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NATO members rapped for poor troop contribution

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DATELINE: KYIV, UKRAINE
SOURCE: The Associated Press
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 378

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates criticized European members of NATO yesterday for failing to provide the extra troops that their governments promised last year for security duties in Afghanistan.

"I am not satisfied that an alliance whose members have over two million soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen cannot find the modest additional resources that have been committed for Afghanistan," Gates told a news conference after a meeting of a separate organization of southeast European countries.

The main shortfall is in troops to serve as trainers for the Afghan National Army and the Afghan police.

Gates said he intended to pursue the matter at a NATO defence ministers meeting in the Netherlands this week.

During yesterday's meeting in Ukraine of the Southeast European Defence Ministers, a group that was created in 1996 mainly to promote stability in the Balkans, several countries "indicated that they intend to increase their commitments in Afghanistan and Iraq — principally in Afghanistan," Gates told reporters.

He added that those countries did not want to be identified publicly yet because they have not finalized their plans.

Earlier, Slovak officials told Gates that they would send at least 47 more troops to Uruzgan province in southern Afghanistan, where they will work with Dutch forces, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said. That will increase its troop total in Afghanistan to 125 next year, he said.

In opening remarks to yesterday's session, Gates urged members of the Southeast European Defence Ministers to boost their contributions to security efforts in Afghanistan, warning that the group "risks eventual irrelevance" unless it does more to fight terrorism and increase European security co-operation.

In his address, Gates praised the group for sending a small headquarters element to Kabul, the Afghan capital, last year and said more such missions should be considered.

"Given the wide range of global threats which confront us, contributions by SEDM members to the war on terrorism are particularly important," Gates said, according to a transcript of his remarks released after the start of the closed-door conference. SEDM is the acronym for the defence organization.

Gates used yesterday's meeting to underscore the importance of international assistance for Afghanistan, where violence remains high despite some success this year in blunting a planned Taliban offensive.

Gates has been pushing for more help in Afghanistan from European countries, not only those in the NATO alliance but others with security and other resources that could contribute to stabilizing the country.

Khadr appeal may be delayed by legal twist

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DATELINE: WASHINGTON
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The U.S. Defence Department says Canadian Omar Khadr shouldn't be able to appeal his case to a regular American court.

Government lawyers have told a U.S. appeals court it has no jurisdiction to hear arguments because there's been no final judgment yet in Khadr's terrorism case.

It's the latest legal twist in what his lawyers call the sad and strange saga of military commissions in Guantanamo Bay for foreign terror suspects.

Last week, a U.S. military judge ordered Khadr to appear at a tribunal Nov. 8.

Khadr, 21, is charged with murdering a U.S. soldier, planting bombs in Afghanistan, conspiring with terror chief Osama bin Laden and spying for al-Qaida.

The November hearing is supposed to determine whether Khadr is an "unlawful" enemy combatant who can be tried by the special legal system set up by U.S. President George W. Bush.

Uniform racks remind troops of graves; Some Canadian soldiers at this firebase feel the crosses resemble gravestones

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ILLUSTRATION: Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS / A helmet, flak jackets and military kits hang from crudely constructed crosses at Forward Operating Base Wilson, west of Kandahar City. The racks were put up to keep Canadian soldiers' equipment out of the heavy dust and away from critters. ;

DATELINE: FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, AFGHANISTAN

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation

WORD COUNT: 359

At first blush it was a chilling sight: two rows of handmade crosses covered with the gear of Canadian soldiers.

A helmet and flak jacket adorned one of the crosses, while various kinds of military kit, including ammunition and clothing, were on the others. It was reminiscent of the final resting markers granted to many troops during the Second World War.

But here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, about 60 kilometres west of Kandahar City, it is only the sign of military ingenuity.

The crudely constructed crosses were put up to keep helmets, flak jackets and rounds of ammunition out of the thick, heavy dust that blows through this base on a regular basis. They also keep some unwanted visitors out of clothing — including the gargantuan camel spider, mice and even possibly snakes.

Ingenious or not, it's a little chilling for many of the soldiers stationed at the camp.

"I think that's pretty unlucky because it looks like a graveyard," said Pte. Francis Archambault, 23, of Valcartier, Que.

"That's purely a superstition but you see pictures where sometimes the rifle is pointed down and the helmet is on top. This is too much like that."

Instead of hanging up his gear, he is satisfied with keeping his belongings in a wooden box.

"If my gear is hanging on a cross it had better have my name engraved on it," he chuckled with a touch of gallows humour.

Archambault's discomfort with the crosses was shared by his friend Cpl. Christophe Clement.

Uniform racks remind troops of graves; Some Canadian soldiers at this firebase feel the crosses resemble g

"I guess I'm superstitious too. I just arrived here one night and there they were. Some of the guys are comfortable with doing it, but it is hard to see it as anything else other than gravestones," said Clement.

"I think keeping things in a box works just fine for me."

Superstition and religion have always been part of life in the foxhole.

Some soldiers say they pray for God to protect them when under fire. The wearing of medals of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, is commonplace. And they do believe in luck, or a lack of it.

"Everybody has a little something on their dog tag or they carry something for luck," said Archambault, pulling out his dog tag to show a tiny gold cross added on. It's a gift from his girlfriend Isabel back home.

"I've got a necklace that my girlfriend gave me too: it's a medallion and it's still lucky," Clement chimed in with a smile.

"I'm a corporal now. I just got promoted yesterday."

The two men have been in the field since July and seen friends and comrades die. But Archambault said he'd want to come back to Afghanistan in the future.

"I am not really surprised and I am pretty happy about it. I would like to be back," he said.

Harper survives first throne speech test

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EDITION: Final
SECTION: Front
PAGE: A1
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: THE CANADIAN PRESS / Prime Minister Stephen Harper prevailed over Liberal motion. ;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
NOTE: INSIDE: SECURITY CERTIFICATE BILL INTRODUCED – A3
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 406

Stephen Harper's minority government has easily survived the first confidence test on its throne speech.

NDP and Bloc Qu b cois MPs joined with the Conservatives yesterday to handily defeat a Liberal amendment to the speech by a vote of 203–89.

Had it passed, the amendment would have amounted to a vote of non–confidence in Harper's plan for the country, and the government would have fallen — triggering an election.

However, the Liberals had no desire to spark an election, having just emerged from weeks of infighting and recriminations in the wake of three devastating byelection losses in Quebec.

Leader St phane Dion crafted the amendment in such a way that neither the Bloc nor the NDP would support it.

He has also ensured the government will survive the next confidence test as well — Liberals will abstain tomorrow when the main throne speech motion is put to a vote.

Dion's amendment called on the government to admit that the failure to reach the Kyoto Protocol targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was a result of the Tories' decision to kill the previous Liberal government's "innovative" green plan, of which Dion was the architect.

Neither the NDP nor the Bloc accept that the Liberals were on track to meet their Kyoto obligations.

The amendment also called on the government to announce that Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan will end in February, 2009.

That position is at odds with the NDP's insistence that the troops be withdrawn from combat immediately.

Unlike most of his caucus and advisers, Dion had initially wanted to defeat the throne speech, fearing his reputation as a Kyoto champion would be destroyed if he didn't take a stand against the Tories' assertion that the Kyoto targets are unattainable.

With Harper vowing to turn every major vote on bills flowing from the throne speech into confidence matters, Dion also deemed it preferable to force an election now rather than have to prop up the government in a series of votes.

However, he was persuaded to change his mind by Liberal MPs, most of whom argued that the party simply isn't ready to fight an election.

Liberals have been reeling since last month's byelection losses, including an especially humiliating defeat in their longtime Montreal bastion of Outremont.

The losses led to weeks of recriminations and a series of top-level resignations, including Dion's Quebec lieutenant, the party's national director and the executive director of the party's Quebec wing. A number of Quebec Liberals, including one MP, openly expressed doubts about Dion's leadership.

In a bid to exploit what he characterizes as a leadership vacuum in the Liberal party, NDP Leader Jack Layton is trying to portray his party as the real opposition to the Harper government.

Layton will host an "opposition school" today, flying in NDP staff from across the country to advise MPs on procedural rules and tactics to keep the government on its toes.

Tories survive first big throne speech challenge; NDP, Bloc help defeat Liberal amendment, saving minority gov't

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That alone guaranteed the amendment wouldn't be supported by either the NDP or the Bloc, neither of which accepts that the Liberals were on track to meet their Kyoto obligations.

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Luck matters to combat troops; Superstitions can help or hinder peace of mind in a war zone

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Afghans say security has declined

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BYLINE: FISNIK ABRASHI The Associated Press
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WORD COUNT: 413

Afghans believe the security situation in their country has deteriorated, compared with last year, but they say life is better now than under Taliban rule, a U.S.-funded survey released today found.

About 46 per cent of more than 6,200 adults surveyed countrywide feel security is the biggest problem afflicting the country, while 29 per cent think it is unemployment, according to the survey, which was conducted by the Asia Foundation and paid for by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"In the 2006 survey, it was unemployment first, followed by security and corruption, and this time around it is security first followed by unemployment and poor economy. This further underlines the deterioration in security in the eyes of the common Afghans," the survey said.

Despite the rise in violence, about four in 10 of those responding said they feel the country is headed in the right direction. That's roughly the same as those who answered the 2006 survey.

Half of those surveyed said they were more prosperous today than during Taliban rule in the late 1990s.

Afghanistan is experiencing its worst bout of violence since the Taliban were removed from power in a U.S.-led invasion in 2001.

More than 5,200 people — mostly militants — have died in insurgency-related violence so far this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and Western officials.

"Insecurity is the main reason for the people to believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction," the survey said.

While lack of security was the top-ranked national issue, those surveyed identified a lack of electricity and water, and unemployment as the main problems on a local level, the survey found.

The foundation said the survey was conducted in all 34 provinces and was the largest comprehensive opinion poll ever conducted in Afghanistan.

Some 6,263 people 18 and older were interviewed in person by a team of 494 trained interviewers between June 11 and June 22.

The margin of error was 2.4 percentage points, it said.

Almost half of the people of Afghanistan think that their families are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban regime, the survey found. However, more than a fourth think they are less prosperous today.

More than 80 per cent of the respondents said they have confidence in the Afghanistan's National Army and the country's troublesome police force, while more than half said they do not trust the formal justice system and would rather rely on traditional forms of justice — decisions by local councils — to settle their disputes.

About eight in 10 felt that cultivation of opium poppies was wrong, with half of these respondents citing religion as the reason, but only about one in 10 linked the trade to terrorism, insecurity and corruption in the country, it said.

Letters | United Nations causes war

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SECTION: Opinion
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COPYRIGHT: © 2007 The Daily Gleaner
(Fredericton)
WORD COUNT: 808

I am tired of letter-writer R.H. Young quoting the UN preamble and apparently suggesting that the Second World War was fought in order to establish the UN.

That war was fought to stop the Nazi and Axis powers' domination of Europe through military means. The UN came about after the war as a method to hopefully prevent future wars.

The UN has also fought and started several wars. The Korean War was a UN mission.

The UN failed to act in Rwanda resulting in a huge loss of lives, even when they had warning of the impending violence from a Canadian Blue Beret, the UN still failed to act.

The first Gulf War was a UN-supported mission.

The UN stood by or rather did not allow the troops it had operating in Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia from the preventing of massacres of all the different religious groups, Serb, Croat and Muslim.

The current NATO operation in Afghanistan is a UN-mandated mission carried out by NATO as the UN has no military arm of its own.

The UN is a nice idea, but unfortunately nice ideas don't always have any effect.

Haiti is still in shambles; the Sudan is a hell hole; Israel flies over UN posts on its way to invade Lebanon; the UN has been in Cyprus for more than 30 years.

I could go on, but I think you get the picture.

This Remembrance Day, mourn all Canadian soldiers who have died regardless if they died in the Second World War, the Korean War, a UN mission anywhere or in Afghanistan.

You can also be thankful there are Canadian men and women willing to wear the uniform of the Canadian Armed Forces, regardless if the mission they are on is under a blue beret or a Kevlar helmet.

Robert Francis

Waterville, N.B.

Thank you to York Manor staff

There has been so much published about New Brunswick nursing homes, and some of it is not very noteworthy.

I would like to put in my two cents worth about York Manor. My mother is a resident there and has been for some years.

The staff go above and beyond the call of duty to the patients there. I have seen first-hand how they treat the residents, with respect, dignity and kindness.

The staff are superb and should be recognized for it. This little tribute would be fitting to tell them how much I appreciate all that they have done not just for my mother, but for all the residents there.

On behalf of myself and my mother, thank you.

Susan Hebert

Fredericton

PM needs to listen

The Throne speech has indicated that our government has many policies members feel will benefit Canadians.

Stephen Harper has worked hard to be a decisive and effective leader as our Prime Minister.

The potential for a majority mandate by this government could be accomplished if the PM would become less confrontational and more respectful and flexible, as well as listening more and acting on advice from his cabinet, colleagues and citizens.

His challenges revolve around appealing to more women and urban voters so they can feel more confident and comfortable with him and in supporting the policies of his party.

Why are so many Canadians disillusioned with the political process? The recent Ontario election had only 52 per cent of eligible voters turn out to vote

What has caused this apathy in participating in one of the most significant privileges available in a democratic society? Extreme partisanship, similar policies and senseless grudges have alienated many voters and decreased their involvement in all parties.

Bill Casey was disciplined by his party because he stood up for his province and his followers. Why don't more politicians have the courage to stand up for Canada?

The nastiness and pettiness involved in politics could have negative ramifications in attracting quality male and female candidates.

It has detracted from the numerous accomplishments of our many outstanding Members of Parliament.

Harold Phalen

Fredericton

Community support leads to successful Sony Cup

The 2007 Sony Cup under 18 national club championships were a big success thanks to the effort of several organizations that supported the local organizing committee.

Participants and visitors had very positive comments about the friendliness and the great hospitality they received while attending the championship.

Together, we successfully showcased our community on a national stage.

On behalf of the local organizing committee and the Fredericton District Soccer Association, I would like to thank these organizations and people for their support and partnership.

Thank you to the University of New Brunswick and all the staff who worked tirelessly to prepare the new Chapman Field for this event. It was truly the centre piece of the championship.

Thank you to the Fredericton Exhibition and Fredericton Horseman Association for use of the FREX fields. During the event, both staff and horsemen went out of their way to help.

Thank you to the City of Fredericton which embraced the nationals and helped to make the event a success. Operational staff worked conscientiously to prepare the raceway fields for this competition.

Thank you to Canadian Forces Base Gagetown.

Thank you to our national and local corporate sponsors. Your gift of in-kind support and monetary sponsorship helped to offset the costs of hosting such a large event.

Thank you to the many volunteers who stepped forward to help with the smooth delivery.

Lastly, thank you to the members of the local organizing committee, including members John Waite, Leesa Steeves, Steve Lanteigne, Mike Gagnon, Ron Akerley, Bart Myers, Dominic Blakely, Steve Nicoll, J.P. Demers and Phil Thompson. Your steadfast resolve and teamwork were essential to our success.

Nicholas Guitard

Chairperson 2007 Sony Cup

Local Organizing Committee

President Fredericton District

Soccer Association

Fredericton

Way to go TNB

It was so nice to go out to TNB again! The first production of the 2007–2008 season was wonderful, Forever Plaid was a production not to be missed; congratulations to all involved. I cannot wait for the Christmas production and then Norm Foster's "The Love List" starring both Marshall Button and Norm Foster "!"!keep up the great work, there is really nothing like live theatre!

Robin Tapley

Fredericton

Tories pass confidence test; Liberal amendment to last week's throne speech handily defeated

PUBLICATION: Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: National/World

PAGE: B1

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Joan Bryden

DATELINE: Ottawa

ILLUSTRATION: harper; dion

WORD COUNT: 444

Stephen Harper's minority government has easily survived the first confidence test on its throne speech.

NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs joined with the Conservatives yesterday to handily defeat a Liberal amendment to the speech by a vote of 203–89.

Had it passed, the amendment would have amounted to a vote of non–confidence in Harper's plan for the country, and the government would have fallen, triggering an election.

However, the Liberals had no desire to spark an election, having just emerged from weeks of infighting and recriminations in the wake of three devastating byelection losses in Quebec.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion crafted the amendment in such a way that neither the Bloc nor the NDP would support it.

He has also ensured the government will survive the next confidence test as well – Liberals will abstain tomorrow when the main throne speech motion is put to a vote.

Dion's amendment called on the government to admit that the failure to reach the Kyoto protocol targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was a result of the Tories' decision to kill the previous Liberal government's "innovative" green plan, of which Dion was the architect.

That alone guaranteed the amendment wouldn't be supported by either the NDP or the Bloc, neither of which accepts that the Liberals were on track to meet their Kyoto obligations.

The amendment also called on the government to announce that Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan will end in February 2009. That position is at odds with the NDP's insistence that the troops be withdrawn from combat immediately.

Unlike most of his caucus and advisers, Dion had initially wanted to defeat the throne speech, fearing his reputation as a Kyoto champion would be destroyed if he didn't take a stand against the Tories' assertion that the Kyoto targets are unattainable.

With Harper vowing to turn every major vote on bills flowing from the throne speech into confidence matters, Dion also deemed it preferable to force an election now rather than have to prop up the government in a series of votes.

However, he was persuaded to change his mind by Liberal MPs, most of whom argued that the party simply isn't ready to fight an election. Liberals have been reeling since last month's byelection losses, including an especially humiliating defeat in their longtime Montreal bastion of Outremont.

The losses led to weeks of recriminations and a series of top-level resignations, including Dion's Quebec lieutenant, the party's national director and the executive director of the party's Quebec wing. A number of Quebec Liberals, including one MP, openly expressed doubts about Dion's leadership.

In a bid to exploit what he characterizes as a leadership vacuum in the Liberal party, NDP Leader Jack Layton is trying to portray his party as the real opposition to the Harper government.

Layton will host an "opposition school" today, flying in NDP staff from across the country to advise MPs on procedural rules and tactics to keep the government on its toes.

Voice of the people

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.23
SECTION: Letters
PAGE: A9
WORD COUNT: 882

Nova Scotians are being milked. Having returned from the West Coast recently, I'm back to paying \$3.57 for two litres of milk, as compared to B.C. residents who pay that, or less, for four litres.

I've always been led to believe that milk is essential to the development and maintenance of good health.

We often see pop as cheaply as 88 to 97 cents for two litres, which means it ends up as a substitute for milk among those living at or below the poverty line because of the price. The long-term effects are predictable.

I brought this to Premier Rodney MacDonald's attention recently at a meeting in Middleton. He seemed genuinely surprised and stated that he would look into it. (He even took notes.)

Milk is still \$3.57 for two litres, and I suspect there will be further increases in the future. So much for health promotion, eh?

Bob Mann, Wilmot Station

Although our coast is one of our greatest assets in Nova Scotia, we are failing miserably at protecting it. The province has no planning framework to manage coastal development or ensure coastal protection. This results in a profusion of controversial coastal developments, from poorly located homes, to a proposed road development affecting provincially "protected" Conrad's Beach this past August, to the mega-quarry slated for Digby Neck's Bay of Fundy shore.

If we are going to keep our coasts beautiful, healthy and productive, we need to consider whether the current unco-ordinated coastal free-for-all is really the way to go. Smart coastal management not only means protecting a great natural asset, but also recognizes that as the impacts of climate change are increasingly felt, status quo coastal development can become downright dangerous. Provincewide coastal management does not mean stopping all development on our coasts. On the contrary, a clear coastal planning framework can make it easier for development to proceed in areas where it is appropriate, while inappropriate development is curbed. Environment Minister Mark Parent stated in a recent Herald article that Nova Scotians can expect a plan from their government to address the problem of coastal protection by late fall. It's about time we took steps to protect such a crucial part of our natural heritage.

Laura Hussey, marine co-ordinator,

CPAWS–NS

On a recent Friday, I sat on the deck of a waterfront pub and soaked up the sun's rays. The calm blue water of Shelburne Harbour and the ambience of the Sea Dog contributed greatly to my relapse to the history books. Shelburne, a safe haven to thousands of Loyalists some 225 years ago, remains a haven for those who practise loyalty to family, community, country and an ideal called freedom.

A visitor is struck by the showing of support for our troops serving in Afghanistan. In Shelburne, hardly a retail business, professional office or service outlet is void of a large sign of the yellow ribbon and slogan, "Support Our Troops." Over 20 men and women from the area served in Afghanistan, and the community has made a strong statement to the rest of Canada; but \$12 signs are only the beginning.

Teachers in schools and many people in the business community participate in "Red Fridays." The Anglican church implemented a card- and letter-writing campaign, and organized parcels of goodies; elementary school children raised an amazing \$2,500 to purchase coffee vouchers for the troops. Large rallies have taken place, the next scheduled for Nov. 10.

My visit rejuvenated my faith in the goodness of most Canadians. All that is needed is leadership and faith in what we can do as free people. In Shelburne, that leadership has been provided by Karen, a business person who saw a need and took action.

Garth E. Staples, Charlottetown

I appreciate the sentiment of your recent poll question, "Are bicyclists aware enough of the rules of the road?" However, I think an equally, if not more, significant question is, "Are motorists aware enough of the rules for sharing the road with cyclists?"

Under the Motor Vehicle Act, bicycles are classified as vehicles and cyclists have the right to ride on the road. Motorists need to know how to share the road and respect cyclists' rights. For example, cyclists need to ride at least one metre away from parked cars to avoid being hit if a door suddenly opens; cyclists also need to avoid potholes and debris and to pass double-parked cars. Therefore, cyclists are legally entitled to occupy as much of a traffic lane as their safety warrants. Yet, at least 50 per cent of the time, I am honked at by drivers for occupying the road on my bicycle.

Most bicycle-vehicle collisions occur at intersections and involve motorists turning across a bicyclist's path. Away from intersections, collisions most often involve motorists overtaking cyclists or drivers opening their car doors in the paths of cyclists.

