daily Telegraph
WORD COUNT: 788

ISTANBUL – Turkey warned of lasting harm to relations with the United States yesterday after a U.S. Congressional committee passed a resolution calling the mass killing of Armenians by the Ottoman Empire between 1915 and 1917 a genocide.

The motion was adopted despite stiff resistance by the Bush administration.

Ankara yesterday recalled its ambassador to Washington for consultations, while a naval commander cancelled a scheduled visit to meet counterparts in the United States.

Turkey could also retaliate by cutting off U.S. access to the Incirlik airbase, a vital supply artery for American troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The decision by the foreign affairs committee of the House of Representatives was welcomed yesterday by the Armenian government. While it is not legally binding, it paves the way for a full Congressional debate on the slaughter of Armenians during the Ottoman era.

Turkey's centre-right government condemned the resolution, saying it was "unacceptable that the Turkish nation has been accused of something that never happened in history".

Dan Burton, a Republican congressman who voted against the resolution, said: "We're talking about kicking the one ally that's helping us over there [in Iraq] in the face right now."

In May, 1915, the ruling junta of nationalist Ottoman officers, known as the Young Turks, ordered the mass deportation of the collapsing empire's two-million-strong Armenian minority in reprisal for their alleged collusion with invading Russian armies. Civilians were rounded up and marched at gunpoint toward the Syrian desert. Tens of thousands were slaughtered en route; others robbed, raped and tortured by Kurdish brigands.

A growing number of Western historians concur that the horrors inflicted on the Ottoman Armenians fits the United Nations definition of genocide, which is described as carrying out acts "intended to destroy in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group".

Turkish officials said that the resolution made it harder to resist mounting public pressure for a military raid into northern Iraq to fight Kurdish rebels based there. The guerrillas, who have struck in southeastern Turkey,

killed 13 soldiers in a single attack last week.

To signal its resolve, the Turkish parliament is expected to authorize the government to pursue the rebels inside Iraq despite U.S. opposition.

"There is a growing sense that if Turkey does not follow up on its threats this time, it will lose all credibility," said a European diplomat.

Yet for all its tough talk, Turkey is unlikely to act before the fate of the genocide resolution becomes clear. U.S. President George W. Bush has pledged to fight against any vote in the full House of Representatives. But the Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, whose California constituents include wealthy Armenians, has pledged to push through a bill recognizing the genocide by mid-November.

"As long as there is genocide, there is a need to speak out against it," Ms. Pelosi told reporters gathered in her office.

American officials note that the House may endorse the resolution because Turkey — despite its close military ties with Israel — no longer enjoys the support of influential Jewish groups in the United States. Tellingly, Tom Lantos, chairman of the foreign relations committee, who was counted among Turkey's best friends, voted in favour of the resolution. Turkey's overtures towards Iran and Hamas coupled with rising anti-Semitism in the country are cited as the chief reasons for the change in mood.

Turkey's refusal to open its border with tiny, landlocked Armenia has not helped either. These were sealed in 1993 after Armenia occupied large chunks of ethnically Turkic Azerbaijan in a war over the Nagorno-Karabakh enclave.

Turkey's tiny Armenian community fears that the resolution will stoke the sort of ultra-nationalist violence that led to the murder in January of the Armenian newspaper editor Hrant Dink. Mr. Dink faced prosecution in the Turkish courts and death threats over his own comments about genocide.

Turkey has resisted calls to scrap the offence of "insulting Turkishness," which makes it a crime to label the Armenian tragedy a genocide.

BACK STORY

During the First World War, as the Ottoman Turkish empire fought Russian forces, some of the Armenian minority in eastern Anatolia sided with the Russians.

On April 24, 1915, Turkey rounded up and killed hundreds of Armenian community leaders. In May, 1915, the Armenian minority, two or three million strong, was deported to Syria and Mesopotamia (now Iraq). Many died en route and numerous eyewitnesses reported massacres by Turkish forces. Atrocities against Armenians continued until the Ottoman Empire collapsed after the war.

Armenians say 1.5 million of their people were killed, either through systematic massacres or through starvation. They allege that a deliberate genocide was carried out by the Ottoman Turkish empire.

Turkey says there was no genocide. It acknowledges that many Armenians died, but says many Turks died too, and that massacres were committed on both sides as a result of interethnic violence and the wider world war. Turkey estimates the number of Armenian dead to be 300,000.

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

Afghan police complicit in kidnapping, victims say; Officers escorting contractors knew to expect Taliban

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BYLINE: Bronwen Roberts
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 318

KABUL – An Afghan man and a German engineer freed with him after a three-month hostage ordeal yesterday accused the group's police escort of handing them over to their Taliban kidnappers.

The Afghan, who did not want his identity revealed for fear of retaliation from his captors, said a day after their release that he also saw a second German hostage shot dead after they were seized on July 18.

The surviving German, Rudolf Blechschmidt, 62, flew out of Afghanistan yesterday after he and five Afghans were released in exchange for five Taliban prisoners.

German radio station Antenne Bayern reported that he had told his family on Monday via satellite telephone that police officers ostensibly there to protect him and his team had been expecting the kidnappers and greeted them when they arrived.

"It had all been arranged," Mr. Blechschmidt said, according to the report.

The group had travelled to a dam in Wardak province called Band-i-Sultan, which they had been contracted to repair, the Afghan man said.

They had been escorted by local police who had been communicating with someone by telephone during the trip, saying when they would get there. They were captured 10 minutes after their arrival, he said.

"Before we started doing anything, we saw the Taliban walking towards us.

"The police of our own country handed us over to the Taliban," the man said.

The Afghan said that during his time in captivity, the group was moved around often and made to carry their captors' weapons. Mr. Blechschmidt described the treks as gruelling, saying he was forced to walk hundreds of kilometres with heavy packs and camp in the open in the mountains with only summer-weight clothing.

"The conditions were horrible," he said.

After few days, a German who struggled to keep up with the rest of the group was shot dead by a Pakistani Taliban whom the captives called Mullah Grenade.

Afghan police complicit in kidnapping, victims say; Officers escorting contractors knew to expect Taliban

"The mountains were very hard to climb and he was always last and asking, 'Please go slowly'," the freed Afghan hostage said.

"Mullah Grenade kicked him in the chest, and said, 'Why do you always complain?' And then he shot him.

"When my own country's police sells me to someone else, when another Afghan wants to put a knife to my throat, why? What can I expect from this?" he asked.

KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM

Ottawa couple hoping to find some clues after an ass shot their pet mule

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Linda Leonard's stomach dropped last month when she saw a picture of a donkey used for target practice in Afghanistan. A few weeks later, she discovered the same thing had happened to her pet mule, Sooki. Ms. Leonard and her husband, Dave Grove, who run a small farm in a secluded area 85 kilometres northwest of Ottawa, last Friday discovered their 13-year-old mule, pictured, had been shot seven times — likely with an air rifle — once in his front leg, once in his back leg, once in the hip and four times in the neck and chest. Ms. Leonard has consulted two veterinarians, both of whom told her the projectiles cannot be removed without risking serious infection. However, she said she hopes at least one can be extracted so the type of gun can be identified. For now, the couple must clean the mule's wounds four times a day. Ms. Leonard said Sooki will stay on the farm for his natural life, regardless of his ability to work.

KEYWORDS: CRIME

DATE: 2007.10.11

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WORD COUNT: 497

^4th CISM Military World Games@<

October 11, 2007

OTTAWA, ONTARIO--(Marketwire – Oct. 11, 2007) – The Canadian contingent of 175 Canadian Forces (CF) athletes, coaches, and support staff leave today for India to compete in the 4th CISM Military World Games, an athletic competition second in size to the Olympic Games. The games, hosted in Mumbai and Hyderabad, India will take place October 14 to 21, 2007.

Over 5,000 athletes from 100 member nations will participate in these Games. Of particular note Afghanistan will be sending a delegation of 32 athletes. At the opening ceremony on October 14th, Afghanistan will have the honour of being the first nation (alphabetically) to lead all participating nations into the stadium.

"The fourth Military World Games provide a world stage for our elite Canadian Forces athletes and are an excellent way to enhance morale within the Canadian Forces" says Brigadier-General D. E. Martin, CEO, Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency and Canadian Forces Chief of Delegation in India.

"Our core military values are represented daily during this eight day event. The fourth Military World Games provide our Canadian Forces with the privilege to compete and also to connect with the many member-nations of the Conseil international du sport militaire."

During the lead-up to the games, Canadian Forces athletes continue to train at their high performance levels while they support Canada at home and abroad.

Maj Darrell Menard of CF Support Unit (Ottawa) is heading to India with a dual role as an athlete and as a member of the mobile medical team. A member of CISM since 1986, Maj Menard will compete in the 20km race walk event. Maj Menard will be supporting the other Canadian athletes closely to ensure they are all in top physical form.

Lt(N) Sharlene Harding of CFB Kingston is a true leader of the women's soccer team. She has shown immense dedication and commitment to the CISM program in addition to balancing her family life and career.

The Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency, the morale and welfare arm of the Canadian Forces, organizes 13 National Sport Championships a year in support of the CF National Sports Program. Annually, fourteen teams represent the Canadian Forces in international competition which includes major games and world cup events and every four years at the Military World Games.

During the fourth Military World Games, Canada will participate in opening and closing ceremonies and athletes will compete in 10 different sport disciplines.

NOTE TO NEWS/ASSIGNMENT EDITORS:

Interviews can be arranged between Canadian media outlets and Canadian Forces personnel who are in India by contacting the Public Affairs Officer at CFPSA in Ottawa, Ms. Stephanie Webster, at: 613-996-6204.

As still and broadcast imagery are obtained, it will be posted on the Combat Camera website at:
www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca and www.combatcamera.forces.gc.ca/common/combatcamera/news/

For technical information from Combat Camera, please contact Andre Rousseau at 613-995-8736.

For further information, visit the official website of the 4th CISM Military World Games at:
<http://59.160.161.48/index.jsp>

For information on the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency and the CF International sport program, visit: www.cfpsa.com

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

Information: 613-996-2353/54

After hours: 613-792-2973

www.forces.gc.ca

INDUSTRY: Government – International, Government – Local,
Government – National, Government – Security (law enforcement,
homeland etc), Government – State

SUBJECT: ART

NEWS RELEASE TRANSMITTED BY Marketwire

Duceppe blasts Conservative overtures to Quebec in speech to students

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KEYWORDS: POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 316

QUEBEC _ For the second day in a row, Bloc Quebecois Leader Gilles Duceppe has blasted Prime Minister Stephen Harper over his overtures to Quebec.

In a stinging speech to university students, Duceppe said the Tories have ``betrayed" their commitments to Quebec, both in terms of resolving the so-called fiscal imbalance and Quebec's place in UNESCO, a United Nations educational organization.

``When Conservatives say they have kept their promises, they are lying to Quebecers," Duceppe said.

``So far, the overtures by Stephen Harper to Quebec _ it's just a scam, it's just words. We want more than words. It's worth more than words."

Duceppe is hitting the Tories hard as speculation swirls around a possible federal election. The Conservatives have increased their support in Quebec and defeated the Bloc in one of their strongholds in a byelection last month.

The Bloc leader said Quebec's delegate to UNESCO is just a figurehead and ``must be silent" if there's a disagreement with the federal government representative.

Duceppe said promises made by Harper in Quebec City in December 2005 to settle the fiscal imbalance are still pending.

The Bloc leader said if the prime minister really wanted to settle the issue, he would waive federal spending power in Quebec's exclusive jurisdictions and transfer tax points to the Quebec government.

``Stephen Harper has done neither and his government is saying the fiscal imbalance is settled. In saying that, he is deliberately trying to mislead Quebecers."

The outright elimination of federal spending power in the province's jurisdictions is the next battle that will be a main focus for the Bloc in the coming months, Duceppe said.

Besides refraining from interfering in areas of exclusive provincial jurisdiction such as education, culture and health, the federal government should compensate Quebec monetarily without conditions, Duceppe said.

The limiting of federal spending power is one of five conditions laid down by the Bloc to support the throne speech next week.

Other conditions include respecting the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, the withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan in February 2009, aid for regions hit by the crisis in the forestry industry and help for the agricultural sector.

Tories plan to use throne speech to embarrass Liberals into abandoning Kyoto

DATE: 2007.10.11

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE ENVIRONMENT INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 569

OTTAWA _ The federal Conservatives have drafted a throne speech aimed at forcing the Liberal party into a politically embarrassing abandonment of its crusade on behalf of the Kyoto accord, government sources have told The Canadian Press.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper believes the Liberals are so desperate to avoid an election that they will roll over and accept a throne speech next week that describes Kyoto climate-change targets as unattainable, sources said.

It is among several unpalatable options for Liberal Leader Stephane Dion that the government is considering salting into its blueprint for the new session of Parliament.

The throne speech will have to be put to a confidence vote in the House of Commons that could trigger an election if Dion joins other opposition leaders to defeat it.

The same leader who is such an enthusiastic advocate of the climate-change treaty that he named his dog 'Kyoto' may face one of two extremely difficult choices.

Dion can allow the policy-setting throne speech to pass and expose himself to endless taunts about having abandoned his principles by propping up a government that ignores Kyoto.

Or he can vote down the speech and rush into an election at a time when his party is slumping in the polls, quarreling publicly, and struggling to raise money.

“If I were Dion I couldn't support (the speech),” said one government official.

With the NDP and Bloc Quebecois both hinting strongly that they will oppose the throne speech in a confidence vote, the destiny of the minority Conservative government now rests on Dion's shoulders.

Some Liberals are signalling that Dion will find a way to oppose the speech without defeating the government and triggering an election.

One scenario involves having the entire Liberal front bench vote against the speech while the backbenchers abstain.

That tactic could allow them to avoid an election, while saving face and continuing to declare their opposition to the government's agenda. Liberals have been quick to point out that the Conservatives rolled over in a similar fashion on a key budget vote when they were in opposition.

The Conservatives say the speech will include a commitment to fighting climate change and will also focus on popular environmental objectives like conservation and clean water.

But the Kyoto element of next Tuesday's address will likely place Dion in a thorny quandary.

The Tories plan to laud Kyoto's objectives _ and blame the previous Liberal government for making it impossible to reach those targets.

Dion briefly served as environment minister in that Liberal government, under which greenhouse-gas emissions rose by more than 25 per cent.

The Liberals continue to argue that Kyoto's target _ a six per cent emissions cut from 1990 levels by 2012 _ remains attainable.

They have passed legislation calling on the government to respect the accord, and Dion has put forward a large-industrial-emitters plan that he says would help Canada meet its objectives.

But while the Tories plan to embarrass the Liberals, they say the throne speech is not being designed to cause an election at a time when the polls are favourable.

“This is the same speech from the throne we would always have tabled,” said one official.

“There's no . . . poison pill.”

As an example, the Tories point to Afghanistan.

They say the speech will borrow from Harper's language from a press conference last week.

He described abandoning Afghanistan as a mistake, but promised a parliamentary vote on extending the mission beyond February 2009. The throne speech will do the same, Tory sources say.

The speech will be cast as a moderate set of policy prescriptions that address many of the issues identified by the opposition, they say. But they are adamant that this throne speech will not be written by the opposition.

“I don't know if there will be poison pills,” said one Conservative insider.

“But what you'll see is issues where clear choices are going to need to be made by the opposition that might not otherwise have been made.”

The throne speech is also expected to promise major personal income-tax cuts _ something all opposition parties would have a difficult time opposing _ and a reiteration of the government's desire to pass law-and-order legislation.

Rae ready to rumble on Afghanistan, foreign policy

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OTTAWA _ Bob Rae is about to become the statesman snob when it comes to his new foreign affairs beat.

The former Liberal leadership candidate and Ontario premier has worked in the world's war zones, including Iraq, Sudan and Sri Lanka, and he doesn't hide his disdain for the international credentials of the Conservative government.

“There's a serious lack of experience and lack of a world view on the part of the (Stephen) Harper government and that means that our policy is much more restricted and confined since any other time since the Second World War,” Rae said in an interview.

“We really haven't had a government that has such a limited and parochial view of foreign policy since that time.”

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion earlier this week named Rae as his party's foreign affairs critic, even though the former New Democrat does not yet have a seat in the Commons. Rae plans to be in Ottawa next week to carve into the foreign policy aspects of the Speech from the Throne but he's not waiting until then to launch into a critique of the Harper government's foreign policy.

In essence, Rae said the Harper government's policy amounts to following Washington's lead.

“Everything (Harper's) done so far on climate change, on Colombia, on a whole variety of issues, responds very much to the Republican view of the world and the Bush administration's view of the world.”

Afghanistan will be the main subject dissected after the throne speech. Harper has committed to holding a vote in Parliament on extending the combat mission past the end-date of February 2009, and has made it plain he intends to try to persuade as many Liberals as possible to support staying on to better secure Kandahar province.

When Rae was appointed foreign affairs critic Tuesday, the Tories almost simultaneously circulated a collection of statements he made during last year's leadership race about not setting arbitrary deadlines for pulling troops out of Afghanistan _ essentially the same position Harper has taken.

But Rae said Liberals are united in their position that the combat portion of the mission should end in 2009.

“There's one position of the party and Mr. Dion has articulated it,” Rae said.

Rae's exposure to the world beyond Canada came at an early age. His father Saul was a career diplomat posted to cities including Washington and Geneva. Rae became a Rhodes scholar and studied at Oxford's Balliol College.

Rae travelled widely during his provincial political career, but earned his chops as a statesman in the last decade. He was the first head of the Forum of Federations, an organization created by Jean Chretien's Liberal government to promote federalism and governance around the world.

Through the forum, Rae wound up consulting with both sides of the Sri Lankan conflict. He also became an adviser to the Iraqi parliament two years ago as they drafted their constitution, landing in Baghdad's Green Zone as suicide bombers and kidnappers conducted their business nearby. Rae also saw firsthand the devastation civil war has wrought on Sudan.

Rae lamented the slippage Canada has faced on the world stage in recent years _ a complaint that Harper and most other federal politicians are also fond of voicing. He said a Liberal government would restore funding to the Department of Foreign Affairs, which both the Conservative government and previous Liberal regime slashed.

``The Department of Foreign Affairs has been decimated by this government, " Rae said.

``You can't travel around the world without encountering the fact that offices have been closed, that diplomats have been muzzled, that some of our most creative and talented public servants have basically been told to shut up and do as they're told. This comes at a huge cost."

He said there should be a more co-ordinated approach to funding the three linked departments of Foreign Affairs, National Defence and the Canadian International Development Agency.

Rae also took a swipe at the Conservatives for what he called a ``bureaucratic response" to the violent crackdown on peaceful protesters in Burma _ another example he says of where squeezing the department's budget has a negative effect.

``We have to be working much more energetically with other Asian countries...and you can't do that without resources and without the credible relationships with China, with India, with Japan, with Burma's significant neighbours."

Rae said people will be seeing a lot more of him in Ottawa over the coming months. He intends on attending weekly caucus meetings, and will be more available to comment on government policy after Question Period. During Question Period, his associate critic Bryon Wilfert will take the baton.

It won't be the first time Rae has had to cool his heels in the corridors. When he won the leadership of the Ontario NDP in 1982, he waited nine months before he was able to enter the legislature via a byelection. Barring defeat of Harper's minority government and a subsequent general election, Rae will likely face a byelection in the riding of Toronto Centre early in 2008.

Turkey recalls ambassador to U.S., warns of fallout over genocide resolution

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 917

ANKARA, Turkey _ Turkey, which is a key supply route to U.S. troops in Iraq, recalled its ambassador to Washington on Wednesday and warned of serious repercussions if Congress labels the killing of Armenians by Turks a century ago as genocide.

Ordered after a House committee endorsed the genocide measure, the summons of the ambassador for consultations was a further sign of the deteriorating relations between two longtime allies and the potential for new turmoil in an already troubled region.

Egeman Bagis, an aide to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, told Turkish media that Turkey _ a conduit for many of the supplies shipped to American bases in both Iraq and Afghanistan _ might have to ``cut logistical support to the U.S."

Analysts also have speculated the resolution could make Turkey more inclined to send troops into northern Iraq to hunt Turkish Kurd rebels, a move opposed by the United States because it would disrupt one of the few relatively stable and peaceful Iraqi areas.

``There are steps that we will take," Turkey's prime minister told reporters, but without elaboration. It also wasn't clear if he meant his government would act immediately or wait to see what happens to the resolution in Congress.

He declined to answer questions about whether Turkey might shut down Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, a major cargo hub for U.S. and allied military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkey's Mediterranean port of Iskenderun is also used to ferry goods to American troops.

``You don't talk about such things, you just do them," Erdogan said.

The measure before Congress is just a nonbinding resolution without the force of law, but the debate has incensed Turkey's government.

The relationship between the two NATO allies, whose troops fought together in the Korean War in 1950-53, have stumbled in the past. They hit a low in 2003, when Turkey's parliament refused to allow U.S. forces use their country as a staging ground for the invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein.

But while the threat of repercussions against the United States is appealing for many Turks, the country's leaders know such a move could hurt Turkey's standing as a reliable ally of the West and its ambitions to be a mediator on the international stage.

The Turks did suspend military ties with France last year after parliament's lower house approved a bill that would have made it a crime to deny the mass killings of Armenians in Turkey amounted to genocide. But Turkey has much more to lose from cutting ties to the United States.

The United States is one of its major business partners, with \$11 billion in trade last year, and the U.S. defence industry provides much of the Turkish military's equipment.

Turkey's ambassador in Washington, Nabi Sensoy, was ordered home for discussions with the Turkish leadership about what is happening in Congress, Foreign Minister spokesman Levent Bilman said. He said Sensoy would go back after seven to 10 days.

“We are not withdrawing our ambassador. We have asked him to come to Turkey for some consultations,” Bilman said. “The ambassador was given instructions to return and will come at his earliest convenience.”

The U.S. administration, which is lobbying strongly in hopes of persuading Congress to reject the resolution, stressed the need for good relations with Turkey.

“We look forward to his quick return and will continue to work to maintain strong U.S.–Turkish relations,” said Gordon Johndroe, a spokesman for the National Security Council. “We remain opposed to House Resolution 106 because of the grave harm it could bring to the national security of the United States.”

Defence Secretary Robert Gates said the measure is damaging relations at a time when U.S. forces in Iraq rely heavily on Turkish permission to use their airspace for cargo flights.

About 70 per cent of U.S. air cargo headed for Iraq goes through Turkey as does about one-third of the fuel used by the U.S. military there. U.S. bases also get water and other supplies carried in overland by Turkish truckers who cross into Iraq's northern Kurdish region.

In addition, C-17 cargo planes fly military supplies to U.S. soldiers in remote areas of Iraq from Incirlik, avoiding the use of Iraqi roads vulnerable to bomb attacks. U.S. officials say the arrangement helps reduce American casualties.

U.S.–Turkish ties already had been strained by Turkey's complaint the United States hasn't done enough to stop Turkish Kurd rebels from using bases in northern Iraq to stage attacks in southeastern Turkey, a predominantly Kurdish region where tens of thousands have died in fighting since 1984.

Turkish warplanes and helicopter gunships attacked suspected positions of Kurdish rebels on the border this week and Turkey's parliament was expected to vote next week on a proposal to allow the military to pursue a large-scale offensive in northern Iraq.

The U.S. ambassador to Turkey, Ross Wilson, was invited to the Foreign Ministry, where officials conveyed their “unease” over the resolution in Congress and asked the Bush administration do all in its power to stop passage by the full House, a Foreign Ministry official said. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to make press statements.

Historians estimate up to 1.5 million Armenians were killed by Ottoman Turks around the time of the First World War. Turkey denies the deaths constituted genocide, saying the killings didn't come from a co-ordinated campaign but rather during unrest accompanying the Ottoman Empire's collapse.

The House Foreign Affairs Committee passed the resolution Wednesday despite intense lobbying by Turkish officials and the opposition from President George W. Bush. The vote was a triumph for well-organized Armenian–American interest groups that have lobbied Congress for decades to pass a resolution.

Quiet ceremony as Canadian soldier's name added to Wall of Honour

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KEYWORDS: DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 266

CALGARY _ The parents of the latest Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan remember their son as a ``proud and strong" young man who wanted to make the world a better place.

Their memories were part of a quiet ceremony Wednesday attended by dignitaries, friends and family to etch Cpl. Nathan Hornburg's name into the Wall of Honour in Calgary's Peacekeepers Park.

The soldier's father, Mike Hornburg, recalled how during his birthday last year his son showed him a construction project he'd worked on and was particularly pleased with _ just down the road from the park where he is now immortalized.

Hornburg said it's appropriate his son's name has a permanent place so close to something he was so involved with.

``Nathan's character and pride was in being a strong, young man," he said. ``He'd been so proud and strong and happy to be working so close by."

Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed Sept. 24 during fierce fighting as he tried to help a Leopard tank that had become disabled.

His mother, Linda Loree, said it's up to those left behind to make sure his sacrifice was not in vain.

``If you're 18 years old and not voting, give your head a shake, because there's people who are dying to give people that right," she said.

Loree recalled how as a child her son hated litter and learned to count by picking up pieces of garbage.

``The theory was to leave every place better than he found it, and that's what he was doing when he died."

The engraving also launched a new campaign to raise funds for the building of a new memorial wall for the park, said Don Ethell, spokesman for the Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping.

Ethell said the current wall, which was dedicated in 2004 and has 186 names on it, is quickly running out of room.

(Calgary Sun)

The World at 4 p.m. Thursday

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 2580

HEADLINES: _ Turkey recalls ambassador as tensions rise in wake of bill declaring Armenian genocide

_ AP Exclusive: Afghanistan cracks down on private security

_ Recent air control failure at Memphis airport may signal bigger danger

_ Johnson and Johnson, Wyeth and others pull infant cold medications amid safety concerns

_ Many voters around U.S. see lax rules allowing them to vote weeks before Election Day

_ Study: Women just as likely to get abortion in countries where it's outlawed as where legal

NEW & DEVELOPING:

ADDS: DIET-CHOCOLATE CRAVING; IMUS RETURN; DEMOCRATS-IRAN; Optional planned for: POLICE KILLINGS, NOBEL-LITERATURE.

Also moved:

_ ATHEIST CONVENTION _ Americans may dislike atheists, but for one weekend those who don't believe in God will find sanctuary at its annual convention in Madison, Wis. AP Photo of Oct. 10: NY466.

_ BLACKWATER-SUIT _ Families of Iraqis who died in a shooting involving Blackwater USA contractors in Baghdad sued the company Thursday, saying the firm violated U.S. law and fostered a culture of lawlessness among its employees.

_ SCOTUS-THOMAS' BOOK _ By one unscientific measure taken Thursday, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas was not as popular as Alan Greenspan, but a bit better off than Rosie O'Donnell. Thomas' autobiography, like memoirs by Greenspan and O'Donnell, was among the best-selling books on Amazon.com. AP Photo NY117.

_ COLOMBIA-ASSASSINATION TRIAL _ A former justice minister was convicted Thursday of masterminding the assassination of Colombian presidential candidate Luis Carlos Galan, a cartel-fighting politician.

_ US-RUSSIA _ A tangle of arms control and diplomatic disputes is testing the strength of U.S.-Russian relations as top-level Bush administration officials open two days of meetings in the Russian capital.

MULTIMEDIA:

Notable Photos:

_BRITAIN NOBEL PRIZE LITERATURE: LLP108, British writer Doris Lessing, winner of the 2007 Nobel

Prize in literature, smiles as she talks to members of the media.

_IRAQ US TROOPS: AMMA103, A woman weeps as U.S. army soldiers from B Troop, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry detain her male relatives in a pre-dawn raid in the Radwaniyah area of southern Baghdad.

_TURKEY US GENOCIDE: IST102, Members of the left-wing Workers' Party wave Turkish flags in Istanbul during a protest against the U.S. and its passing of a bill describing World War I-era killings of Armenians as genocide.

_SUDAN DARFUR FIGHTING: LON139, Remains of a bed still smoldering after the house it was in was destroyed in Muhajeria town, south Darfur.

_IRAQ AID: BAG101, Iraqi women line up to receive aid distributed in Sadr City.

_THAILAND MYANMAR: APW101, A boat carrying passengers from Myawaddy in Myanmar crosses the Moei River into Thailand's Mae Sot.

_BRITAIN NORTHERN IRELAND: XBFT102, Officers arrive to search a house in the Dumbeg Estate, Craigavon, Northern Ireland, where seven men have been arrested in a police operation against dissident Republican terrorist activity.

_INDONESIA MASS EXODUS: DA106, An Indonesian man enters a crowded train through a window at Senen station in Jakarta, Indonesia, where millions are heading to home villages to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday this weekend.

Interactives:

_ IRAQ: _international/iraq_troop_increase folder.

_ ASIA-ROLLING BACK TERROR: _international/alqaida_threat folder.

_ MCCAIN HEALTH CARE: wdc/08issues folder; wdc/2008money folder; wdc/2008primaries folder; wdc/early2008 folder.

_ SCOTUS: wdc/scotus0708 folder.

_ MUSIC JONI MITCHELL: _arts/joni_mitchell folder.

_ WITHERSPOON-PHILLIPE: _documents folder, slugged reese_divorce.pdf.

_ NFL SEASON OVERVIEW: _sports/nfl07/regular_season.

ALSO GETTING ATTENTION:

_ BRITNEY SPEARS-CUSTODY _ A court commissioner granted lawyers for Britney Spears and Kevin Federline more time to discuss Spears' visitation with their children _ then abruptly ended a custody hearing Thursday without ruling on whether the troubled singer should be allowed to have overnight visits. AP Photos CAGR101-105. AP Video.

_ CBS NEWS-BRAVER _ CBS News is defending the choice of correspondent Rita Braver to profile Lynne Cheney, the vice president's wife, even though Braver's husband represented Cheney in publishing her new memoir.

_ BABY AS WEAPON _ A jury has convicted a Pennsylvania woman of swinging her 4-week-old son at her boyfriend during a fight and fracturing the infant's skull. AP Photo PAERI501.

_ PEOPLE-MCCARTNEY _ Paul McCartney and Heather Mills appeared in court Thursday as British media reported they may be nearing a settlement in their high-profile divorce. AP Photos LON807, XAG102.

_ POLAND-DOG-APOLOGY _ A court has ordered an opposition party to apologize publicly to the speaker of parliament for making what it said were false claims about him and his dog in a campaign ad, a court spokesman said Thursday.

_ AUSTRIA-SEVERED PENIS _ Austrian authorities said Thursday they arrested an elderly Turkish-born man suspected of fatally shooting a younger Turkish associate and slicing off the victim's penis in what investigators called an ``honor killing."

_ PEOPLE-BERNSTEIN _ Carl Bernstein took reporters at a news conference to task for not spending enough time on stories when he found out many weren't staying to listen to his speech. AP Photo NY112.

_ JAPAN-INTERNET MURDER _ Police in Japan arrested a man who ran an Internet suicide site for allegedly killing a woman who paid him to do so, an official said Thursday.

TOP STORIES:

TURKEY-US-GENOCIDE

ANKARA, Turkey _ Turkey's role as a key supply route for the U.S.-led war effort in Iraq is in doubt after Turkey recalls its ambassador in Washington and warns of serious repercussions if Congress passes a bill labeling the killings of Armenians by Turks as genocide. Turkey may even feel less inhibited about launching an offensive into Iraq to hunt Kurdish rebels, a move opposed by the United States. By Christopher Torchia.

AP Photos IST101-106.

With:

_ IRAQ: Iraq's northern Kurdish region _ once a haven of relative calm _ could quickly become another fault line if Turkey follows through with threats to cross the border in pursuit of Kurdish militants. ``We are concerned about that," says Gen. David Petraeus, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq. AP Photos BAG109-114. AP Video.

AFGHAN-CONTRACTORS

KABUL, Afghanistan _ Echoing a growing problem in Iraq, Afghan authorities start cracking down on lucrative but largely unregulated security firms, some of which are suspected of murder. Police and Western officials tell The Associated Press 10 companies _ including some protecting embassies _ will be closed next week. By Jason Straziuso and Fisnik Abrashi.

AP Photos RMX101-104.

With:

_ AFGHAN-CONTRACTOR-RULES: Proposed rules for regulating private security companies obtained by The Associated Press.

DISRUPTED FLIGHTS

MEMPHIS, Tenn. _ When the communication system at a major Federal Aviation Administration center failed recently, air-traffic controllers resorted to their personal cell phones to ask other centers to help keep planes on course. Congress wants to know if the failure was an isolated breakdown or evidence of a design flaw in a multimillion-dollar project to upgrade air-control centers across the country. By Woody Baird.

AP Photo NY116.

WHO'S ON FIRST

WASHINGTON _ Pssst. Don't tell Iowa and New Hampshire, but people scattered all around the country could well be voting right alongside them or even beat them to the polls this winter. Quite apart from the states rushing to hold their nominating contests sooner, voters in many parts of the country are being treated to increasingly lax rules allowing them to cast ballots weeks before Election Day. By Nancy Benac.

AP Photos.

COLD MEDICINE-REMOVAL

WASHINGTON _ Companies begin pulling children's cold medicine off the market, leaving parents to find new options for little noses as the flu season gets under way. By Medical Writer Lauran Neergaard.

GLOBAL ABORTION, HFR

LONDON _ Women are just as likely to get an abortion in countries where it is outlawed as in those where it is legal, a new study shows. Examining abortion trends from 1995 to 2003, experts find the abortion rate is virtually equal in rich and poor countries, and that laws against the procedure have had little impact. By Maria Cheng.

Eds: Embargoed until 7:01 p.m.

AP Graphic ABORTION RATES.

WASHINGTON:

PENTAGON-COMMANDO COSTS

WASHINGTON _ The Pentagon has paid more than \$100 million in bonuses to veteran Green Berets and Navy SEALs, reversing the flow of top commandos to private security companies such as Blackwater USA that offer bigger salaries. By Richard Lardner.

AP Photos WX107-108. AP Graphic COMMMANDO COSTS.

POLICE KILLINGS

WASHINGTON _ More than 2,000 criminal suspects died in police custody over a three-year period, half of them killed by officers as they scuffled or attempted to flee, a Justice Department survey shows. It's the first nationwide compilation of the reasons behind arrest-related deaths in the wake of high-profile police assaults or killings involving Abner Louima and Amadou Diallo in New York in the late 1990s. By Hope Yen.

Eds: Optional planned.

AP Graphic POLICE KILLINGS.

IRAQ & THE MIDDLE EAST:

PALESTINIAN-ROCKET MASTERMIND

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip _ Constantly on the run from Israel, the militant who is known as Abu Hamza hides out in a house filled with adults and frolicking children. The room is barren except for a computer hooked up to the Internet, which the Islamic Jihad leader says his group uses to plan rocket attacks on Israel. He pledges to keep up the violence, telling The Associated Press: ``We must create a balance of terror with the enemy." By Steven Gutkin.

AP Photo.

Also:

_ IRAQ-UN-CONTRACTORS: U.N. officials urge U.S. authorities to prosecute private security firms for unjustified killings of Iraqi civilians and say they're looking into whether the shootings should be considered war crimes or crimes against humanity.

_ GATES, from LONDON _ Defense Secretary Robert Gates said Thursday he's comfortable with Britain's decision to halve its troop levels in Iraq by spring. Gates was heading to Moscow where he and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice will hold talks with Russian leaders who oppose U.S. plans for a missile defense system. AP Photos LON110-113.

AROUND THE WORLD:

GUANTANAMO-ENEMY COMBATANTS

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE, Cuba _ The U.S. military is reviewing its decision to classify hundreds of Guantanamo Bay inmates as ``enemy combatants," a step that could lead to new hearings. Critics say simply retrying the men doesn't fix the problem, because the new trials would still be held in a system that allows coerced evidence and doesn't give them lawyers and witnesses. By Michael Melia.

AP Photos of Oct. 10: XBL101-113.

ASIA-ROLLING BACK TERROR

JAKARTA, Indonesia _ The guest list was unusual: Convicted bombers mingled with the commanders of Indonesia's war on terrorism, nibbling on kebabs and swapping tales of al-Qaida training camps. Five years after the devastating bombing on Bali thrust Southeast Asia onto the front lines, Indonesia is fighting back not only with bullets, but by co-opting former militants as informers and preachers of moderation. By Chris Brummitt.

AP Photos of Oct. 10: NY441-450. Multimedia: An interactive graphic will be available in the international/alqaida_threat folder.

Also:

_ MYANMAR: Security guards have beaten, kicked and denied lifesaving medical care to protesters rounded up in the crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations, killing some, a dissident group says, citing accounts by released detainees.

AROUND THE NATION:

SCHOOL SHOOTING

CLEVELAND _ A teenager who opened fire at a downtown high school had a dossier full of mental problems, had just been suspended for fighting and made loud threats of violence only days before. So how was a trench-coated Asa Coon able to get two pistols into the school to shoot four people? Parents who had complained for months about lax security are demanding answers. By Thomas J. Sheeran.

AP Photos. AP Graphic SCHOOL SHOOTING. AP Video.

ANITA HILL–HARASSMENT

NEW YORK _ She was a charlatan or a heroine, depending which side you took in the gut-wrenching Clarence Thomas hearings 16 years ago. Now, thrust briefly back in the spotlight by biting words in Thomas' new book, Anita Hill sifts through thousands of documents on a tranquil college campus, trying to answer this question: Have things gotten better for women in the workplace? Lawyers in the field say yes _ and no. By National Writer Jocelyn Noveck.

AP Photo.

BONDAGE DEATH

LYNN, Mass _ Last year, a 32-year-old S&M enthusiast suffocated in a closet after he was bound with duct tape and a leather hood was put over his head. Now, a lawsuit over his lurid death raises this question: Since he consented to the sex play, can his partner be held responsible for his death? By Denise Lavoie.

AP Photos BX101–105.

REBUILDING NEW ORLEANS, HFR

NEW ORLEANS _ After struggling for months to come up with \$1.1 billion for stage one of New Orleans' hurricane rebuilding plan, city officials faced with growing public frustration over the sluggish recovery intend to move ahead with a drastically scaled-down first step of \$216 million. By Becky Bohrer.

Eds: Hold for release at 1:01 a.m.

CAMPAIGN 2008:

_ DEMOCRATS–IRAN, from NEW YORK _ Hillary Rodham Clinton's rivals watch in frustration as she successfully pivoted from her 2002 Senate vote authorizing the Iraq war. Her vote last month to designate Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps a terrorist organization is giving her opponents _ especially Barack Obama _ a fresh opportunity to question her anti-war credentials and judgment.

HEALTH & SCIENCE:

DIET–CHOCOLATE CRAVING, HFR

WASHINGTON _ Your body really does crave chocolate and perhaps other foods too, scientists say. And that craving comes from your gut _ gut bacteria, to be exact, according to a small study. By Science Writer Seth Borenstein.

Eds: Hold for release at 12 a.m.

SKOREA—SIZE MATTERS

SEOGWIPO, South Korea _ As the world's top condom experts convene this week to update international standards, one American entrepreneur has a simple message: Size matters. It's shaking up an industry that has generally taken a one-size-fits-all approach. By Burt Herman.

AP Photos SEL105-107.

Also:

_ ARTHRITIS—WORKPLACE, from ATLANTA _ About a third of U.S. adults with arthritis say the chronic condition has limited their ability to work, a government survey says.

BUSINESS:

AUTO TALKS

DETROIT _ On the floor at Chrysler's assembly plant in Sterling Heights, workers are wondering if their six-hour strike is enough to extract a good deal from the company. Some are skeptical about job security promises that don't extend more than four years, but nearly everyone is waiting for details from the United Auto Workers union. Meanwhile industry analysts are predicting that Ford will try to get a better deal than Chrysler when its talks begin. By Auto Writers Dee-Ann Durbin and Tom Krisher.

AP Photos. AP Video.

With:

_ AUTO TALKS—GLANCE

ECONOMY

WASHINGTON _ The falling dollar led more people overseas to buy American last month, welcome news for the Bush administration as it tries to deal with a Congress unhappy with huge deficits and lost manufacturing jobs. In a second report, the government finds its red ink has fallen to the lowest level in five years. By Economics Writer Martin Crutsinger.

AP Graphic US MONTHLY TRADE. AP Video.

With:

_ BUDGET DEFICIT: The federal deficit drops to \$162.8 billion in 2007. The Bush administration credits the president's tax cuts for helping generate record-breaking revenues but warns of an approaching ``fiscal train wreck" unless Congress deals with unsustainable growth in Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT:

NOBEL—LITERATURE

NEW YORK _ Doris Lessing, Nobel laureate. The very words should inspire a fresh look at the long, prolific career of the author of the classic ``The Golden Notebook" and dozens of other works, and a fresh debate

about the tastes of Nobel judges. By AP National Writer Hillel Italie.

Eds: Optional planned.

AP Photos NY113–115. AP Video.

With:

_ NOBEL–LESSING WORKS

_ BRITAIN–LESSING REACTION: Doris Lessing pulls up in a black cab and is told by a waiting media horde that she has won the Nobel Prize for literature. ``Oh, Christ ... I couldn't care less," she responds.

_ NOBEL PEACE: Climate change campaigners, including Al Gore, top speculation about who will win the Nobel Peace Prize to be announced by a secretive committee in Oslo on Friday.

MUSIC–JONI MITCHELL

NEW YORK _ A few years ago, Joni Mitchell had rejected her musical muse, refusing to write or even play music. Now, at age 63, the iconic Canadian singer–songwriter is enjoying an outburst of creativity highlighted by the release of ``Shine," her first album of new songs in nearly a decade. By Charles J. Gans.

AP Photos NY407–409. Multimedia: An audio slideshow detailing Joni Mitchell's latest artistic ventures will be available in the _arts/joni_mitchell folder.

IMUS RETURN

NEW YORK _ A six–month vacation, a multimillion–dollar contract settlement and the prospect of a new, nationally syndicated gig. Does that qualify as penance for acid–tongued Don Imus, fired last spring amid a national furor sparked by his racist on–air remark? Hardly, say some of his critics. By Larry McShane.

AP Photo NYR101.

CTV National News, Thursday, October 11

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 376

TORONTO _ Canadian and American companies are voluntarily pulling several cough and cold medicines for children under the age of two off drug store shelves; a study showed there have been over 140 deaths in four decades. CVD

OTTAWA _ There will be a major announcement on the war in Afghanistan Friday; Prime Minister Stephen Harper will announce a panel of prominent Canadians who will study the issue and come up with a Canadian consensus; panelists will include John Manley, former U.S. ambassador Derek Burney, Pamela Wallin, and two others. PICKING UP

OTTAWA _ Dalton McGuinty has declared a new holiday every third Monday in February; only 52.8 per cent of voters turned out in Ontario elections, the lowest ever. CVD

OTTAWA _ Canadian airlines flying through U.S. airspace may have to hand over passenger lists 72 hours before departing for destinations that travel in U.S. airspace. CVD

TORONTO_ The federal government is pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into Via Rail to fix up aging trains and move more passengers. CVD.

UNDATED_ A new study shows that Google is being used by half of all web users – 37 billion searches in just one month; more searches are being done in the Asia-Pacific region than anywhere else. Not Matching Immediately.

HAMILTON, Ont. _ Canadians are going to the United States to buy cars and are saving huge amounts of money due to a strong loonie. Main Elements Covered Previously

UNDATED _ High schools across Cleveland were closed Thursday in the wake of a school shooting Wednesday in which a student shot at students and teachers and then killed himself. CVD

UNDATED _ A 14-year-old Pennsylvania youth has been arrested and had his extensive arsenal of weapons confiscated. CVD

UNDATED _ The Turkish ambassador to the United States has been recalled after a resolution passed by a Congressional committee that recognized the Turkish genocide of ethnic Armenians; the Turkish government says they are considering the matter. CVD

UNDATED _ An 83-year-old woman was attacked and killed by an alligator near her home in Savannah, Georgia. CVD

VANCOUVER _ Ticket prices are high for the 2010 Olympics, particularly for the Gold Medal hockey games; organizers say they've tried to offer some reasonably priced events; Canadians can apply online for tickets; 30 per cent of tickets will go to sponsors and media; tickets range from \$175 to \$1,100; best seats for men's hockey will go for \$775. CVD

CP News Agenda for Friday, Oct. 12

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1401

p.m. ET: x—denotes wire, y—denotes picture, z—denotes graphics coverage. Copy from other events based on merit and availability. All times local unless otherwise noted. Queries about these events and stories in The Canadian Press report should be directed to the departments listed below (all phone numbers 416 area code): Main Desk (National News) 507–2150 World Desk 507–2165 Sports Desk 507–2154 Ontario Desk 507–2159 Photo Desk 507–2169 Specials Desk (Syndicated Copy) 507–2152 IT Desk (Technical Trouble) 507–2099 or 800–268–8149

x–NEW YORK _ Quebec Premier Jean Charest meets New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and gives a speech on energy and the environment.

ATLANTIC

MONCTON, N.B. _ New Brunswick New Democrats hold leadership convention. Keynote speakers: Jack Layton, Leader of the Federal NDP, and Yvon Godin, MP for Acadie–Bathurst. Through Oct. 13. (Holiday Inn Express)

x–OROMOCTO, N.B. _ A Welcome Home Ceremony will be held to celebrate the return of Task Force Afghanistan personnel. Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Lieutenant–General Andrew Leslie, Chief of the Land Staff, will present medals to those that have not already received them. (10 a.m. at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown)

SAINT JOHN, N.B. _ Various speakers discuss ways to reform New Brunswick's health care system. (Saint John Trade and Convention Centre)

HALIFAX _ Annual conference for the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. (Delta Halifax Hotel)

HALIFAX _ Canadian Arthritis Network's annual scientific conference (Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, 1919 Upper Water St.)

HALIFAX _ Percy Paris, the NDP member of the legislature for Waverley–Fall River–Beaver Bank, speaks to the media about an "unfair" school lunch fee. (10 a.m. at NDP caucus office, 10th floor, 1660 Hollis Street)

HALIFAX _ N.S. health minister makes chronic pain announcement. (11:45 a.m. at Second level, World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle St.)

HALIFAX _ Peter MacKay speaks during the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency conference The Atlantic Art of Success. (6:30 p.m. at Grand ballroom C and D, World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle Street)

HALIFAX _ A one day conference called 2007 Atlantic Provinces Transportation Forum is held to look at issues arising from the creation of an Atlantic gateway. (World Trade and Convention Centre)

CHARLOTTETOWN _ A ruling is expected in the trial of Jillian Maureen Anderson, a 23-year-old soccer coach accused of exploiting a 15-year-old girl.

MONTREAL _ The University of Montreal hosts the International Forum of Public Universities. Through Oct. 12. (Hyatt Regency Montreal, 1255 Jean-Mance, Salon Ete des Indiens/University of Montreal amphitheatre)

MONTREAL _ McGill hosts Global Conference on the Prevention of Genocide. Speakers to include Michael Ignatieff, Romeo Dallaire, Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka and Jordanian ambassador to the U.S., HRH Prince Zeid Al-Raad. Through Oct. 13. (Hotel Omni Mont Royal, 1050 Sherbrooke Street West)

MONTREAL _ Ghislain Picard, chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador holds news conference on aboriginal expectations for the throne speech. (11 a.m. at Musee de la Pointe-a-Callieres, Polyvalente Rm, 350 Place Royale)

MONTREAL _ Drug firm Thallion Pharmaceuticals holds third-quarter earnings conference call. Dial 416-644-3415, code: 21249689. (2:30 p.m.)

MONTREAL _ Gerard Bouchard and Charles Taylor, the co-chairman of the commission looking at reasonable accommodation in Quebec, attend a panel on cultural diversity. (3 p.m. at Universite de Montreal, Amphitheatre K-500)

QUEBEC _ Parti Quebecois Leader Pauline Marois holds news conference to discuss the forestry crisis. (9:30 a.m. at Legislature)

OTTAWA

x-OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases third-quarter investment in non-residential building construction. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases study: literacy and adult learning with data from a 2003 survey. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Supreme Court hears Ontario appeal of Marco Trotta vs. the Crown. (9:30 a.m. at Supreme Court, 301 Wellington St.)

x-OTTAWA _ Former security certificate detainees Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad Abou-Elmaati, Muayyed Nureddin and their counsels hold news conference on inquiry. (9:30 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

x-OTTAWA _ Supreme Court renders judgements in Ontario appeal of Douglas Kerr vs. Danier Leather. Briefing 9:15 a.m. in the Press Room. (9:45 a.m. at Supreme Court, 301 Wellington St.)

x-OTTAWA _ Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean will present Military Valour Decorations and Meritorious Service Decorations. Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier speaks. (10:30 a.m. at Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Dr.)

x-OTTAWA _ Non-government organizations hold news conference on reshaping our mission in Afghanistan. (10:30 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

x-OTTAWA _ Former security certificate detainee, Mohamed Harkat and his counsel hold news conference on security certificate process. (11 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA _ NDP Leader Jack Layton attends Thomas Mulcair's swearing in ceremony as Member of Parliament for Outremont. (11 a.m. at Room 200, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA _ Congress of Aboriginal Peoples National Chief Patrick Brazeau and former commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission Max Yalden hold news conference regarding protection of human rights for First Nations peoples. (11:30 a.m. at Room 130–S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

ONTARIO

BRANTFORD, Ont. _ Federal Environment Minister John Baird makes announcement on brownfields. Photo op at 9:45 a.m. at 66 Mohawk St. (10 a.m. at City Hall, 100 Wellington Sq.)

x–BURLINGTON, Ont. _ Former prime minister Brian Mulroney promotes his new autobiography "Brian Mulroney: Memoirs." (7 p.m. at Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd. W.)

JACKSON'S POINT, Ont. _ Federal Environment Minister John Baird makes announcement on Lake Simcoe. (2:30 p.m. at Salvation Army Conference Centre, 1890 Metro Rd. N.)

LONDON, Ont. _ The Canadian Comedy Festival, featuring stand-up and musical performances, as well as a panel forum, sketch and improv showcases. Through Oct. 13. (McManus Theatre, Grand Theatre)

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. _ Ontario Lt. Gov. David Onley speaks at launch of Business Takes Action initiative on employment of persons with disabilities and accessibility (8 a.m. at Centre for Health and Safety Innovation, IAPA offices)

OTTAWA _ Ontario Hospital Association re-launches "Your Health Care – Be Involved" campaign. (11:45 a.m. at British Columbia Room, Westin Hotel)

TORONTO _ Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology and Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists holds conference on image-guided and adaptive radiation therapy. Through Oct. 13. (Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen St. W.)

TORONTO _ Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine speaks to the mining industry on "Progress through Partnerships: Exploring Economic Opportunities between First Nations and the Mineral Industry." (11:45 a.m. at Aracadian Court, Simpson Tower, 401 Bay Street, 8th floor)

TORONTO _ Donald Trump to participate in ground breaking ceremony for the Trump International Hotel and Tower. (12 p.m. at 325 Bay St.)

TORONTO _ The Registered Nurses' Association discusses ways to strengthen Medicare in advance of a speech by CMA president Brian Day. (12 p.m. at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 19th floor, Salon 3, 100 Front St. W.)

TORONTO _ Dr. Brian Day, president of the Canadian Medical Association, gives speech to Empire Club of Canada. (12:15 p.m. at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Upper Canada Room, 100 Front St. W.)

x–TORONTO _ Federal Liberal Leader Stephane Dion gives speech to Economic Club of Toronto on upcoming parliamentary session. Media availability to follow. (12:45 p.m. at Delta Chelsea Hotel, Churchill Room, 33 Gerrard St. W.)

TORONTO _ Yamana Gold Inc.'s extended takeover offer for Meridian Gold Inc. expires. (11:45 p.m.)

TORONTO _ Ontario Securities Commission Conrad Black hearing. (20 Queen St. W.)

PRAIRIES

CALGARY _ Canadian bobsleigh, luge and skeleton athletes hold their first workout and then host ``A Day at the Track" for media. (12 p.m. at Canada Olympic Park Bobsleigh Start on Track)

CALGARY _ Sentencing for father who pleaded guilty to taking and distributing photos of himself sexually abusing his infant daughter.

CARDSTON, Alta. _ A 17-year-old boy accused of sexually assaulting a three-year-old girl on the Blood reserve in late August to appear court to enter plea. (provincial court)

CARDSTON, Alta. _ Male youth, 17, to appear in court charged with breaking into a home and sexually assaulting a three-year-old child left home alone. (Provincial court)

EDMONTON _ Dallas-based Affiliated Computer Services preliminary hearing into charges it offered bribes to Edmonton police officers to get its photo radar contract with the city renewed. Through Oct. 14.

EDMONTON _ Voir dire arguments in the case of Thomas Svekla, charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of prostitutes Theresa Innes, 36, and Rachel Quinney, 19. Through Dec. 20. (Court of Queen's Bench)

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. _ A 17-year-old boy appears in court on a charge of sexually assaulting a three-year-old girl.

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. _ Fifteen-year-old charged with second-degree murder in the death of Dean Josie, 18, who was found dead in a park in Prince Albert, to appear in court.

SASKATOON _ Saskatoon cardiologist Dr. Carlos Huerto on trial for defrauding federal and provincial governments. Through Oct. 12.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

x-NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. _ Defence continues in trial of accused serial killer Robert William Pickton. (10 a.m. at New Westminster Supreme Court)

RICHMOND, B.C. _ Grand opening of BCIT's new aerospace technology campus. (11 a.m. at 3800 Cessna Drive)

SQUAMISH, B.C. _ Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day announces flooding financial assistance to the province of B.C. (9 a.m. at 1000 Finch Dr., RCMP detachment)

VANCOUVER _ Amica Mature Lifestyles reports third-quarter earnings. Dial 416-641-6125. (1 p.m.)

Canada worried about hungry Afghans, but won't do deliveries.

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 562

OTTAWA _ International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says it's imperative that United Nations food deliveries make it to hungry Afghan villages, but she won't commit Canada to doing more than paying for the parcels.

On a trip to Kandahar last weekend, she announced an additional \$25 million would be given to the World Food Program on top of \$14 million already doled out to the UN agency over the last year.

But UN officials in the war-torn region say their food convoys have increasingly become targets for Taliban insurgents and drug lords intent on disrupting the reconstruction effort.

Of all the things Oda saw during her whirlwind, 36-hour trip to the war-torn country, the chronic shortage of food made the biggest impression, she said Thursday..

“These people, who have been devastated by years of chaos, they've faced drought, they are desperate for food,” she said during a briefing on Afghan mission.

“The minimal amount of food we can distribute to each family is so important to them. I know winter is coming. It's important we provide food, basic food.”

The fact that insurgents would use food as weapon seemed to surprise her.

“I guess one of the things that challenges me and I really took to heart is that a people who need basic food are being prevented access to that food by a group of insurgents.

“This is something that will always have an impression on me and will make sure for me that the important work that we are doing has to continue.”

She paused. “It has to continue.”

The UN agency has hired a private security contractor to escort its convoys and sometimes relies on second and third parties to deliver its packages. More supplies have been stolen in the last 10 months than in the last three years.

The World Food Program expects to deliver 225,000 tonnes of food throughout all of Afghanistan this year, feeding 3.5 million people. How much of the aid has been delivered and how much remains stuck in the agency's depots because of the security situation remains unclear.

UN officials have said 1,000 tonnes of wheat, beans, cooking oil and fortified biscuits have been waylaid or vanished since January following roughly 30 attacks by insurgents.

The inability of convoys to get through has become a major handicap for NATO as it tries to wrestle districts away from the Taliban.

Canada worried about hungry Afghans, but won't do deliveries.

Questioned afterward about what Canada, with 2,500 troops in Kandahar, is doing to safeguard deliveries, Oda said there have been ``discussions" involving Canadian, Afghan and UN officials in the ruined province.

``I'm sure they'll come up with a solution that will get the most food to the most people as quickly as possible," she said.

But her officials, speaking on background, said Canada's role has been limited to ensuring the UN has money for food and that the logistical pipeline is full. There has been no request for help, military or otherwise, from the agency.

Oda's blanket assurance isn't enough for organizations such as the European-based Senlis Council, which has repeatedly warned that Afghans in the many refugee camps and villages that dot the desert around Kandahar don't have enough to eat.

``Canadians took responsibility for Kandahar, they should fulfil their responsibility," said Almas Bawar, the Senlis Council's country director for Canada.

``Because of the security situation in Kandahar, the United Nations is failing in its responsibility and it's time something be done."

Bawar, whose home was originally in eastern Afghanistan, said Canada needs to ensure that food convoys get through, either by providing security in advance of the UN _ or taking over the deliveries itself.

Oda said she places a lot of faith the country's current ground commander, Gen. Guy LaRoche, to come up with a creative solution.

But LaRoche's hands are largely tied because many non-governmental organizations loathe the idea of soldiers handing out food aid.

PM to announce committee to study Canada's role in Afghanistan; CTV

DATE: 2007.10.11

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 152

OTTAWA _ There's a report that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will announce a five-member panel of prominent Canadians to look at Canada's future role in Afghanistan.