Please, motorists, know cyclists' rights and respect them. Share the road safely with cyclists. We are much more vulnerable than you. Read the bicycle section of the Nova Scotia Driver's Handbook!

Laena Garrison, TRAX co-ordinator,

Ecology Action Centre

Instead of talking about cats and dogs, HRM councillors should look at our streets. They are all cracked. They should be resurfaced before they fall in.

Also, they should clean up the dry brush and trees that are still in back of our homes.

They never take long to send us our tax bills. Let's see how long they will take to look into this matter.

Lillian Rumley, Dartmouth

Straight from the spleen

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.23
SECTION: Editorial
PAGE: A8
WORD COUNT: 362

JEAN CHRETIEN called his first memoir *Straight from the Heart* – and it's too bad he didn't keep that organ as his muse for the sequel on his years as prime minister. Instead, his new book comes at us straight from the spleen, whose job in this case is to destroy red blood cells named Paul Martin.

The old street fighter is entitled to a sense of betrayal over the efforts of the Martin Liberals to hasten his retirement (though they had the Chretienites' earlier treatment of John Turner to learn from). But in his rush to retroactively grab the usurpers by the throat, Mr. Chretien lets payback cloud his judgment on more important things.

The most outrageous is his claim that Canadian troops have died in Kandahar only because Mr. Martin dithered over finding them a safer Afghan assignment. This is not only wrong (Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Rick Hillier advocated the Kandahar posting); it trivializes our troops' professionalism, accomplishments and losses in this tough mission.

Canadians are not in Afghanistan to hide from the Taliban and they're not in Kandahar because of a scheduling goof. We'd expect more of a former prime minister than playing cheap politics with casualties or implying the only job for Canadians is playing it safe.

Another Chretien blind spot is the sponsorship scandal. He still says it was no big deal until Mr. Martin made it one by calling a judicial inquiry. The judge didn't agree. He found Mr. Chretien and his chief of staff had to share blame for mismanagement of the sponsorship funds because they ran the program out of the PMO and bypassed Treasury Board safeguards.

Mr. Chretien's blind defence of this mess, like re-fighting the old war with the Martinettes, is the last thing Liberal Leader Stephane Dion needs as he tries to rebuild Liberal credibility and a dysfunctional organization in Quebec.

Meanwhile, Mr. Chretien and Brian Mulroney have made the prime ministerial revenge memoir the big bore of Canadian literature. We'd need a sixth Great Lake to hold all the tears these bruised super-egos think we should rain on them.

Enough already.

Cross-shaped hangers make soldiers uneasy; Equipment holders keep critters away but some say a box would do just fine

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle-Herald

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: World

PAGE: A4

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Bill Graveland

ILLUSTRATION: These devices shown Monday have been built to hold Canadian troops' equipment at Operating Base Wilson, west of Kandahar City. The hangers are designed to keep nasty critters out of equipment but their resemblance to grave markers make some soldiers uneasy. (Bill Graveland / CP)

WORD COUNT: 393

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Afghanistan AT FIRST BLUSH, it was a chilling sight: two rows of handmade crosses covered with the gear of Canadian soldiers.

A helmet and flak jacket adorned one of the crosses, while various kinds of military kit, including ammunition and clothing, were on the others. It was reminiscent of the final resting markers granted to many troops during the Second World War.

But here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, about 60 kilometres west of Kandahar City, it is only the sign of military ingenuity.

The crudely constructed crosses were put up to keep helmets, flak jackets and rounds of ammunition out of the thick, heavy dust that blows through this base on a regular basis. They also keep some unwanted visitors out of clothing – including the gargantuan camel spider, mice and even possibly snakes.

Ingenious or not, it's a little chilling for many of the soldiers stationed at the camp.

"I think that's pretty unlucky because it looks like a graveyard," said Pte. Francis Archambault, 23, of Valcartier, Que.

"That's purely a superstition but you see pictures where sometimes the rifle is pointed down and the helmet is on top. This is too much like that."

Instead of hanging up his gear, he is satisfied with keeping his belongings in a wooden box.

"If my gear is hanging on a cross, it had better have my name engraved on it," he chuckled with a touch of gallows humour.

Archambault's discomfort with the crosses was shared by his friend Cpl. Christophe Clement.

"I guess I'm superstitious too. I just arrived here one night and there they were. Some of the guys are comfortable with doing it but it is hard to see it as anything else other than gravestones.," said Clement.

"I think keeping things in a box works just fine for me."

Superstition and religion have always been part of life in the foxhole.

Some soldiers say they pray for God to protect them when under fire. The wearing of medals of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, is commonplace. And they do believe in luck, or a lack of it.

"Everybody has a little something on their dogtag or they carry something for luck," said Archambault, pulling out his dogtag to show a tiny gold cross added on. It's a gift from his girlfriend Isabel back home.

"My girlfriend gave it to me so I am keeping it all the time," he said.

"I've got a necklace that my girlfriend gave me too: it's a medallion and it's still lucky," Clement chimed in with a smile.

"I'm a corporal now. I just got promoted yesterday."

The two men have been in the field since July and seen friends and comrades die. But Archambault said he'd want to come back to Afghanistan in the future.

"I am not really surprised and I am pretty happy about it. I would like to be back," he said.

"If I get a chance in 2009 or 2011 when the 2nd Battalion is going to go back I'd like to be there if I can."

'If my gear is hanging on a cross, it had better have my name engraved on it.'

Hillier checks out anti-IED capabilities in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle-Herald

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: World

PAGE: A4

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

ILLUSTRATION: Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, arrived Monday in Kandahar. (FRED CHARTRAND / CP)

WORD COUNT: 205

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops. Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield Monday on a flight with other soldiers. He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret for security reasons until he stepped off the plane. The military says he plans to speak to reporters later on during his visit.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the extremist Taliban movement that has put up a violent insurgency against Afghan authorities and NATO forces supporting the Kabul government.

During his stay, Hillier is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter landmines and improvised explosive devices – weapons that pose a key threat to the soldiers and their armoured vehicles.

Hillier has been to Afghanistan several times before.

In May, he brought the Stanley Cup and a contingent of former National Hockey League players to boost morale among the troops in the war-torn country.

Two months earlier, Hillier was in Afghanistan to visit the troops and look for better safeguards for detainees whom they hand over to Afghan authorities.

And last December, Hillier brought along comedian Rick Mercer to spend Christmas with the troops in Afghanistan.

Afghans: Life is better despite security woes

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.23
SECTION: World
PAGE: A4
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
BYLINE: Fisnik Abrashi
WORD COUNT: 500

KABUL, Afghanistan – Afghans believe the security situation in their country has deteriorated, compared with last year, but they say life is better now than under Taliban rule, a U.S.–funded survey released Tuesday found.

About 46 per cent of more than 6,200 adults surveyed countrywide feel security is the biggest problem afflicting the country, while 29 per cent think it is unemployment, according to the survey, which was conducted by the Asia Foundation and paid for by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"In the 2006 survey, it was unemployment first, followed by security and corruption, and this time around it is security first followed by unemployment and poor economy. This further underlines the deterioration in security in the eyes of the common Afghans," the survey said.

Despite the rise in violence, about four in 10 of those responding said they feel the country is headed in the right direction. That's roughly the same as those who answered the 2006 survey. Half of those surveyed said they were more prosperous today than during Taliban rule in the late 1990s.

Afghanistan is experiencing its worst bout of violence since the Taliban were removed from power in a U.S.–led invasion in 2001. More than 5,200 people – mostly militants – have died in insurgency–related violence so far this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and Western officials.

"Insecurity is the main reason for the people to believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction," the survey said.

While lack of security was the top–ranked national issue, those surveyed identified a lack of electricity and water, and unemployment as the main problems on a local level, the survey found.

The foundation said the survey was conducted in all 34 provinces and was the largest comprehensive opinion poll ever conducted in Afghanistan. Some 6,263 people 18 and older were interviewed in person by a team of 494 trained interviewers between June 11 and June 22. The margin of error was 2.4 percentage points, it said.

Almost half of the people of Afghanistan think that their families are more prosperous today than they were during the Taliban regime, the survey found. However, more than a fourth think they are less prosperous today.

More than 80 per cent of the respondents said they have confidence in the Afghanistan's National Army and the country's troublesome police force, while more than half said they do not trust the formal justice system and would rather rely on traditional forms of justice – decisions by local councils – to settle their disputes.

About eight in 10 felt that cultivation of opium poppies was wrong, with half of these respondents citing religion as the reason, but only about one in 10 linked the trade to terrorism, insecurity and corruption in the country, it said.

Afghanistan accounts for more than 93 per cent of the world's supply of opium, the main ingredient in heroin, a lucrative trade whose proceeds in part fund some of the Taliban-led insurgency. The drug trade also has a corrupting influence on local government officials.

No surprise: Tories survive; Harper government gets past first confidence test of throne speech; Grit amendment defeated

PUBLICATION: The Chronicle–Herald

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: Canada

PAGE: A3

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

BYLINE: Joan Bryden

ILLUSTRATION: Liberal Leader Stephane Dion gets a standing ovation from members of his caucus during a vote on the Conservative's throne speech in the House of Commons on Monday. (FRED CHARTRAND / CP)

WORD COUNT: 393

OTTAWA – Stephen Harper's minority government has easily survived the first confidence test on its throne speech.

NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs joined with the Conservatives on Monday to handily defeat a Liberal amendment to the speech by a vote of 203–89.

Had it passed, the amendment would have amounted to a vote of non-confidence in Harper's plan for the country, and the government would have fallen, triggering an election.

However, the Liberals had no desire to spark an election, having just emerged from weeks of infighting and recriminations in the wake of three devastating byelection losses in Quebec.

Leader Stephane Dion crafted the amendment in such a way that neither the Bloc nor the NDP would support it.

He has also ensured the government will survive the next confidence test as well – Liberals will abstain Wednesday when the main throne speech motion is put to a vote.

Dion's amendment called on the government to admit that the failure to reach the Kyoto protocol targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was a result of the Tories' decision to kill the previous Liberal government's "innovative" green plan, of which Dion was the architect.

That alone guaranteed the amendment wouldn't be supported by either the NDP or the Bloc, neither of which accepts that the Liberals were on track to meet their Kyoto obligations.

The amendment also called on the government to announce that Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan will end in February 2009. That position is at odds with the NDP's insistence that the troops be withdrawn from combat immediately.

Unlike most of his caucus and advisers, Dion had initially wanted to defeat the throne speech, fearing his reputation as a Kyoto champion would be destroyed if he didn't take a stand against the Tories' assertion that the Kyoto targets are unattainable.

With Harper vowing to turn every major vote on bills flowing from the throne speech into confidence matters, Dion also deemed it preferable to force an election now rather than have to prop up the government in a series of votes.

However, he was persuaded to change his mind by Liberal MPs, most of whom argued that the party simply isn't ready to fight an election. Liberals have been reeling since last month's byelection losses, including an especially humiliating defeat in their longtime Montreal bastion of Outremont.

The losses led to weeks of recriminations and a series of top level resignations, including Dion's Quebec lieutenant, the party's national director and the executive director of the party's Quebec wing. A number of Quebec Liberals, including one MP, openly expressed doubts about Dion's leadership.

Lawyers: Nothing to appeal yet in Khadr case

PUBLICATION: The
Chronicle–Herald
DATE: 2007.10.23
SECTION: World
SOURCE: The Canadian Press
BYLINE: Beth Gorham
WORD COUNT: 208

WASHINGTON – Canadian Omar Khadr shouldn't be able to appeal his terrorism case in a regular American court until his military trial is over, U.S. government lawyers say.

In a submission to the federal U.S. Court of Appeals, they argue Khadr must first face judgment in a Guantanamo Bay courtroom.

"There is no final judgment for this court to review," wrote U.S. attorney John De Pue.

"No court has adjudicated the charges against Khadr; indeed, no court has yet conclusively determined whether the military commission has jurisdiction over Khadr."

Khadr, 21, is charged with killing a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan in a 2002 firefight when he was 15 years old. He is also charged with attempted murder, planting bombs in Afghanistan, spying for al–Qaida and conspiring with terror chief Osama bin Laden.

Last week, a U.S. military judge ordered Khadr to appear Nov. 8 for a hearing at the American naval base in Cuba. That hearing is supposed to determine whether Khadr is, in fact, an "unlawful" enemy combatant who can be tried by the military.

In June, Col. Peter Brownback threw out the charges, saying he didn't have jurisdiction to hear the case because it hasn't yet been determined that Khadr was fighting illegally when he allegedly threw the grenade that killed Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer.

But a special military appeals court said in September that Brownback has the authority to make the determination.

It's that ruling that Khadr's lawyers are appealing.

Outward support of our troops

PUBLICATION: The Guardian (Charlottetown)

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: Editorial

PAGE: A6

COLUMN: Letters to the editor

WORD COUNT: 285

Editor:

On a recent Friday afternoon, I sat on the deck of a harbourfront pub and soaked up the sun's rays at a balmy 25 C. The calm blue water of Shelburne harbour and the ambience of the Sea Dog contributed greatly to my relapse to the history books and the arrival of the Loyalists some 225 years ago.

Shelburne, a safe haven to the thousands of Loyalists who arrived with cap in hand, remains today a haven for those who practise loyalty to family, community, country and an ideal called freedom.

A visitor is struck by the outward showing of support for our troops serving in Afghanistan; young men and women sharing the same ideals as their ancestors.

In Shelburne hardly a retail business, professional office or service outlet is void of a large cardboard sign of the yellow ribbon design and familiar slogan, 'Support Our Troops'; but \$12 signs are only the beginning.

Over 20 men and women from the area served in Afghanistan and the community almost to the last 'soul' has made a very strong statement to the rest of Canada; I saw and talked with teachers in school wearing red as participants of 'Red Fridays'; so do many others around the business community. The Anglican church implemented a card- and letter- writing campaign as well as organizing parcels of 'goodies'; elementary school children raised an amazing \$2,500 to purchase coffee vouchers for the troops. Large rallies have taken place and the next 'big' one is scheduled for Nov 10.

My visit to Shelburne was like a visit to a spa. It rejuvenated my pride and faith in the goodness found in most Canadians. All that is needed is some leadership and faith in what we can do as free people.

Garth E. Staples, Charlottetown

Hillier visits troops on unannounced trip

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: International

PAGE: B6

SOURCE: The Canadian Press

DATELINE: Kandahar, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 171

Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield Monday on a flight with other soldiers.

He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret for security reasons until he stepped off the plane.

The military says he plans to speak to reporters later on during his visit.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the extremist Taliban movement that has put up a violent insurgency against Afghan authorities and NATO forces supporting the Kabul government.

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Two months earlier, Hillier was in Afghanistan to visit the troops and look for better safeguards for detainees whom they hand over to Afghan authorities.

And last December, Hillier brought along comedian Rick Mercer to spend Christmas with the troops in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan residents believe security is deteriorating: survey

PUBLICATION: The Telegram (St. John's)

DATE: 2007.10.23

SECTION: International

PAGE: B6

COLUMN: Brief

SOURCE: AP

DATELINE: Kabul, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 159

Afghans believe the security situation in their country has deteriorated, compared with last year, but they say life is better now than under Taliban rule, a U.S.-funded survey released Tuesday found.

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Luck, or lack of it matters to Canadian soldiers

PUBLICATION:	The Telegram (St. John's)
DATE:	2007.10.23
SECTION:	International
PAGE:	B6
SOURCE:	The Canadian Press
BYLINE:	Bill Graveland
DATELINE:	Forward Operating Base Wilson, Afghanistan
ILLUSTRATION:	Some Canadian troops at Forward Operating Base Wilson, west of Kandahar City, are uncomfortable using these homemade devices, shown Monday to hold their equipment, saying they look too much like grave markers. – Photo by The Associated Press
WORD COUNT:	389

At first blush it was a chilling sight: two rows of handmade crosses covered with the gear of Canadian soldiers.

A helmet and flak jacket adorned one of the crosses, while various kinds of military kit, including ammunition and clothing, were on the others. It was reminiscent of the final resting markers granted to many troops during the Second World War. But here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, about 60 kilometres west of Kandahar City, it is only the sign of military ingenuity.

The crudely constructed crosses were put up to keep helmets, flak jackets and rounds of ammunition out of the thick, heavy dust that blows through this base on a regular basis. They also keep some unwanted visitors out of clothing – including the gargantuan camel spider, mice and even possibly snakes.

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"That's purely a superstition but you see pictures where sometimes the rifle is pointed down and the helmet is on top. This is too much like that."

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Some soldiers say they pray for God to protect them when under fire. The wearing of medals of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, is commonplace. And they do believe in luck, or a lack of it.

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"If I get a chance in 2009 or 2011 when the 2nd Battalion is going to go back I'd like to be there if I can."

Dyer tells students about world's final exam

PUBLICATION:	The Telegram (St. John's)
DATE:	2007.10.23
SECTION:	Provincial
PAGE:	A3
BYLINE:	Steve Bartlett
ILLUSTRATION:	Gwynne Dyer spoke to students at St. Bon's Monday morning about global issues that trouble him. – Photo by Steve Bartlett/The Telegram
WORD COUNT:	656

Overcoming climate change will be the human race's big test, according to Gwynne Dyer.

"We've passed a few mid-terms in the 20th century, we didn't have World War III, but this is the final exam," the international affairs expert told students and a handful of adults at St. Bonaventure's College Monday.

"We get to have a reasonably decent future together, if we can get through this global heating episode and not let it get on top of us, but it requires global co-operation on an unprecedented scale."

A St. John's native who attended St. Bon's in his youth, Dyer said the implications of large-scale climate change are one of the three global issues that worry him.

The others are a possible U.S. cold war with China and peak oil, when the production of oil in the world peaks and starts going down. He doesn't fear current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Dyer, an independent journalist now based in London, said the biggest hit from climate change – which scares him to death – would be to the food supply.

"And that's kind of basic," he said. "No food, no people."

The potential for catastrophe hit home for him during a trip to India, where he learned an annual temperature increase of two degrees Celsius would wipe out 25 per cent of that country's food production.

With other nations taking a similar hit, Dyer predicted the result would be "famine and probably mass migration and probably war." He then noted international predictions that the global change in temperature by the end of the century will be between two and 6.5 degrees Celsius.

If two degrees would cut food supplies drastically, he fears the consequences of a 6.5-degree hike.

"You don't even want to think about it," Dyer said. He suggested countries must work together to stem climate change and that two things need to be done.

"Emissions have to be brought under control, and we have to maintain a level of global co-operation and not fall into struggling over what's left," he said.

Dyer said the growth of China and its economy "bothers Americans like crazy" because the U.S. has been the sole super power for so long and people there believe freedom, prosperity and security are tied to being No. 1. He thinks that is nonsense, because even if other powers emerge, Americans will still be free, secure and prosperous.

There is refusal to accept this, he explained, and the U.S. has begun making military alliances with India, another emerging super power, and countries surrounding China.

"Which is a really bad idea, because you frighten the Chinese and then you've got a cold war," he said.

Dyer spoke with Chinese officials about this last year. He found most were well aware of the U.S. actions. He said they are ignoring it because they don't think the Americans will attack. He asked how long the Chinese would continue ignoring the U.S. alliances and was told they didn't know.

The more sophisticated answer, he said, was, "As long as it doesn't get into the media, because the Chinese population doesn't know what's happening."

Government controls the Chinese media, he elaborated, and news of American activities is not widely known. If the population knew, he figured it would create huge pressure to do something against the U.S.

"The implication here is that we're alright as long as China doesn't have a free press," said the columnist, who is published in more than 175 newspapers and in more than a dozen languages, with regret. The world is more or less in the period of peak oil, Dyer said, with global oil discoveries climaxed about 15 years ago and production now nearing its pinnacle.

This is being complicated, he continued, by the fact consumption is going up.

"We have to fit a rising demand into a falling production," he said. Rationing by price would be the result, Dyer forecasted. If we don't panic, he thinks things would be fine, with everybody getting a share. If there is alarm, and a scramble for last oil resources, he suggested there would be consequences.

"Then we have a world of chaos and war," he said.

Dyer also gave the students a background into terrorism and told them the situations in Iraq and Afghanistan don't worry him as such. He thinks both countries will be OK in the long run and predicted the wars in both places would end early in 2009 with the swearing in of a new U.S. administration.

sbartlett@thetelegram.com

Canada's top commander visits troops in Kandahar

IDNUMBER 200710230026
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A9
DATELINE: KANDAHAR, Afghanistan
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 249

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — The commander of Canadian Forces flew into southern Afghanistan yesterday for one of his regular visits with troops.

Gen. Rick Hillier, the chief of the defence staff, spoke briefly with soldiers from the Royal 22nd Regiment battle group, who are one-third of their way through a six-month tour, before beginning several days of briefings at the main Canadian base. The Newfoundlander, who is hugely popular with the troops, was also expected to meet with Canadians fighting the Taliban elsewhere in the hotly contested province of Kandahar.

The general declined to speak with journalists, saying "I've got nothing to say, folks, I've just arrived," but promised to answer questions before he returned to Canada.

For security reasons, it was not possible to say how long he would be staying in Kandahar or what his itinerary would be while he is here.

It was Hillier's first visit to Afghanistan since May, when he brought the Stanley Cup with him. He commanded the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan for a year beginning in October 2003.

Lt.-Gen. Andrew Leslie, who succeeded Hillier at the head of the army, left Afghanistan for NATO meetings in Europe on Sunday. Just before Leslie arrived, Lt.-Gen. Michel Gauthier, commander of CEFCON, which is responsible for all Canadian troops overseas, was also in Kandahar.

Visits by senior brass are partly designed to boost morale. But they are also a time when the top can pass on military policy directives from Ottawa to troops on the ground and to get feedback on them.

Bush wants more money for Afghan, Iraq wars

IDNUMBER 200710230025
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A8
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Senator Harry Reid: Democrats won't rush vote on funding. ;
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 311

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks yesterday by asking Congress for almost \$200 billion US in additional funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

The president said he needs \$196.4 billion to cover day-to-day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fund State Department operations in the war zones.

Bush's request is \$45.9 billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the president's demand that "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

The president "wants us to come up with another \$200 billion and just sign off on it?" asked Reid, a Nevada Democrat. "We're not going to do that."

According to the White House budget office, the U.S. has already spent more than \$560 billion on wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The latest request would push the total past \$750 billion.

Liberals' throne speech amendment fails

IDNUMBER 200710230023
PUBLICATION: Times Colonist (Victoria)
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Reuters / Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion,centre, receives a standing ovation from his caucus in the House of Commons yesterday. ;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 133

OTTAWA -- The opposition Bloc Québécois and NDP joined the Conservatives yesterday to easily defeat a Liberal amendment to the minority government's throne speech.

The amendment, aimed at forcing the government's hand on such issues as the Kyoto environmental accord and the combat mission in Afghanistan, was killed by a vote of 203 to 89.

The vote marked the second time in less than a week the government of Stephen Harper survived a test of the agenda it set out in the throne speech. A Bloc sub-amendment was defeated Thursday when the Liberals and NDP sided with the government.

The final test comes tomorrow when the Commons votes on a government motion to accept the speech.

The government is not, however, in any danger of being defeated. Liberal Leader Stéphane Dion has announced his MPs will abstain in that vote rather than force an election at this time.

Bush seeks another \$200B for wars

IDNUMBER 200710230086
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: D9
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 442

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks Monday by asking Congress for almost \$200 billion US in additional funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

"Our men and women on the front lines should not be caught in the middle of partisan disagreements in Washington, D.C."

The president said he needs \$196.4 billion to cover day-to-day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fund State Department operations in the war zones.

Bush's request is \$45.9 billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

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According to the White House budget office, the U.S. has already spent more than \$560 billion on wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. The latest request would push the total past \$750 billion.

Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Bush, but his demand for additional war money comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of the president's recent veto of a major domestic health-care spending bill.

Earlier this month, Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add \$35 billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children.

Bush opposed the bill because he said it would provide coverage for too many middle-class children and prompt thousands of Americans to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

The president's "emergency supplemental" request includes \$184 billion specifically for the Pentagon, including \$11 billion to deliver new armoured vehicles designed to better withstand roadside bombs, one of the leading killers of American troops in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

Stability in Pakistan

IDNUMBER 200710230045
PUBLICATION: The Leader-Post (Regina)
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Viewpoints
PAGE: B8
SOURCE: The Vancouver Province
WORD COUNT: 141

The carnage in Karachi that greeted the return of exiled opposition leader Benazir Bhutto is a dramatic reminder of the instability threatening Pakistan, a nuclear state.

The deaths of more than 130 people, with another 400 injured, were a tragic blow to what had been intended as a triumphal homecoming. It is no small consolation that Bhutto herself survived the two bomb blasts.

As troubled as her previous terms as prime minister were — she was twice turned out of office on charges of corruption and mismanagement — she remains a beacon of hope for millions.

Canadians have an interest in seeing full democracy restored to Pakistan. Extremists operating within its territory are aggravating the insurgency in neighbouring Afghanistan, adding to the risks our troops face there. The only hope of reining in these fanatics is a stable government in Islamabad.

— This editorial was originally published in the Vancouver Province.

Audio and video messages from Osama bin Laden since Sept. 11, 2001

DATE: 2007.10.22

KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS MEDIA

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 647

Audio and video messages from al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden since Sept. 11, 2001:

_ Oct. 22, 2007: Bin Laden calls for Iraqi insurgents to unite and avoid divisive ``extremism" in an audiotape apparently intended to win over Sunnis opposed to the terror group's branch in Iraq.

_ Sept. 20, 2007: Bin Laden urges Pakistanis to wage holy war on and overthrow President Gen. Pervez Musharraf for his alliance with the United States against Islamic militants in a 23-minute video. The images on the tape had been released before, but the audio referred to the storming of Islamabad's Red Mosque, a militant stronghold, suggesting it had been recorded since July.

_ Sept. 11, 2007: Bin Laden commemorates one of the Sept. 11 suicide hijackers and calls on young Muslims to become martyrs in a videotape that lays his audio message over a still image of the al-Qaida leader.

_ Sept. 7, 2007: Bin Laden appears for the first time in three years in a 30-minute video, released to mark the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. He tells Americans they should convert to Islam if they want the war in Iraq to end. He is shown wearing a trimmed beard, which in previous videos was mostly grey, now entirely dark.

_ July 1, 2006 _ Bin Laden issues a 19-minute audiotape endorsing the new leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, Abu Hamza al-Muhajer, and denouncing Iraqi Shiite leaders as traitors.

_ June 30, 2006 _ Bin Laden issues an audiotape praising al-Muhajer's predecessor, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who had been killed in a U.S. air strike. The message, also 19 minutes, was packaged with an old photo of bin Laden and images of al-Zarqawi.

_ May 23, 2006: Bin Laden says in an audiotape that convicted terror plotter Zacarias Moussaoui had nothing to do with the Sept. 11 attacks.

_ April 23, 2006: In an audiotape, bin Laden says the West is at war with Islam and calls on his followers to go to Sudan to fight a proposed UN force.

_ Jan. 19, 2006: Bin Laden warns in an audiotape that his fighters are preparing new attacks in the United States but offers the American people a ``long-term truce" without specifying the conditions.

_ Dec. 28, 2004: In an hourlong audiotape, bin Laden endorses al-Zarqawi as his deputy in Iraq and calls for a boycott of Iraqi elections.

_ Dec. 16, 2004: In an audiotape, bin Laden praises militants who attacked a U.S. consulate in Saudi Arabia and calls on militants to stop the flow of oil to the West.

_ Oct. 29, 2004: In a videotape, bin Laden says the United States can avoid another Sept. 11 attack if it stops threatening the security of Muslims.

- _ May 6, 2004: In an audiotape released on Islamic forums, bin Laden offers rewards of gold for the killing of U.S. and UN officials in Iraq.
- _ April 15, 2004: Bin Laden offers a ``truce" to European countries that do not attack Muslims.
- _ Jan. 4, 2004: Bin Laden says in an audiotape that the war in Iraq is the beginning of the ``occupation" of Persian Gulf states for their oil. He calls on Muslims to keep fighting a holy war in the Middle East.
- _ Sept. 10, 2003: In the first video image of bin Laden in nearly two years, he is shown walking through rocky terrain with top deputy Ayman al-Zawahri. In an accompanying audiotape, bin Laden praises the ``great damage to the enemy" in the Sept. 11 attacks and mentions five hijackers by name.
- _ April 7, 2003: In an audiotape, bin Laden exhorts Muslims to rise up against Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other governments it claims are ``agents of America," and calls for suicide attacks against U.S. and British interests.
- _ Feb. 13, 2003: In an audiotape, bin Laden reads a last will and testament. He says he wants to die a martyr in a new attack against the U.S.
- _ Feb. 11, 2003: Bin Laden tells followers to help Saddam Hussein fight U.S. troops.
- Nov. 12, 2002: An audiotape attributed to bin Laden threatens new terrorism against the United States and its allies, and calls the Bush administration ``the biggest serial killers in this age." U.S. experts say the tape can't be authenticated because of its poor quality.
- _ Dec. 13, 2001: In a videotape made in Afghanistan on Nov. 9, 2001, bin Laden says the destruction of the Sept. 11 attacks exceeded even his ``optimistic" calculations.

US defence chief blasts European countries for not showing up in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.22

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 430

KYIV, Ukraine _ U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates criticized European members of NATO on Monday for failing to provide the extra troops that their governments promised last year for security duties in Afghanistan.

“I am not satisfied that an alliance whose members have over two million soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen cannot find the modest additional resources that have been committed for Afghanistan,” Gates told a news conference after a meeting of a separate organization of southeast European countries.

The main shortfall is in troops to serve as trainers for the Afghan National Army and the Afghan police.

Gates said he intended to pursue the matter at a NATO defence ministers meeting in the Netherlands this week.

During Monday's meeting in Ukraine of the Southeast European Defence Ministers, a group that was created in 1996 mainly to promote stability in the Balkans, several countries “indicated that they intend to increase their commitments in Afghanistan and Iraq _ principally in Afghanistan,” Gates told reporters.

He added that those countries did not want to be identified publicly yet because they have not finalized their plans.

Earlier, Slovak officials told Gates that they would send at least 47 more troops to Uruzgan province in southern Afghanistan, where they will work with Dutch forces, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said. That will increase its troop total in Afghanistan to 125 next year, he said.

Slovakia also will send eight doctors to work at a military hospital in Kabul, the Afghan capital, Morrell said.

In opening remarks to Monday's session, Gates urged members of the Southeast European Defence Ministers to boost their contributions to security efforts in Afghanistan, warning that the group “risks eventual irrelevance” unless it does more to fight terrorism and increase European security co-operation.

In his address, Gates praised the group for sending a small headquarters element to Kabul, the Afghan capital, last year and said more such missions should be considered.

“Given the wide range of global threats which confront us, contributions by SEDM members to the war on terrorism are particularly important,” Gates said, according to a transcript of his remarks released after the start of the closed-door conference. SEDM is the acronym for the defence organization.

Gates used Monday meeting to underscore the importance of international assistance for Afghanistan, where violence remains high despite some success this year in blunting a planned Taliban offensive.

Gates has been pushing for more help in Afghanistan from European countries, not only those in the NATO alliance but others with security and other resources that could contribute to stabilizing the country.

After the meeting Gates was headed to the Czech Republic for talks on the U.S. proposal to install a missile-tracking radar there as part of a Europe-based U.S. missile defence system that is strongly opposed by Russia.

Luck, or lack of it, matters to many Canadian soldiers on battlefield

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 405

FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Afghanistan _ At first blush it was a chilling sight: two rows of handmade crosses covered with the gear of Canadian soldiers.

A helmet and flak jacket adorned one of the crosses, while various kinds of military kit, including ammunition and clothing, were on the others. It was reminiscent of the final resting markers granted to many troops during the Second World War.

But here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, about 60 kilometres west of Kandahar City, it is only the sign of military ingenuity.

The crudely constructed crosses were put up to keep helmets, flak jackets and rounds of ammunition out of the thick, heavy dust that blows through this base on a regular basis. They also keep some unwanted visitors out of clothing _ including the gargantuan camel spider, mice and even possibly snakes.

Ingenious or not, it's a little chilling for many of the soldiers stationed at the camp.

"I think that's pretty unlucky because it looks like a graveyard," said Pte. Francis Archambault, 23, of Valcartier, Que.

"That's purely a superstition but you see pictures where sometimes the rifle is pointed down and the helmet is on top. This is too much like that."

Instead of hanging up his gear, he is satisfied with keeping his belongings in a wooden box.

"If my gear is hanging on a cross it had better have my name engraved on it," he chuckled with a touch of gallows humour.

Archambault's discomfort with the crosses was shared by his friend Cpl. Christophe Clement.

"I guess I'm superstitious too. I just arrived here one night and there they were. Some of the guys are comfortable with doing it but it is hard to see it as anything else other than gravestones.," said Clement.

"I think keeping things in a box works just fine for me."

Superstition and religion have always been part of life in the foxhole.

Some soldiers say they pray for God to protect them when under fire. The wearing of medals of St. Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, is commonplace. And they do believe in luck, or a lack of it.

"Everybody has a little something on their dogtag or they carry something for luck," said Archambault, pulling out his dogtag to show a tiny gold cross added on. It's a gift from his girlfriend Isabel back home.

“My girlfriend gave it to me so I am keeping it all the time,” he said.

“I’ve got a necklace that my girlfriend gave me too: it’s a medallion and it’s still lucky,” Clement chimed in with a smile. “I’m a corporal now. I just got promoted yesterday.”

The two men have been in the field since July and seen friends and comrades die. But Archambault said he’d want to come back to Afghanistan in the future.

“I am not really surprised and I am pretty happy about it. I would like to be back,” he said.

“If I get a chance in 2009 or 2011 when the 2nd Battalion is going to go back I’d like to be there if I can.”

U.S. military lawyers argue against Khadr appeal to regular American court

DATE: 2007.10.22

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 320

WASHINGTON _ Canadian Omar Khadr shouldn't be able to appeal his terrorism case in a regular American court until his military trial is over, U.S. government lawyers said Monday.

In a submission to the federal U.S. Court of Appeals for the Washington, D.C. district, they argue Khadr must first face judgment in a Guantanamo Bay courtroom.

``There is no final judgment for this court to review," wrote U.S. attorney John De Pue.

``No court has adjudicated the charges against Khadr; indeed, no court has yet conclusively determined whether the military commission has jurisdiction over Khadr."

It's the latest legal twist in what Khadr's lawyers call the ``sad and strange saga" of military commissions for foreign terror suspects set up by President George W. Bush.

Khadr, 21, is charged with killing a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan in a 2002 firefight when he was 15 years old. He is also charged with attempted murder, planting bombs in Afghanistan, spying for al-Qaida and conspiring with terror chief Osama bin Laden.

Last week, a U.S. military judge ordered Khadr to appear Nov. 8 for a hearing at the American naval base in Cuba.

That hearing is supposed to determine whether Khadr is, in fact, an ``unlawful" enemy combatant who can be tried by the military.

In June, Col. Peter Brownback threw out the charges, saying he didn't have jurisdiction to hear the case because it hasn't yet been determined that Khadr was fighting illegally when he allegedly threw the grenade that killed Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Speer.

But a special military appeals court said in September that Brownback has the authority to make the determination.

It's that ruling that Khadr's lawyers are appealing.

While government lawyers called the defence appeal ``frivolous," Khadr's military lawyer, Lt.-Cmdr. William Kuebler, said it's outrageous that they're complaining.

The military commissions system is supposed to allow for an appeal to regular courts from either side during a military trial, he said.

``Usually they're making up rules as they go along. Now they're unmaking rules," said Kuebler.

Khadr's military trial has been plagued by legal wrangling since it began in January 2006.

Canada has refused to get involved in the case even though countries like Britain have demanded their citizens be sent home to face justice.

Khadr is the last prisoner from a western country at Guantanamo's detention facility, which has been widely condemned by human rights groups.

The World at 1:30 p.m. Monday

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1546

HEADLINES: _ Quarter million southern Calif. residents ordered to evacuate as wildfires rage

_ Turkish troops head toward Iraq after rebel Kurd ambush as crisis escalates

_ Patchwork laws, inattention have allowed teacher sexual misconduct to flourish

_ Study: More women who have cancer in only one breast are choosing double mastectomies

_ It's not just the Red Sox that are making life fun for Beantown sports fans

MULTIMEDIA:

NOTABLE PHOTOS:

_TURKEY IRAQ KURDS: IST106, Turkish soldiers ride in armored vehicles in the province of Sirnak along the Iraq border.

_BOSNIA WEATHER: XAE102, man walking past line of traffic in heavy snowfall in Sarajevo is reflected in the wing mirrors of a car as traffic comes to a halt.

_MIDEAST GULF US LAURA BUSH: ARE106, First lady Laura Bush poses before the Pink Majlis conversations with breast cancer survivors in Abu Dhabi.

_WAR CLIMATE CHANGE PROTEST: DCCD102, protester arrested by Capitol Hill police in Washington.

Interactives:

_ PAKISTAN: _international/bhutto_blast folder.

_ IRAQ: _international/iraq_troop_increase folder.

_ TURKEY: _international/turkey_kurds folder.

_ PEOPLE PORTER WAGONER: _entertainment/porter_wagoner folder.

_ REPUBLICANS DEBATE: wdc/2008money folder; wdc/08issues folder; wdc/2008primaries folder; wdc/early2008 folder.

_ YANKEES TORRE: _sports/baseball07/joetorre_pix folder.

_ NFL SEASON OVERVIEW: _sports/nfl07/regular_season.

ALSO GETTING ATTENTION:

_ DENMARK–FREED MINKS _ Thousands of minks escaped from a fur farm in western Denmark _ possibly set free by animal rights activists, police said Monday.

_ SCOUTS RESCUE HIKER _ A Boy Scout troop came to the rescue of a hiker who had fallen and hit her head on the Appalachian Trail, building a stretcher from scratch and carrying her 3 miles to help.

_ GOP PRIMARIES _ Republican Party leaders on Monday recommended punishing five states for shifting their nomination contests earlier, moving to strip New Hampshire, Florida, South Carolina, Michigan and Wyoming of half their delegates.

_ OVERTURNED CAR _ A 78–year–old driver ran off the highway in Oklahoma City and was trapped and injured in her overturned car for nearly two days before a trooper saw skid marks and found her.

TOP STORIES:

CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

SAN DIEGO _ A quarter–million people are ordered evacuated from homes, hospitals and jails across Southern California as wildfires rage out of control in a maelstrom of towering flames, gale–force winds and flying embers. ``We have more houses burning than we have people and engine companies to fight them," says one fire boss. ``A lot of people are going to lose their homes today." By Allison Hoffman and Gillian Flaccus.

AP Photos CALI101–104, CADP101–106. AP Video. AP Graphic CALIFORNIA FIRES. Multimedia: is posted in the _national/california_fires folder, and the _national/wildfires07 folder.

With:

_ WILDFIRES–SCENE: Nursing home patients in wheelchairs, sick people with IVs and jail inmates in orange jumpsuits are herded into schoolbuses and ambulances to escape wind–whipped wildfires, some burning at the rate of a mile every five minutes.

TURKEY

SIRNAK, Turkey _ Dozens of Turkish military vehicles rumble toward the Iraq border with heavy artillery and soldiers after a deadly ambush by Kurdish guerrillas in which eight soldiers go missing in an escalating crisis. Iraq's president says the rebels will declare a cease–fire and the U.S. and Arab countries appeal for restraint. By Volkan Sarisakal and Christopher Torchia.

AP Photos IST101–112. AP Graphic TURKEY. AP Video.

With:

_ TURKEY–KURDS–Q&A.

_ US–TURKEY, from WASHINGTON _ The Bush administration opens a ``full court" diplomatic press to urge Turkey not to invade northern Iraq to attack Kurdish rebels in a region of the country that has been fairly stable, U.S. officials say.

TEACHER SEX ABUSE III

UNDATED _ Every school has rules governing teacher behavior. Every state has laws against child abuse.

Every district has administrators who watch out for sexual misconduct by teachers. Yet in state after state, abusers and predators turn up in classrooms, often after they've been in trouble before. By National Writer Robert Tanner.

Eds: The third part of a multistory series.

AP Photos NY463–464. AP Graphic TEACHER SEX ABUSE. Multimedia: an interactive showing the findings by each state is in the _national/teacher_sex folder.

With:

_ TEACHER ABUSE–CASES: Three cases in which a teacher faced multiple accusations of abuse. AP Photo NY465.

_ TEACHER ABUSE–PARENTS: A guide on what parents should look out for.

DOUBLE MASTECTOMIES, HFR

WASHINGTON _ More women who have cancer in only one breast are choosing to get both breasts removed, says research which found that the trend has more than doubled in just six years. Increasingly, women are getting double mastectomies, thinking it will improve their chances of living longer _ but statistics don't necessarily back that up. By Medical Writer Luran Neergaard.

Eds: Hold for release until 6 p.m.

AP Photos VALS101–103. AP Graphic DOUBLE MASTECTOMIES.

BOSTON SPORTS PARTY

BOSTON _ The Red Sox are in the World Series, the Patriots are undefeated, the Celtics have a new "Big Three" and Boston College is ranked No. 2 in college football. Even the Bruins are playing well. For fans used to lamenting the woes of their beloved sports teams, can all this good fortune be too much? By Melissa Trujillo.

AP Photos.

WASHINGTON:

AIR SAFETY SECRETS

MOFFETT FIELD, Calif. _ An unprecedented national survey of pilots by the U.S. government finds that safety problems like near collisions and runway interference occur far more frequently than previously recognized. But the government is withholding the information, fearful it would upset air travelers and hurt airline profits. By Rita Beamish.

AP Photos WX101–103.

Also:

_ NAVY–NUCLEAR PROBE: Sailors on the submarine USS Hampton failed to do daily safety checks on the ship's nuclear reactor for a month and falsified records to cover up, a Navy investigation shows.

AROUND THE NATION:

TOXIC DUMP FEARS

McADOO, Pa. _ People who live near an abandoned coal mine that was turned into a toxic waste dump decades ago seem to be getting cancer and other serious diseases in startling numbers. Health investigators are looking into whether the number of cases really is unusual, and whether the toxic waste is to blame. By Michael Rubinkam.

AP Photos PACK201, PAHAZ501–502, PACK202, PACK205, PACK207–208, PACK210. AP Graphic PA TOXIC DUMP. Multimedia: An audio slideshow on residents who live near a Pa. toxic waste dump is available in the _national/toxic_dump_fears folder.

F–16 CRASHES

UNDATED _ The accident rate for the Air Force's workhorse fighter jet, the F–16, has risen over the past few years, and the military says it suspects the problem is human error. The F–16 is known in Air Force circles as the ``lawn dart" for its tendency to plunge back to Earth when its single engine flames out. By Scott Lindlaw.

AP Photos. AP Graphic F–16 CRASHES.

AROUND THE WORLD:

PAKISTAN–POLITICS

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan _ Bitter exchanges erupt between Benazir Bhutto and the military–led government, fraying a proposed alliance. Politicians suggest a ban on campaign rallies for upcoming elections, saying it is too dangerous after the bombing that wrecked Bhutto's homecoming. By Tim Sullivan.

AP Photos KAR103, KAR105, KAR108.