Quoting government sources, CTV News is reporting the panel will come up with options on the role Canada should play in Afghanistan after the Canadian combat mission ends in February 2009.

According to CTV, the panel members include former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley; Derek Burney, Canada's former U.S. ambassador and a former chief of staff to Brian Mulroney; former Mulroney cabinet minister Jake Epp; former CN Rail CEO Paul Tellier and former broadcaster and diplomat Pamela Wallin.

The sources tell the network that Harper wants to take the partisanship out of the Afghanistan mission that has divided the country.

CTV says the panel may consider whether to withdraw or significantly reduce combat troops or to have the Canadians solely train the Afghan army or play a role in aid and reconstruction.

Afghanistan cracks down on private security firms, closes 2, more to follow

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 102

KABUL, Afghanistan _ Afghan authorities have shut down two private security companies and more than 10 others are expected to be closed soon.

Police Gen. Ali Shah Paktiawal says authorities shut down the Afghan-run security companies Wathan and Caps, and found 82 illegal weapons during the two raids in Kabul on Tuesday.

A western security official who doesn't want to be named says some major western companies are on the list of at least 10 others tapped for closure. He would not identify the companies.

The crackdown echoes efforts by authorities in Iraq to rein in private security contractors often accused of acting with impunity.

Some of the private security companies have been accused of murder and robbery.

The Canadian Press World News Budget – Thursday, Oct. 11, 2007

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 343

Here are the budgeted stories as of 19:30 EDT. The editor handling World news in Toronto can be reached at 416-507-2165.

OSLO, Norway _ Climate change campaigners Al Gore and Sheila Watt-Cloutier topped speculation about who would win the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday. The former U.S. vice-president was nominated jointly with Canadian Inuit activist Watt-Cloutier by two Norwegian politicians. Nobel watchers and bookmakers say they are both good bets, as are the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and its leader, Rajendra Pachauri. 750 words. By Doug Mellgren. BC-Nobel-Peace. Moved.

BAGHDAD _ Rockets fired from a nearby abandoned school struck Camp Victory, killing two members of the U.S.-led coalition and wounding 40 other people on the sprawling headquarters for U.S. forces in Iraq, the military said Thursday. Most troops stationed at the base are American but there are small contingents from other countries. 925 words. By Kim Curtis. BC-Iraq, 1st Writethru. Moved.

CLEVELAND _ Despite 26 security cameras, officials couldn't say Thursday how an armed, suspended 14-year-old student was able to get into his downtown school a day earlier and shoot two students and two teachers before killing himself. School officials also were investigating how a number of warning signs from the troubled student, including threats made last week, apparently went unheeded. 950 words. By Joe Milicia. See Photo. BC-School-Shooting, 3rd Writethru. Moved.

For the Weekend:

MURAD KHANE, Afghanistan _ Murad Khane was once a prosperous area that played host to Afghan royalty. It had grand houses that people loved to live in, and a thriving market along the Kabul River. Through decades of war, the area had fallen far from its glory days. The landmark buildings were crumbling, raw sewage ran in the streets and the wells were dry. Now, the Turquoise Mountain project aims to rebuild Murad Khane one brick at a time. 800 words. By Dene Moore. See Photos KANDX101-107. BC-Afghan-Cda-Culture. Moved Datafile.

Afghanistan struggles to preserve rich past despite ongoing war

DATE: 2007.10.11

KEYWORDS: CONSTRUCTION DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 679

MURAD KHANE, Afghanistan _ Hedayatullah Ahmad Zai slaps his hand against one of the ancient mud brick walls that separate this historic neighbourhood from the rest of Kabul, a bustling city now despite the remnants of war.

“There was garbage up to here,” he says, shaking his head. “We hauled it out for weeks. And there were people living in that.”

Murad Khane was once a thriving area that played host to Afghan royalty. It had grand houses that people loved to live in and a busy market along the Kabul River.

Through decades of war, the area had fallen far from its glory days.

The landmark buildings were crumbling. Raw sewage ran in the streets. The wells were dry, and the only people who remained were those too poor to have anywhere else to go.

“This area has a story that is 300 years old,” says Ahmad Zai, the head of engineering for an ambitious project to rebuild the area.

“The people like living in these houses,” he says as he strolls through a maze of alleys and construction sites. “They have been here for generations.”

And for generations they had watched as the grand buildings of Murad Khane buckled from neglect and returned to mud.

Like the buildings, the people showed the signs of neglect.

Poor and uneducated, few had the prospect of earning a living. Children worked if they could, and women stayed hidden inside their homes in fear of Taliban reprisals.

Enter Turquoise Mountain.

Born of a meeting between Prince Charles and Afghan President Hamid Karzai in January 2006, the Turquoise Mountain project aims to rebuild Murad Khane one brick at a time.

The neighbourhood's ancient buildings are slowly being restored to their former glory.

There is an embroidery centre where the neighbourhood women earn a stipend for their work, and an elementary school for the children. Eventually, there will be a school for traditional arts and architecture. It will teach subjects ranging from carpentry, tile-making to calligraphy.

Every afternoon, a volunteer doctor runs a medical clinic and health workers visit local families. The well has been restored and proper sewage drains have been dug.

Earlier this month, Canada's International Co-operation Minister Beverley Oda announced \$3 million for the project, funded so far by individual donations from philanthropists including Prince Charles and the Crown Prince of Bahrain.

“It is a hard-hit city and one of the ways that it helps people here initially is with instant job creation,” says Anna Woodiwiss, spokeswoman for the project, as she strolls through the returning bazaar area.

“Any unemployed man in Murad Khane who wants a job on this project has one – whether it's clearing garbage, doing brick work or restoring these buildings.”

The idea is to build a visible symbol of regeneration amid the ruins, one that will draw Afghans from across the country and, eventually, foreign visitors.

Looking at the rocket-pocked landscape of poverty and decay, it is difficult to imagine that one day anyone would come to Afghanistan of their own accord. Many buildings left standing are doing so by the slimmest of margins. Even cherished mosques have fallen into disrepair.

It is easy to forget that this land was once a celebrated stop along the Silk Road between China and Rome. Its history stretches back over thousands of years of civilization.

But Afghanistan has also been plundered throughout history – by Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, the Persians, the Ottoman Empire, to name a few.

At one time, the national museum in Kabul hosted the world's richest collection of artifacts from central Asia.

But the museum was bombed in 1993. Then the Taliban sacked the place in 2001, around the time they blew up two giant 5th century Buddha statues in Bamiyan.

What hadn't fallen victim to war or the strict Islam of the Taliban has been looted.

Museum staff tried to preserve what they could, squirrelling away artifacts across the country for safekeeping. But it has been estimated that about 75 per cent of the original collection has been destroyed or stolen and sold off to private collectors around the world.

The museum re-opened in 2004 but most of its collection is still missing.

“We have a lot of work to do,” says curator Omar Khan Masoodi. “Our museum was looted and damaged and destroyed.”

Some progress is being made.

More than a thousand works taken to the Afghanistan Museum in Exile in Switzerland during the Taliban years have now been returned. Thousands of other pieces have been recovered, and museum staff are busy trying to restore damaged works.

The museum itself still needs much work but with the help of UNESCO, the United Nations cultural organization, and various foreign governments and museums, “the work is going well,” Masoodi says.

Six thousand visitors have come through the doors already this year.

“It's important for us to preserve our ancient civilization, not only for our younger generation, but for the whole world,” Masoodi says.

U.S. government says more warfare technology being smuggled to China, Iran

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE TRADE
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 469

WASHINGTON _ Missile technology, fighter jet parts, night vision goggles and other U.S. wartime equipment increasingly are being illegally smuggled into hostile countries, including China and Iran, the federal government said Thursday.

Last week, two Utah men were arrested for allegedly trying to sell parts over the Internet for F-4 and F-14 fighter jets, which are only flown by Iran. The week before, two engineers were indicted in San Jose, Calif., on charges of stealing computer chip designs intended for the Chinese military.

Officials acknowledged that some smuggled equipment might be used for peaceful purposes, such as spark gaps that are used in medical machines to break up kidney stones but also can trigger nuclear detonations. Government lawyers and investigators described a growing number of unauthorized exports that could be dangerous if they end up in the hands of terrorists or hostile countries.

“The concept of terrorists, criminals or rogue nations obtaining weapons and other restricted technology is chilling,” said Homeland Security Assistant Secretary Julie Myers, who oversees illegal export investigations as head of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Assistant Attorney General Ken Wainstein called new government efforts to crack down on illegal exports the Justice Department's top counterintelligence priority.

A Pentagon report noted a 43 per cent increase in 2005 in what it described as suspicious foreign contacts with U.S.-based defence companies. Another report last year by U.S. intelligence officials found that a record 108 countries were trying to buy or otherwise obtain U.S. technology that is restricted for sale. It did not list which countries or specify whether some of them were U.S. allies.

Night vision goggles, body armour and equipment used in improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, have been in particular demand since the 2001 terror attacks that prompted the U.S.-led invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, officials said. But some prosecutors have been reluctant to pursue the smugglers because illegal export cases can be very complicated and time-consuming to chase.

“These are incredibly complicated cases,” Wainstein said, adding that training and assistance will be given to prosecutors and investigators working on a new task force under the departments of State, Justice, Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce and the FBI. The task force largely will focus on U.S.-based exporters who sell or ship equipment overseas without proper authorization.

Other recent smuggling cases of concern to national security officials include:

_Pittsburgh company SparesGlobal, Inc., was sentenced last week for lying about exporting equipment used in nuclear reactors and ballistic missiles in 2003 that ended up in Pakistan.

_A man in California pleaded guilty in August to trying to smuggle 100,000 Uzi submachine guns and night vision goggles to Iranian government officials.

_Two men pleaded guilty in California on the same day, Aug. 1, to exporting military–use technology to China, including, in one case, computer code to help train fighter pilots.

Alta–Dion

DATE: 2007.10.11

KEYWORDS: BUSINESS EDUCATION ENVIRONMENT FINANCE INTERNATIONAL

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 120

EDMONTON — Liberal Leader Stephane Dion says he's hoping Prime Minister Harper doesn't take a hard line with next week's throne speech, or the Opposition could force a federal election.

Dion said yesterday in Edmonton he doesn't want to bring down the minority government unless the prime minister takes positions in the throne speech that no Liberal can support.

He says his party expects a throne speech that will be reasonable enough for Liberals to support.

Dion says Canadians don't want a third election in less than four years, noting an election costs taxpayers 300 (m) million dollars.

He says the Liberals want to see four key issues covered in the throne speech.

They are a revival of the Clean Air Act shelved by the Tories, Canadian troops pulled out of Afghanistan within 18 months, a real plan to fight poverty and a plan to improve Canada's productivity.

(The Canadian Press)

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--Fifth NewsWatch--

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 244

The Liberals have scored a stunning election victory in Ontario.

Premier Dalton McGuinty is the province's first Liberal leader in 70 years to claim a second straight majority government.

McGuinty says there's little doubt Conservative Leader John Tory's plan to fund religious schools hurt his party's fortunes.

But he also says the Liberals won it on their record.

The Liberals took 71 of 107 seats, the Conservatives 26 and the N-D-P 10. (5)

(Elxn Sask)

The people of Saskatchewan are going to the polls next month.

New Democrat Premier Lorne Calvert has called an election for November 7th.

He says he's hoping voters choose not to mess with a good thing.

The N-D-P is seeking a fifth consecutive mandate. (5)

(Dion Throne Speech)

Stephane Dion says he's leaving all options open when it comes to next week's throne speech.

The federal Liberal leader says he doesn't want to bring down the minority Conservative government unless positions in the throne speech are so ``intransigent" that no Liberal can support it.

Dion says his party is looking for four things in the throne speech.

They are: a revival of the Clean Air Act shelved by the Tories, a pullout of Canadian troops from Afghanistan within 18 months, a real plan to fight poverty, and a plan to improve Canada's productivity. (5)

(Cda Afghan Army Shooting)

Military police records reveal a scary situation for Canadian troops in Afghanistan.

A tense hour-long standoff between Canadian soldiers and Afghan army troops occurred last February following an accidental shooting near Kandahar.

Afghan soldiers threatened to kill the Canadian soldier responsible for the shooting.

The incident was defused only when Canadians promised an investigation.

The unidentified soldier involved in the shooting was never charged. (5)

(Vancouver Strike)

Some public services are resuming in Vancouver.

The city's 25-hundred inside workers are heading back to work after a strike that began July 20th.

However, the garbage continues to pile up.

Twenty-five-hundred outside and library workers remain off the job. (5)

(McCartney Mills Divorce)

Paul McCartney and Heather Mills appeared in a London court today — their divorce case discreetly posted on the docket only by number.

News reports say the issue holding up an agreement is likely the size of a settlement for Mills, rumoured to be upwards of 100 (m) million dollars. (5)

(NewsWatch by Geri Smith)

INDEX:Defence

DATE: 2007.10.11

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 184

CALGARY _ The parents of the latest Canadian soldier to die in Afghanistan remember their son as a "proud and strong" young man who wanted to make the world a better place.

Their memories were part of a quiet ceremony yesterday to etch Corporal Nathan Hornburg's name into the Wall of Honour in Calgary's Peacekeepers Park.

The soldier's father, Mike Hornburg, recalled how during his birthday last year his son showed him a construction project he'd worked on and was particularly pleased with — just down the road from the park where he is now immortalized.

Hornburg says it's appropriate his son's name has a permanent place so close to something he was so involved with.

Hornburg, a reservist with the King's Own Calgary Regiment, was killed September 24th during fierce fighting as he tried to help a Leopard tank that had become disabled.

The Canadian Association of Veterans in United Nations Peacekeeping says the engraving also launched a new campaign to raise funds for the building of a new memorial wall for the park.

The association says the current wall, which was dedicated in 2004 and has 186 names on it, is quickly running out of room.

(Cgy Sun)

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INDEX:Advisories

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 301

(NS–Police–Parking)

A Halifax policeman is being charged with fraud in connection with several bogus parking passes.

Fraud investigators launched an investigation after receiving a complaint about the possible use of the passes.

Constable Alexander MacAdam, an eight–year veteran of the force, is scheduled to appear in Halifax Provincial Court on Jan. 31st to face one count of fraud under \$5000.

He has been suspended with pay until the matter is resolved before the courts.

(NB–Wireless–Buses)

Wireless is coming to bus commuters in Moncton, N.B.

Free wireless Internet has recently been introduced on the four Codiac Transit buses that run on Moncton's express route.

The buses are distinguished by the lime–green Wi–Fi signs on them.

(CJMO)

(NS–Acadia–Talks)

Contract talks between the Acadia University administration and the union that represents its faculty are in Day 2.

The university and the Acadia Faculty Association are being assisted by a government–appointed conciliator.

The professors have set Monday as their strike deadline.

(CKEN)

(TSB–Boat–Capsized)

A report on the sinking of a fishing boat off Newfoundland and Labrador says the tragedy was compounded by the crews' inability to free liferafts as their unstable vessel rolled over.

Four fishermen died when the vessel sank in the frigid waters.

The Transportation Safety Board of Canada released its final report today on the sinking of the longliner the Melina and Keith Two.

(The Canadian Press)

(Casey–Riding–Reaction)

The president of the Conservative riding association in maverick M–P Bill Casey's riding is troubled by the prospect of campaigning against him in the next election.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced on Tuesday that Casey will not be welcome back into the caucus, despite a deal being reached over offshore revenues yesterday.

Conservative riding association president Scott Armstrong says working against Casey would be a “very difficult” thing for him to do.

(CJCJ)

(NB–Soldiers–Ceremony)

More than 650 Canadian soldiers who served in Afghanistan will get an official welcome home tomorrow at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown in New Brunswick.

Many of the soldiers have been home for more than two months, but officials at the base and the local communities decided they wanted to do more for their local heroes.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Lieutenant–General Andrew Leslie, the chief of the Land Staff will present medals to the soldiers during a ceremony this morning.

(The Canadian Press)

(Atlantic Update by Michael Tutton)

CP News Agenda for Friday, Oct. 12

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 1401

p.m. ET: x—denotes wire, y—denotes picture, z—denotes graphics coverage. Copy from other events based on merit and availability. All times local unless otherwise noted. Queries about these events and stories in The Canadian Press report should be directed to the departments listed below (all phone numbers 416 area code): Main Desk (National News) 507–2150 World Desk 507–2165 Sports Desk 507–2154 Ontario Desk 507–2159 Photo Desk 507–2169 Specials Desk (Syndicated Copy) 507–2152 IT Desk (Technical Trouble) 507–2099 or 800–268–8149

x–NEW YORK _ Quebec Premier Jean Charest meets New York Gov. Eliot Spitzer and gives a speech on energy and the environment.

ATLANTIC

MONCTON, N.B. _ New Brunswick New Democrats hold leadership convention. Keynote speakers: Jack Layton, Leader of the Federal NDP, and Yvon Godin, MP for Acadie–Bathurst. Through Oct. 13. (Holiday Inn Express)

x–OROMOCTO, N.B. _ A Welcome Home Ceremony will be held to celebrate the return of Task Force Afghanistan personnel. Defence Minister Peter MacKay and Lieutenant–General Andrew Leslie, Chief of the Land Staff, will present medals to those that have not already received them. (10 a.m. at Canadian Forces Base Gagetown)

SAINT JOHN, N.B. _ Various speakers discuss ways to reform New Brunswick's health care system. (Saint John Trade and Convention Centre)

HALIFAX _ Annual conference for the Canadian Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. (Delta Halifax Hotel)

HALIFAX _ Canadian Arthritis Network's annual scientific conference (Halifax Marriott Harbourfront Hotel, 1919 Upper Water St.)

HALIFAX _ Percy Paris, the NDP member of the legislature for Waverley–Fall River–Beaver Bank, speaks to the media about an "unfair" school lunch fee. (10 a.m. at NDP caucus office, 10th floor, 1660 Hollis Street)

HALIFAX _ N.S. health minister makes chronic pain announcement. (11:45 a.m. at Second level, World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle St.)

HALIFAX _ Peter MacKay speaks during the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency conference The Atlantic Art of Success. (6:30 p.m. at Grand ballroom C and D, World Trade and Convention Centre, 1800 Argyle Street)

HALIFAX _ A one day conference called 2007 Atlantic Provinces Transportation Forum is held to look at issues arising from the creation of an Atlantic gateway. (World Trade and Convention Centre)

CHARLOTTETOWN _ A ruling is expected in the trial of Jillian Maureen Anderson, a 23-year-old soccer coach accused of exploiting a 15-year-old girl.

MONTREAL _ The University of Montreal hosts the International Forum of Public Universities. Through Oct. 12. (Hyatt Regency Montreal, 1255 Jean-Mance, Salon Ete des Indiens/University of Montreal amphitheatre)

MONTREAL _ McGill hosts Global Conference on the Prevention of Genocide. Speakers to include Michael Ignatieff, Romeo Dallaire, Nobel laureate Wole Soyinka and Jordanian ambassador to the U.S., HRH Prince Zeid Al-Raad. Through Oct. 13. (Hotel Omni Mont Royal, 1050 Sherbrooke Street West)

MONTREAL _ Ghislain Picard, chief of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador holds news conference on aboriginal expectations for the throne speech. (11 a.m. at Musee de la Pointe-a-Callieres, Polyvalente Rm, 350 Place Royale)

MONTREAL _ Drug firm Thallion Pharmaceuticals holds third-quarter earnings conference call. Dial 416-644-3415, code: 21249689. (2:30 p.m.)

MONTREAL _ Gerard Bouchard and Charles Taylor, the co-chairman of the commission looking at reasonable accommodation in Quebec, attend a panel on cultural diversity. (3 p.m. at Universite de Montreal, Amphitheatre K-500)

QUEBEC _ Parti Quebecois Leader Pauline Marois holds news conference to discuss the forestry crisis. (9:30 a.m. at Legislature)

OTTAWA

x-OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases third-quarter investment in non-residential building construction. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Statistics Canada releases study: literacy and adult learning with data from a 2003 survey. (8:30 a.m. at www.statcan.ca)

OTTAWA _ Supreme Court hears Ontario appeal of Marco Trotta vs. the Crown. (9:30 a.m. at Supreme Court, 301 Wellington St.)

x-OTTAWA _ Former security certificate detainees Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad Abou-Elmaati, Muayyed Nureddin and their counsels hold news conference on inquiry. (9:30 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

x-OTTAWA _ Supreme Court renders judgements in Ontario appeal of Douglas Kerr vs. Danier Leather. Briefing 9:15 a.m. in the Press Room. (9:45 a.m. at Supreme Court, 301 Wellington St.)

x-OTTAWA _ Gov. Gen. Michaëlle Jean will present Military Valour Decorations and Meritorious Service Decorations. Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier speaks. (10:30 a.m. at Rideau Hall, 1 Sussex Dr.)

x-OTTAWA _ Non-government organizations hold news conference on reshaping our mission in Afghanistan. (10:30 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

x-OTTAWA _ Former security certificate detainee, Mohamed Harkat and his counsel hold news conference on security certificate process. (11 a.m. at Room 130-S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA _ NDP Leader Jack Layton attends Thomas Mulcair's swearing in ceremony as Member of Parliament for Outremont. (11 a.m. at Room 200, West Block, Parliament Hill)

OTTAWA _ Congress of Aboriginal Peoples National Chief Patrick Brazeau and former commissioner of the Canadian Human Rights Commission Max Yalden hold news conference regarding protection of human rights for First Nations peoples. (11:30 a.m. at Room 130–S, Centre Block, Parliament Hill)

ONTARIO

BRANTFORD, Ont. _ Federal Environment Minister John Baird makes announcement on brownfields. Photo op at 9:45 a.m. at 66 Mohawk St. (10 a.m. at City Hall, 100 Wellington Sq.)

x–BURLINGTON, Ont. _ Former prime minister Brian Mulroney promotes his new autobiography "Brian Mulroney: Memoirs." (7 p.m. at Royal Botanical Gardens, 680 Plains Rd. W.)

JACKSON'S POINT, Ont. _ Federal Environment Minister John Baird makes announcement on Lake Simcoe. (2:30 p.m. at Salvation Army Conference Centre, 1890 Metro Rd. N.)

LONDON, Ont. _ The Canadian Comedy Festival, featuring stand-up and musical performances, as well as a panel forum, sketch and improv showcases. Through Oct. 13. (McManus Theatre, Grand Theatre)

MISSISSAUGA, Ont. _ Ontario Lt. Gov. David Onley speaks at launch of Business Takes Action initiative on employment of persons with disabilities and accessibility (8 a.m. at Centre for Health and Safety Innovation, IAPA offices)

OTTAWA _ Ontario Hospital Association re-launches "Your Health Care – Be Involved" campaign. (11:45 a.m. at British Columbia Room, Westin Hotel)

TORONTO _ Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology and Canadian Organization of Medical Physicists holds conference on image-guided and adaptive radiation therapy. Through Oct. 13. (Sheraton Centre Hotel, 123 Queen St. W.)

TORONTO _ Assembly of First Nations National Chief Phil Fontaine speaks to the mining industry on "Progress through Partnerships: Exploring Economic Opportunities between First Nations and the Mineral Industry." (11:45 a.m. at Aracadian Court, Simpson Tower, 401 Bay Street, 8th floor)

TORONTO _ Donald Trump to participate in ground breaking ceremony for the Trump International Hotel and Tower. (12 p.m. at 325 Bay St.)

TORONTO _ The Registered Nurses' Association discusses ways to strengthen Medicare in advance of a speech by CMA president Brian Day. (12 p.m. at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, 19th floor, Salon 3, 100 Front St. W.)

TORONTO _ Dr. Brian Day, president of the Canadian Medical Association, gives speech to Empire Club of Canada. (12:15 p.m. at Fairmont Royal York Hotel, Upper Canada Room, 100 Front St. W.)

x–TORONTO _ Federal Liberal Leader Stephane Dion gives speech to Economic Club of Toronto on upcoming parliamentary session. Media availability to follow. (12:45 p.m. at Delta Chelsea Hotel, Churchill Room, 33 Gerrard St. W.)

TORONTO _ Yamana Gold Inc.'s extended takeover offer for Meridian Gold Inc. expires. (11:45 p.m.)

TORONTO _ Ontario Securities Commission Conrad Black hearing. (20 Queen St. W.)

PRAIRIES

CALGARY _ Canadian bobsleigh, luge and skeleton athletes hold their first workout and then host "A Day at the Track" for media. (12 p.m. at Canada Olympic Park Bobsleigh Start on Track)

CALGARY _ Sentencing for father who pleaded guilty to taking and distributing photos of himself sexually abusing his infant daughter.

CARDSTON, Alta. _ A 17-year-old boy accused of sexually assaulting a three-year-old girl on the Blood reserve in late August to appear court to enter plea. (provincial court)

CARDSTON, Alta. _ Male youth, 17, to appear in court charged with breaking into a home and sexually assaulting a three-year-old child left home alone. (Provincial court)

EDMONTON _ Dallas-based Affiliated Computer Services preliminary hearing into charges it offered bribes to Edmonton police officers to get its photo radar contract with the city renewed. Through Oct. 14.

EDMONTON _ Voir dire arguments in the case of Thomas Svekla, charged with two counts of second-degree murder in the deaths of prostitutes Theresa Innes, 36, and Rachel Quinney, 19. Through Dec. 20. (Court of Queen's Bench)

LETHBRIDGE, Alta. _ A 17-year-old boy appears in court on a charge of sexually assaulting a three-year-old girl.

PRINCE ALBERT, Sask. _ Fifteen-year-old charged with second-degree murder in the death of Dean Josie, 18, who was found dead in a park in Prince Albert, to appear in court.

SASKATOON _ Saskatoon cardiologist Dr. Carlos Huerto on trial for defrauding federal and provincial governments. Through Oct. 12.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

x-NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C. _ Defence continues in trial of accused serial killer Robert William Pickton. (10 a.m. at New Westminster Supreme Court)

RICHMOND, B.C. _ Grand opening of BCIT's new aerospace technology campus. (11 a.m. at 3800 Cessna Drive)

SQUAMISH, B.C. _ Public Safety Minister Stockwell Day announces flooding financial assistance to the province of B.C. (9 a.m. at 1000 Finch Dr., RCMP detachment)

VANCOUVER _ Amica Mature Lifestyles reports third-quarter earnings. Dial 416-641-6125. (1 p.m.)

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.11

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 152

OTTAWA – There's a report that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will announce a five-member panel of prominent Canadians to look at Canada's future role in Afghanistan.

Quoting government sources, CTV News is reporting the panel will come up with options on the role Canada should play in Afghanistan after the Canadian combat mission ends in February 2009.

According to CTV, the panel members include former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley; Derek Burney, Canada's former U.S. ambassador and a former chief of staff to Brian Mulroney; former Mulroney cabinet minister Jake Epp; former CN Rail CEO Paul Tellier and former broadcaster and diplomat Pamela Wallin.

The sources tell the network that Harper wants to take the partisanship out of the Afghanistan mission that has divided the country.

CTV says the panel may consider whether to withdraw or significantly reduce combat troops or to have the Canadians solely train the Afghan army or play a role in aid and reconstruction.

INDEX:Defence, International

DATE: 2007.10.11
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 104

KABUL, Afghanistan – Afghan authorities have shut down two private security companies and more than 10 others are expected to be closed soon.

Police Gen. Ali Shah Paktiawal says authorities shut down the Afghan-run security companies Wathan and Caps, and found 82 illegal weapons during the two raids in Kabul on Tuesday.

A western security official who doesn't want to be named says some major western companies are on the list of at least 10 others tapped for closure. He would not identify the companies.

The crackdown echoes efforts by authorities in Iraq to rein in private security contractors often accused of acting with impunity.

Some of the private security companies have been accused of murder and robbery.

(The Associated Press)

Food aid vital for Afghans, minister says

IDNUMBER 200710120104
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: B8
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Bev Oda during her visit to Afghanistan;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 319

OTTAWA — Escalating attacks against UN food convoys in Afghanistan are a cause for concern and a reason why Canada needs to continue its work in the war-torn country, the international co-operation minister said yesterday.

"One of the things that I really took to heart is that people that need basic food are being prevented access to that food by a group of insurgents," Bev Oda said in a technical briefing with reporters, adding that the assistance Canada is providing in terms of military support and development aid, "has to continue."

Oda visited Afghanistan on the weekend with Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, noting that with winter approaching it is crucial that people have access to food. During their trip, the ministers announced that \$25 million of Canada's aid to Afghanistan is being directed to the World Food Program. In all, the program feeds about 3.5 million people in Afghanistan.

But Oda said she understands the difficulties being faced by aid organizations, who are vulnerable to Taliban attacks. Still, she said, they are working together as teams and doing their best to overcome the obstacles.