With:

_ PAKISTAN–CITY OF CHAOS, from KARACHI, Pakistan _ Despite its status as Pakistan's hub for commerce, media and fashion, violence has routinely visited Karachi's seething streets: from political and ethnic bloodletting to repeated terror attacks post–9/11.

CHINA–POLITICS

BEIJING _ In his characteristically low–key fashion, Chinese President Hu Jintao has put his stamp on China's direction, sidelined key rivals, took over as head of the military and emerged after months of bruising infighting as pre–eminent leader. By Charles Hutzler.

AP Photos. AP Graphic CHINA NEXT LEADERS.

ARGENTINA–FIRST LADY'S HOUR

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina _ She met her future husband while studying law and joined him as he rose from governor of a small state to the presidency. A powerful first lady and senator in her own right, she's now campaigning hard to be the first woman elected president of her country. Hillary Clinton? Try Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, Argentina's first lady and front–runner to succeed her husband in elections Sunday. By Bill Cormier.

AP Photos of Oct. 19: NY448–449.

FRANCE–RESISTANCE HERO

PARIS _ A Resistance fighter who was executed by the Nazis is honored in schools across France, although some teachers defy an order by President Nicolas Sarkozy to have his final letter read aloud, saying the government is trying to twist history into propaganda. By Angela Doland.

Eds: Optional planned.

AP Photos.

IRAQ & THE MIDDLE EAST:

_ US–WAR SPENDING, from WASHINGTON _ More than six years after the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush is increasing by \$46 billion his request for money to bankroll wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It raises the administration's total terrorism–era war spending for Iraq alone to \$455 billion. AP Graphic WAR SPENDING.

_ GATES, from KIEV, Ukraine _ Defense Secretary Robert Gates criticizes European members of NATO for not providing the extra troops that their governments promised last year for security duties in Afghanistan.

HEALTH & SCIENCE:

DIET–OBESITY ADS

ATLANTA _ The U.S. government is rolling out a new batch of public service announcements designed to reduce obesity, but critics say the spots are missing two big things _ fat people and the companies that help to stuff them. By Medical Writer Mike Stobbe.

AP Photo NY311.

Also:

_ HEALTHBEAT–EGG FREEZING: Freezing a woman's eggs is still highly experimental _ with the odds of having a baby from a thawed egg low. New guidelines for fertility specialists outline a list of warnings for doctors to share with anyone considering the procedure.

MUSIC–CARRIE UNDERWOOD

NASHVILLE, Tenn. _ Carrie Underwood, nervous? You bet. The former ``American Idol" winner sold 6 million copies of her debut album, a phenomenal number for any artist let alone a new one. She won two Grammy awards, scored three No. 1 hits and shot to superstardom almost overnight. On the eve of her follow–up, ``Carnival Ride," she's entitled to a few butterflies. By John Gerome.

AP Photos.

BOOKS–STEVE MARTIN

NEW YORK _ The trend seems as plain as the nose on your child's face, or an arrow through your head. You've got Madonna, Billy Crystal and Jamie Lee Curtis. And Jerry Seinfeld. And John Lithgow. And Katie Couric. All celebrities. All parents. All authors of children's books. Now Steve Martin has written one. But he

doesn't have any children. By National Writer Hillel Italie.

AP Photos.

Graphics moving on The Canadian Press GraphicsNet today

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 1490

GRAPHICS ADVISORY

3:30 p.m. Monday, October 22, 2007

Following is a list of graphics moving today. In this menu each graphic's file name is followed by a brief description, column size and time of input. For questions or retransmission requests please call The Canadian Press Graphics Desk in Toronto at 416-507-2172.

DOWNLOAD GRAPHICS FROM CPIMAGES

All graphics are available to subscribers at www.cpimages.com. Select "Graphics" from the "Search in" drop down menu to see the thumbnails of the art. Graphics are displayed from newest to oldest. There is no charge for graphics that are less than one week old. If you have any problems call The Canadian Press Picture Desk at 416-507-2169.

THE CANADIAN PRESS GRAPHICS

National/Business/Sports

MARKET WATCH: Graphic shows closing figures for markets with charts for S&P/TSX and Canadian Dollar; 4x1c; ETA 6 p.m.

R&D INVESTMENT: Graphic lists top ten companies by research and development investment; 1c; with BC-RD MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

ETHANOL PRODUCTION: Graphic shows how ethanol fuel is produced from corn; 2c; with BC-Ethanol; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

TD GDP OUTLOOK: Chart show TD Bank's projections for GDP growth in Canada; 1c; with BC-Economy-Outlook; MOVED Monday Oct. 22.

Weekly

TV RATINGS: Graphic lists the top 10 TV programs in Canada for the week; 1c; MOVED Friday, Oct. 19.

BEST SELLING BOOKS: Graphic lists the Macleans top 10 fiction and non-fiction books for the week; 1c; MOVED Thursday, Oct. 18.

MUSIC CHARTS: Graphic lists Music World's top 10 sales of pop and country albums for the week; 1c; MOVED Tuesday, Oct. 16.

DVD RENTALS: Graphic lists Rogers Video's top 10 DVD rentals for the week; 1c; MOVED Tuesday, Oct. 16.

AP GRAPHICS

3:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 22.

National/World

WAR SPENDING: Chart shows spending for the war in Iraq and the Afghanistan conflict; 1c x 3 inches; 46.5 mm x 76 mm; with BC–US–Iraq; ETA 5 p.m.

PA TOXIC DUMP: Map locates McAdoo, Pa.; 1c x 3 3/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 95 mm; with BC–Toxic Dump Fears; ETA 5 p.m.

DOUBLE MASTECTOMIES: HOLD FOR RELEASE AT 6 P.M. EDT; chart shows number of breast cancer surgeries, single and double breast mastectomies; 1c x 3 inches; 46.5 mm x 76 mm; with BC–Double Mastectomies; ETA 6 p.m.

CALIFORNIA FIRES: Map shows wildfires in California; 2c; 96.3 mm; with BC–California Wildfires; ETA 6 p.m.

TURKEY: Map shows Turkish troop activity along Iraq border; 2c x 3 inches; 96.3 mm x 76 mm; with BC–Turkey–Kurds; ETA 6 p.m.

F16 CRASHES: Chart shows number of Class A mishaps for U.S. forces involving F–16 fighter jets; 1c x 3 7/8 inches; 46.5 mm x 98 mm; with BC–F16 Crashes; ETA 6 p.m.

BAHRAIN NAVY SHOOTING: Map locates Manama, Bahrain, where two U.S. Navy sailors were killed in shooting; 1c x 3 inches; 46.5 mm x 76 mm; with BC–Navy–Shooting; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

CHINA NEXT LEADERS: UPDATES introduction; graphic profiles China's two leading contenders for the future leadership; two sizes; 1c x 3 3/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 95 mm; 2c x 2 1/4 inches; 96.3 mm x 57.2 mm; with BC–China–Politics; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

POLAND ELECTION: Graphic shows early results of Poland's election; 1c x 2 5/8 inches; 46.5 mm x 67 mm; with BC–Poland–Election; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

Business

BEAR STEARNS: Chart shows Bear Stearns' stock price; 1c x 3 inches; 46.5 mm x 76 mm; with BC–Bear Stearns–Partnership; ETA 5 p.m.

DOLLAR: Graphic compares the dollar and the Euro; 1c x 2 3/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 70 mm; with BC–Dollar; ETA 5 p.m.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE: ADVANCE FOR OCT. 22; graphic shows commercial real estate sales figures; 1c x 3 inches; 46.5 mm x 76 mm; with BC–Commercial Real Estate; MOVED Friday, Oct. 19.

Sports

WS 2007 MATCHUP: Graphic shows 2007 World Series matchup between the Colorado Rockies and Boston

Red Sox; 6c x 11 inches; 295.2 mm x 279 mm; stand-alone or with related stories; ETA 7 p.m.

NEXTEL CUP TOP 12: Graphic lists Nextel Cup Top 12 drivers with stats; two sizes; 1c x 2 1/2 inches; 46.5 mm x 64 mm; 2c x 2 inches; 96.3 mm x 51 mm; with related story; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

BCS STANDINGS: Chart shows the current Bowl Championship Series standings; three sizes; 1c x 2 3/8 inches, 46.5 mm x 60 mm; 1c x 4 1/2 inches, 46.5 mm x 114 mm; 2c x 4 3/4 inches, 96.3 mm x 121 mm; with BC-FBC--BCS Standings; MOVED Sunday, Oct. 21.

FBC POLL: Graphic shows The Associated Press Top 25 college football poll; 1c x 5 1/2 inches; 46.5 mm x 140 mm; with stand-alone; MOVED Sunday, Oct. 21.

Hurricane Season 2007

Editors: Hurricane graphics available for retransmission.

HURRICANE HOUSE: Graphic shows how to prepare a home for a hurricane; 3c x 6 inches; 146 mm x 152 mm; with any related story; MOVED Friday, June 1.

HURRICANE FORECAST NOAA: Graphic shows forecast for hurricanes from NOAA since 2001 versus actual hurricanes; 1c x 3 inches; 46.5 mm x 76 mm; with BC-Hurricane Forecast and related stories; MOVED Friday, June 1.

HURRICANE YEARLY STORMS: Graphic shows number of major and minor hurricanes for each year since 1900 and plots 10-year averages; 2c x 2 7/8 inches; 96.3 mm x 73 mm; with BC-Hurricane Forecast and related stories; MOVED Friday, June 1.

HURRICANE NAMES: Graphic shows storm names for the 2007 Atlantic storm season; three sizes; 1c x 5 1/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 133 mm; 1c x 4 1/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 108 mm; 1 1/2c x 2 1/2 inches; 66.5 mm x 64 mm; with BC-Hurricane Forecast and related stories; MOVED Friday, June 1.

HURRICANE SEASON: Graphic shows the number of named Atlantic storms in the past 10 years; 1c x 2 5/8 inches; 46.5 mm x 67 mm; with BC-Hurricane Forecasts and hurricane-related stories; MOVED Friday, June 1.

HURRICANE PATHS: Map shows hurricane paths since 1976; 4c x 7 3/8 inches; 195.7 mm x 187 mm; with BC-The Next New Orleans; MOVED Friday, June 1.

HURRICANE FORECAST CSU: Graphic shows hurricane forecasts from Colorado State University since 2001; 1c x 2 7/8 inches; 46.5 mm x 73 mm; with BC-Hurricane Forecast; MOVED Thursday, May 31.

COASTAL POPULATION: Map shows U.S. population living in a coastal county; 3c x 4 1/2 inches; 146 mm x 114 mm; with BC-The Next New Orleans; MOVED Wednesday, May 30.

HURRICANE LOGO: Logo to accompany coverage of the 2007 hurricane season; 1/2c x 5/8 inches; 20 mm x 16 mm; with any related stories; MOVED Friday, May 25.

HURR INSURANCE: Graphic looks at some statistics on recent hurricanes; 2c x 6 inches; 96.3 mm x 152 mm; with related hurricane stories; MOVED Thursday, May 24.

Advance and Features

BAIKONUR COSMODROME 2: ADDS new size; ADVANCE FOR OCT. 22; graphic locates Baikonur, Kazakhstan, and points out key areas of the cosmodrome; two sizes; 3c x 3 1/4 inches; 146 mm x 83 mm; 1c x 2 3/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 70 mm; with BC–Russia's Gateway to Space; MOVED Friday, Oct. 19.

KIDS KITCHEN PIZZA: Graphic shows recipe for kids on how to make pizza boats; 3c x 5 inches; 146 mm x 127 mm; with BC–FEA—Food–Pizza Boats; MOVED Friday, Oct. 19.

TEACHER SEX ABUSE LOGO: Logo for use with any teacher abuse related story; 1c x 0 1/2 inches; 46.5 mm x 13 mm; with any BC–Teacher Sex Abuse package or related stories; MOVED Thursday, Oct. 18.

TEACHER SEX ABUSE 2C: ADVANCE FOR OCT. 21 AND THEREAFTER; graphic shows findings of AP investigation on school teacher abuses, includes a map of abuses, statistics on victims and perpetrators; 2c x 6 1/2 inches; 96.3 mm x 165 mm; with any BC–Teacher Sex Abuse or related stories; MOVED Thursday, Oct. 18.

TEACHER SEX ABUSE: ADVANCE FOR OCT. 21 AND THEREAFTER; graphic shows findings of AP investigation on school teacher abuses, includes a map of abuses, statistics on victims and perpetrators; 3c x 6 1/2 inches; 146 mm x 165 mm; with any BC–Teacher Sex Abuse stories; MOVED Thursday, Oct. 18.

HALLOWEEN STATS: RETRANSMITTING graphic that previously moved Oct. 1; graphic shows statistics on Halloween; two sizes; 2c x 7 3/4 inches; 96.3 mm x 197 mm; 4c x 3 1/2 inches; 195.7 mm x 89 mm; with related Halloween story; MOVED Monday, Oct. 8.

WAR WOUNDED LOGO: RETRANSMITTING graphic previously moved June 20; logo to accompany any story about the war wounded; 1c x 1 inches; 46.5 mm x 25 mm; with BC–Coming Home Wounded package or related stories; MOVED Tuesday, Oct. 2.

Regional

MO TEACHER ABUSE: ADVANCE FOR OCT. 23; graphic locates the schools where Greg Crowley taught; 2c x 4 3/8 inches; 96.3 mm x 111 mm; with BC–MO—Teacher Abuse–Signs Missed; MOVED Thursday, Oct. 18.

Weekly

BOX OFFICE: Graphic shows U.S. box office sales for the past weekend; 1c x 4 3/4 inches; ETA 7 p.m.

CYBERTRIPS LOGO: Logo for use with BC–TRV—Travel–CyberTrips; 1c; 46.5 mm; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

ON THE NET LOGO: Logo for placement with weekly On the Net column; multiple sizes; 1c x 1 inch; 46.5 mm x 18 mm; half-column x 1.25 inches; 17 mm x 33 mm; with BC–On the Net; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

IN THE PITS LOGO: Logo to accompany column on NASCAR racing; 1/2c x 1 3/8 inches; 17 mm x 35 mm; 1/2c x 2 inches; 17 mm x 51 mm; 2c x 3/4 inches; 96.5 mm x 18 mm; 3c x 3/4 inches; 146 mm x 18 mm; with weekly NASCAR column by Jenna Fryer; MOVED Monday, Oct. 22.

SNAPSHOT: Weekly financial snapshot looks at major stock indexes; 2c x 4 3/4 inches; 96 mm x 121 mm; stand-alone; ETA Friday, Oct. 26.

FANTASY BASEBALL LOGO: Logo for placement with weekly Fantasy Baseball column; 1/2c x 1 1/4 inches; 20 mm x 32 mm; with BC–Fantasy Baseball; ETA Friday, Oct. 26.

NIELSENS: Graphic shows the top 10 weekly television shows for the week; 1c x 5 3/4 inches; 46.5 mm x 146 mm; 2c x 2 5/8 inches; 96.3 mm x 67 mm; with BC-Nielsens; ETA Tuesday, Oct. 23.

Hillier visits Canadian troops on unannounced trip to Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 193

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan _ Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield Monday on a flight with other soldiers. He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons. The military says he plans to speak to reporters later on during his visit.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the extremist Taliban movement that has put up a violent insurgency against Afghan authorities and NATO forces supporting the Kabul government.

During his stay, Hillier is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter landmines and improvised explosive devices _ weapons that pose a key threat to the soldiers and their armoured vehicles.

Hillier has been to Afghanistan several times before.

In May, he brought the Stanley Cup and a contingent of former National Hockey League players to boost morale among the troops in the war-torn country.

Two months earlier, Hillier was in Afghanistan to visit the troops and look for better safeguards for detainees whom they hand over to Afghan authorities.

And last December, Hillier brought along comedian Rick Mercer to spend Christmas with the troops in Afghanistan.

Slovak officials tell US they will send more troops to southern Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.22

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: cpw

WORD COUNT: 217

KYIV, Ukraine _ U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, at a meeting of European defense ministers, won a commitment from Slovakia on Monday to increase its troop presence in Afghanistan.

Gates was using the meeting to underscore the importance of international assistance for Afghanistan, where violence remains high despite some success this year in blunting a planned Taliban offensive.

Gates has been pushing for more help in Afghanistan from European countries, not only those in the NATO alliance but others with security and other resources that could contribute to stabilizing the country.

Slovak officials told Gates during a conference of southeast European defense ministers that they will send at least 47 more troops to Uruzgan province in southern Afghanistan, where they will work with Dutch forces, Pentagon press secretary Geoff Morrell said. That will increase its troop total in Afghanistan to 125 next year, he said.

Slovakia also will send eight doctors to work at a military hospital in Kabul, the Afghan capital, Morrell said.

After the meeting Gates was headed to the Czech Republic for talks on the U.S. proposal to install a missile-tracking radar there as part of a Europe-based U.S. missile defense system that is strongly opposed by Russia.

Later this week Gates is scheduled to attend a meeting of NATO defense ministers in the Netherlands, where Afghanistan is expected to be a central focus of talks.

Medical Reporter

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: HEALTH POLITICS
PUBLICATION: cpw
WORD COUNT: 670

TORONTO _ A new survey suggests members of Parliament appreciate the importance of health research, but don't see it as a vote-grabber when they head to the polls.

That and other findings of the survey suggest there is a knowledge gap on Parliament Hill when it comes to the importance of health research, how much money the federal government spends on it and the role played by the federal agency set up to fund health research, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

"I feel that their knowledge of health research wasn't as good as I'd like it to be," said one of the authors, Dr. Patrick McGrath of Dalhousie University in Halifax. McGrath admitted, however, that he is aware MPs have to be generalists because of the plethora of issues that cross their desks.

McGrath and colleagues from Dalhousie designed and conducted a survey aimed at polling all members of Parliament on issues pertaining to health research. But despite contacting each member's office at least five times to ask if either the member or designated senior aide would take part, only one-third of the country's 308 MPs took part.

(The authors noted the Bloc Quebecois has a policy of not participating in surveys. And while eight Bloc MPs did complete the 15-minute questionnaire, the authors warned such a small sample couldn't be taken to represent the views of the entire Bloc caucus.)

The resulting scientific article was published Tuesday in the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

Eighty-four per cent of the MPs (or designated staff members) who took part were aware of CIHR, but 32 per cent of them admitted they knew nothing about its role.

The participants ranked health care as the most important issue facing the country _ topping security issues, economic growth and employment, the environment and Afghanistan, to name a few.

And within the topic of health-care, they rated health research as the second most important funding priority, giving it an 8.2 rating on a scale of 10. However, they felt voters placed far less value on health research funding, and estimated voters would give it a 3.8 rating out of 10.

"I guess it tells us that there's a disconnect between one's gut feeling that funding health research is important but then the perception of how the voting public feels," said Dr. Christopher Paige, vice-president of research at the University Health Network, a conglomeration of three teaching hospitals in Toronto.

"I think that's wrong. I think the voting public in fact does want health research to be well supported in Canada."

Paige, who was not involved in the research, noted that last year the umbrella organization Research Canada commissioned a small survey to look at the public's attitude towards health research. It found 91 per cent of respondents wanted more government investment in health and medical research. And 86 per cent said Canada should be a global leader in health and medical research.

“Here we have our members of Parliament thinking it's a wonderful idea to support health research. The voters think it's wonderful. And yet there's a disconnect there _ the members of Parliament feel that the public doesn't think it's a good idea. Won't get them votes," lamented McGrath, a professor of psychology, pediatrics and psychiatry at Dalhousie.

The survey revealed other discrepancies between perceptions and realities.

When asked to estimate how much federal and provincial governments (combined) contribute to health research each year, they estimated three per cent of total spending. On this the NDP was more savvy; its participants estimated 1.6 per cent.

When told the actual total was 1.3 of total government spending, 78 per cent of respondents deemed that figure to be too low.

Paige, who wrote a commentary on the issue for the journal, said the findings should be “a call to arms” for the scientific community.

“I think it just reinforces something that we do know in our community, that we have to be more effective at communicating how research is funded and what the key issues are. It's really as simple as that," he said.

He suggested a series of changes to funding regimes, including establishing a network of accredited teaching hospitals which would be eligible for federal and provincial funding to support the research portion of their mandates.

INDEX:International, Justice, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE POLITICS
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 120

WASHINGTON – The U.S. Defence Department says Canadian Omar Khadr shouldn't be able to appeal his case to a regular American court.

Government lawyers have told a U.S. appeals court it has no jurisdiction to hear arguments because there's been no final judgment yet in Khadr's terrorism case.

It's the latest legal twist in what his lawyers call the sad and strange saga of military commissions in Guantanamo Bay for foreign terror suspects.

Last week, a U.S. military judge ordered Khadr to appear at a tribunal Nov. 8.

Khadr, 21, is charged with murdering a U.S. soldier, planting bombs in Afghanistan, conspiring with terror chief Osama bin Laden and spying for al-Qaida.

The November hearing is supposed to determine whether Khadr is an 'unlawful' enemy combatant who can be tried by the special legal system set up by U.S. President George W. Bush.

(The Canadian Press)

Hillier arrives on unannounced visit to troops in Afghanistan

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 101

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield today on a flight with other soldiers. He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons.

During his stay, Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in Kandahar province.

He is also expected to see some new Canadian Forces equipment in operation.

Hillier has been to Afghanistan several times before. Earlier this year, he brought the Stanley Cup and a contingent of former National Hockey League players to boost morale among the troops in the war-torn country.

(The Canadian Press)

TOR OUT YYY

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 325

Three days after the bodies of six men were found in a Surrey, B–C apartment unit, police are still releasing little information about the crime.

The homicide squad is being extra cautious about what it's letting out, including the victims' identities.

R–C–M–P say they've been fielding many phone calls from potential relatives who haven't seen their sons or brothers for some time.

C–T–V News is reporting one of the victims was a gas–maintenance worker, whose relatives say was an innocent bystander. (2)

(Throne–Speech–Liberals) (Audio: 02)

The Harper government today faces another test of its throne speech.

Members of Parliament will vote on a proposed Liberal amendment to it, calling on the Conservatives to take actions to ``catch up" to its commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.

The amendment also demands the minority government announce immediate plans to withdraw from the combat mission in Afghanistan.

Adoption of the changes could force an election — but that's not likely to happen, because the Liberal party is likely to be the only party to vote for the amendment. (2)

(Casey–Riding–Reaction) (Audio: 05)

The federal Conservative party's national council is flexing its muscle on a renegade riding in northern Nova Scotia.

It has suspended its Tory riding executive in Cumberland–Colchester–Musquodoboit over its defiant support of M–P Bill Casey.

He was turfed from the federal caucus for voting against the budget.

But the local association still wants to nominate Casey to run as its candidate for the next election — something Prime Minister Harper has forbidden.

The national council's president told board members yesterday they must either choose a different candidate, or resign.

They refused to do either, so the executive has been suspended.

A new board is to be elected next month. (2)

(Amish–Crash)

Tragedy in Indiana's Amish country.

A van carrying a group of Amish lost control on a highway yesterday, veered onto the grassy median and flipped several times, killing five passengers and injuring the other 11.

No other vehicles were involved in the crash. (2)

(Shuttle)

NASA's shuttle launch manager says he's confident the shuttle Discovery is safe to fly, despite lingering concerns over wing imperfections.

LeRoy Cain told reporters if he had any doubts, he would delay the mission.

Launch is set for tomorrow, though meteorologists say possible thunderstorms could delay it. (2)

(ENT–Box–Office)

A new horror flick was tops at the box office over the weekend.

``30 Days of Night" stars Josh Hartnett as the leader of a group of Alaskans trying to fight ravenous vampires that turn up for the long winter darkness.

The film made an estimated 16–(m) million dollars U–S in its debut weekend, followed by ``Tyler Perry's Why Did I Get Married?" and ``The Game Plan." (2)

(NewsWatch by Karen Rebot)

TOR OUT YYY

DATE: 2007.10.22
KEYWORDS: ADVISORIES
PUBLICATION: bnw
WORD COUNT: 358

There'll be another vote today on the Harper government's throne speech.

Members of Parliament will vote on a proposed Liberal amendment to the speech — an amendment which only the Liberals are expected to back.

It calls on the Conservatives to ``catch up" to their commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, and it demands the government announce immediate plans to withdraw from the combat mission in Afghanistan.

Only the Liberals are likely to support the amendment, ensuring the Harper minority government will avert a snap election and survive for now. (3)

(BC–Multiple–Homicide) (Audio: 47)

The homicide squad continues to investigate the deaths of six men, found in a Surrey, B–C apartment on Friday.

And it's being cautious about the information it releases.

Police are holding off on identifying the victims after receiving many phone calls from potential relatives who haven't seen their sons or brothers for a while.

They're also not releasing how the men died, or possible reasons as to why.

Unconfirmed reports say one of the dead may be a natural gas maintenance man who was in the wrong place at the wrong time. (3)

(RCMP–Shooting–Meeting)

Residents in Hay River, Northwest Territories will gather tonight at the community hall to honour slain R–C–M–P Constable Chris Worden.

They'll also talk about drug and violence problems in the area.

Residents will share their concerns about the fatal October 6th shooting that claimed the Ottawa native's life while he responded to a call near a suspected drug house.

Mayor John Pollard says he'll pass on all comments to government agencies, and to Prime Minister Harper when he meets with him in Ottawa next month.

Emrah Bulatci of Alberta is charged with first–degree murder. (3)

(Imam–Deport)

The Canadian government will deport a controversial Montreal imam to Tunisia today.

A last-ditch attempt by Amnesty International and several Muslim groups for the immigration minister to use her discretionary powers to keep Said Jaziri in this country fell short yesterday.

And Diane Finley's office has refused all comment.

Immigration officials say Jaziri lied about a past criminal record in France when he entered Canada in the late '90's. (3)

(Amish-Crash)

Indiana State Police say a tire failure may have triggered yesterday's van crash that killed five people -- at least some of whom came from a nearby Amish community.

Three children and two adults died and 11 others in the van were injured, when the vehicle lost control on a highway northeast of Indianapolis and flipped over in the median.

Some of the passengers were ejected. (3)

(MUSIC-Spears)

Singer Britney Spears can visit her two sons again.

Her lawyer says the pop star has regained temporary visitation rights, as she battles ex-husband Kevin Federline for custody of the toddler boys.

Spears was spotted driving with the boys Saturday, with a presumed court-appointed monitor in the passenger seat. (2)

(NewsWatch by Karen Rebot)

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.22

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 63

KYIV, Ukraine _ Slovakia has agreed to send an additional 47 troops to southern Afghanistan — this on top of the 78 soldiers it already has there.

Slovak officials made the commitment today at a meeting of European defence ministers in Ukraine.

The troops will be deployed next year to Uruzgan province where they will work alongside Dutch forces.

Slovakia also will send eight doctors to work at a military hospital in Kabul.

(The Associated Press)

RxH

INDEX:Defence, International, Politics

DATE: 2007.10.22

KEYWORDS: DEFENCE INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

PUBLICATION: bnw

WORD COUNT: 107

WASHINGTON _ The Associated Press says U-S President Bush will ask Congress for another 46 (b) billion dollars to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and finance other national security needs.

That would bring to 196.4 (b) billion the amount of money requested by the administration for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere for the budget year that started October 1st.

Bush is expected to announce the funding request later today at the White House.

The Iraq war is now in its fifth year.

It has already cost more than 455 (b) billion dollars U-S, with stepped-up military operations running about 12 (b) billion dollars a month.

The war has claimed the lives of more than 38-hundred members of the U-S military and more than 73 thousand Iraqi civilians.

(The Associated Press)

mcw

Canada's social policy imperatives

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SECTION: Editorial
PAGE: AA06
BYLINE: John Stapleton and Pedro Barata
SOURCE: Special to The Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 772

Lost in the fray over Kyoto and Afghanistan in the throne speech was the bare mention of a federal commitment to combat poverty.

That social policy does not top the government's to-do list is nothing new. But it is surprising that it is so far off the government's radar screen given the surplus of ideas, financial capacity and political interest in this area.

When Finance Minister Jim Flaherty announced the 2007 budget surplus at \$13.8 billion, he allocated half to pay down Canada's debt and half to the new Advantage Canada program. This means that there is almost \$7 billion dollars for Advantage Canada recipients.

Few details have emerged about the formula, amounts or schedule for Advantage Canada spending. Nevertheless, parliamentarians should be thinking about how they might spend a good chunk of the surplus for Canadian priorities.

An obvious place to start is the National Child Benefit, widely heralded as one of Canada's most effective anti-poverty tools. Rather than enhance the child benefit success story, the federal government chose to introduce a brand new Universal Child Care Benefit and topped that off with yet a third new non-refundable child credit in 2007. The two new benefits (each with their own set of rules) add to the existing benefits (with a third set of rules) to create one of the most confusing array of child benefits on the planet.

A thirst for transparent policy should motivate parliamentarians to roll the funding for the three programs into a new enhanced National Child Benefit. A portion of the unallocated Advantage Canada funds would be well spent in bringing the current benefit to a maximum of \$5,100 a year.

Next stop, support for the working poor. Many Canadians have no choice but to pay EI premiums from their first dollar of working income. Yet too many can't secure sufficient paid hours to qualify for benefits. The result has been a \$50-billion-plus surplus in the EI fund which, because it is not being paid to those who need it, has been absorbed into general revenue.

Flaherty has hinted that this surplus, through Advantage Canada, is likely to fund reduced taxes on business investment. But it is not right that reduced taxes on businesses be paid for by surpluses drawn from the EI fund for which most working Canadians remain ineligible. Advantage Canada funds should observe the principle that the surplus be reallocated at least in part to programs like EI.

On a related item, the throne speech extolled progress on the establishment of a Working Income Tax Benefit (WITB) and the new Registered Disability Savings Plan to allow family members to save for a nest egg for their loved ones with disabilities. But in both cases, there's plenty of room to grow.

The WITB will help some people leave welfare. But its design excludes the vast majority of today's working poor, including the 89 per cent of minimum-wage workers who are single and work a 35-hour week. It also excludes many people with disabilities who could greatly benefit from this program but who do not fit into an unnecessarily rigid definition of "impairment."

The working poor certainly deserve a boost that can be afforded by Advantage Canada.

A final area that deserves consideration by parliamentarians is the Canada Social Transfer, which transfers federal funds to the provinces for social investments. The move to a flat per-capita of \$289 dollars across the country has removed elements of equalization from the CST and nominally benefits "have" provinces. But if Ottawa insists on adopting a per-capita formula for this important funding vehicle, it must strengthen its role in national programs from which it is now retreating. Unspent Advantage Canada funds could certainly be used to make the CST fairer and more generous.

So what should be done next? The good news is that the WITB has already been designated as a potential recipient of Advantage Canada. The bad news is that it is not clear how this program will benefit, nor why some programs mentioned above benefit and others do not.

In many ways, the unallocated surplus funds from Advantage Canada create a whole new tier of funding that is unaccountable to Canadians.

It need not be so.

Social programs should be designated immediately as beneficiaries of Advantage Canada, with a commitment to a clear allocation formula made available to Canadians.

Canada's greatest advantage is surely its people, backed by public policy that affirms their security and well-being. The failure to allocate available funds inevitably means that armchair finance ministers will be quick to note the vacuum. The initiatives noted here will fill it to the advantage of Canadians.

Tories easily win confidence vote; NDP, Bloc help defeat Liberal amendment to throne speech

IDNUMBER 200710230118
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: News
PAGE: A19
ILLUSTRATION: CHRIS WATTIE REUTERS Liberal MPs applaud Stephane Dion, centre, yesterday after voting for the Liberals' throne speech amendment. ;
BYLINE: Richard Brennan and Bruce Campion-Smith
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 405

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservative minority government has survived a key confidence vote and looks certain to survive another one tomorrow.

The Conservatives easily defeated a Liberal amendment to the throne speech last night, thanks to the support of NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 203–89.

If it had passed, the amendment would have been a vote of non-confidence, bringing down the Conservative government and sparking an election.

However, Liberal Leader Stephane Dion has said his party won't defeat the government over the throne speech, saying Canadians are in no mood for what would be the third federal election in just over three years.

As a result, the Liberal amendment was carefully crafted to ensure neither the NDP nor the Bloc could support it. For example, it called on the government to admit that Canada's failure to meet the Kyoto targets for reducing greenhouse gases resulted from the Conservative decision to scrap the Liberals' green plan.

As well, the amendment called on the government to announce that Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan would end in February 2009, even though the throne speech proposes a two-year extension to 2011. The NDP wants the troops brought home immediately.

NDP Leader Jack Layton said the Liberal amendments were impossible to back even for a party that says it is eager to bring the Harper government down.

"I don't believe this is a throne speech that can be fixed," Layton said, adding that the vote tomorrow will show who is serious about going to the polls.

Liberal MP Garth Turner (Halton), unlike most of his fellow caucus, is hawkish about showing the Conservative minority government the door.

"Make no mistake about it, I am happy to see this government come down sooner than later. I see no particular reason to carry on ... and I think the timing is right," Turner said.

"How long do you sit around and wait until you have the right poll numbers before you go on your principle and convictions?"

When the throne speech itself comes up for a vote tomorrow night, the Liberals intend to abstain, ensuring the survival of the government.

Government House leader Peter Van Loan said that vote could put off the possibility of an election for months, perhaps years.

"I expect we will get a mandate to govern until our fixed election date of Oct. 19, 2009," Van Loan said last night.

But Michael Ignatieff, the Liberal deputy leader, suggested the opposition won't wait that long. He said there's talk in caucus of proposing another confidence vote in the weeks ahead.

"We're considering our strategy. An opposition opposes and we have to figure out the timing, the right way to do that and when the best opportunity presents itself. But we're not here to roll over, let me tell you," said Ignatieff (Etobicoke–Lakeshore).

U.S. war tab \$200 billion for next year; Bush asks Congress to okay an additional \$45.9 billion for efforts in Iraq, Afghanistan

IDNUMBER 200710230079
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Met
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA01
BYLINE: Tim Harper
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 446

George W. Bush has asked the U.S. Congress to approve another \$45.9 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, bringing the 2008 tab to almost \$200 billion and making it the most expensive year of military combat in his so-called "war on terror."

Democratic leaders vowed they would not "rubber stamp" the request, but in keeping with their inability to change the course of the war since coming to power in 2006, no one in the congressional leadership vowed to reject the request.

Democrats tried to tie this latest war spending request to the president's recent veto of a measure that would have provided health insurance to the children of working families in this country.

According to the independent Congressional Research Service, the \$196.1 billion request by Bush for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 would bring the total cost of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and counterterrorism operations to more than \$800 billion since terrorists struck the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

Even with an optimistic projection of half as many American troops in Iraq by 2017, the research service said spending on the wars would hit \$1.45 trillion by then.

The Iraq war alone is costing U.S. taxpayers about \$10 billion per month, or \$330 million each day.

"The Iraq war is leaving us less secure, unprepared to fight an effective war on terror or respond to the unexpected. President Bush should not expect the Congress to rubber stamp this," said Democratic Senate leader Harry Reid of Nevada.

Bush said he wants the money approved by Christmas.

The Democrats had previously said they would not deal with the request until the new year.

"In the coming weeks, we will hold (the request) up to the light of day and fight for the change in strategy and redeployment of troops that is long overdue," Reid said.

U.S. war tab \$200 billion for next year; Bush asks Congress to okay an additional \$45.9 billion for efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan

But Bush – who tweaked Democrats at his press conference last week by saying he had found "common ground" with them on Iraq – said the money was needed by American troops, and even war opponents could not in good conscience vote against the required funds.

"They ought to make sure our troops have what it takes to succeed," Bush said.

"Our men and women on the front lines should not be caught in the middle of partisan disagreements in Washington."

In announcing his supplemental budget request, Bush said American and NATO troops were making gains against the Taliban and Al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

He said the number of Iraqi civilians murdered by terrorists and death squads is "down sharply," and American deaths in Iraq last month were at their lowest level since July 2006.

Rahm Emanuel of Illinois, chair of the House Democratic caucus, said Bush's veto of the child health care bill showed his priorities were clear: "Health care for children is too expensive, but more of the same in Iraq is worth billions in debt."

White House spokesperson Tony Fratto rejected any link, saying the U.S. president vetoed funding for children because it was a flawed policy, not because it was too expensive.

Efforts to help Afghan girls generate optimism

IDNUMBER 200710230078
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Met
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA02
BYLINE: Richard Gwyn
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 564

At times, the Harper government's justification for continuing the mission in Afghanistan has seemed to rest on the mantra of "schools for girls."

Politically, that's an adroit sound bite. The notion that Canadian soldiers are there to help girls get some education and potentially some freedom – and perhaps even some equality – is immensely appealing to the Canadian public.

The sound bite may have an additional, and a more important, quality to it. It just might be right.

In the survey done by Toronto-based Environics and reported last week, Afghans who said they thought things were getting better were asked why this was so.

Seventeen per cent said because security had improved, and 15 per cent said because of reconstruction and rebuilding.

The most surprising response came in the third largest group: Ten per cent attributed their optimism to the fact that "Schools for girls have opened."

Another 4 per cent cited, "Women have more freedom," while still another 4 per cent said it was because, "Women can now work."

Those three responses, added together, constitute the largest single reason for optimism expressed by ordinary Afghans.

The accuracy of the Environics survey can be questioned, of course, but considerable care was taken in the exercise. The respondents – some 1,800 – were questioned in their homes by fellow-Afghans in either of the two principal languages, Pashto and Dari. Men were quizzed by men and women by women.

The response rate to the survey was an astounding 85 per cent. Those asking the questions reported that very few respondents showed any sign of feeling either intimidated or scared.

It would be absurd to treat the specific replies as having the potential accuracy of similar surveys in Canada.

Yet this one has a ring of veracity about it, not in detail but in tone and trend.

Thus, when those in and around the southern city of Kandahar, where the Canadians are stationed, were asked about the sources of their negative opinion of the Canadians – a large group had a positive opinion – almost 45 per cent said, "Killing innocent people."

This was wholly understandable, and also deeply troubling.

The Taliban are well aware of the rage inspired by the deaths of Afghan civilians. So they provoke the soldiers to fire on them by shooting at them from inhabited villages and farms. (In fact, most civilian deaths are caused by ill-executed bombing raids.)

The second largest cause of anger at the soldiers, though, was expressed by the 24 per cent who complained of "Searching houses without permission."

Searching houses for suspected Taliban is necessary and unavoidable. But the intrusion is deeply humiliating to Afghan men since it shows them as unable to protect their women and children.

Another confirmation of the survey's credibility came from the fact that while many of its findings were decidedly encouraging – although many had complaints about their government, 71 per cent hold positive feelings about it – there was also one that was decidedly challenging.

In Kandahar, 82 per cent want the government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai to negotiate with the Taliban, while 72 per cent would favour a coalition government that included the Taliban. (The national responses to both questions were somewhat more cautious.)

There were other signs of this attitude of moderation. Even in Kandahar, only one in 10 cited the fact that the foreign soldiers were "infidels" as a reason for hostility toward them. And opinion was overwhelming that if foreign troops left, the Taliban – about whom only 14 per cent have positive feelings – would take over.

The various percentages don't really matter. What does is that Afghans seem to recognize that they actually have a chance for a better life, and that, among them, no one has more to gain, or to lose, than their women. So we should keep building schools, while also protecting them.

Richard Gwyn usually appears on Tuesdays. Email: [gwyn @ sympatico.ca](mailto:gwyn@sympatico.ca)

'African solutions for African problems'; Canada trains troops for Darfur 'so we don't have to deploy ourselves'

IDNUMBER 200710230076
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: World And Comment
PAGE: AA04
ILLUSTRATION: Tia goldenberg for the toronto star Canadian Maj. Mike Calnandiscusses a mock UN mission with soldiers from Namibia, Zambia and Kenya as part of a two– week training course. ;
BYLINE: Tia Goldenberg
SOURCE: SPECIAL TO THE STAR
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 367

After a massive explosion, Canadian peacekeeper Capt. Mike Moosemilk is seriously injured, his Danish colleague Maj. Lars Vikingson dead.

Moments after the land–mine blast, African soldiers in green fatigues make crucial decisions on whom to notify, how to clear the area, and what to do about pesky journalists pressing for information.

It's just another day for the United Nations Mission in "Murof," a dry, troubled, diamond–rich land on Africa's east coast mired in civil war.

Murof is, of course, fictitious. But its problems mirror those of Sudan's embattled Darfur region and the Democratic Republic of Congo's volatile east.

Canada is not contributing troops to a United Nations–African Union force set to hit the ground in Darfur next year. But the military is running two–week courses meant to teach AU troops to be self–sufficient and lead peace operations, without a lot of foreign help.

"I believe in African solutions to African problems," said Maj. Victor Twesigye, a Ugandan soldier.

The course is run by eight Canadian troops in conjunction with the Kenyan military. It came to fruition after the 2002 Group of Eight summit in Kananaskis, Alta.

"The flavour of the time was assistance to Africa in peace support operations," said course leader Lt.–Col. Rod MacKay.

"We are giving them the capability to conduct peace support operations on their own so that we don't have to deploy ourselves."

With Canada's military stretched in Afghanistan, MacKay said, it is sharing peacekeeping expertise instead of boots on the ground.

"What it comes down to is Canada doesn't have to supply as many military observers or staff officers or individuals to a particular mission," he added.

The strategy of sending trainers instead of troops has elicited criticism. Some wonder if it's effective, and some students say foreign soldiers, not just their expertise, are needed.

"Countries shouldn't say: 'It's happening in Africa, so we don't need to deploy.' We're in a globalized world and everyone should contribute," said Senegalese Lt.-Col. Gora Mbaye.

The course – the third round since it began last year – teaches troop– contributing African Union nations to adopt similar peacekeeping methods.

The 26 students, all higher–ranking soldiers, hear lectures and simulate real peacekeeping with exercises that include turning classrooms into mock headquarters and handling situations such as the fictional land–mine blast.

Kenyan Capt. Sankala Shamata, a trainee, spent 14 months in Darfur before returning home in March.

"It was challenging," said the airborne division officer. "Being a multinational setup, you find things are not well co–ordinated. Each country comes with their own way of working. It's not that harmony of things, as we are doing here."

Tia Goldenberg is a Canadian freelance journalist based in Kenya.

Best Bets

IDNUMBER 200710230030
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Ont
SECTION: Entertainment
PAGE: L11
BYLINE: Jim Bawden
SOURCE: Toronto Star
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 266

8 P.M. TO 8: 30 P.M.

Cavemen is a show without a single redeeming feature, a sitcom that makes Pam Anderson's short-lived Fox series Stacked seem like Shakespeare. But it also kind of makes me nostalgic for The Flintstones. In tonight's episode, Nick (Nick Kroll) discovers the school where he's a substitute teacher has a caveman as a mascot. Jeff Daniel Phillips from the Geico commercials guest stars (ABC at 8).

9 P.M. TO 10 P.M.

I like watching Frontline's foreign affairs shows, such as tonight's Showdown With Iran, a look at the relationship between the two countries. The program shows that at one time the two states were buddy buddy, then turns to how quickly everything broke down once Iraq and Iran were waging war. And now? After 9/11 and the uprising in Afghanistan, there are fears Iran may be building an atomic bomb (WNED at 9).