"We have a very challenging situation," she said. "In spite of the challenges, so far we have distributed 8,700 tonnes of food. So... the best we can do here is to give the military, the police force, the Afghan local council, the Afghan police and army, the flexibility they need in order to meet the challenges that they face."

The head of the World Food Program, Rick Corsino, said this week that the security situation in some parts of Afghanistan is making it hard to deliver food shipments and causing some Afghans to refuse food aid for fear of Taliban reprisals.

Corsino said roughly one-third of the country is out of bounds because of armed attacks by insurgents or common criminals.

Threats to UN staff have prompted the World Food Program to hire local drivers to make the deliveries through second or third parties in some instances.

Allies must do more to counter Taliban propaganda, general says

IDNUMBER 200710120103
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: B8
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 123

OTTAWA — Canada and its NATO allies must do more to counter the "beguiling propaganda" of the Taliban

if they expect any chance of defeating the insurgency, says the British general who led the alliance during a particularly bloody year of fighting.

Gen. David Richards, who commanded NATO forces in Afghanistan

for nine months until early this year, said yesterday that it is essential that the alliance gains ground in what he called "the information campaign" that the Taliban is waging particularly well these days, in order to convince the taxpayers of member countries that their war efforts are worthwhile.

Richards made the observation in an interview with CanWest News Service during a Canadian visit that will see him comparing notes on the Afghan campaign with Canada's top generals, including defence chief Gen. Rick Hillier.

Panel to study Afghan role

IDNUMBER 200710120132
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Met
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA01
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 61

OTTAWA

Prime Minister Stephen Harper will announce a five-member panel of prominent Canadians to look at Canada's future role in Afghanistan, according to CTV News.

The news station reported the panel – which will include former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley – will come up with options on the role Canada should play in Afghanistan after the combat mission ends in February 2009.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kabul shuts down 2 private Afghan security firms; Other contractors, some suspected of murder, robbery, to be targeted in crackdown

IDNUMBER 200710120086
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA03
BYLINE: JASON STRAZIUSO
SOURCE: Associated Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 589

Echoing a growing problem in Iraq, Afghan authorities are cracking down on lucrative but largely unregulated security firms, some of which are suspected of murder.

Two private Afghan security companies were raided and shut down this week, and a dozen or so more contractors, including some protecting embassies, would be closed soon, police and Western officials told Associated Press yesterday.

The government is proposing new rules to tighten control over such firms, including some Western companies, amid concerns they intimidate Afghans, show disrespect to local security forces and don't co-operate with authorities, according to a draft policy document obtained by AP.

The crackdown echoes efforts by authorities in Iraq to rein in private security contractors often accused of acting with impunity. Blackwater USA guards protecting a U.S. Embassy convoy in Baghdad allegedly killed 17 civilians last month in an incident that enraged Iraqi leaders, who are demanding millions in compensation for victims' families and the removal of Blackwater in six months.

That shooting, and another this week in which private security contractors killed two women in Baghdad, focused attention on the regulation of private guards and added to the Bush administration's problems in managing the Iraq war.

Dozens of security companies also operate in Afghanistan, some of them well-known U.S. firms such as Blackwater and Dyncorp, but also many others that may not be known even to the Afghan government.

Authorities on Tuesday closed the Afghan-run security firms Watan and Caps, where 82 illegal weapons were found during the two raids in Kabul, police Gen. Ali Shah Paktiawal said. More companies, "maybe 13, maybe 14," will be closed next week, including some whose employees may have committed murder or robberies, he said.

Security companies that guard Western embassies are among those firms, a Western security official said on condition he not be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter. He would not identify the companies.

Kabul shuts down 2 private Afghan security firms; Other contractors, some suspected of murder, robbery, to

Many foreign embassies in Kabul rely on private guards, typically highly trained former soldiers or police officers, because Afghan forces don't have the skills or the trustworthiness to carry out high-profile protection jobs.

The private security firms have caused resentment among many Afghans, who feel the companies consider themselves above the law.

Despite the attention on the Blackwater incident in Baghdad, the Western security official said the catalyst for the Afghan reforms was the May 2006 anti-foreigner riot in Kabul, which erupted over a wreck involving a U.S. military truck. Some 20 people died in the turmoil, mostly of gunshot wounds.

The Western official would not say whether armed supporters of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance were involved in that bloodshed, but said the incident drew attention to the lack of rules for security firms.

The Interior Ministry says 59 Afghan and international security companies are registered, but the Western official said as many as 25 other firms could be operating in the country.

Some of the 59 registered firms are suspected of involvement in criminal activity such as killing and robbery, and the police are investigating those cases, Paktiawal said. He could not provide a breakdown of how many companies are Afghan and how many are foreign.

The draft rules, which are under discussion by President Hamid Karzai's government, say the main problem is the absence of "checks and balances" over the work of private security companies.

Paktiawal said the additional firms targeted for closure would be raided by Afghan police next week.

"There are some companies whose work permits have expired, and there are some companies who have illegal weapons with them," he said. "We do not want such private security companies to be active in Afghanistan. It doesn't matter if they are national or international."

Young Canadians respond

SOURCETAG 0710120430
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 11
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 457

Want to know how the Canadian military has changed in recent years?

Look at recruiting ads.

Back in the 1970s, DND recruiting ads stressed security — that the military was a great career for young people (mostly men) and after 21 years a handsome pension awaited, with the possibility of a new civilian career.

That ad wasn't as appealing as some hoped, since financial "security" isn't a prime motivation for young folk contemplating the military. Financial security and pensions concern the middle aged.

In the 1980s and beyond, with Canadian troops on UN peacekeeping missions around the world (and personnel strained, with equipment ancient and inadequate), the ads switched to the theme: "There's no life like it!" — young men and women in exotic environments, learning different trades, adventurous surroundings, a great chance to travel. That sort of thing.

Yes, the slogan inspired satire or mocking when things went wrong in the military and critics could sarcastically quip "there's no life like it — thank goodness." Still, the ad had appeal.

Today, with Canadian troops embroiled in Afghanistan as our contribution to the war against terrorism, the demand for more recruits is critical.

To the dismay of the anti-military movement and the peace-at-any-price proponents, the fact Canadians are getting killed and wounded in combat does not deter recruiting. On the contrary, recruiting is up as danger or risk increases.

GREAT DIVIDE

To some, this reality is both incomprehensible and inexplicable — which shows the great divide in our country. I'd argue what this reflects is not increased patriotism, or young people being brainwashed by a military spinmeisters, but a yearning for adventure that burns strong in young Canadians.

The DND ads on TV today would have been inconceivable, even a decade ago. Witness this one:

"Fight fear ... fight chaos ...fight in the Canadian army." Wow! This ad actually gains recruits, and refutes the passivity that infects those in Canada who used to have control of the microphone and media soap box.

It isn't the "fighting" part that's appealing, but the fact our army has more direction these days.

Soldiers are well-trained (as are sailors and air crew), know their job, and are making a difference wherever they serve.

Of course, young soldiers feel invincible and immortal — always have, except on those occasions when circumstance under fire invoke sheer terror and fear — controlled or quelled by their discipline and training.

When the moment of fear passes, dark humour and fatalism return. Adrenaline brings an emotional high. Most soldiers learn to put fear behind them.

Now that the political campaign to replace Gordon O'Connor as Defence Minister has succeeded (a former soldier, he hastened the revival of Canada's military as a fighting force), the lib-left has switched to trying to get rid of General Rick Hillier as Chief of Defence Staff. He is too popular among troops, too aggressive, too daring, too outspoken for their liking.

TAMER

They want a tamer, more passive CDS in command, witness a recent salvo against Hillier in a Maclean's article which, when read, seems more a fishing or exploratory expedition to be rid of him.

Hillier is a fighting commander of traditional hue, with the trust of rank-and-file soldiers.

Replacing him would encourage Canada's enemies at home and abroad — which is a solid reason why he should not be replaced.

Afghan film delayed for actors' safety

IDNUMBER 200710120146
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: What's On
PAGE: G4
KEYWORDS: 0
DATELINE: LOS ANGELES
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 115

The release of the film *The Kite Runner*, which chronicles the lives of two children in war–wracked Afghanistan, has been delayed by six weeks due to concerns over its young Afghan stars' safety.

Paramount Vantage studio announced that the film, based on the bestselling book by the same name, would hit theatres after Afghanistan's school year at the request of the two actors' school principal.

"The situation in Afghanistan has deteriorated greatly since we originally cast the boys for their roles," the studio said.

The studio said it has actively been working for months with Afghan experts, non–profit groups, government officials and former U.S. government operatives to monitor the children's well–being.

"We are presently instituting plans so the boys will be out of Kabul during the film's release," it said.

U.K. general urges more action against Taliban propaganda

IDNUMBER 200710120116
PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: E8
KEYWORDS: WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA; GREATBRITAIN
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Mike Blanchfield
SOURCE: Ottawa Citizen; CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 394

OTTAWA – Canada and its NATO allies must do more to counter the "beguiling propaganda" of the Taliban if they expect any chance of defeating the insurgency, says Gen. David Richards, the British general who led the alliance during a particularly bloody year of fighting.

Richards, who commanded NATO forces in Afghanistan for nine months until early this year, said Thursday the alliance must gain ground in what he called the Taliban's highly effective "information campaign."

That means, for example, that the alliance must do more to convince taxpayers of member countries that their war efforts are worthwhile, he said.

Richards, now head of the German-based NATO rapid-reaction force, spoke in an interview during a visit to Canada that will see him comparing notes on the Afghan campaign with Canada's top generals, including defence chief Gen. Rick Hillier.

His visit comes a week before the Conservative government's speech from the throne, which is expected to address Canada's involvement in Afghanistan beyond the current February 2009 commitment.

Richards said Canada's so-called information campaign lacks coherence.

"I think we've got to work harder at it," he said. The Taliban, by contrast, "are very good at it," he added.

Richards, a loquacious and quotable commander on the front lines, says he's aware of the need to engage with media both inside and outside of Afghanistan, even if it's not always free of controversy.

"I got into trouble occasionally for getting too involved with the media," Richards explained. "But if you don't, it's like a soldier in a conventional battle giving away vital ground to your opponent."

He refused to speculate on how much time is left for Canada and its allies to show the Afghan people some meaningful gains in the reconstruction efforts. But the clock is ticking, he said.

"Our domestic populations will tire of our efforts. The Afghan population will tire. So this sense of urgency is very important," Richards said. "That's really the challenge that still confronts us."

Richards declined to comment on the upcoming parliamentary debate about Canada's future military participation in Afghanistan. But he did say that it is useful that an "informed" debate take place, one that does not intertwine the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the current UN-sanctioned mission in Afghanistan.

"As a soldier with a moral streak in me, I like to know I am fighting a good war. Afghanistan is a good war; it's UN-mandated," he said. "If we don't succeed, it will come back to bite us. Whether it's London or Toronto or Ottawa, Washington, Bonn, Berlin, we need to win this in our own self-interest."

Survival of world 'is perhaps at stake'; Muslim scholars issue unprecedented call for peace between Islam and Christianity

IDNUMBER 200710120006

PUBLICATION: Edmonton Journal

DATE: 2007.10.12

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A2

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Getty Images / The Mufti of Istanbul, Mustafa Cagrici, right, with Pope Benedict during the Pope's visit to Turkey last year, is among Muslim leaders who signed a letter calling for peace between Islam and Christianity. ;

KEYWORDS: RELIGION; CLERGY

DATELINE: LONDON

BYLINE: Peter Graff

SOURCE: Reuters

WORD COUNT: 546

LONDON – More than 130 Muslim scholars from around the globe called on Thursday for peace and understanding between Islam and Christianity, saying "the very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake."

In an unprecedented letter to Pope Benedict and other Christian leaders, 138 Muslim scholars said finding common ground between the world's biggest faiths was not simply a matter for polite dialogue between religious leaders.

"If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace. With the terrible weaponry of the modern world; with Muslims and Christians intertwined everywhere as never before, no side can unilaterally win a conflict between more than half of the world's inhabitants," the scholars wrote.

"Our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake," they wrote, adding that Islam and Christianity already agreed that love of God and neighbour were the two most important commandments of their faiths.

Relations between Muslims and Christians have been strained as al-Qaida has struck around the world and as the United States and other Western countries intervened in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Such a joint letter is unprecedented in Islam, which has no central authority that speaks on behalf of all worshippers.

The list of signatories includes senior figures throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. They represent Sunni, Shiite and Sufi schools of Islam.

Among them were the grand muftis of Egypt, Palestine, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Bosnia and Russia and many imams and scholars. Wartorn Iraq was represented by both Shiites and Sunnis.

Mustafa Cagrici, the mufti who prayed with Benedict in Istanbul's Blue Mosque last year, was also on the list, as was the popular Egyptian television preacher Amr Khaled.

The letter was addressed to the Pope, leaders of Orthodox Christian churches, Anglican leader Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the heads of the world alliances of the Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and Reformed churches.

Williams said he welcomed it as "indicative of the kind of relationship for which we yearn in all parts of the world."

"The call to respect, peace and goodwill should now be taken up by Christians and Muslims at all levels and in all countries," he said.

A Vatican official in Rome said the Roman Catholic Church would not comment until it had time to read the letter.

Aref Ali Nayed, one of the signatories and a senior adviser to the Cambridge Interfaith Programme at Cambridge University in Britain, said the signatories represented the "99.9 per cent of Muslims" who follow mainstream schools and oppose extremism.

"In Islam we have had a problem for some time now where the mainstream voices are drowned out by a minority that choose violence," he said.

Nayed said organizers of the letter had set up an ad-hoc network among Muslim leaders that could lead to more co-operation in future.

"These people don't take their signatures lightly," he said. "We are trying to institutionalize this so we don't lose it."

The overture to Christians could be followed by similar letters addressed to Jews or secularists, he added.

Pope Benedict sparked Muslim protests last year with a speech hinting Islam was violent and irrational. It prompted 38 Muslim scholars to write a letter challenging his view of Islam and accepting his call for serious Christian-Muslim dialogue.

Benedict repeatedly expressed regret for the reaction to the speech, but stopped short of a clear apology sought by Muslims.

The new letter argues in theological terms, giving quotes from the Qur'an and the Bible that show both Christianity and Islam considered love of God as their greatest commandment and love of neighbour as the second greatest.

"The basis for this peace and understanding already exists," it said. "It is part of the very foundational principles of both faiths: love of the one God and love of the neighbour."

Heroes behind the headlines Focus back home on casualties frustrates hard-working reconstruction team in Kandahar

SOURCETAG: 0710120698

PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun

DATE: 2007.10.12

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 29

ILLUSTRATION: 1. photo of DAN HARVEY Combat soldier 2. photo of BARBARA HONIG Chief engineer

BYLINE: MICHAEL DEN TANDT

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 598

Every day, Dan Harvey risks life and limb to protect the lives of Canadian civilians and others carrying on the work of rebuilding southern Afghanistan.

As a combat soldier, he braves bullets, rocket-propelled grenades, roadside bombs and an unknown number of suicide bombers who rove the city in explosive-packed taxi cabs. He sleeps four, maybe five hours at a time. He runs the risk of disease, of vehicle accidents, of battle stress. He's a world away from family and home.

Perhaps most difficult of all, he must make near-constant psychological shifts between an aggressive fighting posture and a humanitarian one. He is neither commando nor social worker, but a uniquely Canadian combination of both.

But none of that bothers him. What bothers him, the former Meaford resident says, is when total strangers in Canada make front-page headlines and political fodder out of every Canadian soldier killed in action.

"I think there's a lot of false piety, frankly," the 26-year-old says over coffee in the tented mess hall on the Canadian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) base in Kandahar City. "If the next thing they read in the paper is my obituary, I don't want them to question the mission because of it. I volunteered to come here. I'm the one making the sacrifice."

Harvey, who honed his skills on the Canadian Forces base in Meaford in 2002 and 2003, is typical of soldiers here. They are frustrated — not by their work, which they passionately believe in, but by what they consider to be a grossly distorted media picture of what's happening here.

"If there's no blood or guts or dying, then you (media) don't have much interest," says Captain Barbara Honig, chief engineer at the PRT.

Over the past year, her team has designed and paid for five new police stations in Kandahar City alone. Construction was subcontracted to local businesses, boosting the city's economy. On each project, Canadian engineers train Afghan tradesmen to do the work, giving them the skills they need to earn a better living.

But few in the Canadian media seem to care about that story, Honig says.

Heroes behind the headlines Focus back home on casualties frustrates hard-working reconstruction team in

Lt. Commander April Inglis is the legal officer at the PRT. A month or so ago, she says, she arranged for Canadian reporters to spend time examining the Afghan justice system — visiting courts, attending trials. But on the appointed day, nobody showed up. There had been combat action and possible Canadian casualties.

"They wanted to make sure they didn't miss anyone getting killed," Inglis says softly.

In early 2006, at the outset of the expanded Afghan mission, there were just four or five reporters embedded with Canadian troops in Afghanistan. All vied for opportunities to spend time at the PRT in Kandahar City, because it was the front line of Canada's effort here.

Then Canadian troops began establishing forward bases in outlying areas and engaging the insurgency in regular fire-fights. Casualties mounted. Media attention followed. There are now anywhere between 14 and 16 Canadian reporters embedded in Kandahar. All are posted at the huge coalition airfield, a 50-minute drive overland from the city.

At the PRT, humanitarian efforts continued and expanded. CIMIC, the military's humanitarian rebuilding arm, has 200 active aid projects in Kandahar Province. CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, is leading six major infrastructure projects. Its budget for Kandahar in this fiscal year is \$39 million.

But the flow of media requests for berths on the small PRT base, where the humanitarian work is centred, slowed to a trickle — then stopped.

"This is the first time I've sat down with anyone from the media in two months," Honig says wryly.

The dearth of reporting on the PRT's efforts, combined with a media climate in which reporters must compete to file stories about combat and casualties, has skewed the public perception of the mission, soldiers here say.

At first, Dan Harvey says, the relentless focus back home on casualties depressed him. Nowadays, he tries to tune it out. It hasn't dampened his enthusiasm for the army or the mission, he says.

"This is what I love," he says with a shrug and a smile. "It's what I'll do till my knees give out."

KEYWORDS=WORLD

Young Canadians respond

SOURCETAG 0710120691
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 22
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 457

Want to know how the Canadian military has changed in recent years?

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Back in the 1970s, DND recruiting ads stressed security — that the military was a great career for young people (mostly men) and after 21 years a handsome pension awaited, with the possibility of a new civilian career.

That ad wasn't as appealing as some hoped, since financial "security" isn't a prime motivation for young folk contemplating the military. Financial security and pensions concern the middle aged.

In the 1980s and beyond, with Canadian troops on UN peacekeeping missions around the world (and personnel strained, with equipment ancient and inadequate), the ads switched to the theme: "There's no life like it!" — young men and women in exotic environments, learning different trades, adventurous surroundings, a great chance to travel. That sort of thing.

Yes, the slogan inspired satire or mocking when things went wrong in the military and critics could sarcastically quip "there's no life like it — thank goodness." Still, the ad had appeal.

Today, with Canadian troops embroiled in Afghanistan as our contribution to the war against terrorism, the demand for more recruits is critical.

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Housing message delivered

SOURCETAG 0710120361
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 28
BYLINE: MEGAN GILLIS, SUN MEDIA
WORD COUNT: 157

About 500 Quebec housing activists sent a message to Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday.

They used a van full of furniture delivered to a downtown military recruiting centre to challenge the PM to invest in homes, not weapons.

The carnival-like demonstration coincided with the visit of a UN official, Miloon Kothar, in Canada to study homelessness.

"We want to say plainly to Mr. Harper we refuse, we refuse his choice, we refuse his priorities," said Francois Saillant, who represents 130 Quebec housing groups, including one in the Outaouais.

The group is calling on the federal government to commit 1% of the budget -- \$2 billion -- on housing in the upcoming throne speech. They say the government has invested only \$270 million to help 150,000 homeless people, a fraction of an estimated \$5.1 billion spent on the Afghanistan mission.

Protesters also marched to Harper's office.

Kothari visited a drop-in centre, the Shepherds of Good Hope, shelters for women and teens, and talked to people who live in a Centretown cooperative.

"He was quite moved by his encounters today," said Lynne Brown of the Alliance to End Homelessness.

Kothari will present his preliminary findings on how Canada is doing in establishing a right to adequate housing Oct. 22. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Young Canadians respond

SOURCETAG 0710120354
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 15
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 457

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Letters to the Editor Column

SOURCETAG 0710120351
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 14
COLUMN: Letters to the Editor
WORD COUNT: 548

Re: "A team of true heroes" (Oct. 7). In my view there are no true heroes, maybe good people, in sports, in the same way there are true heroes who are in the services fighting in Afghanistan for a safer world. I wish Master Cpl. Paul Franklin the very best in the future. For Dany Heatley, I hope he donates a good amount of his yearly \$7.5 million to charities to help the less fortunate.

TED WILLIAMSON

OTTAWA

(That would be a good use of some of the extra millions Heatley probably has in his pocket)

What can one say about the results of the Ontario election? The boy in the bubble won and the plastic wrap can now be safely removed from Dalton McGuinty. He has another four years to demonstrate to all, his ineffectual, rudderless attempt at leadership while masquerading as the premier of a province. His family should be extremely proud.

And, what can one say about the electorate? It's a difficult choice. Are they politically illiterate or morally bankrupt, or both?

SINCLAIR CAMPBELL

OTTAWA

(There's no saying how any one person chooses the politician they vote for)

Although I'm not too happy about the Liberal win, I'm pleased about the referendum results. The proposed mixed-member proportional system seemed to be a bad idea from the start.

From what I could tell, the first ballot would elect representatives for ridings as we currently do, and the second vote, for a political party, would see MPPs appointed not by voters but by political parties from lists. To whom then would these appointees owe their loyalty? For whom would they work? While elected MPPs would have the — often massive and thankless — job of representing their constituents, these appointed MPPs would be doing, what? Political schmoozing? Party fundraising?

I'm certainly open to change and to modernizing our electoral system, but I'm happy to stick with what we have until we can come up with something better — and more democratic — than MMP.

J. WARREN

PEMBROKE

(The only thing to worry about now is how to get back the \$13 million it cost to hold the referendum)

There are some elections when the public chooses the people and the party they want most. This election it certainly seemed like the public had to choose the people and the party they disliked the least.

BRIAN NEWMAN

OTTAWA

(You'll hear that sentiment echoed a lot in the coming days and weeks)

Re: "One for the books" (Oct. 11). In regard to Greg Weston's column, I do not believe that faith-based school funding was the only reason the Tories lost the election.

I think it was their entire campaign of badmouthing Dalton McGuinty. As a voter I do not want to listen to the Tories and NDP tell me what the Liberals did wrong. As an intelligent voter, I already know what they did and didn't do. I wanted to hear what they would do to make things better and I never did.

I'm so tired of negative ads. At least McGuinty told us that things were slowly improving and I agree with him. My family has just had major dealings with the medical system and we have nothing but praise for every level.

MERRILYN HAARSMA

METCALFE

(Politicians never seem to remember that negative campaigning doesn't sit well with voters until an election is over)

I completely agree with letter writer J. Bowditch that we should bring back the death penalty for people who murder police officers. Our police risk their lives everyday, and deserve increased protection from the criminals who may decide to shoot at them. It obviously won't be a complete deterrent, but I believe it would be a step in the right direction.

MIKE SHURTLIFF

KANATA

(People might think you believe a police officer's life is worth more than that of another innocent victim)

Young Canadians respond

SOURCETAG 0710120817
PUBLICATION: The London Free Press
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: A11
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 460

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Turkey recalls U.S. envoy as officials warn of fallout

SOURCETAG 0710120808

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.10.12

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A10

ILLUSTRATION: photo by AP PROTESTS: Members of the left-wing Workers' party wave Turkish flags in Istanbul yesterday, while a man, second from left, holds a banner reading, Genocide is a lie and it's an American game, as they chant slogans during a protest against the U.S. and its passing of a bill describing First World War era killings of Armenians as genocide.

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: ANKARA

WORD COUNT: 244

Turkey, a key supply route to U.S. troops in Iraq, recalled its ambassador to Washington and warned of serious repercussions if Congress labels the killing of Armenians by Turks a century ago as genocide.

Ordered after a House committee endorsed the genocide measure, the summons of the ambassador for consultations was a further sign of the deteriorating relations between two longtime allies and the potential for new turmoil in an already troubled region.

Egeman Bagis, an aide to Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, told Turkish media Turkey — a conduit for many of the supplies shipped to American bases in both Iraq and Afghanistan — might have to "cut logistical support to the U.S."

Analysts also have speculated the resolution could make Turkey more inclined to send troops into northern Iraq to hunt Turkish Kurd rebels, a move opposed by the U.S. because it would disrupt one of the few relatively stable and peaceful Iraqi areas.

"There are steps that we will take," Turkey's prime minister said, without elaboration. It also wasn't clear if he meant his government would act immediately or wait to see what happens to the resolution in Congress.

He declined to answer questions about whether Turkey might shut down Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, a major cargo hub for U.S. and allied military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan. Turkey's Mediterranean port of Iskenderun is also used to ferry goods to American troops.

"You don't talk about such things, you just do them."

The measure before Congress is a nonbinding resolution without the force of law, but the debate has incensed Turkey's government. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Muslim scholars unite for peace; Common future at stake, unprecedented letter to Christian leaders says

IDNUMBER 200710120031
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
KEYWORDS: RELIGION;
CLERGY
DATELINE: LONDON
BYLINE: Peter Graff
SOURCE: Reuters
WORD COUNT: 430

LONDON -- More than 130 Muslim scholars from around the globe called Thursday for peace and understanding between Islam and Christianity, saying "the very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake".

In an unprecedented letter to Pope Benedict and other Christian leaders, 138 Muslim scholars said finding common ground between the world's biggest faiths was not simply a matter for polite dialogue between religious leaders.

"If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace. With the terrible weaponry of the modern world; with Muslims and Christians intertwined everywhere as never before, no side can unilaterally win a conflict between more than half of the world's inhabitants," the scholars wrote.

"Our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake," they wrote, adding that Islam and Christianity already agreed that love of God and neighbour were the two most important commandments of their faiths.

Relations between Muslims and Christians have been strained as al-Qaida has struck around the world and as the United States and other Western countries intervened in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Such a joint letter is unprecedented in Islam, which has no central authority that speaks on behalf of all worshippers.

The list of signatories includes senior figures throughout the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. They represent Sunni, Shiite and Sufi schools of Islam. Among them were the grand muftis of Egypt, Palestine, Oman, Jordan, Syria, Bosnia and Russia and many imams and scholars. Iraq was represented by both Shiites and Sunnis.

Mustafa Cagrici, the mufti who prayed with Benedict in Istanbul's Blue Mosque last year, was also on the list, as was the popular Egyptian television preacher Amr Khaled.

The letter was addressed to the Pope, leaders of Orthodox Christian churches, Anglican leader Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams and the heads of the world alliances of the Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist and

Reformed churches.

Williams said he welcomed it as "indicative of the kind of relationship for which we yearn in all parts of the world. The call to respect, peace and goodwill should now be taken up by Christians and Muslims at all levels and in all countries."

A Vatican official in Rome said the Church would not comment until it had time to read the letter.

Aref Ali Nayed, one of the signatories and a senior adviser to the interfaith program at Cambridge University in Britain, said the signatories represented the "99.9 per cent of Muslims" who follow mainstream schools and oppose extremism. "In Islam we have had a problem for some time now where the mainstream voices are drowned out by a minority that choose violence."

The overture to Christians could be followed by similar letters addressed to Jews or secularists, he added.

Security firms in Afghan's sights

SOURCETAG 0710120574
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 42
BYLINE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
DATELINE: KABUL, Afghanistan
WORD COUNT: 96

Afghan authorities have shut down two private security companies and more than 10 others are expected to be closed soon.

Police Gen. Ali Shah Paktiawal says authorities shut down the Afghan-run security companies Wathan and Caps, and found 82 illegal weapons during the two raids in Kabul on Tuesday.

A western security official who doesn't want to be named says some major western companies are on the list of at least 10 others tapped for closure. He would not identify the companies.

The crackdown echoes efforts by authorities in Iraq to rein in private security contractors often accused of acting with impunity.

Some of the private security companies have been accused of murder and robbery. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Food a weapon in Afghanistan

SOURCETAG 0710120573
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 42
BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 286

International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda says it's imperative that United Nations food deliveries make it to hungry Afghan villages, but she won't commit Canada to doing more than paying for the parcels.

On a trip to Kandahar last weekend, she announced an additional \$25 million would be given to the World Food Program on top of \$14 million already doled out to the UN agency over the last year.