10 P.M. TO 11 P.M.

Last seen as Meredith's (Ellen Pompeo) stepmom on Grey's Anatomy, Mare Winningham is the latest Brat Packer to go for dramatic glory as she guests on Boston Legal as a woman whose daughter's murderer was acquitted of the crime due to reason of insanity. She asks Alan (James Spader) for advice on how to kill off the killer as quickly as possible. Then Katie and Jerry (Tara Summers, Christian Clemenson) try to overturn Megan's Law to help a client (ABC, Global at 10).

LATE NIGHT

Strombo at 11: Danny Glover, Bruce McDonald

Leno at 11: 35: Hugh Laurie, Sherri Shepherd, Editors

Letterman at 11: 35: Jamie Foxx,

Jimmy Smits, Will.i.am

Kimmel at 12: 05: Mira Sorvino, Brad Paisley

Conan at 12: 35: Jessica Alba, Bear Grylls, Paul F. Tompkins

Ferguson at 12: 35: Terrence

Howard, Jennifer Westfeldt

Daly at 1: 35: Jeff Garlin, James

Morrison

Bush seeks billions for Iraq, Afghan wars

IDNUMBER 200710230052
PUBLICATION: The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: World
PAGE: A14
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest Washington Correspondent
WORD COUNT: 396

WASHINGTON — U.S. President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks Monday by asking Congress for almost \$200 billion US in additional funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarter of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

The president said he needs \$196.4 billion to cover day-to-day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fund State Department operations in the war zones.

Bush's request is \$45.9 billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the president's demand that: "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

According to the White House budget office, the U.S. has already spent more than \$560 billion on wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. The latest request would push the total past \$750 billion.

Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Bush, but his demand for additional war money comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of the president's recent veto of a major domestic health-care spending bill.

Earlier this month, Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add \$35 billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children.

Bush opposed the bill because he said it would provide coverage for too many middle class children and prompt thousands of Americans to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

The president's "emergency supplemental" request includes \$184 billion specifically for the Pentagon, including \$11 billion to deliver new armoured vehicles designed to better withstand roadside bombs.

Fragile hope for Pakistan

IDNUMBER 200710230053
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A14
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 524

There is no question that Pakistan is on the verge of a new era, one way or another. Like the country itself, this new era began with a bloodbath. It is not the kind of beginning that inspires hope.

Benazir Bhutto, the former prime minister, has returned from eight years in exile and chose to parade through the streets of Karachi, thronged with hundreds of thousands of supporters. Some of those supporters, and some of the security officers ringing her truck, died for her beliefs. There were, it seems, two blasts: the first from a grenade, the second from a suicide bomber. At least 136 people died and a few hundred were wounded.

Ms. Bhutto survived unscratched. Both she and her political rival, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, described the bombing as an assault on democracy. They're right. The people who suffer most from insecurity in Pakistan are the ordinary people, whose right to rule themselves, whose right to life itself, is under constant threat.

The Taliban and al-Qaeda hate Ms. Bhutto, as they hate Gen. Musharraf and anyone who is reluctant to set up Pakistan as a hardline, anti-American, Islamist state. Ms. Bhutto can attract the fury of extremists, but there's not much reason to hope she can stamp them out, any more than Gen. Musharraf could.

Nor is there much reason to believe her when she says she can build a democratic, prosperous Pakistan. Her last stint in government ended with accusations of corruption.

Still, the prospect of a power-sharing arrangement between Gen. Musharraf and Ms. Bhutto is probably the best hope Pakistan has, at least in the short term. Ms. Bhutto's moderate and pro-Western stand appears to have wide support.

Attitudes in Pakistan have changed since the aftermath of the September, 2001 attacks. In 2002, one of every three Pakistanis said suicide bombing was sometimes justified, according to Pew Global Research. In 2007, fewer than one in 10 said it was sometimes justified. Most Pakistanis don't want the terrorists to live among them.

Security isn't the only concern for those who would rule Pakistan. The same Pew study found that 70 per cent of Pakistanis rate access to safe drinking water as a major problem in their country — a rate much higher than that in Nigeria. Ms. Bhutto's promises to help the rural poor cannot be separated from her promises to establish democracy. It is impossible to establish a monopoly on the legitimate use of force without also establishing widespread support for, and trust in, the central government.

Pakistan is, by virtue of its geography, its nuclear capability, its history and its demographics, key to the security of the coming century. The ultimate success of the NATO mission in Afghanistan depends on the presence of a competent and co-operative government next door.

If Ms. Bhutto is to work with Gen. Musharraf, both partners will have to put the past behind and try to reform the government and create a new political culture in Pakistan. This might start with a sincere effort on both sides to prevent further terrorist attacks during the upcoming election campaign.

Try it in Afghanistan

IDNUMBER 200710230048
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A13
BYLINE: Peggy Ledden
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 192

Re: A different world unveiled, Oct. 19.

Columnist Kelly Egan says Sian Reid's niqab and veil experiment is possibly reminiscent of John Howard Griffin's six weeks spent as a black man in the southern U.S. in the late 1950s, from which he wrote his book *Black Like Me*.

Let's look at the differences, though. Griffin medically blackened his skin and lived in the black community for six weeks. The book he wrote as a result was truly enlightening. I remember reading it when it was first published.

The real parallel would be for Ms. Reid to spend a similar amount of time in a niqab/burqa in Afghanistan. That would be a true sociological experiment. She might also find that were she to accidentally show a bit of ankle or some hair that people would do more than whisper behind her back.

I find it a travesty that a Canadian university professor would use students as focus group test subjects. Were I to have a son or daughter in Ms. Reid's class, I would object vociferously. Were I to have a son or daughter overseas in the Canadian military posted to Afghanistan, I would be livid.

Peggy Ledden,

Ottawa

New Polish leader pledges to revamp ties with U.S., EU; Liberals seek to lure expatriates home, further stoke hot economy

IDNUMBER 200710230039
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A12
DATELINE: WARSAW
BYLINE: Deborah Cole
SOURCE: Agence France—Presse
WORD COUNT: 589

WARSAW – Flush from a landslide win over the right-wing Kaczynski twins in a snap election, Poland's liberals vowed yesterday to recalibrate U.S. and European ties and lure expatriates back home.

With nearly all ballots counted, pro-business opposition leader Donald Tusk's Civic Platform won a projected 209 seats in parliament, routing the conservative Law and Justice party of Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski and his identical twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski, with 166 seats.

Civic Platform's decisive victory drew cheers in Brussels, but some concern in Washington as Mr. Tusk pledged to mend frayed ties with European Union and NATO partners and rethink Warsaw's military engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In an interview after Sunday's parliamentary election, Mr. Tusk told a Russian newspaper that the Kaczynskis' single-minded defence of national interests had done more harm than good.

"One gets the impression in Poland today that the Jaroslaw Kaczynski government was not very successful in dealing with the task of securing good relations with Russia and Germany," Mr. Tusk is quoted as saying in yesterday's Rossiyskaya Gazeta.

"Given that both sides are dominated by emotions, I believe that the signals of the will to improve relations which Civic Platform is sending to our neighbours will be understood correctly."

Mr. Tusk has also promised to cut taxes to stoke the already red-hot Polish economy and entice the more than one million Poles who have moved to Britain and Ireland in search of jobs to return home.

Expatriates as well as young, urban, centrist voters in Poland turned out in droves to end the Kaczynski duo's two-year grip on power. Participation reached almost 54 per cent — the highest level since the fall of communism in 1989.

"The heavy turnout in the cities killed us," Jacek Kurski, a strategist for the Kaczynskis' party, told news channel TVN24.

European Commission chief Jose Manuel Barroso hailed "the European spirit of the Polish people" after the liberals' victory, underscoring "the importance of Poland's contribution to the European Union."

New Polish leader pledges to revamp ties with U.S., EU; Liberals seek to lure expatriates home, further stoke

For her part, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she hoped co-operation with Poland's new government "will be good."

The Kremlin also welcomed the win, saying it hoped a new government would end what they called a "demonization" of Moscow by Warsaw.

Civic Platform said the new government would adopt the EU charter of fundamental rights, which the conservatives had bitterly opposed, notably for its liberal stand on homosexuality.

Mr. Tusk has said he is also committed to strong transatlantic ties, but vowed during the campaign to soon bring home 900 Polish troops serving in Iraq.

The liberals also want to reconsider the role of Poland's 1,200 troops in a NATO-led security force in Afghanistan.

U.S. Defence Secretary Robert Gates said he hoped Poland would stay the course in both missions, as officials in Moscow said they were optimistic Warsaw would now reverse its veto on a sweeping EU-Russian partnership deal.

The Kaczynskis had also clashed with NATO allies as well as Russia over their strong support for U.S. plans to base part of a missile shield system in Poland, an emerging powerhouse of about 38 million people.

Mr. Gates told reporters on a visit to Kiev that he hoped talks on the shield "will continue as before."

Civic Platform fell short of its goal of a ruling majority and was expected to form a coalition with the moderate Polish Peasants' Party, which won 31 seats.

Sunday's election was called two years early because of the collapse of the conservatives' three-party coalition in August. Its erstwhile far-right and populist allies were swept from parliament.

While Lech Kaczynski still has three years to go in his presidential term, the poll abruptly ended the brothers' unusual concentration of power.

The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, which had sparred with Warsaw over an invitation to monitor Poland's snap polls, said it approved of the vote despite worries about media bias.

Former president Lech Walesa, the Gdansk shipyard electrician who led Solidarity, the communist-era opposition trade union, blasted two "scandalous" years of governance under the twins.

Liberal amendment to throne speech fails

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PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 149

The opposition Bloc Québécois and NDP joined the Conservatives yesterday to easily defeat a Liberal amendment to the minority government's throne speech.

The amendment, aimed at forcing the government's hand on such issues as the Kyoto environmental accord and the combat mission in Afghanistan, was killed by a vote of 203 to 89.

The vote marked the second time in less than a week that the government of Stephen Harper survived a test of the agenda it set out in the throne speech. A Bloc sub-amendment was defeated Thursday when the Liberals and NDP sided with the government.

The final test comes tomorrow when the Commons votes on a government motion to accept the speech.

The government is not, however, in any danger of being defeated. Liberal leader Stéphane Dion, who is battling unrest in his own party, has announced his MPs will abstain from that vote rather than force an election at this time.

All three parties would have to unite to vote "no" for the government to fall.

Bush asks Congress for \$196B to fight wars in 2008; Emergency funding needed now for 'bullets and body armour'

IDNUMBER 200710230002
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Citizen
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A1 / FRONT

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Alex Wong, Pool via Bloomberg News / President George W. Bush said at the White House yesterday that Congress could show its support for American troops by approving his request for 'emergency supplemental' funding. ;

DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: The Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 528

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks yesterday by asking Congress for almost \$200 billion U.S. for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Mr. Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Mr. Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

The president said he needs \$196.4 billion to cover day-to-day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fund State Department operations in the war zones.

Mr. Bush's request is \$45.9 billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Mr. Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the president's demand that "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

The president "wants us to come up with another \$200 billion and just sign off on it?" asked Mr. Reid, a Nevada Democrat. "We're not going to do that."

According to the White House budget office, the U.S. has already spent more than \$560 billion on wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The latest request would push the total past \$750 billion.

Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Mr. Bush, but his demand for additional war money comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of the president's recent veto of a major domestic health spending bill.

Earlier this month, Mr. Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add \$35 billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children.

Mr. Bush opposed the bill because he said it would provide coverage for too many middle-class children and prompt thousands of Americans to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

"President Bush wants us to rubber-stamp another \$200 billion in war funds — all borrowed money, none of it paid for — for next year alone," Mr. Reid said. "But when we sent a bipartisan bill to his desk to provide health insurance for the children of working families, the president called it too expensive.... It's no wonder the American people are frustrated."

The president's "emergency supplemental" request includes \$184 billion specifically for the Pentagon, including \$11 billion to deliver new armoured vehicles designed to better withstand roadside bombs, one of the leading killers of American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The bill provides for basic needs, like bullets and body armour," he said.

The remainder of the funding request includes money for U.S. diplomatic missions, Iraqi refugees, peacekeeping operations in Sudan and other measures unrelated to the wars.

THE AFGHAN MISSION A turn from artillery to construction in Kandahar

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072960216

DATE: 2007.10.23

PAGE: A18

BYLINE: OMAR EL AKKAD

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: FOB WILSON, AFGHANISTAN

WORDS: 550

WORD COUNT: 544

OMAR EL AKKAD FOB WILSON, AFGHANISTAN Amid a flurry of construction, one of the most ambitious projects at Forward Operating Base Wilson has little to do with tanks or artillery. It's an unassuming building where Canadians hope to bring representatives from various Afghan emergency agencies together around a desk and a phone to create Kandahar's first 911 service.

For Canadian troops in Afghanistan, combat missions are increasingly taking a back seat to mentoring and construction projects, a tour of virtually every major forward operating base in the province suggests.

In the past few months, almost exactly coinciding with the arrival of Quebec's Royal 22nd Regiment, the Vandoos, Canadian soldiers have made the mentoring of their Afghan counterparts the top priority, implementing programs designed to ensure Afghan soldiers are able to hold on to the territory Canadians fought to claim – and then reclaim, after the Afghans lost the ground again – from the Taliban.

The Canadians are also greatly expanding the infrastructure they plan to hand over to the Afghans. The FOBs, which used to be small Canadian outposts in the dangerous Panjwai district, have grown considerably, becoming launch pads for ambitious projects ranging from an integrated 911-type service to an elite Afghan police division.

The size of FOB Wilson, west of Kandahar city, is also a testament to the growing ambitions of the Canadian forces in this dangerous part of the country. Described by a soldier stationed here as being "the size of a postage stamp" just a few months ago, the base has grown significantly, and is still growing.

"The idea is that you have to take real estate," said Sergeant-Major Gerry Trottier, who heads up the engineering functions at the base, as he surveys the construction from atop one of the command buildings.

"The [FOB] is a means of securing that real estate." Like many soldiers at other bases, Sgt. Trottier points to the nearby road system as a measure for gauging the progress Canadians are making here. Cars, trucks and the occasional cyclist pass by under the afternoon sun without hassle.

"You can see it in the movement on the road," he said.

Still, just a few hours earlier in the day, insurgents opened fire on one of Sgt. Trottier's dump-truck drivers as he drove toward the base, and such attacks are still a daily occurrence in many parts of the province.

While Canadian troops may have the means to effectively fight back against anyone who fires on the base, their Afghan national army counterparts – those who are expected to take over when the Canadians leave – are not as well equipped and trained.

Lieutenant-Colonel Alain Gauthier, head of the Canadian battle group in Kandahar, points to a number of steps the Canadians have taken to make sure they won't be fighting for the same ground again after handing control over to the Afghans. Recently, members of the Canadian police mentoring teams began living at police checkpoints with the Afghans, partially as a means of reducing harassment of the local population by the notoriously corrupt Afghan police force.

"Now we can also ask why they're not being paid, why they don't have enough ammo," Col. Gauthier said. "When we witness these things, we can put pressure on the government to do something about it."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; foreign policy; defence

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

FOREIGN MERCENARIES Accountability of private security forces questioned

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072960215

DATE: 2007.10.23

PAGE: A18

BYLINE: GLORIA GALLOWAY

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Ottawa ONT

WORDS: 430

WORD COUNT: 442

GLORIA GALLOWAY OTTAWA Federal opposition critics say there is a questionable chain of accountability governing the team of foreign mercenaries hired to provide security in Kabul for Canadian diplomats and dignitaries such as Prime Minister Harper.

Dawn Black, the defence critic for the federal New Democrats, says the government's decision to pay Saladin Security, a British firm with a long history of clandestine operations, to serve as bodyguards for Canadians in Afghanistan is something she will raise in Parliament's defence committee.

"It brings a lot of questions forward," Ms. Black said yesterday after The Globe and Mail revealed the contract between the government and Saladin. "There is the question of rules of engagement; there is the question of accountability." The United States has a similar deal in Iraq with a firm called Blackwater USA, whose hired gunmen killed 17 Iraqi civilians last month while protecting a diplomatic convoy.

"We can see what's happened with Blackwater in the States – different firm but same premise – that the accountability factor and the rules of engagement were rather loose and worrisome," Ms. Black said.

"So my questions would be around what are the rules of engagement, what is the accountability process with the people who have been hired?" Saladin has not been publicly implicated in any alleged excesses or crimes attributed to private security firms in Afghanistan.

A spokesman for Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier said the firm, which is employed by the Canadian embassy in Kabul, is certified and registered with local government authorities. "It operates in accordance with, and is subject to, Afghan law," he said. But it remained unclear whether operatives could be spirited out of the country in the event of a shooting.

Ms. Black says the fact that the firm was hired in a country where there are 2,500 Canadian troops is telling. "We've known for some time that the Canadian military is pretty stretched with this combat mission in Afghanistan," she said.

Bob Rae, the new foreign affairs critic for the Liberals, agrees that the critical questions in the hiring of Saladin are those around resources and accountability. "When I was in Iraq a couple of years ago on a contract with the National Democratic Institute I was protected by a private security company, so I am not about to say that there should not be private contractors," he said.

"But we need to ensure that all contracts in this area are public, and that the history and bona fides of anyone providing service are clear and transparent, and that there is full accountability for contracts."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada

SUBJECT TERM: strife; private security contractors; foreign policy; government; political

PERSONAL NAME: Maxime Bernier

ORGANIZATION NAME: Saladin Security

Why Germany won't be replacing Canada in Afghanistan

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL
IDN: 072960157
DATE: 2007.10.23
PAGE: A23 (ILLUS)
BYLINE: JEFFREY SIMPSON
SECTION: Comment Column
EDITION: Metro
DATELINE: FRANKFURT, GERMANY
WORDS: 728
WORD COUNT: 722

JEFFREY SIMPSON FRANKFURT, GERMANY Canada is searching quietly for another NATO country to replace it in southern Afghanistan in 2009. That country won't be Germany.

The German parliament, minus the Greens, has signed up Germany for more duty in Afghanistan but in the safer, northern part. Germany has taken some casualties in Afghanistan but not nearly as many as Canada, and the war-adverse population wants to keep it that way. Indeed, if German politicians had merely followed public opinion, they would have brought their soldiers home right away.

Two world wars started by Germany have made the country very reluctant to fight any wars. The trauma of the country's oldest generation meets the pacifism of the youngest to produce a country with a capable military but one that politicians do not want to allow to fight.

Curiously, therefore, Germany's allies (or at least most of them) have more confidence in Germany's self-restraint than apparently do many Germans, although a cynic would say today's German "war trauma" is overdone, amounting to a convenient way of escaping dangerous assignments overseas.

What is not overdone is the portrait of German anti-Americanism, a situation aggravated, but not caused, by George W. Bush. According to the latest survey of the German Marshall Fund of the United States, only 13 per cent of Germans approve of the U.S. President (mind you, only a quarter of Americans do). Across Europe, according to the survey, only 17 per cent approve of Mr. Bush.

A new president, almost by definition, will improve German attitudes toward the U.S., but some deeper attitudinal issues divide the two.

The Marshall Fund survey underscored a basic one. Asked whether war is "necessary under certain conditions to obtain justice," 74 per cent of Americans said yes, but only 21 per cent of Germans did so. Fifty per cent of Germans "strongly" opposed the concept.

Astonishingly, in a country long regarded as the United States' most faithful continental ally, 48 per cent of Germans considered the U.S. more dangerous than Iran.

Americans – or at least their politicians – still seem preoccupied with the "war on terror." Every presidential candidate must spend part of his or her time outlining how the U.S. will be kept safe.

Germans, by contrast, seem unconcerned – a recent poll showed only 4 per cent felt their country was "significantly threatened" by international terrorism.

Maybe so, but Germany narrowly escaped a major terrorist attack on its soil thanks to tips from the Americans. Having intercepted suspicious e-mails between Germany and Pakistan (the world's most dangerous country), the U.S. National Security Agency alerted the German government. This led to a raid that netted three people, including two Germans who had converted to Islam, accused of plotting massive car bomb attacks in Germany against Americans.

The German government knew it had a problem with radical jihadists within the country, but it was shocking to learn it had a problem with homegrown German converts. The government, therefore, is fully co-operative with the U.S., even though the general public seems nonchalant and quite anti-American.

The Iraq war, of course, deepened the wedge between the two countries, and worsened attitudes toward the U.S. government and foreign policy in general. Germans who deplore the anti-Americanism of the young acknowledge, however, that those coming of age with Mr. Bush as President might have been socialized early into abiding anti-Americanism.

The Afghan mission, too, seems to have turned off Germans, even though it was sanctioned by the United Nations and is supported by their government, a grand coalition of conservatives and social democrats. A recent poll showed that 56 per cent of Germans believe engagement in Afghanistan would increase their country's vulnerability to terrorism. In Germany, the way to sell engagement is less about keeping the Taliban from returning to power than assisting women, building schools and improving the economy: a soft sell, in other words, for a hard mission.

But not for Germany a hard power mission. Yes, Germans are making planes available to southern areas where Canadian, Americans, British and Dutch are fighting (and dying). But the public will not stand for more active engagement – a position on which an almost complete political consensus exists. Canada, searching for a replacement country, will have to look elsewhere.

jsimpson@globeandmail.com

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Afghanistan; Canada; Germany; United States

SUBJECT TERM: strife; foreign policy; defence; war; foreign relations

PERSONAL NAME: George W. Bush

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

POLISH VOTE: THE MAN IN LINE TO LEAD Poland embraces a different kind of right-winger Former dissident supports free trade, minimal government, stronger European ties and the withdrawal of troops from Iraq

PUBLICATION: GLOBE AND MAIL

IDN: 072960080

DATE: 2007.10.23

PAGE: A20 (ILLUS)

BYLINE: BRUCE I. KONVISER AND DOUG SAUNDERS

SECTION: International News

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Warsaw POLAND

WORDS: 719

WORD COUNT: 731

BRUCE I. KONVISER AND DOUG SAUNDERS WARSAW He's modest, bookish, funny, a former dissident, and at 50, still lean enough to play the amateur soccer he loves. And now Donald Tusk will almost certainly be the next prime minister of Poland.

Two young students tried to explain why they found Mr. Tusk so exciting yesterday as they watched the petite, surprisingly youthful-looking Polish leader make a somewhat dull speech on television.

"It feels like we've been watching a really bad movie for the past two years," said Szymon Nowicki, 22, "and suddenly we'd found the rewind button, and now we're back at 1989 and starting over again." His friend Tanek Adamczyk, 21, explained why Mr. Tusk, who after Sunday night's elections is almost certain to become the country's prime minister, managed to bring millions of young Poles back to the ballot box after years of falling turnout: "This guy is bringing us back to post-communist times. We'd had enough of post-postcommunism." The election of Mr. Tusk, whose Civic Platform party won Sunday's election by nearly 10 percentage points, is almost certain to make him prime minister of a coalition government. It's part of a change sweeping the formerly Communist-occupied states of eastern Europe.

After experimenting with an unusual, distinctly Polish form of nationalism, voters here decisively chose a man who represents the values that drove communism out of their country: economic conservatism, minimal government, and close ties to Western Europe.

"Tusk acts slightly surprised to be the leader of the largest party in Poland," says Konstanty Gebert, a political observer with Gazeta Wyborcza, Poland's leading daily. "He's very modest – this is his handicap." Mr. Tusk has never been elected to an executive position before, but he has been party chairman, and he did manage an election campaign that resulted in the highest percentage of Poles participating in parliamentary elections in the post-communist era.

Mr. Tusk's election represents a decisive change from the ill-fated reign of Jaroslaw Kaczynski, who was prime minister for two years in a coalition with two smaller, extreme right-wing parties. While his identical-twin brother Lech Kaczynski still holds the presidency, their right-wing nationalist Law and Justice

party was soundly beaten.

Both the Kaczynski twins and Mr. Tusk have their roots in the anticommunist Solidarity movement, which saw Poland become the first country to make a peaceful transition from communism to liberal democracy in 1989.

They split in the late 1990s, with the twins adopting a flag-waving nationalism and Mr. Tusk's followers embracing anything that was opposed to communism.

The Kaczynskis, elected on an anti-corruption campaign, represented a retreat to a mythic past: They embraced the Roman Catholic church, attacking birth control and homosexuality, and rejected Europe, denouncing Germany and rejecting the European Union's attempts to forge a constitution.

Mr. Tusk represents a different sort of right-wing leader. He is a free trader, happy to embrace the European Union's borderless commerce. He wants to join the neighbouring Baltic states and Slovakia in adopting a business-friendly flat tax regime, and his policy proposals are aggressively anti-state and pro-business.

But Mr. Tusk also represents a more surprising break with the twins: He ran his election on his opposition to the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, in which Poles have participated with popular support, under several political parties, from 2001. He pledged to withdraw Polish troops from Iraq (25 have been killed there), and re-examine the country's commitment to the NATO campaign in Afghanistan.

"Poland's foreign policy is going to change significantly," said Pawel Swieboda, a former foreign ministry official, to the Agence-France Press wire service yesterday. "Civic Platform will reinforce its European plank and won't take American proposals as they come." And Mr. Tusk is thought to have the fortitude to stand up to the world's only superpower. "He has deeply held beliefs, and he sticks to his guns," Mr. Gebert says, "but he can also compromise." He cites an inner-party struggle a few years back that could have torn the party apart. But Mr. Gebert says that after prevailing in the schism, "Tusk held the party together, and no one was excommunicated." Bruce I. Konviser is a freelance reporter

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Poland

SUBJECT TERM: government; elections; political candidates

PERSONAL NAME: Donald Tusk; Jaroslaw Kaczynski; Lech Kaczynski

ORGANIZATION NAME: Civic Platform

IN BRIEF Iraq War costing about \$10–billion a month

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IDN: 072960006

DATE: 2007.10.23

PAGE: A21

BYLINE:

SECTION: International News

SOURCE: AP

EDITION: Metro

DATELINE: Washington DC

WORDS: 86

WORD COUNT: 82

AP Washington The war in Iraq is costing about \$10–billion a month, more than \$455–billion over more than four years of fighting.

President George W. Bush, setting the stage for another bruising battle with Congress, asked lawmakers yesterday to keep bankrolling the war and the fighting in Afghanistan with a request for \$46–billion.

He pressed Congress to approve the money by Christmas.

Democrats who gained control of Congress with an anti–war message said Mr. Bush should not expect lawmakers to rubber–stamp the request.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: United States; Iraq

SUBJECT TERM:government finance; iraq war; costs

Still confident Throne speech survives the first House vote test

SOURCETAG 0710230261

PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 7

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Chris Wattie, Reuters Prime Minister Stephen Harper stands to vote against a Liberal amendment to the Speech from the Throne in the House of Commons yesterday. The Conservative minority government easily survived the second of three confidence votes on its policy platform. A defeat on a confidence vote would trigger a federal election campaign.

BYLINE: JOAN BRYDEN, THE CANADIAN PRESS

WORD COUNT: 415

Stephen Harper's minority government has easily survived the first confidence test on its throne speech.

NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs joined with the Conservatives yesterday to handily defeat a Liberal amendment to the speech by a vote of 203–89.

Had it passed, the amendment would have amounted to a vote of non-confidence in Harper's plan for the country, and the government would have fallen, triggering an election.

However, the Liberals had no desire to spark an election, having just emerged from weeks of infighting and recriminations in the wake of three devastating byelection losses in Quebec.

Liberal Leader Stephane Dion crafted the amendment in such a way that neither the Bloc nor the NDP would support it.

He has also ensured the government will survive the next confidence test as well — Liberals will abstain tomorrow when the main throne speech motion is put to a vote.

Dion's amendment called on the government to admit that the failure to reach the Kyoto protocol targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was a result of the Tories' decision to kill the previous Liberal government's "innovative" green plan, of which Dion was the architect.

That alone guaranteed the amendment wouldn't be supported by either the NDP or the Bloc, neither of which accepts that the Liberals were on track to meet their Kyoto obligations.

The amendment also called on the government to announce that Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan will end in February 2009. That position is at odds with the NDP's insistence that the troops be withdrawn from combat immediately.

Unlike most of his caucus and advisers, Dion had initially wanted to defeat the throne speech, fearing his reputation as a Kyoto champion would be destroyed if he didn't take a stand against the Tories' assertion the Kyoto targets are unattainable.

Not ready

With Harper vowing to turn every major vote on bills flowing from the throne speech into confidence matters, Dion also deemed it preferable to force an election now rather than have to prop up the government in a series of votes.

However, he was persuaded to change his mind by Liberal MPs, most of whom argued that the party simply isn't ready to fight an election.

Liberals have been reeling since last month's byelection losses, including an especially humiliating defeat in their longtime Montreal bastion of Outremont.

The losses led to weeks of recriminations and a series of top-level resignations, including Dion's Quebec lieutenant, the party's national director and executive director of the party's Quebec wing. A number of Quebec Liberals, including one MP, openly expressed doubts about Dion's leadership.

In a bid to exploit what he characterizes as a leadership vacuum in the Liberal party, NDP Leader Jack Layton is trying to portray his party as the real opposition to the Harper government.

Layton will host an "opposition school" today, flying in NDP staff from across the country to advise MPs on procedural rules and tactics to keep the government on its toes. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Job security wanted

SOURCETAG 0710230260
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
ILLUSTRATION: photo of DAWN BLACK Protect reservists
BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU
WORD COUNT: 192

An NDP MP wants a federal law to give job security to part-time soldiers who serve in Afghanistan and other global hotspots.

Dawn Black will table a private member's bill today that would prevent reservists from getting pink slips during deployment. Some reserve members of the Canadian Forces have been fired or forced to give up their civilian jobs because they didn't have assurance they could return after serving abroad.

"We're counting more and more on reservists to go and participate in missions that Canada is involved in, so it's just an issue of fairness," she said. "If people are going to leave the country for six, seven or eight months, when they've been training on their own time, they should have the assurance their employment will be there for them when they return."

Right now three provinces — Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan — have laws ensuring job protection for reservists. Black hopes leadership at the federal level will "set the tone" and prompt other provinces to follow suit.

Federal legislation would cover civil servants and employees in federally regulated workplaces such as the air, rail and ship sectors.

Last month Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn said the government wants to protect the jobs of military reservists. KEYWORDS=CANADA

On the Hill Sunflashes Column

SOURCETAG 0710230259
PUBLICATION: The Winnipeg Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 7
BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
COLUMN: On the Hill Sunflashes
WORD COUNT: 191

EVEN DOGS ARE FRISKED

HALIFAX — U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins admits border security can get a little tight at times, even for his tiny dog.

The topic came up yesterday during a Q&A session in Halifax, when a businesswoman asked Wilkins to check into why border security officials are often rude to her when she attempts to export custom-made cabinets.

The ambassador promised to check into the woman's complaint.

He then told a tale about how his pooch was "frisked" recently at the Ottawa airport, and put in a separate holding area.

He says the dog wasn't concealing anything, having left her bone back in the U.S.

HILLIER VISITS TROOPS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield yesterday on a flight with other soldiers. He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the Taliban. He is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter landmines and improvised explosive devices.

SECURITY BILL REVISED

The Conservative government introduced legislation yesterday to revise the controversial security certificate process.

The new bill would create special advocates for suspected terrorists and spies tagged for deportation.

The proposed legislation is intended to bring the security certificate regime in line with the Charter of Rights after the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional. KEYWORDS=CANADA

General's visit to Canuck troops kept quiet

SOURCETAG 0710230452
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 8
ILLUSTRATION: photo of RICK HILLIER Checking out new equipment
BYLINE: THE CANADIAN PRESS
DATELINE: KANDAHAR
WORD COUNT: 171

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Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons.

The military says he plans to speak to reporters later during his visit.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the extremist Taliban movement that has put up a violent insurgency against Afghan authorities and NATO forces supporting the Kabul government.

During his stay, Hillier is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter land mines and improvised explosive devices — weapons that pose a key threat to the soldiers and their armoured vehicles.

Hillier has been to Afghanistan several times before.

In May, he brought the Stanley Cup and a contingent of former National Hockey League players to boost morale among the troops in the war-torn country.

Two months earlier, Hillier was in Afghanistan to visit the troops and look for better safeguards for detainees whom they hand over to Afghan authorities.

And last December, Hillier brought along comedian Rick Mercer to spend Christmas with the troops in Afghanistan. **KEYWORDS=CANADA**

No one's surprised, except CBC

SOURCETAG 0710200280
PUBLICATION: The Toronto Sun
DATE: 2007.10.20
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 18
BYLINE: LICIA CORBELLA
COLUMN: Editorial
WORD COUNT: 273

What's most surprising about a new CBC/Environics poll that shows that the Afghan people overwhelmingly want foreign troops to stay in their country is just how surprised the CBC is.

The CBC has had a steady stream of reporters almost constantly in Afghanistan since regular Canadian forces were stationed there in January 2002.

So why haven't CBC reporters reported on the thoughts of ordinary Afghan citizens before now?

On Thursday night The National's host Peter Mansbridge mentioned that viewers might be "surprised" by the poll results. No kidding.

After all, if those viewers primarily get their news from the CBC, most of what they've seen and been told about Canada's mission there and what Afghans say and think about that message, is negative.

Indeed, Mansbridge has been to Afghanistan himself. Why didn't he go out and speak to Afghans and ask them directly what they thought of foreign troops being in their country?

Had he and the countless other CBC staff members done that — like some Sun Media journalists have — he and the CBC would have been reporting five years ago that the Afghan people want foreign troops in their country, that they don't want them to leave any time soon, that they support and admire their own government led by President Hamid Karzai and that the vast majority of them absolutely detest the Taliban.

Time after time Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Karzai himself, Afghan government officials in Kandahar, Canadian generals and rank-and-file Canadian soldiers have all been quoted in other media saying that the Afghan people want us there and appreciate the help we are giving them.

Why weren't we hearing the real news out of Afghanistan on our tax-funded national broadcaster?

More importantly, why were we so often hearing the exact opposite of the real news?

The CBC's ombudsman should investigate how a news organization that is supposed to provide the country with unbiased news has so badly skewed it for so long.

Now that would be really surprising!

Job security wanted

SOURCETAG 0710221740
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 6
ILLUSTRATION: photo of DAWN BLACK Protect reservists
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WORD COUNT: 192

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SOURCETAG 0710221739

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 6

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NOT READY

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However, he was persuaded to change his mind by Liberal MPs, most of whom argued that the party simply isn't ready to fight an election.

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On the Hill Sunflashes Column

SOURCETAG 0710221738
PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 6
BYLINE: CP
COLUMN: On the Hill Sunflashes
WORD COUNT: 191

EVEN DOGS ARE FRISKED

HALIFAX — U.S. Ambassador David Wilkins admits border security can get a little tight at times, even for his tiny dog.

The topic came up yesterday during a Q&A session in Halifax, when a businesswoman asked Wilkins to check into why border security officials are often rude to her when she attempts to export custom-made cabinets.

The ambassador promised to check into the woman's complaint.

He then told a tale about how his pooch was "frisked" recently at the Ottawa airport, and put in a separate holding area.

He says the dog wasn't concealing anything, having left her bone back in the U.S.

HILLIER VISITS TROOPS

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield yesterday on a flight with other soldiers. He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the Taliban. He is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter landmines and improvised explosive devices.

SECURITY BILL REVISED

The Conservative government introduced legislation yesterday to revise the controversial security certificate process.

The new bill would create special advocates for suspected terrorists and spies tagged for deportation.

The proposed legislation is intended to bring the security certificate regime in line with the Charter of Rights after the Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Security top Afghan worry, poll says

SOURCETAG 0710221733

PUBLICATION: The Ottawa Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 4

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Goran Tomasevic, Reuters A dead Afghan slumps on his seat after being hit by shrapnel from a rocket fired by the Taliban yesterday west of Kandahar. A new survey says security is the country's biggest problem.

BYLINE: THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DATELINE: KABUL, AFGHANISTAN

WORD COUNT: 258

Afghans believe the security situation in their country has deteriorated compared with last year, but they say life is better now than under Taliban rule, a U.S.-funded survey released today found.

About 46% of more than 6,200 adults surveyed countrywide feel security is the biggest problem afflicting the country, while 29% think it is unemployment, according to the survey, which was conducted by the Asia Foundation and paid for by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"In the 2006 survey, it was unemployment first, followed by security and corruption, and this time around it is security first followed by unemployment and poor economy. This further underlines the deterioration in security in the eyes of the common Afghans," the survey said.

Despite the rise in violence, about four in 10 of those surveyed said they feel the country is headed in the right direction. That's roughly the same percentage as in the 2006 survey. Half of those surveyed said they were more prosperous today than during Taliban rule in the late 1990s.

WAVE OF VIOLENCE

Afghanistan is experiencing its worst bout of violence since the Taliban were removed from power in a U.S.-led invasion in 2001. More than 5,200 people have died in insurgency-related violence so far this year, according to an Associated Press count.

"Insecurity is the main reason for the people to believe that the country is headed in the wrong direction," the survey said.

While lack of security was the top-ranked national issue, those surveyed identified a lack of electricity and water, and unemployment as the main problems on a local level, the survey found.

Some 6,263 people 18 and older were interviewed in June. The margin of error was 2.4 percentage points, the foundation said. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Hillier visits Canadian troops on return trip to Afghanistan

SOURCETAG 0710230382

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A8

ILLUSTRATION: 2 photos 1. photo by Reuters FATAL STRIKE: Afghan police officers squat at a Canadian base where the Taliban fired a rocket and killed an Afghan truck driver, about 35 kilometres west of Kandahar yesterday. 2. photo of RICK HILLIER

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN

WORD COUNT: 180

Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield yesterday on a flight with other soldiers. He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons. The military says he plans to speak to reporters during his visit.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the extremist Taliban movement that has put up a violent insurgency against Afghan authorities and NATO forces supporting the Kabul government.

During his stay, Hillier is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter landmines and improvised explosive devices — weapons that pose a key threat to the soldiers and their armoured vehicles.

Hillier has been to Afghanistan several times before.

In May, he brought the Stanley Cup and a contingent of former National Hockey League players to boost morale among the troops in the war-torn country.

Two months earlier, Hillier was in Afghanistan to visit the troops and look for better safeguards for detainees whom they hand over to Afghan authorities.

And last December, Hillier brought along comedian Rick Mercer to spend Christmas with the troops in Afghanistan. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Tories survive half-hearted Grit challenge

SOURCETAG 0710230353

PUBLICATION: The London Free Press

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A1

2 photos 1. photo by Tom Hanson, CP EASY VICTORY: Stephen Harper's Conservatives won a confidence vote 203–89. 2. photo by Fred Chartrand, CP CAUCUS
ILLUSTRATION: SUPPORT: Liberal Leader Stephane Dion receives a standing ovation from members of his caucus in the House of Commons on Parliament Hill in Ottawa yesterday during a non-confidence vote against the Harper Conservative government's throne speech.

BYLINE: JOAN BRYDEN, CP

DATELINE: OTTAWA

WORD COUNT: 385

Stephen Harper's minority government has easily survived the first confidence test on its throne speech.

NDP and Bloc Quebecois MPs joined with the Conservatives yesterday to handily defeat a Liberal amendment to the speech by a vote of 203–89.

Had it passed, the amendment would have amounted to a vote of non-confidence in Harper's plan for the country and the government would have fallen, triggering an election.

However, the Liberals had no desire to spark an election in the wake of three devastating byelection losses in Quebec.

Leader Stephane Dion crafted the amendment in such a way that neither the Bloc nor the NDP would support it.

He also has ensured the government will survive the next confidence test — Liberals will abstain tomorrow when the main throne speech motion is put to a vote.

Dion's amendment called on the government to admit that the failure to reach the Kyoto protocol targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions was a result of the Tories' decision to kill the previous Liberal government's "innovative" green plan, of which Dion was the architect.

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The amendment also called on the government to announce that Canada's combat mission in Afghanistan will end in February 2009. That position is at odds with the NDP's insistence that the troops be withdrawn from combat immediately.

Dion had wanted to defeat the throne speech, fearing his reputation as a Kyoto champion would be destroyed if he didn't take a stand against the Tories' assertion the Kyoto targets are unattainable.

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However, he was persuaded to change his mind by Liberal MPs, most of whom argued that the party simply isn't ready to fight an election.

Liberals have been reeling since last month's byelection losses, including an especially humiliating defeat in their longtime Montreal bastion of Outremont.

The losses led to weeks of recriminations and a series of top-level resignations, including Dion's Quebec lieutenant, the party's national director and the executive director of the party's Quebec wing. A number of Quebec Liberals, including one MP, openly expressed doubts about Dion's leadership.

In a bid to exploit what he characterizes as a leadership vacuum in the Liberal party, NDP Leader Jack Layton is trying to portray his party as the real opposition.

Layton will hold an "opposition school" today, flying in NDP staff from across the country to advise MPs on procedural rules and tactics to keep the government on its toes. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Soldiers superstitious Troops unnerved by crosses used to hold up military kits

SOURCETAG 0710230688

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 46

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Bill Graveland, CP Some Canadian troops at Forward Operating Base Wilson, west of Kandahar City, are uncomfortable using these homemade devices, shown yesterday, to hold their equipment. They say they look too much like grave markers.

BYLINE: BILL GRAVELAND, CP

DATELINE: FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 171

At first blush it was a chilling sight: two rows of handmade crosses covered with the gear of Canadian soldiers.

A helmet and flak jacket adorned one of the crosses, while various kinds of military kit, including ammunition and clothing, were on the others. It was reminiscent of the final resting markers granted to many troops during the Second World War.

But here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, about 60 kilometres west of Kandahar City, it is only the sign of military ingenuity.

The crudely constructed crosses were put up to keep helmets, flak jackets and rounds of ammunition out of the thick, heavy dust that blows through this base on a regular basis. They also keep some unwanted visitors out of clothing -- including the gargantuan camel spider, mice and even possibly snakes.

Ingenious or not, it's a little chilling for many of the soldiers stationed at the camp.

"I think that's pretty unlucky because it looks like a graveyard," said Pte. Francis Archambault, 23, of Valcartier, Que.

"That's purely a superstition but you see pictures where sometimes the rifle is pointed down and the helmet is on top. This is too much like that."

Instead of hanging up his gear, he is satisfied with keeping his belongings in a wooden box.

KEYWORDS=WORLD

On the Hill Sunflashes column

SOURCETAG 0710230661
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 15
BYLINE: CP
COLUMN: On the Hill Sunflashes
WORD COUNT: 191

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Still confident Throne speech survives the first House vote test

SOURCETAG 0710230660

PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 15

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Chris Wattie, Reuters Prime Minister Stephen Harper stands to vote against a Liberal amendment to the Speech from the Throne in the House of Commons yesterday. The Conservative minority government easily survived the second of three confidence votes on its policy platform. A defeat on a confidence vote would trigger a federal election campaign.

BYLINE: JOAN BRYDEN, CP

WORD COUNT: 415

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Had it passed, the amendment would have amounted to a vote of non-confidence in Harper's plan for the country, and the government would have fallen, triggering an election.

However, the Liberals had no desire to spark an election, having just emerged from weeks of infighting and recriminations in the wake of three devastating byelection losses in Quebec.

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NOT READY

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Job security wanted

SOURCETAG 0710230659
PUBLICATION: The Edmonton Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 15
ILLUSTRATION: photo of MP DAWN BLACK Protect reservists
BYLINE: KATHLEEN HARRIS, NATIONAL BUREAU
WORD COUNT: 192

An NDP MP wants a federal law to give job security to part-time soldiers who serve in Afghanistan and other global hotspots.

Dawn Black will table a private member's bill today that would prevent reservists from getting pink slips during deployment. Some reserve members of the Canadian Forces have been fired or forced to give up their civilian jobs because they didn't have assurance they could return after serving abroad.