But UN officials in the war-torn region say their food convoys have increasingly become targets for Taliban insurgents and drug lords intent on disrupting the reconstruction effort.

Of all the things Oda saw during her whirlwind, 36-hour trip to the country, the chronic shortage of food made the biggest impression, she said yesterday.

"These people, who have been devastated by years of chaos, they've faced drought, they are desperate for food," she said during a briefing on Afghan mission.

"The minimal amount of food we can distribute to each family is so important to them. I know winter is coming. It's important we provide food, basic food."

The fact that insurgents would use food as weapon seemed to surprise her.

"I guess one of the things that challenges me and I really took to heart is that a people who need basic food are being prevented access to that food by a group of insurgents.

"This is something that will always have an impression on me and will make sure for me that the important work that we are doing has to continue."

She paused. "It has to continue."

The UN agency has hired a private security contractor to escort its convoys and sometimes relies on second and third parties to deliver its packages.

More supplies have been stolen in the last 10 months than in the last two years.

The World Food Program expects to deliver 225,000 tonnes of food in Afghanistan this year, feeding 3.5 million people.

But those deliveries have become more dangerous and the inability of convoys to get through has become a

major handicap for NATO as it tries to wrestle districts away from the Taliban.

Questioned afterward about what Canada, with 2,500 troops in Kandahar, is doing to safeguard deliveries, Oda said there have been "discussions" involving Canadian, Afghan and UN officials in the ruined province.
KEYWORDS=WORLD

Young Canadians respond

SOURCETAG 0710120549
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 11
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 457

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Latest GM deal

SOURCETAG 0710111817

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.10.12

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A37

ILLUSTRATION: FILE Known for its distinct architecture and its volatile history, Uzbekistan, an ex-Soviet republic, is home to Uzavtosanoat, an auto company which has inked a deal with GM for production and sale of Chevrolet cars in the Central Asian country.

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: TASHKENT, Uzbekistan

WORD COUNT: 197

General Motors Corp. has signed a joint venture agreement with Uzbekistan's Uzavtosanoat for production and sale of Chevrolet cars in the Central Asian country.

The new venture has a projected production capacity of 250,000 cars a year, the companies said in a statement released late Monday.

The investment is the latest by the U.S. automaker in the ex-Soviet republic, whose relations with the United States plummeted following the 2005 uprising in Andijan.

Human rights groups and witnesses say hundreds of civilians were killed by government troops during mass protests in the eastern Uzbek town. Western governments harshly criticized the action and called for an independent investigation.

Uzbekistan in turn kicked U.S. troops out of a base being used in support of military operations in neighbouring Afghanistan.

The joint venture, GM Uzbekistan, will be set up at a plant in the town of Asaka in the Andijan region, where Uzavtosanoat currently runs a factory that was originally a joint venture with South Korea's Daewoo Group.

The plant currently assembles cars based on kits supplied by GM Daewoo Auto & Technology Co., the South Korean unit of General Motors Corp.

"GM will own 25% plus one share in this joint venture with the option to increase its stake to 40%," said GM Europe President Carl-Peter Forster.

The joint venture will initially assemble three Chevrolet models – the Captiva, Epica and Tacuma – with full-scale production slated to begin in the next three years.

Hyundai Motor Co. had also sought to buy up Uzbekistan-Daewoo venture, but talks collapsed last year over differences on the purchase price.

PM strikes up band to study Afghan role Panel to explore divisive mission

SOURCETAG: 0710120928
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 19
ILLUSTRATION: photo of STEPHEN HARPER Panel in works
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: OTTAWA
WORD COUNT: 146

There's a report that Prime Minister Stephen Harper will announce a five-member panel of prominent Canadians to look at Canada's future role in Afghanistan.

Quoting government sources, a TV news outlet is reporting the panel will explore options on the role Canada should play in Afghanistan after the Canadian combat mission ends in February 2009.

According to CTV News, the panel members include former Liberal deputy prime minister John Manley; Derek Burney, Canada's former U.S. ambassador and a former chief of staff to Brian Mulroney; former Mulroney cabinet minister Jake Epp; former CN Rail CEO Paul Tellier and former broadcaster and diplomat Pamela Wallin.

The sources tell the network Harper wants to take the partisanship out of the Afghanistan mission that has divided the country.

CTV says the panel may consider whether to withdraw or significantly reduce combat troops or to have the Canadians solely train the Afghan army or play a role in aid and reconstruction. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Young Canadians respond

SOURCETAG 0710120919
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 15
BYLINE: PETER WORTHINGTON
WORD COUNT: 457

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Turkey recalls U.S. ambassador over genocide vote; Diplomatic row may shut U.S. out of military bases

IDNUMBER 200710120115
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: D8
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Erdogan;
DATELINE: ANKARA
SOURCE: Agence France-Presse
WORD COUNT: 542

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey recalled its ambassador to Washington on Thursday, deepening a diplomatic row over a vote in the U.S. Congress to label the 1915–17 massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks an act of genocide.

Ankara's display of diplomatic anger came as the White House, which had opposed the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee, sought to mollify its NATO partner and key strategic ally for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The House committee passed the genocide resolution on Wednesday despite Turkish warnings that such a move could seriously damage bilateral ties.

"It is natural that the ambassador should be recalled for consultations after such a decision was taken in Congress," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mahmut Bilman said.

"It is difficult to say when he (the ambassador) will return to Washington."

Ankara staunchly rejects the genocide tag for the 1915–17 mass killings of Armenians and its furious reaction to the Congress vote has fuelled fears within U.S. President George W. Bush's administration that it could lose access to a crucial military base in Turkey.

White House national security council spokesperson Gordon Johndroe said he looked forward to the ambassador's "quick return" and reiterated the administration's opposition to the resolution "because of the grave harm it could bring to the national security of the United States."

Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, insisted Thursday that the resolution would go forward to a full House vote.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul denounced the House committee vote as "unacceptable" and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned further action could be taken if the resolution is passed by the full House.

"We are going to continue our action before it (the text) goes before the full session," said Erdogan. "After that there are measures that we can take but now is not the time to talk about them. We are evaluating these measures."

A senior lawmaker from Erdogan's ruling party has signalled that Turkey could consider barring the United States from the Incirlik military base — an important staging post for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At least 1.5 million Armenians were killed from 1915 to 1917 under an Ottoman Empire campaign of deportation and murder, according to Armenians.

Turkey acknowledges that 250,000–500,000 Armenians and at least as many Turks died in a conflict after Armenians took up arms for independence.

The Bush administration said it would lobby the full Democratic-led House against taking the measure further.

Defence Secretary Robert Gates, during a visit to London, highlighted the possible threat to U.S. supply lines into Iraq, with 70 per cent of U.S. air cargo, 30 per cent of fuel shipments to U.S. forces and 95 per cent of new Mine Resistant Armored Protected Vehicles (MRAPS) passing through Turkey.

France, Canada and the European parliament are among those that have labelled the Armenian killings as genocide. French military planes are no longer allowed to fly over Turkish airspace.

Armenia strongly welcomed the U.S. Congress vote while Turkey warned that the already tense relations could suffer more.

"Armenia will altogether lose (the prospect of) positive openings in the future," Erdogan said.

Turkey refuses to establish diplomatic relations with its eastern neighbour because of its campaign for the international recognition of the massacre as genocide.

Turkey dealt a heavy economic blow to the impoverished ex-Communist nation in 1993 when it shut its common border in a show of solidarity with Azerbaijan, which was at war with Armenia over the territory of Nagorny-Karabakh. Turkey and Azerbaijan are close allies.

Romanian soldiers home at operating base Dracula; Little-known force fights alongside Canada in southern Afghanistan

IDNUMBER 200710120090
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: C9
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: CanWest News Service / Romanian Lieut. CiprianCaltoso (left) briefs Canadian Brig.-Gen. Marquis Hainse, NATO deputy commander ;
DATELINE: FORWARD OPERATING BASE DRACULA, Afghanistan
BYLINE: Matthew Fisher
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 634

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DRACULA, Afghanistan — The Canadians and the Dutch may be anguishing over their combat commitments in southern Afghanistan, but the Romanians at this lonely outpost near a major Taliban infiltration route through the mountains from Pakistan have no such worries.

The men of Romania's elite 33rd Mountain Battalion joke that almost nobody at home is even aware that their military, which is one of NATO's newest members, has been fighting alongside the Canadians, Dutch, British and Americans in southern Afghanistan.

"Honestly, I don't think our people know what we do," said Lieut. Ganea Alin, who leads a platoon overseeing checkpoints on a road frequented by the Taliban. "I know there has been great surprise whenever a Romanian dies on a patrol. But nobody in Romania is asking the question: 'Why are we here?'"

Brig.-Gen. Marquis Hainse, the Canadian who is NATO's second-in-command for Afghanistan's six southern provinces, tried to answer that question in a rousing pep talk at Forward Operating Base Dracula. The base, a ramshackle former school that had been called Vander by the Americans, was slyly renamed by the Romanians in honour of their notorious countryman, the fictional Transylvanian Count Dracula.

"Some countries have decided to watch the parade in Afghanistan. Some countries have decided to be in the parade," Hainse said during a tour of the outpost. "Canada, Holland, Britain, the U.S. and Romania, to name a few, are in the parade.

"You might not see this on a day-to-day basis, but you are making progress. What you are doing is key to the future of this country. I respect you. I know you are not afraid of the Taliban. Keep pushing and make the Taliban afraid of you."

Most of the 700 Romanians in Afghanistan are posted at several places in Zabul province, which abuts Pakistan and, further south, Kandahar province, where Canada's battle group is stationed. Four Romanians have been killed since the unit headed into the dazzling mountains and high desert valleys and plateaus of the area late last year.

As well as having troops here, 220 kilometres northeast of Kandahar City, the Romanians have a slightly smaller force fighting in Iraq. The two operations are the first time in more than 60 years that Romanians have been in combat. And they are mostly doing it with Soviet equipment from the 1970s.

"The Romanians have proven their commitment. They have not hesitated to support U.S. and coalition forces," said Lt.-Col. Bruce Bamble, a civil affairs officer who works out of another base in Zabul that is shared by Romanian and U.S. forces.

"Just the other week, when an American soldier was killed and another was wounded by an IED (improvised explosive device), their quick reaction force came out immediately and one of their soldiers, a lieutenant, was killed by a second IED."

The Romanians snatched four suspected Taliban guerrillas in a recent night operation but have not been in a firefight since being ambushed nearly two months ago. The Canadians have gone long periods without firefights, too. But, like the Romanians, they have been hit hard by IED strikes.

"The biggest problem for everyone in Afghanistan is IEDs," said Lieut. Gabriel Stefanescu, speaking in the fluent English that all Romanian officers are obliged to have. "The Taliban are getting better and better at this."

Like the Canadians in Kandahar, the Romanians have been fascinated and sometimes confused by Afghanistan's complex political and tribal arrangements and how different the Afghans' deeply conservative Pashtun culture is from their own.

"I compare Afghans to us during the Ceausescu era," Alin said. "We didn't know much about the outside world then and Afghans don't know much about the outside world now."

As one who enjoys the mountain vistas, Alin concludes: "I'd like to come back again, but maybe not for another 20 years. That may be how long it takes before there is peace."

Allies must attack Taliban propaganda: British general

IDNUMBER 200710120089
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: C9
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Richards;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Mike Blanchfield
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 462

OTTAWA — Canada and its NATO allies must do more to counter the "beguiling propaganda" of the Taliban if they expect any chance of defeating the insurgency, says the British general who led the alliance during a particularly bloody year of fighting.

Gen. David Richards, who commanded NATO forces in Afghanistan for nine months until early this year, said Thursday it is essential the alliance gains ground in what he called "the information campaign" the Taliban is waging particularly well these days, in order to convince the taxpayers of member countries that their war efforts are worthwhile.

Richards made the observation in an interview with CanWest News Service during a Canadian visit that will see him comparing notes on the Afghan campaign with Canada's top generals, including defence chief Gen. Rick Hillier.

His visit comes a week before the Conservative government's speech from the throne, which is expected to address Canada's involvement in Afghanistan beyond the current February 2009 commitment.

"I don't like the term 'propaganda war,'" said Richards, now head of the German-based NATO rapid reaction force. Instead he says he prefers the term "information campaign."

"Is it coherent enough?" he asked. "Probably not. I think we've got to work harder at it."

The Taliban, by contrast "are very good at it," he added.

Richards says that means engaging with the media inside and outside Afghanistan. As the commander of ISAF, the international security assistance force for Afghanistan, Richards was a loquacious and quotable commander on the front lines.

But it was one year ago this week that Richards, then commander of the international community's 30,000-plus troops in Afghanistan, uttered a prediction that haunts him still and cuts to the core of the controversy underlying the West's engagement there.

At the time, Richards suggested that unless the West noticeably improved the lot of ordinary Afghans within six months, they might turn their allegiance to the Taliban.

Richards refused to speculate on how much time is left for Canada and its allies to show the Afghan people some meaningful gains in the reconstruction efforts. But he did not back down from the stance he took a year ago that the clock is ticking.

"Our domestic populations will tire of our efforts. The Afghan population will tire. So this sense of urgency is very important," Richards said. "That's really the challenge that still confronts us."

Richards declined to comment on the upcoming parliamentary debate about Canada's future military participation in Afghanistan. But he did say that it is useful that an "informed" debate take place, one that does not intertwine the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and the current UN-sanctioned mission in Afghanistan.

"As a soldier with a moral streak in me, I like to know I am fighting a good war. Afghanistan is a good war; it's UN-mandated," he said. "If we don't succeed, it will come back to bite us. Whether it's London or Toronto or Ottawa, Washington, Bonn, Berlin — we need to win this in our own self-interest."

(OTTAWA CITIZEN)

The mission in Afghanistan; Canadian food aid crucial to Afghans, minister says

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PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: C9
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Oda;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 418

OTTAWA — Escalating attacks against UN food convoys in Afghanistan are a cause for concern and one reason why Canada needs to continue its work in the war-torn country, the international co-operation minister said Thursday.

"One of the things that I really took to heart is that people that need basic food are being prevented access to that food by a group of insurgents," Bev Oda said in a technical briefing with reporters, adding the assistance Canada is providing in terms of military support and development aid, "has to continue."

Oda, who visited Afghanistan on the weekend with Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, noted that with winter approaching it is crucial people have access to food. During their trip, the ministers announced that \$25 million of Canada's aid to Afghanistan is being directed to the World Food Program. In all, the program feeds about 3.5 million people in Afghanistan.

But Oda said she understands the difficulties being faced by aid organizations, who are vulnerable to Taliban attacks. Still, she said, they are working together as teams and doing their best to overcome the obstacles.

"We have a very challenging situation," she said. "In spite of the challenges, so far we have distributed 8,700 tonnes of food. So . . . the best we can do here is to give the military, the police force, the Afghan local council, the Afghan police and army, the flexibility they need in order to meet the challenges that they face."

The head of the World Food Program, Rick Corsino, said this week the security situation in some parts of Afghanistan is making it hard to deliver food shipments and causing some Afghans to refuse food aid for fear of Taliban reprisals.

Corsino said roughly one-third of the country is out of bounds because of armed attacks by insurgents or common criminals. Threats to UN staff have prompted the World Food Program to hire local drivers to make the deliveries through second or third parties in some instances.

Oda emphasized that while the security conditions are volatile, progress is being made and food is getting to those who need it. During her trip to Afghanistan, she said she was pleased to see first-hand the difference that Canadians are making in helping Afghans rebuild their country.

Canada has 2,500 troops deployed in Afghanistan, most of them in the volatile southern province of Kandahar. Apart from combat operations, Canadians are engaged in reconstruction, aid delivery, strengthening security, and the training and mentoring of Afghan soldiers and police.

Vital to remember why Canada is in Afghan war

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DATE: 2007.10.12
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SECTION: Forum
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SOURCE: The StarPhoenix
WORD COUNT: 252

The recent outcry by some Canadians who call on the government to get out of Afghanistan surprises me.

I hope they aren't confusing the war in Afghanistan with the illegal war in Iraq. While I am not a proponent of military response to conflict, sometimes there's no alternative.

Let's remember why we are in Afghanistan.

Al-Qaida attacked the U.S. without provocation and killed innocent civilians, among them Canadians; the UN condemned these terrorist acts; the Taliban government in Afghanistan refused to turn over Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida members for prosecution.

A multilateral coalition of forces then invaded Afghanistan and drove the Taliban into the hills, where they have begun to reassert themselves recently.

The UN called on the international community to ease urgent humanitarian needs in Afghanistan and generously support post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction.

The Taliban continue to pose a threat to the people of Afghanistan and to the West.

The Afghan government, which was elected by the people, says it needs Canadian forces to continue to provide security. Without Canadian and other coalition forces, women and girls in Afghanistan would not enjoy rights that ensures their education, employment and safety.

To abandon the Afghan mission before we have achieved peace and stability is a disservice to our soldiers, Afghans, the people of the Middle East and to Canadians. It would ruin Canada's global reputation as a peacekeeper and a nation committed to human rights.

If politicians and citizens have a viable non-military proposal that ensures the safety of both Canadians and Afghans, let's hear it. Until then, let's give our soldiers the financial and moral support they need to succeed in their mission.

Cheryl Turner

Prince Albert

THE AFGHAN MISSION Afghanistan tightens leash on security firms Like their controversial counterparts in Iraq, companies are under fire for aggressive tactics

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850295

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A22 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: JASON STRAZIUSO AND FISNIK ABRASHI

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: AP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Kabul AFGHANISTAN

WORDS: 671

WORD COUNT: 629

JASON STRAZIUSO AND FISNIK ABRASHI Associated Press KABUL Echoing a growing problem in Iraq, Afghan authorities are cracking down on lucrative but largely unregulated security firms, some of which are suspected of murder.

Two private Afghan security companies were raided and shut down this week, and a dozen or so more contractors – including some that protect embassies – would be closed soon, police and Western officials said yesterday.

The government is proposing new rules to tighten control over such companies, including some Western companies, amid concerns that they intimidate Afghans, show disrespect to local security forces and don't co-operate with authorities, according to a draft policy document.

The crackdown mirrors efforts by authorities in Iraq to rein in private security contractors often accused of acting with impunity.

Blackwater USA guards protecting a U.S. embassy convoy in Baghdad allegedly killed 17 civilians last month in an incident that enraged Iraqi leaders, who are demanding millions in compensation for victims' families and the removal of Blackwater within six months.

That shooting – and another this week in which private security contractors killed two women in Baghdad – focused attention on the regulation of private guards and added to the Bush administration's problems in managing the Iraq war.

Dozens of security companies also operate in Afghanistan, some of them well-known U.S. firms such as Blackwater and Dyncorp, but also many others that may not be known even to the Afghan government.

Authorities on Tuesday closed the Afghan-run security firms Watan and Caps, where 82 illegal weapons were found during the two raids in Kabul, police General Ali Shah Paktiawal said.

More companies – "maybe 13, maybe 14" – will be closed next week, including some whose employees may have committed murder or robberies, Gen. Paktiawal said.

Security companies that guard Western embassies are among those firms, a Western security official said on condition that he not be identified because of the sensitivity of the matter. He would not identify the companies.

Many foreign embassies in Kabul rely on private guards – typically highly trained former soldiers or police officers – because Afghan forces don't have the skills, or the trustworthiness, to carry out high-profile protection jobs.

The private security firms have caused resentment among many Afghans, who feel the companies consider themselves above the law.

Despite the attention on the Blackwater incident in Baghdad, the Western security official said the catalyst for the Afghan measures was the anti-foreigner riot in Kabul in May, 2006, which erupted over a wreck involving a U.S. military truck. An estimated 20 people died in the turmoil, mostly of gunshot wounds.

The Western official would not say whether armed supporters of the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance were involved in that bloodshed, but said the incident drew attention to the lack of rules for security companies.

"Allegedly there were 10,000 guards, but in truth the Ministry of Interior had no idea who they were, who they were reporting to," the official said.

The Interior Ministry says 59 Afghan and international security companies are registered, but the Western official said as many as 25 other firms could be operating in the country.

Some of the 59 registered firms are suspected of involvement in criminal activity such as killing and robbery, and the police are investigating those cases, Gen. Paktiawal said. He could not provide a breakdown of how many companies are Afghan and how many are foreign.

The Western security official said there had been "a few" occasions in which security companies were accused of murder and that one firm "shut down and disappeared" after such an accusation.

The draft rules, which are under discussion by President Hamid Karzai's government, say the main problem is the absence of "checks and balances" over the work of private security companies.

That lack "has generated an unfortunate and nearly anarchical PSC market with a long series of security problems and criminal activities," the draft says.

It also warns that operating as a security company can provide cover for a "wide range of militia and criminal groups."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; private security; contractors; regulation; shootings; deaths

ORGANIZATION NAME: Blackwater USA

THE AFGHAN MISSION CANADIANS CLEARED IN POLICE OFFICER'S DEATH

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850294

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A22

BYLINE: MURRAY BREWSTER

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: CP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 408

WORD COUNT: 359

MURRAY BREWSTER The Canadian Press OTTAWA Canadian troops who shot and killed an Afghan National Police officer on the roof of the Kandahar governor's palace this past winter have been cleared of any wrongdoing by military police.

A Canadian Forces National Investigation Service report found the shooting was "preventable," but justified under the circumstances.

An unidentified homeless man was also gunned down in the same incident, which occurred shortly before midnight on Feb. 18.

Captain Cindy Tessier, a spokeswoman for the military police, said the agency completed a thorough and detailed investigation and "in light of the circumstances surrounding each incident, no charges were warranted against the Canadian soldiers involved." The police records were obtained under access-to-information laws.

Witness statements and summary reports paint a different picture of the incident than the one the military released the day after the incident. Accounts given by Afghan civilians are also at odds with the army's initial version of events.

At the time, the army insisted the convoy had come under repeated attack and the soldiers who had shot the police officer did so inadvertently after coming under fire as they tried to hook a tow line to a disabled vehicle.

Civilians and a second Afghan police officer who was on the roof at the same time later contradicted the army's summary of events, saying Canadians outside of the governor's palace were the only ones doing the shooting.

The military police investigation verified the Afghan version.

The incident was part of a spate of civilian shootings last winter that has contributed to a backlash against NATO troops.

After the incident outside of the governor's palace, police and Afghan human-rights groups demanded that local police be allowed to escort Canadian military convoys, a notion that seems to have been dismissed.

The Afghan police officer, later identified as 31-year-old Gulab Shah, was cut down with heavy weapons fire from a Coyote armoured vehicle that was part of a logistics convoy on its way from Kandahar Air Field to a forward operating base.

Moments before Mr. Shah was shot, a homeless man wearing "bulky clothing" approached the disabled vehicle from a nearby intersection.

Three soldiers waved and hollered at the man, trying to persuade him to stop.

They fired two warning shots and that failed to dissuade the man from approaching, a summary prepared by military police agency said.

The soldiers "were ordered to use deadly force," the assessment concluded.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; shootings; accidents

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

Add to the Afghan payroll

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850240

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A26

BYLINE: JILL LESLIE

SECTION: Letter to the Edit

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Victoria BC

WORDS: 24

WORD COUNT: 42

Jill Leslie Victoria Re Troops Pay Police To Bolster Security (front page – Oct. 9) Excellent! Now why not pay the Afghan teachers and health-care workers too?

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM:strife; police; education; health care

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

ROYAL VISIT: 'IT'S A LOT MORE TROUBLED WORLD'

Troops' link with monarchy important, Prince says

On his 25th trip to Canada, Edward says Canadian troops doing a 'fantastic job'

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850210

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A5 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: JANE TABER

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 667

WORD COUNT: 583

JANE TABER SENIOR POLITICAL WRITER Saying the world is a more troubled place now, Prince Edward, the Queen's youngest son, will be visiting Canadian troops tomorrow to give them a "pat on the back." Engaging and charming, the 43-year-old Prince, who is also the Earl of Wessex, sat down for an interview in Ottawa last night in the midst of a five-day visit to Canada during which he will have 26 different engagements.

He is here without his wife, Sophie, Countess of Wessex, who is expecting their second child in December. The couple have a three-year-old daughter, Lady Louise Windsor.

"Nobody wants to be," the Prince said about Canada being at war with Afghanistan. "It's a lot more troubled world." The Prince is the honorary colonel-in-chief of three Canadian volunteer regiments – the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment, the Saskatchewan Dragoons and the Prince Edward Island Regiment.

Tomorrow he will travel to Prince Edward Island to receive an honorary doctorate from the University of PEI. As well, he will award medals to members of the regiment there who served in Afghanistan.

Noting that Canadian troops are ultimately serving the Queen, he said it's important that the link between the troops and the monarchy continues.

And since his mother is not able to visit all the troops and show her appreciation, he said, he is trying to help "make that link more personal." He added that it's "important to make that link actually happen." In an earlier interview with CTV Canada AM 's Bev Thomson, Edward said the Canadian troops, "like everybody else, they need a pat on the back" and need to hear that they are doing a "fantastic job." Visiting the troops, however, is not the only focus of the trip.

The Prince, who arrived in Canada on Tuesday night on his 25th visit to Canada, met yesterday in Ottawa with Governor-General Michaëlle Jean, laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and toured the Canadian War Museum.

He is also in Canada to honour 237 Canadian youth with Gold Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

The awards were started in 1956 by Edward's father, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

Philip's inspiration came from his former teacher, Kurt Hahn, who was the headmaster and founder of a Scottish boarding school, Gordonstoun School, where Philip, and later his sons Charles, Andrew and Edward, were students.

The award was launched to encourage boys between 14 and 18 to pursue excellence in such areas as fitness, rescue and public service training and in the hope of giving them confidence, pride and responsibility.

But through the years it has evolved – girls and boys in 120 countries can participate in the bronze, silver and gold levels of the program.

Edward said that he wasn't aware of the award until he was encouraged at Gordonstoun to get involved. He finished the gold level in 1986 and received his medal from his father.

"And I've never been allowed to escape since then," he joked.

He has taken over much of the royal duties around the award, although Philip is still very interested.

About 30,000 Canadian youth are in the program and 650,000 worldwide.

In the past few years, it has developed to include "youth at risk," offering help for young offenders.

It's "not rocket science" that if youth can achieve excellence in sports or public service or a hobby, they will then gain confidence and more of an interest in formal education, Edward said. He added that he was told by a teacher from the Northwest Territories that young people participating in the program were motivated to go to school because they were achieving in sports and the areas encouraged through the award.

As for his own children? "I would certainly recommend it to them," he said, adding that the most important thing is that they "actually have the chance to hear about it and take a conscious decision."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada

SUBJECT TERM:royal family; visits; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Prince Edward

FACTS & ARGUMENTS: THE ESSAY E–gawk daily I realized that celebrity websites are the same for me as the National Enquirer was for my mother

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850205

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: L8 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: SUSAN STAFFORD

SECTION: Globe Life

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE:

WORDS: 717

WORD COUNT: 566

SUSAN STAFFORD I was eating at my desk when, in mid–bite of my food–court lunch, it suddenly hit me: I am addicted.

Not to the stale fare packed in Styrofoam, but to celebrity images that I consume at an alarming frequency.

Then another revelation: the only antidote – a celebrity detox.

A diversion that began innocently enough – buying a copy of US Weekly here or People magazine there – evolved into a daily fixation.

When the weekly tabloids did not satiate my need, I began logging on to the website of self–professed smut hound Lainey Gossip a few times a week.

Then when that edge began to wane, I turned to the heavy hitter – Perezhilton.com – and logged on several times a day.

Making the celebrity blog rounds also became part of my daily routine – sandwiched at regular intervals between drinking my Tim Hortons in the morning and brushing my teeth before bed.

I became preoccupied with where Brangelina took the kids on vacation, what new disaster Britney decided to don – or do – that day and where Paris Hilton would turn up next.

I needed to see the voyeuristic pictures as much as certain celebrities wanted to be seen.

I was not proud of this but I could not help myself. It was intoxicating.

However, while each golden nugget of sometimes–scandalous information gave me a fix, I would soon come down like a crashing junkie.

I was no better than a post–teen star in need of rehab. I felt drained, empty and strangely wanting more, even though I knew it was the source of my dysfunction.

Not surprisingly, the first few days of my self-imposed 40-day celebrity detox were difficult. I felt cut off from the world and, worse still, not "in the know." To ease the transition, I logged on once or twice, sneaked a peek at the grocery-store magazine rack or read a headline on Google News' entertainment section.

But with time I slowly, and sometimes reluctantly, weaned myself away.

When my exile ended in April, I felt good – really good – and, not surprisingly, scandal-free. I had more time for friends, work and other interests. I no longer cared who was where doing what.

I mean, really, Perez who? Since then, I make the rounds at a much lower frequency – say once a week. But then recently it happened again.

I was sitting at my desk eating lunch after a stressful morning at work.

I whipped my swivel chair around to tell a co-worker I would be indisposed for a few minutes to see what Perez had to say for himself today.

He turned around and asked matter-of-factly: "What do you like about those sites?" To my dismay, I heard myself say almost in slow-motion what my mom would tell my sister and me in the eighties when we gave her a hard time for buying the National Enquirer (back when buying a tabloid was passe).

"I like to look at the pictures," I said.

At that moment, I realized that it is no more about merely looking at the pictures than it was for my no-doubt stressed mother raising three young children. It's about escaping reality.

In university, my film history class focused on the Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers musicals of the 1930s.

The professor taught that during the Great Depression, with food and money scarce and stress plentiful, people needed films to be light-hearted so they could escape the hardship of their day-to-day existence for a few hours. Hence the birth of the film musical.

In 2007, my Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers is celebrity gossip.

My mother raised me to be a news junkie, just as she was raised.

I may know how many times Lindsay Lohan has been arrested for a DUI and that she just got out of rehab, but I also know the sacrifices Canadians have made in Afghanistan, how many Iraqis died in suicide attacks on any particular day and the progress we are – or are not – making against global warming.

Couple the gritty news with the daily grind and I admit that I feel less guilt for periodically checking in to check out.

Susan Stafford lives in Toronto. submissions: facts@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

SUBJECT TERM: media; celebrities; technology; internet; behaviour

FACTS & ARGUMENTS: THE ESSAY E-gawk daily I realized that celebrity websites are the same for me as

PRISONS Guards ignored man in distress, eyewitness says 'They looked at him as though he was a circus animal in a cage,' says Quebecker who was in cell next to prisoner who died

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850193

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A8 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: RHEAL SEGUIN

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: QUEBEC CITY

WORDS: 886

WORD COUNT: 839

RHEAL SEGUIN QUEBEC CITY Disturbing evidence shows that police and prison guards ignored Claudio Castagnetta's convulsions and numerous signs of psychological disorder just hours before his death, reportedly caused by self-inflicted wounds after banging his head several times during his detention.

According to an eyewitness who observed Mr. Castagnetta's behaviour in the Quebec City jail as well as in a waiting cell at the local courthouse, authorities simply watched as Mr. Castagnetta suffered with distress, vomited repeatedly and went into convulsion during his detention.

"They looked at him as though he was a circus animal in a cage," the eyewitness, who asked not to be named, said in an interview.

"Other prisoners were hysterical. They screamed and yelled, calling for medical attention but the guards looked on and did nothing." The eyewitness is an 11-year veteran with the Canadian military who served in Bosnia and Afghanistan. He holds the rank of corporal with the Royal 22nd Regiment (also known as the Vandoos) at the Armed Forces base in Valcartier.

"I served my country in Afghanistan and I can tell you that prisoners there are better treated than Mr. Castagnetta was here at home," he said. "I couldn't believe it. The man needed immediate medical attention. He was suffering. He was distressed. He should never have been in jail." On Sept. 18, Mr. Castagnetta, 32, walked barefoot into a downtown convenience store appearing disoriented and confused.

Quebec City police responded to a call by the store owner and, after a brief altercation, more officers were called in. A stun gun was used to subdue Mr. Castagnetta. He was then handcuffed and taken to the Quebec City police station, where he was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Mr. Castagnetta had no criminal record and no known medical disorder.

He was placed in a cell next to the Canadian military man, who was being detained for making threatening remarks to a 911 operator after reporting his car stolen that evening.

PRISONS Guards ignored man in distress, eyewitness says 'They looked at him as though he was a circus animal in a cage,' says Quebecker who was in cell next to prisoner who died

According to the eyewitness, Mr. Castagnetta was agitated when he was put in his cell. "The police told him: 'You have two choices.

Either you calm down and we give you a cell with a bed or act crazy and you sleep naked on the cell floor.' Claudio answered that he preferred being naked on the floor." The eyewitness said Mr. Castagnetta refused to give his name.

He spent the entire night, alone in a cell, singing, making bizarre sounds, which irritated other prisoners who threatened to beat him up. "In the early hours of the morning, a women officer told him to shut up because he would soon be placed in the same cell as the other prisoners and would get a beating," the eyewitness said.

According to his account, Mr. Castagnetta did not bang his head that night. The next morning, all the detainees were transported to the courthouse for their arraignment. They were placed in waiting cells. That is when Mr. Castagnetta's condition deteriorated, the eyewitness said. He vomited several times. He splashed water from the toilet on his face and head and repeatedly grabbed and stretched the skin on his face.

"The other prisoners kept asking the officers for help. Claudio looked like he was going to explode. He kept licking the walls in the cell, putting his fingers in his mouth. It was awful to watch.

The officers just looked at him and did nothing," the eyewitness said. "At one point Claudio kept urging me to hit him." Then Mr. Castagnetta fell to the floor and went into convulsions.

Prisoners urged the officers to do something, the eyewitness said.

"They kept yelling at the officers to help him, warning that Claudio looked like he was about to die. But nothing came of it," he said.

The eyewitness said he saw Mr. Castagnetta again before the arraignment in the late afternoon, when he appeared confused but much calmer.

But afterwards, just before prisoners were escorted to the bus that would transport them to the Orsainville provincial detention centre on the edge of Quebec City, the eyewitness saw Mr. Castagnetta wearing a reinforced hockey helmet. He believes Mr. Castagnetta began banging his head after the arraignment and was outfitted with a helmet to prevent further injuries on the way to jail.

During the bus ride, for close to an hour, Mr. Castagnetta continued to bang his head with tremendous force against the Plexiglas reinforcement placed on the wire mesh in the front, back and side of his seat, the eyewitness said.

"I have never seen anything like it. You could hear him having trouble breathing. Twice he stopped for a moment and then started banging his head again and again on the side and in the back of his seat." According to an anonymous tip received from a detention centre employee, local newspapers reported that it took 45 minutes from the moment Mr. Castagnetta arrived at the jail before an ambulance came to transport him to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead the next day, Sept. 20.

The provincial police force has undertaken an investigation into the events surrounding Mr. Castagnetta's death and has refused to make any comments. Quebec's Italian community, as well as Mr. Castagnetta's family in Italy, have demanded a public inquiry into the death.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Quebec City

PRISONS Guards ignored man in distress, eyewitness says 'They looked at him as though he was a circus

SUBJECT TERM:police; law enforcement; prisoners; deaths; mental health

PERSONAL NAME: Claudio Castagnetta

PRISONS Guards ignored man in distress, eyewitness says 'They looked at him as though he was a circus

FEDERAL POLITICS: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT LIKELY TO COME TODAY Manley to lead Afghan mission review Harper appoints former Liberal minister to chair committee determining Canada's future role in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072850160

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A1

BYLINE: DANIEL LEBLANC

SECTION: National News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 606

WORD COUNT: 530

DANIEL LEBLANC OTTAWA The Harper government will appoint former Liberal heavyweight John Manley today to a five-person panel to decide on the future of Canada's presence in Afghanistan after the 2009 deadline for the current mission expires, sources said last night.

The surprise appointment comes a few days before Prime Minister Stephen Harper lays out his plan for the next sitting of Parliament in a Speech from the Throne in which the future of the Afghan mission will be a major component.

The Throne Speech will be a confidence matter and the minority government's stand on its military mission in the war-torn country will be key to its survival.

All parties have attacked the Conservative government on the issue this year, and government officials said the goal in naming a five-member panel is to develop a "non-partisan" consensus on the matter.

Mr. Manley's decision to accept the nomination on the panel will shock many Liberals, who are struggling to come up with a plan for the mission, which they launched when they were in office.

In addition to the former Liberal minister of finance and industry, the multipartite panel will include: * long-time broadcaster Pamela Wallin, whom the former Liberal government appointed as Canada's representative to New York; * Canada's former ambassador to Washington, Derek Burney, who was Conservative prime minister Brian Mulroney's chief of staff; * former clerk of the Privy Council Paul Tellier; and * former Conservative health minister Jake Epp.

Sources said the panel will receive its terms of reference today.

The members are expected to travel to Afghanistan and report to Mr. Harper in a few months on the best mix of military power, diplomacy and development aid for the country.

The Afghan issue has been one of the most divisive in Ottawa in recent times.

FEDERAL POLITICS: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT LIKELY TO COME TODAY Manley to lead Afghan mis

The NDP is calling for an immediate withdrawal of Canadian troops from Afghanistan, while the Bloc Quebecois and the Liberal Party want an end to the "combat mission" after the commitment to NATO in Kandahar ends in 16 months.

The Conservatives are pushing for an extended presence of the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan, while promising that Parliament will have the final word.

The two main parties in the House have been attacking one another on Afghanistan all week. Liberal MP Denis Coderre travelled to Kandahar by himself and criticized the Conservatives throughout his journey.

Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier took the brunt of the attacks over his statement that the situation in Kandahar is improving, despite reports to the contrary.

One federal official dismissed Mr. Coderre's trip as a "big stunt" last night and said the goal of the panel is to come up with a consensus.

The panel is looking at all options, and its recommendations will be put before MPs for a final vote.

"Ultimately, Parliament will decide," the senior official said.

Sources said accepting the chairmanship of the panel was a hard decision for Mr. Manley, given his long-standing Liberal affiliation, but that when the call came from the Prime Minister, it was difficult to turn down.

The committee is one of the most high-powered groups to be assembled in the capital in a long time. Mr. Mulroney, who is so closely connected to three of its members, is a strong supporter of the Afghan mission.

The Liberals seemed unaware last night of Mr. Harper's initiative or Mr. Manley's appointment.

Mr. Harper's past nomination of Liberal MP Wajid Khan as an adviser on the Middle East created much unease in the Liberal caucus, and Mr. Khan subsequently switched to the Conservatives.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; foreign policy; defence; government; political; throne speech

PERSONAL NAME: John Manley; Stephen Harper

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces; Conservative Party of Canada

FEDERAL POLITICS: OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT LIKELY TO COME TODAY Manley to lead Afghan mission

'Pretty nasty, mean business'; Linda Leonard thought her pet mule was out of sorts, but she was shocked and angered when she discovered that he had been shot seven times, Laura Drake reports.

IDNUMBER 200710120125

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen

DATE: 2007.10.12

EDITION: Final

SECTION: City

PAGE: F1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Laura Drake, The Ottawa Citizen / Linda Leonard is wondering why someone would shoot her pet mule, Sooki, seven times. Ms. Leonard and her husband, Dave Grove, are nursing the animal, including washing his wounds four times a day, but his recovery is uncertain because it is too risky to try to remove the bullets. ;

DATELINE: KILLALOE

BYLINE: Laura Drake

SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen

WORD COUNT: 631

KILLALOE – Linda Leonard's stomach dropped and her heart grew cold last month when she saw a picture of a donkey that had been used for target practice in Afghanistan. She never imagined that, only a few weeks later, her horror would multiply when she discovered the same thing had happened to her pet mule, Sooki, which had been heartlessly shot seven times.

"It made my stomach sick to think they would do this in Afghanistan. It is an equally, if not more sickening, feeling that it happened right here in Renfrew County," the Killaloe-area hobby farmer said yesterday.

Ms. Leonard and her husband Dave Grove run a small farm in a secluded, hilly area about 85 kilometres northwest of Ottawa.

At the beginning of the summer, they took 13-year-old Sooki out to the pasture where they have always kept him for the season.

Last Friday, the couple went by horseback to retrieve Sooki. However, something appeared to be unusual when the mule they had raised from a foal didn't come when they called it.

"This time he wouldn't come to me and I couldn't catch him," Mr. Grove said. "That was the first indication something was really odd."

The extra time spent to wrangle Sooki meant it was dark when Ms. Leonard mounted him for the two-hour trail ride home.

"I noticed an injury, but as the light was fading fast, I couldn't tell what it was," she recalled.

It wasn't until the next day when Ms. Leonard washed the wounds on her beloved animal that she noticed they were bullet holes — one in his front leg, one in his back leg, one in his hip and four across his neck and chest.

'Pretty nasty, mean business'; Linda Leonard thought her pet mule was out of sorts, but she was shocked and

Ms. Leonard and Mr. Grove said their immediate reaction was shock — especially given the arduous trail ride the mule had completed the night before.

"We kept saying over and over to him, 'Sooki you've been shot!' " Mr. Grove said with a small chuckle.

Given the date the mule was last checked, the shots could have been fired any time in the week before the couple went to collect Sooki. Various scenarios of the incident have played through Ms. Leonard's head since she found Sooki's wounds.

"I can't help but think that after they couldn't shoot anymore they thought, 'He'll probably just go some place and lay down and die and wolves will eat him and no one will ever know.' "

Since Sooki didn't die, the couple figures the weapon was an air rifle much like the kind farm children get as their first gun. Without the bullets, however, it is impossible to say for sure what shot Sooki.

Ms. Leonard has consulted two veterinarians, both of whom told her that the bullets cannot be removed without risking serious infection. However, she said, she hopes at least one can be extracted so the type of gun can be identified.

For now, the couple must clean the mule's wounds four times a day.

"He could still die from infection, his life is still at risk. If we were to just let him go and let those (wounds) seal over, he'd die for sure from blood poisoning," Mr. Grove said.

As Mr. Grove holds Sooki's reins, Ms. Leonard lovingly washes the area around each bullet holes. She then takes a small syringe and injects peroxide into each wound, causing each to foam and overflow.

Though Sooki doesn't make a sound and hardly moves throughout the process, Ms. Leonard continues to murmur to her pet and stroke him lovingly as she tends to him.

Mr. Grove estimates Sooki's care takes two to three hours a day. Since he suffers from chronic fatigue, taking care of the mule is now one of the only things he is able to do in a day.

Ms. Leonard said she is unsure what the future holds for Sooki. Since three of the bullets are in his joints, he may not be healthy enough to carry a rider. However, Ms. Leonard said that he will stay on the farm for his natural life, regardless of his ability to work.

The couple said they hope that anyone who might know what happened to Sooki comes forward with information. Ms. Leonard said she called CrimeStoppers earlier this week.

"It's a crime and it should not be tolerated, and I think it would be very difficult for someone to come forward unless (there was) a reward," Ms. Leonard said.

"We're praying for whoever pulled the trigger, too, because that's pretty nasty, mean business, shooting a pet," said Mr. Grove. "That's no different than shooting a dog."

Trouble's brewing in Turkey

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PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A13
BYLINE: Harry Sterling
SOURCE: Citizen Special
WORD COUNT: 669

Turkey's threat to invade northern Iraq to crush Kurdish guerrillas has serious implications not just for Iraq's stability but also for Turkey's relations with the United States and with the European Union.

A resolution before the U.S. Congressional foreign affairs committee describing the large-scale deaths of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire from 1915 to 1917 as genocide has further heightened tension with Turkey.

For months, the government of Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been demanding the Iraqi government in Baghdad and the Bush administration move forcefully against insurgents belonging to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, PKK, which have escalated attacks into southeastern Turkey from bases in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan Province. Fifteen Turkish soldiers were killed by the PKK last weekend, prompting Mr. Erdogan to announce his government was preparing the groundwork for military intervention in northern Iraq.

However, the U.S. strongly opposes this, fearing it will destabilize Iraq and alienate pro-American Iraqi Kurds who were highly supportive of Washington's invasion of 2003. The European Union also opposes intervention.

Although Iraq's Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki agreed following a meeting in Ankara to implement measures blocking financial and other aid to the PKK, he has little military means to force the PKK to stop cross-border attacks. The Kurdistan authorities for obvious reasons are reluctant to take on the PKK, though they have in the past. Their inability to control Iranian-based Kurdish insurgents from attacking Iranian targets has led to Iran shelling Iraqi Kurdish villages along its border.

Unless the Kurdistan authorities can persuade the PKK to stop its attacks, more killings will only increase public demands in Turkey for direct intervention.

Much of the Turkish public has become increasingly anti-American since U.S. President George W. Bush's invasion of Iraq. Growing numbers have also questioned whether Turkey should continue to accept demands from the European Union for further democratic and human rights reforms as the price for joining the EU when several EU states, including France, Germany, Austria and others oppose full membership.

Thus, calls by the Bush administration and EU leaders for Turkey to respect Iraqi sovereignty are not falling on receptive ears in Turkey at a time when Turks, some of them Kurds, are being killed by the PKK. (The PKK purportedly has been behind a number of bombings in Turkish cities over the past year.)

Although some analysts believe threats of intervention from the Erdogan government are intended primarily to force the central Iraqi government and the Americans to clamp down on the PKK's bases in Kurdistan,

others believe the Turkish military wants to move against the PKK and will ultimately prevail in some fashion or other, whether through approval for significant hot-pursuit operations, shelling PKK bases, or the establishment of a Turkish controlled cordon sanitaire on Iraqi territory along the border.

Some believe nationalist elements in Turkey would like to use military intervention as a means to prevent the Kurdistan authorities expanding their control over other areas of northern Iraq, including Kirkuk where there is a Turkmen community.

To complicate matters for President Bush, the congressional genocide resolution has unleashed an uproar in Turkey. The Erdogan government has warned the Bush administration that if the resolution actually goes forward to the full Congress it will have immediate repercussions on bilateral relations.

There's concern the U.S. military would lose the use of Turkey's important Incirlik military airbase, a critical staging area for American aircraft supplying U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Although President Bush opposes the non-binding resolution, it has the backing of many Democrats, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi whose electoral district has a large Armenian community.

If all parties involved don't quickly look for an acceptable solution to the present crisis, Turkey's traditionally close relations with the U.S. and other allies could soon be in jeopardy with unpredictable long-term fallout for the United States, NATO, the EU and the Middle East region.

Harry Sterling, a former diplomat, is an Ottawa-based commentator. He served in Turkey.

Enemy handily winning propaganda war: general

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DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
BYLINE: Mike Blanchfield
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 191

Canada and its NATO allies must do more to counter the "beguiling propaganda" of the Taliban if they expect any chance of defeating the insurgency, says the British general who led the alliance during a particularly bloody year of fighting.

Gen. David Richards, who commanded NATO forces in Afghanistan for nine months until early this year, yesterday said it is essential that the alliance gains ground in what he called "the information campaign" that the Taliban is successfully waging, in order to convince the taxpayers of member countries that their war efforts are worthwhile.

Gen. Richards made the observation in an interview during a Canadian visit that comes in the week before the Conservative government's speech from the throne, which is expected to address Canada's involvement in Afghanistan beyond the current February 2009 commitment.

"I don't like the term 'propaganda war,' " said Gen. Richards, now head of the German-based NATO rapid reaction force. Instead, he says he prefers terms like "information campaign" or "telling the truth."

"Is it coherent enough?" he asked rhetorically. "Probably not. I think we've got to work harder at it."

The Taliban, by contrast, "are very good at it," he added.

Gen. Richards says that means engaging with the media inside and outside Afghanistan.

Taliban threaten food deliveries, Oda says

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PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 371

Escalating attacks against UN food convoys in Afghanistan are a cause for concern and a reason Canada needs to continue its work in the war-torn country, the international co-operation minister said yesterday.

"One of the things that I really took to heart is that people that need basic food are being prevented access to that food by a group of insurgents," Bev Oda said in a technical briefing with reporters, adding that the assistance Canada is providing, in terms of military support and development aid, "has to continue."

Ms. Oda visited Afghanistan on the weekend with Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, noting that with winter approaching, it is crucial that people have access to food. During their trip, the ministers announced that \$25 million of Canada's aid to Afghanistan is being directed to the World Food Program. In all, the program feeds about 3.5 million people in Afghanistan.

Ms. Oda said she understands the difficulties faced by aid organizations that are vulnerable to Taliban attacks. Still, she said, they are working together as teams and doing their best to overcome the obstacles.

"We have a very challenging situation," she said. "In spite of the challenges, so far we have distributed 8,700 tonnes of food. So ... the best we can do here is to give the military, the police force, the Afghan local council, the Afghan police and army, the flexibility they need in order to meet the challenges that they face."

The head of the World Food Program, Rick Corsino, said this week the security situation in some parts of Afghanistan is making it hard to deliver food shipments and causing some Afghans to refuse food aid for fear of Taliban reprisals.

Ms. Oda said that while security conditions are volatile, progress is being made and food is getting to those who need it. She said that, during her trip to Afghanistan, she was pleased to see first-hand the difference that Canadians are making in helping Afghans rebuild their country.

Canada has 2,500 troops deployed in Afghanistan, most of them in the volatile southern province of Kandahar. Apart from the combat operations, Canadians are engaged in reconstruction, aid delivery, strengthening security and the training and mentoring of Afghan soldiers and police.

Pakistan. 50 foreign militants die in border clashes

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DATE: 2007.10.12
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SECTION: News
PAGE: A10
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 54

The army yesterday said 50 foreign militants were among 200 rebels killed in fierce clashes near the Afghan border. Tribesmen revealed that "foreigners" were among the dead, including 25 recognized as Uzbek and the remaining 25 being from Tajikistan, Afghanistan and of Arab descent.

Angry Turkey strikes back; Ambassador recalled over 'genocide' spat with the U.S.

IDNUMBER 200710120027
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A9
DATELINE: ANKARA
BYLINE: Burak Akinci
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 382

ANKARA – Turkey yesterday recalled its ambassador to Washington, deepening a diplomatic row over a vote in the U.S. Congress to label the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks an act of genocide.

Ankara's display of diplomatic anger came as the White House, which had opposed the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives' foreign affairs committee, sought to mollify its NATO partner and key strategic ally for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The House committee passed the genocide resolution on Wednesday, despite Turkish warnings that such a move could seriously damage bilateral ties.

"It is natural that the ambassador should be recalled for consultations after such a decision was taken in Congress," said Turkish foreign ministry spokesman Mahmut Bilman. "It is difficult to say when he (the ambassador) will return to Washington."

Ankara staunchly rejects the genocide tag for the 1915–17 mass killings of Armenians, and its furious reaction to the Congress vote has fuelled fears within President George W. Bush's administration that it could lose access to a crucial military base in Turkey.

White House national security council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said he looked forward to the ambassador's "quick return," and reiterated the administration's opposition to the resolution "because of the grave harm it could bring to the national security of the United States."

Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, insisted yesterday that the resolution would go forward to a full House vote.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul denounced the House committee vote as "unacceptable," and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned that further action could be taken if the resolution is passed by the full House.

"We are going to continue our action before it (the text) goes before the full session," said Mr. Erdogan. "After that, there are measures that we can take, but now is not the time to talk about them. We are evaluating these measures."

A senior lawmaker from Mr. Erdogan's ruling party has signalled that Turkey could consider barring the U.S. from the Incirlik military base — an important staging post for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

At least 1.5 million Armenians were killed from 1915 to 1917 under an Ottoman Empire campaign of deportation and murder, according to Armenians.

Canada, France and the European Parliament are among those that have labelled the Armenian killings as genocide. French military planes are no longer allowed to fly over Turkish airspace.

Election reflects unsettled political times

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DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Opinion
PAGE: A15
COLUMN: James Travers
DATELINE: Ottawa
BYLINE: James Travers
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 504

So, Ontario has spoken. But what's it saying to a national capital zigzagging toward the precipice of a federal election?

Well, that depends on the listener. The prime minister has reason to wonder this morning whether provincial Conservatives are ready for a second fight so soon after being battered by faith-based schooling.

An Opposition leader desperate to hold Ontario seats will worry that a Liberal majority at Queen's Park will make voters that little bit more comfortable with a Conservative counterweight on Parliament Hill.

After last month's Quebec breakthrough, Jack Layton will gain more confidence from NDP momentum gained at Liberal expense, while rising Green support will encourage Elizabeth May and frustrated environmentalists.

Those are inevitable spillages from a province that decides federal elections. They will give strategists plenty to analyze before next week's charged throne speech.

Still, Wednesday night's results won't dramatically change opinions polarized by a looming election some think shrewdly opportunistic and others utterly foolish. More influential are factors that turned Ontario's election upside down and could do the same to the country.

After parsing riding results for strengths, weaknesses and prospects, strategists will look hard at similarities between an unusual provincial election and a peculiar Ottawa situation. In both places and cases, an inept official Opposition let the focus stray from the government, its record and what frets voters most.

Instead of defending broken promises and parrying odious leadership comparisons, Dalton McGuinty was freed to attack John Tory while saying little about health care, the environment or vanishing manufacturing jobs.

Instead of explaining federal reversals or why he should be trusted with more power, Stephen Harper is making St phane Dion the issue, not Afghanistan, climate change or economic competitiveness.

Comforting as that is for a prime minister sensing a win and even a majority, there's a caveat. Just as a single issue dominated Ontario's election, the coming federal campaign is equally vulnerable to variables that won't

necessarily tilt in the Conservatives' favour.

It has been generations since Canadians went to the polls with the country at war. Anything from spiking casualties to fresh evidence the Kabul government is corrupt or careless with prisoners' lives could draw public attention to this government's ever-changing, never-quite-convincing Afghanistan story.

It's also true that voters have rarely, if ever, marked their ballots in the shadow of threat as existential as keeping the planet fit for human habitation.

Harper's attempts to be just green enough leave Conservatives out of sync with voters, and with that disconnect come the dangers that dashed great Ontario Conservative expectations.

Elections often abruptly change lanes; the last federal campaign veered into law and order after a Boxing Day shooting in Toronto's shopping core.

Still, what happened over the past few weeks in Ontario is a timely reminder to federal politicians that these are unsettled political times. That many voters were so easily dragged away from their core concerns will be as carefully considered here as the success of peripheral parties in nibbling at mainstream support and Conservative failures to control a wedge issue or turn their leadership advantage into victory.

Each says something which federal politicians will consider long and hard before pushing the country over the election cliff.

James Travers writes on national affairs.

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Three area soldiers honoured

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PAGE: A5
ILLUSTRATION: Photo;;
BYLINE: John Burman
SOURCE: The Hamilton Spectator
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 274

A former Hamilton-based peacekeeper killed when Israeli forces bombed his UN observation post in Lebanon will be awarded Canada's Meritorious Service Cross today.

The medal for Major Paeta (Wolf) Derek Hess-Von Kruedener, who died July 25, 2006, when his marked observation post in southern Lebanon was bombed, will be presented to his family by Governor General Michaëlle Jean in a ceremony at Rideau Hall at 10:30 a.m.

She will also present the same honour to Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Hetherington and a Medal of Military Valour to Major Charles Wright, both from Oakville.

Hess-Von Kruedener worked with Hamilton's Argyll and Sutherland Regiment of Canada as a training officer. He was a career soldier, an infantry officer with the Edmonton-based Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry for 20 years before being seconded to the United Nations Truce and Supervision Organization in 2005.

The citation for the medal, instituted in 1984, says Hess-Von Kruedener is honoured "for his outstanding performance and dedication to duty while serving at a United Nations observation post in the Khiam area of southern Lebanon. When the conflict erupted, Major Hess-Von Kruedener knew he could not be evacuated, yet he steadfastly maintained his position while reporting the situation as it presented itself until his untimely death.

"Major Hess-Von Kruedener brought great honour to the Canadian Forces and to the military profession."

Major Michael Wright of Manitoba and Oakville, is awarded the medal of Military Valour for leadership under fire when his troops were encircled in Afghanistan, Aug. 19, 2006.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Hetherington is awarded the Meritorious Service Cross for service as commanding officer of the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team from June 2006 to January this year.

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905-526-2469

Canadian aid brings Afghans safety Mine-clearing job has high risk, high pay

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DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A18

SECTION: World Wire

WORD COUNT: 464

Lindsey Wiebe Lindsey Wiebe KABUL, Afghanistan — It's a breathtaking view of Kabul from the top of TV Hill, but one that for decades meant a treacherous journey over mine-strewn ground for the thousands of Afghans in the area.

But by the end of this month, at least one small piece of the most heavily mined country in the world will be declared mine-free, after the world's first civilian-based program cleared away roughly 1,900 mines and 8,300 pieces of other explosive material from the mountainous terrain.

The Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA), a United Nations project funded largely by a Canadian agency, recruits local citizens to work in mine-clearing jobs — a team of 26 to tackle TV Hill, where Kabul's main television antennae are placed.

A series of narrow, winding roads lead up to the peak, located roughly 1,800 metres above the city, which from above appears cloaked in a substance that looks like smog but is actually dust.

The prime vantage point over Kabul made TV Hill sought-after property for Soviets as well as Afghan warlords in the 1980s and '90s, and constant attempts by warring groups to secure the peak left it littered with mines, which the local MAPA team has been clearing since late July.

"I want to support peace and stability in our country, and help our people," said assistant team leader Assadullah, with the help of an interpreter. The softspoken Afghan joined the program in 1990, and helps lead a team in manual clearance.

It's a highly risky occupation — 86 deminers have died on the job across Afghanistan over roughly two decades, and another 700 or so have been wounded or disabled. But it's also a job that pays Assadullah roughly \$130 a month, high on the Afghan pay scale.

MAPA operates in part with \$5 million annually from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the project's biggest donor since 2002, and an extra \$20 million from the group this year.

"We know we have a yearly contribution," said Elizabeth De Bennedetti, the UN's external relations officer for MAPA. "That really allowed us to plan in a sustainable way." Evidence of work on the hill is obvious, with flags and painted rocks placed all over the mountainside — red to indicate areas that are still dangerous, and white to point out land that's safe to tread on.

Across the country, 60 people die every month due to mines or other hidden explosive materials, and half the victims are children and teens.

MAPA has cleaned up roughly 60 per cent of all contaminated land in Afghanistan over the last two decades, but more than four million people still cope with the daily risk of explosions.

"We know mines are dangerous," said Assadullah, whose name means Lion of God. "We accept this risk, but we are well-trained, so we don't have any problems with mine clearing." lindsey.wiebe@freepress.mb.ca
{ Kabul AFGHANISTAN }

Death penalty dilemma Australians agonize over how to punish terrorists

PUBLICATION: WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

DATE: 2007.10.12

PAGE: A13

SECTION: Focus

WORD COUNT: 758

DataSpecials E-mail from Canberra / Michael Madigan Seven years after the Sept. 11 attacks, a bomb blast on a dusty Afghan road has left Australia grieving its first combat death in the war on terror.

Trooper David Pearce, guarding the reconstruction task force in Oruzgan province, died when his armoured vehicle drove over a pressure plate rigged to an anti-tank weapon Monday morning.

z z z His death left Australia shaken. Family photographs of the suburban 41-year-old father of two, smiling into the camera after a fishing trip and hugging his kids, provided an unsettling reminder to us of how our placid lives are entwined in this strange and brutal conflict.

Canada has lost more than 70 of its citizens in Afghanistan; across the border in the U.S., thousands have died in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Australia, it might be said, has had an easy run on the terror battlefield, our isolation keeping the ugly reality of the war at the back of our minds.

But Trooper Pearce's death combined with a series of unsettling events this week to demonstrate how terrorists still have Australia in their firm grip, in the most subtle of ways.

Just hours before Pearce died, Australia's Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, Robert McClelland, was telling a Sydney forum that Labour should use its weight in the region to abolish the death penalty.

Australia hasn't executed a human being since 1967 when Ronald Ryan, who allegedly murdered a prison guard, was hung in a Victoria jail.

McClelland reminded his audience that in 2005 Indonesian terrorist Amrozi, responsible for the 2003 Bali bombing that killed 202 people (88 of them Australians), was sentenced to die in an Indonesian court with the apparent calm acquiescence of Australians. At the same time, an Australian-born drug trafficker was executed in Singapore, sparking outrage across the nation.

Six Australian drug runners are on death row in Indonesia with diplomatic efforts underway to help them. Yet China conducts most of the globe's executions and we barely raise a whimper.

Labour sees a contradiction. If it won government in a looming federal election, it would campaign for an abolition of the death penalty across Asia regardless of what crimes the condemned had committed.

"Labour believes that supporting executions — even by a nation state — gives justification to all kinds of fanatical lunatics to take the lives of others in pursuit of their own warped ideologies," Mr. McClelland said.

Good point. Bad timing.

The fifth anniversary of the Bali bombing by the al-Qaida-linked terrorist group Jemaah Islamiyah is today while Trooper Pearce's death had already re-ignited thoughts of the threat of terror.

One of the families of the Bali victims called Mr. McClelland's comments "beyond stupidity" while Labour Leader Kevin Rudd publicly attacked his foreign spokesman, telling McClelland to back off.

Rudd, a committed Christian and unswerving opponent of the death penalty, found himself in moral quicksand, tarnished by his liberal credentials as the nation looked for some evidence he would be "tough on terror" if he won a looming federal election.

Rudd settled on a compromise. Labour was anti-death penalty, he declared, but wouldn't support a terrorist who faced the gallows in another country.

Last October, the same man wrote: "The Christian belief in the sanctity of life should cause us all to conclude that capital punishment is unacceptable in all circumstances and all jurisdictions." Prime Minister John Howard is not so conflicted. He didn't flinch in 2005 as Indonesia announced its intention to execute Amrosi and other terrorists associated with the bombing.

"I find it impossible myself, as an Australian, as prime minister, as an individual, to argue that those executions should not take place when they have murdered my fellow countrymen and women." After the execution of Saddam Hussein, Howard praised the fledgling democracy declaring: "I'm not going to give advice to Iraq as to what is the appropriate penalty." Law Council of Australia president Ross Ray was disappointed at the week's developments, believing both Labour and the ruling coalition have left Australia's moral credentials badly compromised.

"Consistent, public opposition to the death penalty is desperately needed in this region," he said.

As if to pour salt onto Australia's wounded sense of morality, the convicted Bali bombers were all but sneering at us from behind their prison bars.

Imam Samudra, Ali Ghufron (alias Mukhlas) and Amrosi have all declared they're looking forward to their executions.

In handwritten statements they have said: "If we are executed, then our stream and drops of blood, God willing, would allow us to become the light for the faithful ones and burning hell fire for the infidels and hypocrites." Australia will mark the Bali bombings today with ceremonies in Australia and Bali.

Michael Madigan is a journalist who lives in Canberra.

Caption Only

IDNUMBER 200710120084

PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star

DATE: 2007.10.12

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: C1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Laura Drake, Canwest News Service / SENSELESSSHOOTING: Linda Leonard's stomach dropped last month when she saw a picture of a donkey used for target practice in Afghanistan. She never imagined only a few weeks later she would discover the same thing had happened to her pet mule Sooki. Leonard and her husband Dave Grove, who run a small farm about 85 kilometres northwest of Ottawa, found their 13-year-old mule had been shot seven times — likely with an air rifle. For now, the couple must clean the mule's wounds four times a day. "He could still die from infection, his life is still at risk," Grove says. ;

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

Silent service making noise in Afghanistan

IDNUMBER 200710120030
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.12
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: A8
COLUMN: Bob Bergen
BYLINE: Bob Bergen
SOURCE: Special to The Windsor Star
WORD COUNT: 709

When one thinks of the Canadian Forces slogging through the desert in Afghanistan, Canadian navy divers don't immediately spring to mind.

In fact, however, navy clearance divers from both Canada's east and west coasts are taking part in one of the great untold stories of the Afghan mission.

Their demolition expertise makes them critical in countering the threat posed by homemade improvised explosive devices or IEDs which are killing Canadian troops three times as fast as their allies.

The statistics are grim: up to 30 of the 71 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan have died from IEDs and roadside bombs.

The Forces don't have Canadian helicopters at their disposal, which makes them particularly vulnerable to IEDs as they move from place to place outside the safety of the main base at Kandahar airfield.

Last year, from February to August, when the IED fatalities started to become particularly bleak, of the 16 Canadian demolition experts in Afghanistan, seven — or nearly half — were navy divers.

Of them, three were from Joint Task Force Pacific on the west coast based at Esquimalt, B.C., and four were from Task Force Atlantic on the east coast based at Halifax, N.S.

The importance of countering the IED threat is deemed so great that the Forces announced in May that it will spend about \$29.6 million on heavy new detection and route clearing systems — the Husky, the Buffalo and the Cougar — the first of which arrived in Kandahar last month.

FULLY OPERATIONAL

Four teams of them are expected to be fully operational by the end of 2007.

In the meantime and for the foreseeable future, the highly specialized demolition experts will continue doing their work — disabling or blowing up IEDs — the old-fashioned way.

All Canadian Forces demolition squads undergo the same basic training whether they be infantry or engineers.

For the navy divers — obviously trained further to do their work underwater — that meant they had to acquire a whole new set of skills so that they could work with their army counterparts.

The divers, for example, had no training in driving or crew commanding the Bison troop carriers in which they travel.

They now are all channelled through the Canadian Maneuver Training Centre at Camp Wainwright, Alberta, for that training.

Operating in convoys was all new to them, as well, in addition to working in tandem with infantry who cordon off areas where IEDs or roadside bombs are suspected.

Lt.-Cmdr. Roland Leyte, director of Maritime Policy, Operations and Readiness at National Defence Headquarters, explained when navy teams first arrived in Kandahar in 2006, the army didn't have a set of Standard Operating Procedures for working with them.

Now, he said, it is a weekly — if not daily — occurrence when, after the army cordons off an area, the navy IED teams deploy from their Bisons with one or two robots which are able to inspect suspicious devices and transmit video images back to the team members.

At that point, decisions are made to blast the devices with water cannon, use hook and lever mechanisms to render them safe, pull them apart or simply blow them up.

The IED teams also specialize in reconstructing IEDs which have already detonated.

The aim is to learn how they were put together, what they were made of and how they were set off to better counter them in the future.

In Afghanistan, Lt.-Cmdr. Leyte said he has seen everything from simple pressure plate triggering mechanisms to high-tech radio devices.

SOPHISTICATED IEDS

The insurgents in Iraq have even more sophisticated IEDs and one thing is certain, he said: "Sooner or later, we'll see some of in Afghanistan." "Professionally, it was very interesting — suicide bombs, car bombs — you see it in training, but you have to see it first-hand.

"Everything I trained to do, I got to do in Afghanistan. But, there was no diving." Not unexpectedly and like the rest of the Canadian Forces, on Canada's west coast, Lt. (N) Serge Vidalis, acting commander of the Fleet Diving Unit, said the navy's dive teams are stretched thin by the Afghanistan mission.

Joint Task Force Pacific has a core of 40 divers and, in all of Canada, there are just 120.

Lt. Vidalis explains the navy has been sending its divers to the war on terror since Operation Apollo in 2001 and to Afghanistan since 2002.

"We've got one guy there right now and we have three people preparing to go in the new year.

"Along with our other mandates and missions, we're a busy group of guys," he said.

The Canadian navy has long been known as the silent service.

You can expect that to change in the very near future in the same way the army changed its warm and fuzzy "there's no life like it" image with its "Fight fear. Fight distress. Fight chaos" ad campaign.

With its unheralded divers slogging it out in Afghanistan's desert as but one example, it is about high time.

Bob Bergen is a research fellow with the Canadian Defence & Foreign Affairs Institute in Calgary. The opinions expressed in this document are those of the columnist. Learn more about the CDFAI and its research on the Internet at www.cdfai.org

Combat duty tests mettle of city cop; 6-month stint with reserves in Afghanistan 'right thing to do'

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PAGE: A1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Bev MacKenzie, Star photo / BACK HOME: MasterCpl. Mike Akpata, a Windsor cop, served with the reserves in Afghanistan. ;
BYLINE: Dalson Chen
SOURCE: Windsor Star
WORD COUNT: 482

Local cop and Canadian army reservist Mike Akpata can now say he's conducted the easternmost Windsor community patrol ever.

But the 39-year-old police constable had slightly more stressful duties protecting truck convoys in Afghanistan, more than 15,000 kilometres from Jefferson Boulevard.

"When we would hit an IED (improvised explosive device), or we'd take small arms fire or RPG (rocket-powered grenade) fire, it was the responsibility of the armoured fighting vehicles to engage the enemy so that the supply convoy could actually carry on," said Akpata, a father of two young children.

WEAPONS LOADED

"This was combat duty. I had nothing to do with being a policeman in Afghanistan. It was outside the wire -- weapons loaded, set and ready to go."

On Wednesday, police Chief Glenn Stannard, Mayor Eddie Francis and Essex and Kent Scottish Regiment representatives hosted a welcome-home reception for Akpata and five other local soldiers who've returned from deployments in Afghanistan.

Akpata, a master corporal in the reserves, said his six-month stint in Afghanistan was his first overseas deployment in 20 years with the reserves.

"They called me Army Dad," Akpata said. "I was actually the second oldest in the company. Everyone else was between the ages of 18 and 25."

"It becomes challenging just to maintain the physical stamina of a 17-year-old when you're pushing 40."

Once fellow soldiers found out about Akpata's career as a cop in Windsor, they started referring to him being on "Kandahar Community Patrol." Akpata had flags and a pennant made bearing the slogan, and flew them on his armoured vehicle as it rolled around Afghanistan.

At Wednesday's reception, Akpata presented the flags and the pennant to the Windsor Police Service, in thanks for the support from his fellow officers.

"It was my duty to go," Akpata said when asked why he volunteered for deployment. "It's a simple, uncomplicated belief I have — that like-minded and responsible people stand up and do the difficult thing because it's the right thing to do."

71 KILLED

With 71 Canadian soldiers killed in Afghanistan since 2002, and Akpata's assignment keeping him on the roads, Akpata said IEDs were the "ongoing, highest-priority threat."

Cpl. Eric Klay, 29, said that when he first started driving a truck in Afghanistan, he'd flinch whenever he passed an oncoming car.

That nervousness faded in time. "You just get used to it. If it happens, it happens," Klay said with a shrug.

But Klay's uncle, Rick Klay, said he worried about his nephew. "It's a guessing game. It's like a roulette wheel."

Other returnees from Afghanistan at the reception were Cpl. David Marshall, Sgt. Duane Adams, Warrant Officer Ward Gapp and Cpl. Sean Bruce-Hayes.

Akpata said he's been back on his job as a police instructor for about three weeks, and he's also been enjoying the company of his two-year-old son and 16-month-old baby girl. "My daughter had the good graces to not walk until I came home."

Asked how he feels now that he's back on familiar turf, Akpata said: "I will tell you, we don't know how good we have it in this country, in this city."

Akpata said he read The Star online while in Afghanistan, and he was struck by the controversy about the city's water rate hike.

"In Afghanistan, there's no such thing as clean, running water. To see that we in Windsor were complaining about paying more for sanitized, fresh water — just imagine a country where it doesn't exist."

The Calendar; A selection of events happening this week

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SECTION: Arts & Life: Preview
PAGE: D10
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: COURTESY JIM VERBURG, SABOOGE THEATRE / AngelaGallupo
co-stars in the tragic farce Speak Easy, playing this weekend at the Centaur Theatre. ;
KEYWORDS: 0
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 1607

THEATRE

– The Carpenter. Vittorio Rossi's tragic conclusion to his Ville Émard Trilogy ends on a triumphant note. David Calderisi delivers a masterful performance as the 82-year-old patriarch Silvio Rosato battling Alzheimer's and phantoms from his wartime past. Richard Zeppieri is back as the young Silvio in Rossi's grand finale, the meatiest drama of the massive work. Playgoers also get two great Carmelas – Patricia Yeatman as the senior matriarch, and Anita La Selva as the bride and young mother. Gordon McCall makes his final bow, directing a landmark production for Centaur, and Canadian drama. Continues until Oct. 28 at Centaur

Theatre, 453 St. François Xavier St.

Call 514-288-3161. (Matt Radz)

– Speak Easy. The new improved version of Sabooge's reimagining of the Lucky Strike Radio Bedtime Hour is this year's choice for Centaur's Brave New Works showcase. Unveiled as a work-in-progress two years ago, the original creation by the scene's most exciting independent company was written by Jodi Essery and directed by Adrienne Kapstein. With Angela Gallupo, Andrew Shaver, Adrian Burhop, Patrick Costello, Kayla Fell, Greg Gale, Paula Jean Hixson and Alex Ivanovici. Tonight at 8:30; tomorrow at 2:30 and 8:30 p.m.; Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at Centaur Theatre, 453 St. François Xavier St. Call 514-288-3161 or visit www.centaurtheatre.com (MR)

– The Diary of Anne Frank. The Leanor and Alvin Segal Theatre launches its new season with Marcia Kash directing the classic 1955 Broadway play by Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett, adapted for today's audiences by Wendy Kesselman. Previews start on Sunday. The premiere is on Thursday and the show runs until Nov. 4, at the Segal, 5170 Côte Ste. Catherine Rd. Call 514-739-7944 or visit www.saidyebrofman.org. (MR)

english

Catastrophe, by Samuel Beckett; and The Dumb Waiter, by Harold Pinter, opens Thursday and continues until Oct. 21 at Mainline Theatre, 3997 St. Laurent Blvd. Presented by LastTape Productions. Thursday to

Saturday, 8 p.m., Sunday, 2:30 and 8 p.m. 514-690-6016.

A Leaf in the Whirlwind, a dance-theatre piece, presented by Teesri Duniya, adapted into a play by Jody Essery from the original story by Lalithambika Antherjanam, until Oct. 28 at MAI, Montreal Arts Intercultural, 3680 Jeanne Mance St. Tuesdays to Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 3 p.m. Call 514-982-3386.

Les/The Dianalogues, by Laurel Haines, at Théâtre de l'Esquisse, 1650 Marie-Anne St. E. Today and tomorrow, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$18; \$12 students and seniors. 514-527-5797.

Legend of the Barbarian from the creators of Space Jail, until Oct 20 at Theatre Ste. Catherine, 264 Ste. Catherine St. E. Wednesdays to Saturdays, 8 p.m. Tickets: \$12, \$10. Call 514-284-3939.

M I S R E A D I N G S, short plays series, presented by Gleam Theatre and Diamond Bookstore, directed by Constantin Sokolov, Fridays at 8:30 p.m. until Oct. 26 at the bookstore, 5035 Sherbrooke St. W. Tickets: \$12. Call 514-481-3000 or 514-934-0535.

french

Texas, (un petit thriller Texan) by François Létourneau, opens Thursday and continue until Nov. 3 at Théâtre la Chapelle, 3700 St. Dominique St. 514-843-7738.

Félicité, by Olivier Chonière, opens Tuesday and continues until Nov. 24 at Théâtre la Licorne, 4559 Papineau Ave. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, 7 p.m.; Thursdays to Saturdays, 8 p.m. 514-523-2246.

C.H.S. (Combustion humaine spontanée), by Christian Lapointe, until

Oct. 27 at Théâtre d'Aujourd'hui,

3900 St. Denis St. Call 514-282-3900.

Le Traitment, by Martin Crimp, until Oct. 20 at Espace Go, 4890 St. Laurent Blvd. 514-845-4890.

Le Chant des Gaston, by Céline Bonnier, until Oct. 27 at Espace Libre, 1945

Fullum St. Call 514-521-4191.

Quatre souffles, by Carl Poliquin, at

Centre Calixa-Lavallée. Today to Sunday,

8 p.m. Call 514-908-9090.

Conquérant de l'inutile, by André

Frappier, at Salle Fred-Barry, 4353 Ste. Catherine St. E. Today and tomorrow, 7:30 p.m. 514-253-8974.

Moitié-Moitié, by Daniel Keene, at Usine C, 1345 Lalonde Ave. Today and tomorrow, 8 p.m. Call 514-521-4493.

Marie Stuart, by Friedrich von Schiller, until Oct. 20 at Théâtre du Rideau Vert, 4664 St. Denis St. 514-844-1793.

Les Fourberies de Scapin, by Molière, until Oct. 17 at Théâtre Denise–Pelletier, 4353 Ste. Catherine St. E. For times,

call 514–253–8974 or 514–790–1245.

Le Doute, by John Patrick Shanley, until Oct. 20 at Théâtre Jean Duceppe, Place des Arts. 514–842–2112.

cabaret

Les 3 Seniors, Tuesdays to Fridays and Sundays at 1:15 p.m., until Oct. 28; Marie–Chantal Toupin, today to Sunday; plus Marc Dupré, Wednesday through Oct. 28, dinner at 6 p.m., shows at 8:30 p.m. at Cabaret du Casino de Montréal on Île Notre Dame. 514–790–1245.

FILM

– Festival du nouveau cinéma (FNC). Where to start? The 36th edition of the city's most vital broad-based film festival gets down to business this weekend with films, forums, parties and installations at SAT, 1195 St. Laurent Blvd., and movies for children age 3 to 12. Films that work today include Poor Boy's Game, the hard new Clement Virgo race/boxing movie set in Halifax, with great performances from Rossif Sutherland, Danny Glover and Flex Alexander. There's a great double-bill tomorrow and Sunday that brings together the Gaelic ghost doc Second Sight and the searing drug policy indictment Damage Done: The Drug War Odyssey. Together, they're a two-hour package. And, if you can find tickets, try Peter Greenaway's Nightwatching; the Rio Carnival spectacle Samba!; the Romanian California Dreamin'; Lynch, about David, the filmmaker; and the crowd-pleasing Lebanese entry Caramel. For more info and opinions log on to our blog at www.montrealgazette.com. FNC site

for screening times and locations is www.nouveaucinema.ca. (John Griffin)

– Cinéma du Parc. Mohammed Alatar's The Iron Wall is an unabashedly critical look at the policies that have shaped the Zionist movement and the state of Israel, while threatening the possibility of a viable Palestinian state and peaceful co-existence. It's screening one night only, Thursday, at 7 p.m. with French subtitles and at 9 p.m. with English subtitles. Frank and open discussions follow, organized by the group Palestinian and Jewish Unity (www.pajumontreal.org). Call 514–281–1900. (JG)

COMEDY

– Derek Edwards is Canada's answer to Larry the Cable Guy. While this country's city-slicker stand-ups have been spinning all manner of urban tales on stage, Edwards has been winning audiences over with his down-home rural insights. Curiously, he may be the most in-demand comic in the metropolises of this country. Winner of the Vail National Comedy Invitational 11 years ago, Edwards hasn't looked back. He's wowed 'em at the Molson Canadian Comedy Festival in Toronto as well as at the Just for Laughs fest here. Currently working on a movie script with fellow funny-man and friend Mike Wilmot, Edwards gets down tonight and tomorrow at the Comedyworks, 1238 Bishop St. Tickets: \$15. Call 514–398–9661.

(Bill Brownstein)

– Andrew Grose evidently had to leave his placid Prince Edward Island birthplace for the wilds of Edmonton to find his funny bone(s). Over the last 15 years, Grose has paid dues playing everywhere from Afghanistan for Canadian troops to Moncton's Hubcap Comedy Festival. Grose will be remembered by Just for Laughs audiences here for his many memorable performances over the years, in everything from big-name galas to Laughrodisiacs to Comedy Night in Canada. He will do his own take on Comedy Night in Canada, tonight and tomorrow at Ernie Butler's Comedy Nest, in the Pepsi Forum, 2313 Ste. Catherine St. W. Tonight at

10:30, the Nest's resident improv gang Without Annette will take suggestions from the audience and turn them into instant hysteria – without benefit of a net, natch. Call 514-932-6378. (BB)

Comedyworks, 1238 Bishop St. Monday: Wide Open Mike Night. Tuesday and Wednesday: Improv Madness with On the Spot. Thursday to Oct. 20: Kelly Taylor. 514-398-9661.

Ernie Butler's Comedy Nest, Pepsi Forum, 3rd floor, 2313 Ste. Catherine St. W. Thursday to Oct. 20: Mike Storck. 514-932-6378.

Ernie Butler's Comedy Nest Roadshow, Bourbon Street West, 1866 Sources Blvd. in Pointe Claire. Wednesday: Mike Storck. Call 514-695-6545.

DANCE

– Solid State, the Montreal all-female urban dance group, presents its new show, Take It Back. This smart-minded collective uses the energy of hip hop to explore urban identity and values. Here choreographers JoDee Allen and Helen Simard look at the dynamics of social dance partnering and what it means to lead and to be led. One show only, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Outremont Theatre, 1248 Bernard St. W. Tickets, \$14.26,

students, \$10.75. Call 514-495-9944. (Victor Swoboda)

– Les Grands Ballets Canadiens open their new season with a revised version of Cinderella (The Lost Shoe), a work by Belgian-born choreographer Stijn Celis that was first presented in 2003. Celis has completely redone the title role and reworked certain scenes to emphasize further the spiritual emancipation of Cinderella and the prince. Danced by one

of North America's most exciting companies, this is a work of challenging contemporary ballet that provokes both thought and feeling. Shows are Thursday to Saturday, Oct. 20, Oct. 25, 27 and

Nov. 2 and 3 at 8 p.m. in Théâtre Maisonneuve of Place des Arts. Tickets, \$35 to \$90. Call 514-842-2112. (VS)

– Les Grands Ballets de Tahiti (definitely not to be confused with Montreal's Les Grands) returns with a colourful show that first played here in March called The Legend of Hotuhiva. The female dancers evoke Tahiti's traditional hula style while the male dancers are appropriately fierce in telling the story of an island princess who escapes a forced marriage. Shows are Friday, Oct. 19 and Saturday, Oct. 20 at 8 p.m. in Salle Wilfrid-Pelletier of Place des Arts. Tickets, \$54 to \$82. Call 514-842-2112. (VS)

Nacéra Belaza, with two compatriots Aïcha M'Barek and Hafiz Dhaou, present a triple bill, today and tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 4 p.m. at Tangente, 840 Cherrier St. Tickets: \$16; \$13 for students. Call 514 525-1500.

Décompte by Zab Maboungou, Danse Nyata Nyata, today and tomorrow at 8 p.m. at Agora de la danse, 840 Cherrier St. Tickets: \$26; \$18 for students and

seniors. Call 514-525-1500.

Africa is a Verb, presented by Sufi Girl and features dancers and musicians Oumar N'Diaye, Mohamed N'Diaye, Alseny Yansané, Aboubacar Mané and Billy Nankouma Konaté, Saturday, Oct. 20

at 8 p.m. at Théâtre la Nouvelle Scène, 333 King Edward St. in Ottawa. Tickets: \$20. Call 613-241-2727.

This comprehensive listings package is meant to be kept for use throughout the week. See our complete online listings at www.montrealgazette.com and click on the City Guides: Montreal link.

You can search by venue, events, date and category.

Muslim scholars call for peace

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CLERGY
DATELINE: LONDON
SOURCE: Reuters
WORD COUNT: 164

More than 130 Muslim scholars called yesterday for peace and understanding between Islam and Christianity, saying "the very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake."

In a letter to Pope Benedict and other Christian leaders, Muslim scholars from around the world said finding common ground between the world's biggest religions was not simply a matter for polite dialogue between religious leaders.

"If Muslims and Christians are not at peace, the world cannot be at peace. With the terrible weaponry of the modern world; with Muslims and Christians intertwined everywhere as never before, no side can unilaterally win a conflict between more than half of the world's inhabitants," the scholars wrote.

"Our common future is at stake. The very survival of the world itself is perhaps at stake," they wrote.

"So let our differences not cause hatred and strife between us. Let us vie with each other only in righteousness and good works."

Relations between Muslims and Christians have been under strain as Al-Qa'ida has struck around the world and the United States and other Western countries have intervened in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Going Out. Oct 12–18. (Part 1)

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SECTION: Swerve
PAGE: SW7
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Big Band Birthday Bash; Colour Photo: Pan Am Shame ;
KEYWORDS: 0
SOURCE: Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 1846

Concerts

Pop, Rock + Hip–Hop

Fri Oct 12 to Sun Oct 21

Rain

Beatles tribute concert. At the Jubilee Auditorium. \$31 – \$52. TM.

Fri Oct 12 + Sat Oct 13

The New Pornographers

With Emma Pollock. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$30 at TM, MG, SL. See Page 8.

Sat Oct 13

April Wine

At Deerfoot Inn & Casino Chrome Showroom, 11500 35th St. S.E. \$41.34. TM.

Mon Oct 15

Rain For Afghanistan

Special benefit presentation of Rain Beatles Tribute concert. At the 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.

Wed Oct 17

Arch Enemy & Unearth

With Darkest Hour, August Burns Red and Suicide Silence. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$28.50 at TM, MG, SL.

Olivia Newton–John

At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$66.08 at TM. Partial proceeds to Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Sum 41 and Finger Eleven

Strength In Numbers tour. With Die Mannequin. At Pengrowth Saddledome. \$44.50. TM.

The Legendary Platters

At Deerfoot Inn & Casino. 6:30 p.m. \$39. TM.

Upcoming

Rob Zombie

Tuesday, Oct. 23. At MacEwan Hall. \$36.50. TM.

Björn Again

Thursday, Oct. 25. At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$36.88 – \$41.38. TM.

Gould Goes Downtown

Thursday, Oct. 25. Honens Glenn Gould concert series. With Kellylee Evans, Emm Gryner, Danny Michel and Chad Vangaalen. Hosted by CBC Radio's Amanda Putz. At the Grand theatre, 608 1st St. S.W. 299 0140. honens.com.

David Wilcox

Friday, Oct. 26. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino. \$49. TM.

Led Zepplica

Saturday, Oct. 27. With Back In Black AC/DC Experience. 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.

Modest Mouse

Friday, Nov. 2. At MacEwan Hall. \$30. TM.

Glass Tiger

Friday, Nov. 2. At Deerfoot Inn & Casino. \$51.94. TM.

Billy Joel

Monday, Nov. 5. At the Saddledome. \$69 – \$149. TM.

Serena Ryder

Monday Nov. 5. With Wil. At Knox United Church, 506 4th St. S.W. \$24.50. TM.

H.I.M.

Tuesday, Nov. 6. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$30. TM, MG, SL.

Matthew Good

Thursday, Nov. 8. At the Banff Centre. \$34.50. TM

Dropkick Murphys

Thursday, Nov. 8. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$26. TM, MG.

Chad VanGalen

Saturday, Nov. 10. At the Grand theatre, 608 1st St. S.W. \$22.50. 205–2922, atthegrand.ca.

Travis

Tuesday, Nov. 13. With Maximo Park. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$34.50. TM.

Gwar

Wednesday, Nov. 14. At MacEwan Hall. \$30. TM, MG, SL.

Stars

Tuesday, Nov. 20. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$22.50. TM, MG, SL.

Zappa Plays Zappa

Thursday, Nov. 22. At Jubilee Auditorium. \$45.50 – \$59.50. TM.

Hedley

Monday, Nov. 26. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$29.50. TM.

Patrick Watson

Friday, Nov. 30. At the Grand theatre, 608 1st St. S.W. 8 p.m. \$20, 205.2922.

Alexisonfire

Monday, Dec. 3 and Tuesday, Dec. 4. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. \$32.50. TM.

Van Halen

Friday, Dec. 7. With Ky-Mani Marley. At the Saddledome. \$52.50 – \$159.50. TM.

Broken Social Scene

Friday, Dec. 14. Performing Kevin Drew's Spirit If album. At MacEwan Hall. TM, MG.

Folk, Roots + Country

Fri Oct 12

Rick Fines & Suzie Vinnick

At the Cochrane RancheHouse, 101 RancheHouse Rd, Cochrane. \$22. cochranefolkclub.com.

April Verch

Dalhousie Community Centre, 5432 Dalhart Rd. N.W. \$20, UC. calgaryfolkclub.com.

Sat Oct 13

The Wailin' Jennys

At Knox United Church, 506 4th St. S.W. 9 p.m. \$22.50 TM.

Tanglefoot

With Steve Fisher. Nickelodeon Music Club at Crescent Heights Community Hall, 1101 2nd St. N.W. 8 p.m. \$20. PH.

The Pfeifers

At The Grace Baptist Church, 2670 Radcliffe Dr. S.E. 7 p.m. 830–8334.

The Arrogant Worms

At Strathcona Community Centre, 277 Strathcona Dr. S.W. \$20. 287–2299. bowvalleymusicclub.org.

Bethany and Rufus

At Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. S.W. \$20. PH.

Sat Oct 13 + Sun Oct 14

Harry Manx

Saturday, Oct. 13 at Braeside Community Centre, 11024 Braeside Dr. S.W. saturdaynightspecial.ca. Sunday,

Going Out. Oct 12–18. (Part 1)

Oct. 14 at Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff Centre. 8 p.m. \$20 – \$25, banffcentre.ca.

Mon Oct 15

Lorrie Morgan

At Frank Sisson's Silver Dollar Casino, 1010 42nd Ave. S.E. \$45. 287–1183.

Upcoming

Brad Paisley

Friday, Oct. 19. With Taylor Swift and Rodney Atkins. At Pengrowth Saddledome. \$37.50 – \$65.50. TM.

The Tragically Hick

Friday, Oct. 19. With Erin Ross and Charlie Hase. Rocky Mountain Folk Club at Hillhurst–Sunnyside Community Hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W. \$14 MG, 283–4525.

New Voices In Slide Guitar

Friday, Oct. 19. With Doug Cox, Steve Dawson, Ivan Roosenberg and Rachelle Van Zanten. At Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. S.W. \$20. MG.

Seals & Seals

Saturday, Oct. 20. At Frank Sisson's. \$30. 287–1183, franksissons.com.

Yoruba Andabo

Saturday, Oct. 20. At MacEwan Ballroom, U of C. \$32. 510–8300. ticketweb.ca.

The Barra MacNeils

Sunday, Oct. 21. At Triwood Community Centre, 2244 Chicoutimi Dr. N.W. \$22 – \$42. 282–2677. Monday, Oct. 22. At the Banff Centre. \$21 – \$26. 1–800–413–8368.

Gospel Music Night

Wednesday, Oct. 24. At Bow Valley Christian Church, 5300 53rd Ave. N.W. 7:30 p.m. Free. bvccweb.ca.

Calgary Folk Club Alberta Night

Friday, Oct. 26. With Maria Dunn, John Wort Hannam and the Heebie–jeebies. At Dalhousie Community Centre, 5432 Dalhart Rd. N.W. \$20. UC.

Fraid Knot

Saturday, Oct. 27. At Symons Valley Ranch, 260011 Symons Valley Rd. N.W. 274–4574.

Barry Luft

Sunday, Oct. 28. With Murray Luft. At Banff Trail Hall, 2115 20th Ave. N.W. 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. \$12. 287–9969.

Paul Brandt

Saturday, Nov. 24. With Jason Blaine. At Jubilee Auditorium. \$32.50 – \$42.50. TM.

Rita MacNeil

Tue., Dec. 11. At Jack Singer. \$49.50. TM.

Blue Rodeo

Jan. 13 at the Banff Centre. Jan. 14 at the Jubilee Auditorium. Tickets TBA.

Blues, Jazz + Big Band

Fri Oct 12

George McFetridge Trio

At Cantos Music Foundation, 134 11th Ave. S.E. \$10 advance; \$15 door. calgaryjazz.com.

Fri Oct 12 + Sat Oct 13

Michael Hope

Sinatra and the Best of Broadway.

At Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church, 4612 Varsity Dr. N.W. \$35. 289–4243.

Sat Oct 13

CKUA 80th Anniversary Dance Party

Hosted by David Ward, music by Penguins on Broadway At Quincy's, 609 7th Ave. S.W. 8 p.m. \$25 advance at MG and ckua.com; \$30 at the door.

Tue Oct 16

Holly Cole

With Michael Kaeshammer. At Jack Singer. \$35.50 – \$59.50. TM.

Wed Oct 17

Tri–Continental

At Margaret Greenham Theatre, Banff Centre. \$17 – \$22. 1–800–413–8368.

Ongoing

Jazz at Noon

First Wednesday of the month. At Leacock Theatre Foyer, Mount Royal College. Free. 440–6145.

Upcoming

Donnie "Mr. Downchild" Walsh

Friday, Oct. 19. Carma Acoustic Blues Series. At Engineered Air Theatre, Epcor Centre. \$32.88. TM.

Juan Martin Flamenco Trio

Friday, Oct. 19. At University Theatre, U of C. \$32.50. UC.

Prime Time Big Band

Saturday, Oct. 20. Big Band Brunch at the Ironwood, 1429 9th Ave. S.E. Noon to 3 p.m. \$30. 269–5581.

Strunz & Farah

Friday, Oct. 26. At Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff Centre. 8 p.m. \$23 – \$28.

Matt Minglewood

Saturday, Oct. 27. At Bowness Community Hall, 7904 43rd Ave. N.W. \$26.50. TM, keystonemusic.ca.

International Guitar Night

Saturday, Nov. 10. At Southwood United Church, 10690 Elbow Dr. S.W. \$20. MG.

Compadres

Thursday, Nov. 15. Oscar Lopez and James Keelaghan. At Jack Singer. \$27.50. TM. Sunday, Nov. 18. At Eric Harvie Theatre, Banff Centre. \$20 – \$25.

Sophie Milman

Wednesday, Dec. 12. With Alex Cuba. At MacEwan Hall, U of C. 8 p.m. \$39.50. TM.

Michael Bublé

Tuesday, Jan. 15. At the Saddledome. \$59 – \$99. TM.

Classical, Choral + Opera

Fri Oct 12

Sweet Adelines Choir

At Polish Canadian Culture Centre, 3015 15th St. N.E. \$30 – \$35. 286–1242.

Sat Oct 13

Going Out. Oct 12–18. (Part 1)

Aileen Bache

Classical Guitar Society of Calgary. At St. Stephen's Anglican Church, 1121 14th Ave. S.W. 8 p.m. \$13 – \$22. 605–1724.

Heavenly Harps

CPO Saturday Morning at the Symphony. At Jack Singer Lobby, Epcor Centre. 10 a.m. \$12 – \$18. 571–0849. cpo–live.com.

Firebird Festival

CPO Light Classics Series launch. At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$20 – \$80. Opening night reception 6–7:15 p.m., \$40. Concert & reception tickets at 571–0849. cpo–live.com.

Sunday Oct 14

Oktoberfest

Players Chamber Ensemble at the German Canadian Club of Calgary, 2626 23rd St. N.E. 2:30 p.m. \$8 – \$25. 244–7816, playersensemble.com.

Virtuosi

Kensington Sinfonia at Hillhurst United Church, 1227 Kensington Cl. N.W. 3 p.m. \$15 – \$20. PH.

Instrumental Society of Calgary

Gwen Klassen, flute and Tisha Murvihill, harp. At Scarboro United, 134 Scarboro Ave. S.W. 3 p.m. \$10 – \$15. 440–6929.

Ongoing

Concert Night Out

Fridays at the Banff Centre. Oct. 12: Todd Palmer, clarinet. 7:30 p.m. \$8 – \$15. banffcentre.ca.

Canmore Sundays

Sunday, Oct. 14, 28, Nov. 4, 25 and Dec. 9. Chamber music at Creekside Hall, Canmore Seniors Centre, 600 9th St. 2:30 p.m. Admission by donation.

First Tuesday Recital

First Tuesday of the month. Presented by the Mount Royal Conservatory. At Leacock Theatre, MRC. Noon. Free. 440–6145.

Music at Noon

Wednesdays at Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, 604 1st. St. S.E. 12:10–12:50 p.m. Oct. 17: Jacqui Lynn Fidler, mezzo soprano. Free. 214–1811. proartsociety.ca.

Going Out. Oct 12–18. (Part 1)

Midweek Medley

Wednesdays at Rolston Recital Hall, Banff Centre. 4:30 p.m. banffcentre.ca.

Upcoming

Duo Solista

Friday, Oct. 19 and Saturday, Oct. 20. U of C Celebrity Series At the Rozsa Centre, U of C. 8 p.m. \$18 – \$25. 210–7576. finearts.ucalgary.ca.

Roberto's Beautiful Brahms

Friday, Oct. 19 and Saturday, Oct. 20. CPO Classics Horizons Series. At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$20 – \$80. Opening night reception, 6–7:15 p.m., \$40. Concert and reception tickets at 571–0849. cpo-live.com.

The Song Within

Saturday, Oct. 20. Cantare Children's Choir. At St. Andrew's United Church, 924 Heritage Dr. S.W. 7:30 p.m. \$15. 685–1132.

Harvest in Song

Sunday, Oct. 21. Mount Royal Arietta, Arioso and Youth Choirs. At the Rozsa Centre, U of C. 2 p.m.

Ambrose Fall Concert

Sunday, Oct. 21. At First Church of the Nazarene, 65 Richard Way S.W.

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Big Band Birthday Bash

CKUA radio is almost as famous for their dance parties as they are for their broadcasting. This next one's a real doozy—a big band extravaganza hosted by David Ward with music by Penguins on Broadway, celebrating the station's 80th anniversary. Saturday, Oct. 13th at Quincy's, 609 7th Ave. S.W. \$25 advance; \$30 at the door.

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Ensemble Clément Janequin

Monday, Oct. 22. At Christ Church Elbow Park, 3602 8th St. S.W. \$15 – \$20. 243–2332, earlymusicvoices.ca.

Calgary Girls Choir Sopranos Concert

Wednesday, Oct. 24. At the Rozsa Centre, U of C. 686–7444. calgarygirlschoir.com.

Opera Composers: From Faust to Flower Songs

Sunday, Oct. 28. At the Rozsa Centre, U of C. 240–4174. \$15 – \$20. mountainviewconnection.com.

Going Out. Oct 12–18. (Part 1)

Colm Wilkinson: Broadway & Beyond

Monday, Oct. 29. At Jack Singer. 8 p.m. \$47.38 – \$122.88. TM.

Trio Fibonacci

Tuesday, Oct. 30. Networks Calgary. At the Rozsa Centre, U of C. networkscalgary.ca.

Video Games Live

Friday, Nov. 9 and Saturday, Nov. 10. Presented by the CPO. At Jack Singer. Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. \$40 – \$60. 571-0849. cpo-live.com.

Rigoletto

Saturday, Nov. 10 to Friday, Nov. 16. Calgary Opera at the Jubilee Auditorium. Three shows: Nov. 10, 8 p.m.; Nov. 14, 7:30 p.m.; Nov. 16, 8 p.m. 262-7286. calgaryopera.com.

Kids Shows

Upcoming

Babar the Elephant

Sunday, Oct. 28. CPO Family Special. At Jack Singer. 2 p.m. \$27. 571-0849.

Clubs

Pop, Rock + Dance

Fri Oct 12 to Thur Oct 18

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. Wednesdays: Isis Graham and Dylan Leroy. Thursdays: Beat Down Babylon with I-Jah and Doug The Musical Conductor. 607 11th Ave. S.W. 233-0056.

The Atlantic Trap and Gill

Friday and Saturday: Dorymates. 3828 Macleod Tr. 287-8811.

Aussie Rules

Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays: Duelling Pianos. 1002 37th St. S.W. 249-7933.

Bamboo

Fridays: Jon Delerious. Saturdays: Rob Faust. Thursdays: Mod Club with Faust and DJewel. 1205 1st St. S.W. 261-6674.

Bent Elbow Neighbourhood Pub

Sundays: Open mic. 1065 Canyon Meadows Dr. S.W. 386–2368.

Boomtown

Thursdays: Open mic with Gerd Krause. 135 Southland Dr. S.E. 278–5050.

Border Crossing

Sundays: City Limits. 1814 36th St. S.E. 272–8333.

Broken City

Friday: Remote Kid with Tim Gilbertson and The Hermit. Saturdays: The Spread with Marco Primo. Sundays (4–8 p.m.): Rock 'n' roll open stage jam with Hurricane Felix. Monday: Erin Ross. Wednesdays: Celebrity! Hot! Tub! with Noah and Big Buddy Colin. Thursday: The Thermals with Hot Awesome. 613 11th Ave. S.W. 262–9976. brokencity.ca.

Bugaboo Creek Pub

Tuesdays: Open Mic with Bryan Rumsey. 5353 Crowchild Tr. N.W. 288–5353.

The Castle Pub

Friday: Dog Faced Models with Epidemic, The Swill City Locals and Reaction. Saturday: The Grones with The Motherf...ers. 1217 1st St. S.W. 264–5759.

Cecil Hotel

Friday to Thursday (no show Sunday): Crossover Country. 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. 3106 4th St. N.W. 230–3253.

The Dog and Duck Pub

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.

Forbes Neighbourhood Bar

Sundays (3–7 p.m.): Acoustic Open Stage. 4820 Northland Dr. N.W. 210–2030.

Fuel Lounge

Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays: DJ Cary Chang. 315 8th Ave. S.W. 265–3275.

The Gateway

Friday: Sittin Idol with Chunk. Campus Centre building, SAIT, 1301 16th Ave. N.W. 284–8214.

The HiFi Club

Fridays: Flashlight with Rob Faust and Sideshow Sid. Saturday: Hot Little

Rocket video release party with The Mavils and Alphababy, \$10, SL, MG. Sundays: Sunday Skool with DJ Rice. Monday: Slyde with Mama Miche and Reed Rock. Tuesday: Rumba & Revolution: Fashion Show & Fiesta with DJ Zenteno, \$15. Thursdays: Hai Karate with Smalltown DJ's. 219 10th Ave. S.W. 263–5222. hificlub.ca.

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 The Sideshow Bob Band. 2620 4th St. N.W. 277–0096.

King's Head Pub

Friday and Saturday: Curious George. 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 (Ambassador Motor Inn)

Sundays(5–9 p.m.): Jam with Special Ed. 802 16th Ave. N.E. 276–2271.

The Liberty Lounge

Friday: Hey Rosetta with Axis of Conversation. Thursday: Ted Leo and The Pharmacists with The Neckers. \$20. TM, MG, SL. Mount Royal College. 440–6403.

Lucky Lounge

Fridays: DJs Mikey Da Roza and 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: Bella with Darren Frank. Thursdays: Candy Paint with Gary Powers, Dwight Christmas and Fordinho. 612 8th Ave. S.W. 265–0122.

Morgan's on 17th

Friday and Saturday: Loud Love. Sunday: Lost Boys. Monday: The Distinguished Gentlemen. Tuesday: Broken Toyz. Wednesday: Slack Babbath. Thursday: Playground Zone. 1324 17th Ave. S.W. 244–1332.

Opus on 8th

Saturdays: DJ Anthem. 628 8th Ave. S.W. 269–4110.

Paddy O'Leary's

Friday and Saturday: Dangerous Goods. 8294 Centre St. N.E. 275–6601.

The Palomino

Friday (5–9 p.m.): The Smokin' 45s. Friday (late show): The Pinetree Line

CD Release with The Fjords and 3 Centuries of Stoney Sleep. Saturday: The Martyr Index, Fat Dave Crime Wave and The Pinetarts. 109 7th Ave. S.W. 532–1911. thepalomino.ca.

Regis Plaza Hotel

Friday to Thursday (no show Sunday): Crazy Legs. 124 7th Ave. S.E. 262–4641.

Richmond's Pub

Friday and Saturday: No Warning. 3919 Richmond Rd. S.W. 217–7744.

The Riverstone Pub

Friday and Saturday: The Council. 773 Northmount Dr. N.W. 509–1560.

Rose and Crown

Friday and Saturday: Jeff Landeen. 1503 4th St. S.W. 244–7757.

Royal Canadian Legion 264

Saturdays (1–5 p.m.): Vintage Jam. 1910 Kensington Rd. N.W. 283–5264.

The Rusty Cage Bar and Grill

Friday and Saturday: Sugarbone. Thursday: Silly Wrabbit. 1690 37th St. S.W. 240–4590.

Sambuca Lounge

Saturdays: Jam with Bill Blayney. Tuesdays: Jam with Blue Rider. 720 8th Ave. S.W. 248–7000.

The Shamrock Hotel

Friday and Saturday: Big Yellow Van. 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 stage jam with Erin Ross and Juanita Brandt. Sunday afternoons (2–7 p.m.): Back Home with

DJ Sideshow Sid. Wednesday: Bogart! with Mongoose and Life Like Cobra. 534 17th Ave. S.W. 245–3333.

The Soda Lounge

Saturday: Pete Wilde and Cosmonaught. Sunday: Cris and Vi An. 211 12 Ave. S.W. thesoda.ca.

Station 52 Bar and Grill

Saturdays: Blues in the Lawn. Thursdays: Jam with Jim Baxter. 1806 52nd St. S.E. 273–5224.

Stavros Ranchlands

Friday and Saturday: Davey Lee Goode. 7759 Ranchview Dr. N.W. 239–5531.

The Stetson

Friday: Gutterawl, Damn Drty Ape and Newbourne. Saturday: Gunther with Summerlad, Azeda Booth and Lint. 10002 Macleod Tr. 278–0088.

Sunset and Vine

Friday and Saturday: Sub Urban Dwellers. 2220 68th St. N.E. 280–7333.

Tantra

Wednesday: Eric Prydz with Cary Chang. \$25. TM. 355 10th Ave. S.W. 264–0202.

Twisted Element

Fridays and Saturdays: DJ Krazay Steve. Sundays and Thursdays: DJ Krazay Steve and drag show hosted by Nina Tron. 1006 11 Ave. S.W. 802–0230. twistedelement.ca.

The Underground

Friday: F.A.R.M. Showcase with Bebop Cortez, Sex PArty adn META. Saturday: Tree Burning with The Great Abomination and Ahnabith Gish. Wednesday: Band vs. Band II with META vs. Stars and Stories. 733 10th Ave. S.W. 266–6629.

(continued on next page)

Food aid critical to Afghans, says Oda

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DATELINE: OTTAWA
BYLINE: Meagan Fitzpatrick
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 273

Escalating attacks against UN food convoys in Afghanistan are a cause for concern and a reason why Canada needs to continue its work in the war-torn country, the international co-operation minister said Thursday.

"One of the things that I really took to heart is that people that need basic food are being prevented access to that food by a group of insurgents," Bev Oda said in a technical briefing with reporters, adding that the assistance Canada is providing in terms of military support and development aid, "has to continue."

Oda visited Afghanistan on the weekend with Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier, noting that with winter approaching it is crucial that people have access to food. During their trip, the ministers announced that \$25 million of Canada's aid to Afghanistan is being directed to the World Food Program. In all, the program feeds about 3.5 million people in Afghanistan.

But Oda said she understands the difficulties being faced by aid organizations, who are vulnerable to Taliban attacks. Still, she said, they are working together as teams and doing their best to overcome the obstacles.

"We have a very challenging situation," she said. "In spite of the challenges, so far we have distributed 8,700 tonnes of food."

"So . . . the best we can do here is to give the military, the police force, the Afghan local council, the Afghan police and army, the flexibility they need in order to meet the challenges that they face."

The head of the World Food Program, Rick Corsino, said this week that the security situation in some parts of Afghanistan is making it hard to deliver food shipments and causing some Afghans to refuse food aid for fear of Taliban reprisals.

Canada has 2,500 troops deployed in Afghanistan.

Romania proud to join Afghanistan war 'parade'; New NATO member has low profile

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ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Shaw Marai, Agence France–Presse, Getty Images/ A burka–clad Afghan woman walks past a Romanian soldier on patrol duty in the streets of Kabul, Afghanistan. ; Colour Photo: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service / Lt. Ciprian Caltoso, left, gives a briefing to Canadian Brig.–Gen. Marquis Hainse, at Forward Operating Base Dracula. ;

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

DATELINE: FORWARD OPERATING BASE DRACULA, Afghanistan

BYLINE: Matthew Fisher

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 618

The Canadians and the Dutch may be anguishing over their combat commitments in southern Afghanistan, but the Romanians at this lonely outpost near a major Taliban infiltration route through the mountains from Pakistan have no such worries.

The men of Romania's elite 33rd Mountain Battalion joke that almost nobody at home is even aware that their military, which is one of NATO's newest members, has been fighting alongside the Canadians, Dutch, British and Americans in southern Afghanistan.

"Honestly, I don't think our people know what we do," said Lt. Ganea Alin, who leads a platoon overseeing checkpoints on a road frequented by the Taliban.

"I know there has been great surprise whenever a Romanian dies on a patrol. But nobody in Romania is asking the question: 'Why are we here?' "

Brig.–Gen. Marquis Hainse, the Canadian who is NATO's second–in–command for Afghanistan's six southern provinces, tried to answer that question in a rousing pep talk at Forward Operating Base Dracula. The base, a ramshackle former school that had been called Vander by the Americans, was slyly renamed by the Romanians in honour of their notorious countryman, the fictional Transylvanian Count Dracula.

"Some countries have decided to watch the parade in Afghanistan. Some countries have decided to be in the parade," Hainse said during a tour of the outpost. "Canada, Holland, Britain, the U.S. and Romania, to name a few, are in the parade.

"You might not see this on a day–to–day basis, but you are making progress. What you are doing is key to the future of this country. I respect you. I know you are not afraid of the Taliban. Keep pushing and make the Taliban afraid of you."

Most of the 700 Romanians in Afghanistan are posted at several places in Zabul province, which abuts Pakistan and, further south, Kandahar province, where Canada's battle group is stationed. Four Romanians have been killed since the unit headed into the dazzling mountains and high desert valleys and plateaus of the area late last year.

As well as having troops here, 220 kilometres northeast of Kandahar City, the Romanians have a slightly smaller force fighting in Iraq. The two operations are the first time in more than 60 years that Romanians have been in combat. And they are mostly doing it with Soviet equipment from the 1970s.

"The Romanians have proven their commitment. They have not hesitated to support U.S. and coalition forces," said Lt.-Col. Bruce Bamble, a civil affairs officer who works out of another base in Zabul that is shared by Romanian and U.S. forces.

"Just the other week, when an American soldier was killed and another was wounded by an IED (improvised explosive device), their quick reaction force came out immediately and one of their soldiers, a lieutenant, was killed by a second IED."

The Romanians snatched four suspected Taliban guerrillas in a recent night operation but have not been in a firefight since being ambushed nearly two months ago.

The Canadians have gone long periods without firefights, too. But, like the Romanians, they have been hit hard by IED strikes.

"The biggest problem for everyone in Afghanistan is IEDs," said Lt. Gabriel Stefanescu, speaking in the good English that all Romanian officers are obliged to have. "The Taliban are getting better and better at this."

Alin, the platoon commander, shakes his head ruefully and adds: "Our armoured personnel carriers are good for stopping bullets and explosive RPGs (rocket-propelled grenades) cannot pierce our armour. But IEDs are something else."

Like the Canadians in Kandahar, the Romanians have been fascinated and sometimes confused by Afghanistan's complex political and tribal arrangements and how different the Afghans' deeply conservative Pashtun culture is from their own.

"We don't know who or what to believe here," Alin said. "You find a police chief smoking hashish or opium. A policeman offered me some the other day at a checkpoint."

"Yet the Taliban rulers used religion to get access here. Their most powerful weapon is their religion."

Bhutto rejects Musharraf request

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DATELINE: ISLAMABAD
BYLINE: Masroor Gilani
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 252

Former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto will return from exile next week to campaign for January elections, despite a call by President Pervez Musharraf to delay her homecoming, her party said Thursday.

Musharraf said this week that two–time premier Bhutto should wait until the Supreme Court rules on the legality of his landslide victory in Saturday's controversial presidential election.

But a spokesman for her Pakistan People's Party, Farhatullah Babar, told AFP that "Benazir Bhutto will return on time. There is no change in her schedule."

Babar also dismissed reports Bhutto and her aides would discuss Musharraf's request later Thursday in Dubai, where she has lived for much of the time since leaving Pakistan in 1999 to avoid graft charges.

"The meeting in Dubai is a routine matter," Babar said.

Bhutto, the first female prime minister of an Islamic nation, is set to land in the southern city of Karachi on Oct. 18, the day after the court starts hearing challenges against the election.

Musharraf told a private television station late Wednesday that Bhutto should postpone her flight back home until after the court judgment.

"I would say she should not come before, she should come later," Musharraf told Anyone in an interview.

Musharraf agreed last week to give Bhutto an amnesty on the corruption allegations that drove her into exile, in a prelude to a likely power–sharing deal between the two Western–friendly political leaders. Washington has been quietly pushing for a Musharraf–Bhutto alliance to tackle Islamic extremists in Pakistan's tribal areas bordering Afghanistan, where clashes this week left 250 people dead.

However, most Pakistanis oppose such an agreement, according to a poll released Thursday by the International Republican Institute, a U.S. think–tank.

Turkey pulls envoy to U.S. over genocide vote

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DATELINE: ANKARA
BYLINE: Burak Akinci
SOURCE: Agence France–Presse
WORD COUNT: 297

Turkey on Thursday recalled its ambassador to Washington, deepening a diplomatic row over a vote in the US Congress to label the massacre of Armenians by the Ottoman Turks an act of genocide.

Ankara's display of diplomatic anger came as the White House, which had opposed the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives foreign affairs committee, sought to mollify its NATO partner and key strategic ally for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The House committee passed the genocide resolution on Wednesday despite Turkish warnings that such a move could seriously damage bilateral ties.

"It is natural that the ambassador should be recalled for consultations after such a decision was taken in Congress," Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Mahmut Bilman told AFP.

"It is difficult to say when he (the ambassador) will return to Washington," he added.

Ankara staunchly rejects the genocide tag for the 1915–17 mass killings of Armenians and its furious reaction to the Congress vote has fuelled fears within President George W. Bush's administration that it could lose access to a crucial military base in Turkey.

White House national security council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said he looked forward to the ambassador's "quick return" and reiterated the administration's opposition to the resolution "because of the grave harm it could bring to the national security of the United States."

Nancy Pelosi, the Democratic Speaker of the House of Representatives, insisted Thursday that the resolution would go forward to a full House vote.

Turkish President Abdullah Gul denounced the House committee vote as "unacceptable" and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan warned further action could be taken if the resolution is passed by the full House.

"We are going to continue our action before it (the text) goes before the full session," said Erdogan. "After that there are measures that we can take but now is not the time to talk about them. We are evaluating these measures."