"We're counting more and more on reservists to go and participate in missions that Canada is involved in, so it's just an issue of fairness," she said. "If people are going to leave the country for six, seven or eight months, when they've been training on their own time, they should have the assurance their employment will be there for them when they return."

Right now three provinces — Nova Scotia, Manitoba and Saskatchewan — have laws ensuring job protection for reservists. Black hopes leadership at the federal level will "set the tone" and prompt other provinces to follow suit.

Federal legislation would cover civil servants and employees in federally regulated workplaces such as the air, rail and ship sectors.

Last month Labour Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn said the government wants to protect the jobs of military reservists. KEYWORDS=CANADA

Bush wants \$200 billion for 'bullets, body armour'; Money is to cover 2008's daily military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

IDNUMBER 200710230021
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A11
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Jim Young, Reuters / President Bush gives Medal of Honor to Maureen Murphy. Her son died in Afghanistan. ;
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 481

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks Monday by asking Congress for almost \$200 billion in additional funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

The president said he needs \$196.4 billion to cover day-to-day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fund State Department operations in the war zones.

Bush's request is \$45.9-billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the president's demand that "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

According to the White House budget office, the U.S. has already spent more than \$560 billion on wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack. The latest request would push the total past \$750 billion.

Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Bush, but his demand for additional money comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of the president's recent veto of a major domestic health-care spending bill.

Bush wants \$200 billion for 'bullets, body armour'; Money is to cover 2008's daily military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan

Earlier this month, Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add \$35 billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children.

Bush opposed the bill because he said it would provide coverage for too many middle class children and prompt thousands of Americans to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

"President Bush wants us to rubber stamp another \$200 billion in war funds — all borrowed money, none of it paid for — for next year alone," Reid said. "But when we sent a bipartisan bill to his desk to provide health insurance for the children of working families, the president called it too expensive . . . It's no wonder the American people are frustrated."

"The bill provides for basic needs, like bullets and body armour," Bush said.

"Parts of this war are complicated, but one part is not, and that is America should do what it takes to support our troops and protect our people."

The remainder of the funding request includes money for U.S. diplomatic missions, Iraqi refugees, peacekeeping operations in Sudan and other measures unrelated to the wars.

Tories survive another throne challenge; Opposition Bloc join Conservatives to defeat Liberal amendment

IDNUMBER 200710230015
PUBLICATION: Vancouver Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A6
KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 315

OTTAWA — The opposition Bloc Quebecois and NDP joined the Conservatives on Monday to easily defeat a Liberal amendment to the minority government's throne speech.

The amendment, aimed at forcing the government's hand on such issues as the Kyoto environmental accord and the combat mission in Afghanistan, was killed by a vote of 203 to 89.

The vote marked the second time in less than a week the government of Stephen Harper survived a test of the agenda it set out in the throne speech. A Bloc sub-amendment was defeated Thursday when the Liberals and NDP sided with the government.

The final test comes Wednesday when the Commons votes on a government motion to accept the speech. Liberal leader Stephane Dion, who is battling unrest in his own party, has announced his MPs will abstain in that vote rather than force an election at this time.

All three parties would have to unite to vote "no" for the government to fall.

NDP and Bloc officials said they could not support the Liberal amendment because it blamed the Harper government's decision to kill the former Liberal government's "Project Green" plan for the country's inability to meet the 2012 Kyoto commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Both parties had slammed the Liberal green plan — produced when Dion was environment minister in Paul Martin's government — as inadequate.

Bloc spokesman Frederic LePage said the party also objects to the part of the amendment calling on the federal government to build on the "good work of the previous Liberal government" in affordable housing, literacy and other areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Judy Wasylycia-Leis, chairwoman of the NDP caucus, denounced the partisan language of the amendment.

"We don't make it a habit of supporting Liberal election leaflets," she said. "They basically suggest that everything they did in government as Liberals was the be all and the end all, and everything since then has been a disaster. They forget to acknowledge they are part of the problem," she said.

Gates takes aim at NATO

SOURCETAG 0710230576
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 23
ILLUSTRATION: photo of ROBERT GATES Criticizes NATO
BYLINE: REUTERS
DATELINE: KIEV
WORD COUNT: 180

U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates criticized NATO allies yesterday for failing to send enough troops and equipment to Afghanistan, setting the stage for tense discussions in the alliance later this week.

"I am not satisfied that an alliance whose members have over 2 million soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen cannot find the modest additional resources that have been committed for Afghanistan," Gates told reporters in the Ukraine capital Kiev.

Some 50,000 troops are taking part in the separate NATO and U.S.-led operations in Afghanistan. Only the United States, Britain, the Netherlands and Canada have major presences where the fighting is worst — in the south and east.

Western armies are overstretched by missions in Iraq, Kosovo, Lebanon and elsewhere. Key nations like the Netherlands want to cut troop levels in Afghanistan.

Alliance officials say the NATO force in Afghanistan is some 10% below full strength, without giving details.

The Pentagon chief wants the 26-nation bloc to stump up a further 3,000 trainers for the Afghan security forces — which are not seen as able to lead the fight against Taliban insurgents until 2011 at the earliest — plus more combat troops and vital equipment such as helicopters. KEYWORDS=WORLD

Gen. Hillier flies to Afghanistan

SOURCETAG 0710230575
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: 23
ILLUSTRATION: photo of RICK HILLIER In Afghanistan
BYLINE: CP
DATELINE: KANDAHAR
WORD COUNT: 148

Gen. Rick Hillier, Canada's chief of defence staff, is in Afghanistan again to visit the troops.

Hillier flew into Kandahar Airfield yesterday on a flight with other soldiers.

He was greeted on arrival by the top Canadian commander in Afghanistan, Gen. Guy Laroche.

Hillier's visit was kept a secret until he stepped off the plane for security reasons.

The military says he plans to speak to reporters later on during his visit.

Hillier will be meeting with Canadian soldiers serving in various parts of Kandahar province, the southern stronghold of the extremist Taliban movement that has put up a violent insurgency against Afghan authorities and NATO forces supporting the Kabul government.

During his stay, Hillier is expected to see how new Canadian Forces equipment is being used to counter landmines and improvised explosive devices — weapons that pose a key threat to the soldiers and their armoured vehicles.

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In May, he brought the Stanley Cup and a contingent of former National Hockey League players to boost morale among the troops in the war-torn country.

Two months earlier, Hillier was in Afghanistan to visit the troops and look for better safeguards for detainees whom they hand over to Afghan authorities. KEYWORDS=NATIONAL

Equipment holders row-on-row

SOURCETAG 0710230574

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 22

ILLUSTRATION: photo by Bill Graveland, CP Some Canadian troops at Forward Operating Base Wilson are uncomfortable using these home made devices to hold their equipment, saying they look too much like grave markers.

BYLINE: CP

DATELINE: FORWARD OPERATING BASE WILSON, Afghanistan

WORD COUNT: 159

At first blush it was a chilling sight: two rows of handmade crosses covered with the gear of Canadian soldiers.

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But here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, about 60 km west of Kandahar City, it is only the sign of military ingenuity.

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Ingenious or not, it's a little chilling for many of the soldiers stationed at the camp.

"I think that's pretty unlucky because it looks like a graveyard," said Pte. Francis Archambault, 23, of Valcartier, Que.

"That's purely a superstition but you see pictures where sometimes the rifle is pointed down and the helmet is on top. This is too much like that."

Instead of hanging up his gear, he chooses to keep his belongings in a wooden box.

"If my gear is hanging on a cross it had better have my name engraved on it," he chuckled with a touch of gallows humour. **KEYWORDS=NATIONAL**

Afghans say security lacking

SOURCETAG 0710230573

PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: 22

BYLINE: AP

DATELINE: KABUL

WORD COUNT: 221

Afghans believe the security situation in their country has deteriorated, compared with last year, but they say life is better now than under Taliban rule, a U.S.-funded survey released today found.

About 46% of more than 6,200 adults surveyed countrywide feel security is the biggest problem afflicting the country, while 29% think it is unemployment, according to the survey, which was conducted by the Asia Foundation and paid for by the U.S. Agency for International Development.

"In the 2006 survey, it was unemployment first, followed by security and corruption, and this time around it is security first followed by unemployment and poor economy. This further underlines the deterioration in security in the eyes of the common Afghans," the survey said.

Despite the rise in violence, about four in 10 of those responding said they feel the country is headed in the right direction. That's roughly the same as those who answered the 2006 survey. Half of those surveyed said they were more prosperous today than during Taliban rule in the late 1990s.

Afghanistan is experiencing its worst bout of violence since the Taliban were removed from power in a U.S.-led invasion in 2001. More than 5,200 people -- mostly militants -- have died in insurgency-related violence so far this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from Afghan and Western officials. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

Letters to the Editor Column

SOURCETAG 0710230558
PUBLICATION: The Calgary Sun
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: 14
COLUMN: Letters to the Editor
WORD COUNT: 580

FEEL SORRY FOR DRIVER

I am frustrated with media coverage of the school bus crash last week. None of us enjoy hearing about this sort of thing happening. Nevertheless the media publishes stories about past school bus accidents when children are killed and interviews with parents, school, police are printed. But I feel most sorry for the school bus driver. This could have happened to any of us bus drivers. Please stop and think how badly this driver must feel.

Scott Patterson

(She must feel terrible, but this didn't just "happen" to her. She was driving the bus.)

DON'T PITY THE CRIMINALS

Here we go again with the theme "let's pity the criminal." In the Oct. 22 story "Murder in the first degree," Robert Deer's defence attorney Alain Hepner is "visibly stunned" with the verdict. This lawyer "can just imagine" how his client is feeling at this "emotional" time. I have had it up to here with pitying the bad guy. Deer and his associate planned and killed a man, and I would like to see both these losers gone — out of my planet, forever.

BRAD KLEIN

(If the killer's feeling bad, that's good.)

PROPAGANDA LAPDOG

Licia Corbella's Point of View about how CBC has intentionally turned a blind eye to the truth about Afghanistan for years is right on the money. The CBC is the propaganda lapdog of the federal Liberal Party. I have listened to two sets of news each night for many years. It's always the same thing, everybody else has it wrong and the CBC has it right.

TONY ROEBUCK

(They haven't had it right on Afghanistan.)

HOUSING CRISIS WON'T WAIT

Re: "Bronco's 60-day plan debated — Aldermen say Mayor Bronconnier's proposed recipe for action may be too ambitious," (Oct. 22). Great, let's continue to hurry up and wait. Council must implement at least some

solutions to our city's most pressing issues. Affordable housing needs a solution that will work now. Sadly, council has preferred to take the easy route and delay working on real solutions for years. Homelessness has been a crisis for a long time. There are no easy solutions, but delays by council only add to the problem.

KEITH FAGIN

(It's a priority item.)

SEVER THE SEVERANCES

Congrats to our mayor for yet another term. Now Bronco needs to prove to Calgarians he is a great mayor and get rid of these stupid severance and pension plans that allow a three-year alderman to collect a pension and a large severance. He won't be collecting his for awhile, as this city thinks he is so great. I am sure he will just complain he needs more money, and find new ways to tax us.

TOBIN MCCARTNEY

(It's unlikely we'll find any tax relief at the civic level.)

REFERENDUM VOTES WON'T WORK

Re: John H. MacLean's Oct. 18 letter to the editor suggesting referendum items should be placed on the ballot. This would not be an example of participation in real democracy as too many people are uneducated on the facts. Their votes would be based on emotion, gossip and media biases.

DON EDWARDS

(You don't give the electorate enough credit.)

INTELLIGENTSIA PAVED WAY

The Oct. 17 story on the punk-swarmed murder of Ziggy Pecson made for heartbreaking reading, but was hardly news. The intellectual elite took great delight in sneering the concept of chivalry out of existence in the '60s. This is the natural result. Are these mob mongrels criminals or succinctly-bred and educated paragons of the "it's all good" philosophy? Sure, they're revolting, but can they be blamed? Clearly they can only function at the feral pack level. Seems to me some members of the 20th century intelligentsia ought to take a bow.

G. PLEASH

(Don't blame society. Blame the scumbags.)

Talk Back

IDNUMBER 200710230131
PUBLICATION: Montreal
Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Youth Zone
PAGE: C8
KEYWORDS: 0
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 326

LAST WEEK WE ASKED: What topic, do you think, deserves public debate? A topic definitely worth debating is the current emo style.

Why do some youngsters suddenly have an urge to become all dark and depressing? This style is repulsive. I think that we should discourage it. Being emo just brings down self-esteem and is not appealing in any way.

Steve Labrecque, Secondary 4, Heritage Regional High School

Why don't people ever help others in need? This is usually true, but the story changes when there is something to gain. Why is the United States interested in the affairs of Iraq and Afghanistan when genocide was occurring in Rwanda? It's simple, Rwanda had nothing to offer.

Joseph Butera, Secondary 4, Heritage Regional High School

I think global warming should be a topic for debate. If global warming destroys our planet, we won't have a planet to debate any other topics on.

Emma Deangelis, Grade 9, Lakeside Academy I think animal cruelty should be a topic for debate.

There is a lot of animal cruelty in the world.

Kelly Kisa, Grade 9, Lakeside Academy In my opinion, the war in Iraq should be on the top of everyone's debating list. We need to figure out a plan for it, and start making things better.

Courtney Brown, Grade 9, Lakeside Academy I think a good topic to debate is the issue of abortion. The reason is because lots of teens are having abortions. Some people believe it is wrong because it is like killing a human.

But lots of people think it is right.

Brenda Colantonio, Grade 10, Rosemount High School

It would be interesting to debate the issue of having more gym classes in schools. Students need more gym because we only have gym once a week.

Kids are getting heavier and some kids don't do any exercise outside of school.

Matthew Nelson, Grade 10, Rosemount High School

Parents in Quebec should have the right to send their children to be educated in the language of their choice. This is a very topical debate issue as we are witnessing more and more anglophone students deciding whether or not to pursue their studies in Quebec.

There appears to be a renewed exodus. And for those of us who would like to stay here, the future does not appear bright. Francophones of my age would like to have a bilingual education to be competitive nationally and internationally.

So let's open the debate! Lawrence A. Angel, Grade 10, St.George's High School

Security firms must be discreet

IDNUMBER 200710230065
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial / Op-Ed
PAGE: A20
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 315

An opinion poll of the people of Afghanistan, reported last week, apparently did not ask about private security firms. Perhaps that's just as well, because such firms, while perhaps necessary, are surely not popular.

A report in the Toronto Globe and Mail yesterday pointed out Canada's diplomatic compound in Kabul is protected not by Afghan soldiers or police, nor by Canadian soldiers, but rather by armed patrols of uniformed employees of a British company, Saladin Security. The same company provides security for visiting Canadian VIPs.

With more than 2,000 "indigenous personnel" on the payroll, Saladin is not much smaller than the Canadian force of 2,500 soldiers in Afghanistan.

Saladin is registered and operates legally in Afghanistan, and there are no reports of improper activities on the part of Saladin employees. But private security firms have come to have an unsavoury reputation in Afghanistan, as in Iraq.

The Globe reported two other such firms have been forced to cease operations in Afghanistan for weapons violations; 10 more firms might face the same fate for various reasons. Guards working for Blackwater Security in Iraq killed 17 civilians last month in one incident. That company now faces eviction from Iraq.

It might be that a reputable security firm is the best way for Canadian diplomats to be protected in Afghanistan. Foreign troops defending foreign compounds would generate some unhappy images of colonial extra-territoriality. Afghan police, as has been widely reported, are not yet uniformly reliable. Soldiers, Canadian or Afghan, might be more needed in operational areas than in the capital.

So far, Saladin seems to have served Canadians – and Afghans – well. But prudence in the use of private security firms will remain important.

The survey last week suggested Canadians and their NATO allies are genuinely welcomed by a majority of Afghans. Making sure security contractors are discreetly respectful of local law will be an important part of improving popular support even more.

Turkish troops wait – for now

IDNUMBER 200710230064
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial / Op-Ed
PAGE: A20
KEYWORDS: ETHNIC GROUPS; POLITICAL PRISONERS; FOREIGN RELATIONS;TERRORISM; WAR
SOURCE: The Gazette
WORD COUNT: 448

The government of Turkey is demonstrating admirable restraint in the face of bloody provocations from a Kurdish guerrilla group. The government of Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said yesterday it will make certain that diplomatic means are exhausted before it turns to force against the PKK, an outlawed Kurdish group that operates with a certain impunity across the rugged borderlands between Turkey's southeast and the quasi-autonomous Kurdish region of Iraq.

Just as the Taliban uses safe havens in Pakistan's tribal territories as a base for guerrilla and terrorist operations into Afghanistan, so the PKK has launched strikes from Kurdish Iraq into adjacent areas of Turkey where the state and fate of the ethnic Kurdish population is an issue.

At least 40 Turkish soldiers have been killed by the PKK in the last month, and eight more have been taken prisoner. Who can be surprised that Turkey's formidable army is straining at the leash to retaliate?

Washington, meanwhile, seems to expect the Turks to grin and bear it. The State Department has said repeatedly it would not be in Turkey's interest to respond militarily across the border. This might be analysis and it might be a threat, but in the Middle East neither sort of message from the United States is worth very much these days. The U.S. also is calling on the Iraqi government – that paragon of effective statecraft – to get the PKK under control.

Still, the reality is that it truly would not do Turkey much good to let the generals scratch where it itches. The border region is forbiddingly mountainous, good country for irregular warfare. If the Turks end up killing villagers, PKK recruiting will increase.

The Turks might, however, be unrealistic in expecting the Americans to stop the PKK from using the Kurdish area of Iraq; U.S. forces, for all their sophistication, have not exactly shut down guerrilla and terrorist operations elsewhere in Iraq, where U.S. forces are much more numerous on the ground.

That leaves the Kurdish population of the region as the key player. Do they really want their homeland, so far the closest Iraq has come to a success story, to be a battleground? Yes, Kurds in Turkey have a hard time. But do Kurdish civilians on the Iraqi side of the border imagine their cousins will fare better if the Turks resort to arms?

After all they have seen in Iraq and in Afghanistan, it is amazing that many Turks still believe conventional forces can smother an insurgency. The solution to this problem, as with so many counter-insurgency problems, must begin with the emotions and the political will of the affected area's whole population.

Security was inadequate, Bhutto says; Pakistan now suspects 2 suicide bombers

IDNUMBER 200710230052
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A16
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: ATHAR HUSSAIN, REUTERS / Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto (centre) prays at the grave of Mohammad Ali Jinnah, founder of Pakistan. ;
KEYWORDS: TERRORISM; FOREIGN RELATIONS; TERRITORIAL ISSUES; CRIME; PAKISTAN
DATELINE: KARACHI, Pakistan
BYLINE: SIMON CAMERON-MOORE
SOURCE: Reuters; AFP contributed to this report
WORD COUNT: 284

Benazir Bhutto said yesterday Pakistan's government has not provided adequate security to protect her after an assassination attempt that killed 139 of her supporters and police escort.

The government suspects Islamist militants were behind Thursday's attack on the former prime minister, who returned from eight years of self-imposed exile on Oct. 18.

But Bhutto said senior members of the Pakistani establishment were conspiring against her, too. She said she had no reason to believe President Pervez Musharraf, who came to power in a 1999 coup, was involved.

Bhutto said she had asked Musharraf and his top advisers to assign police officials of her choice for protection, having been forewarned to expect attempts on her life.

Pakistani authorities suspect two suicide bombers were involved in a bloody attack on Bhutto's homecoming convoy, officials said yesterday.

Officials had said only one of the two blasts was carried out by a suicide attacker, while the other was caused by a grenade hurled by an unknown assailant.

Bhutto condemned a government-proposed ban on large rallies in the run-up to January's general elections.

She called instead for the election commission to consult with police in areas where rallies were taking place and make decisions on a case-by-case basis.

The United States and Britain have quietly encouraged Bhutto and Musharraf to forge an alliance after national elections due by January, analysts say.

Both are regarded as progressives who are friendly to the West and who can together fight Al-Qa'ida-linked militants seeking to destabilize the nuclear-armed country, and help NATO forces battling the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan.

Musharraf dropped corruption charges this month against Bhutto, the first female leader of an Islamic nation, clearing the way for her return home.

The amnesty was supposed to be a prelude to a power-sharing pact between the pair in the hope Bhutto's popularity could shore up Musharraf's grip on power ahead of the elections.

The amnesty and Musharraf's victory in this month's presidential election are being challenged in the Supreme Court.

Bush asks for more war cash; \$200 billion.

Democrats cranky after child health–care bill veto

IDNUMBER 200710230042
PUBLICATION: Montreal Gazette
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A15
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: SHELDON ALBERTS
SOURCE: CanWest Washington Correspondent
WORD COUNT: 457

President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks yesterday by asking Congress for almost \$200 billion in additional funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three–quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

The president said he needs \$196.4 billion to cover day–to–day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan and to fund U.S. State Department operations in the war zones.

Bush's request is \$45.9 billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Bush announced the United States intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid of Nevada, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the president's demand "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

According to the White House budget office, the United States has already spent more than \$560 billion on the wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The latest request would push the total past \$750 billion.

Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Bush, but his demand for additional war money comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of the president's recent veto of a major domestic health–care spending bill.

This month, Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add \$35 billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children.

Bush opposed the bill because he said it would provide coverage for too many middle-class children and prompt thousands of U.S. residents to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

The president's "emergency supplemental" request includes \$184 billion specifically for the Pentagon, including \$11 billion to deliver new armoured vehicles designed to better withstand roadside bombs, one of the leading killers of U.S. troops in both Afghanistan and Iraq.

"Parts of this war are complicated, but one part is not, and that is America should do what it takes to support our troops and protect our people."

The remainder of the funding request includes money for U.S. diplomatic missions, Iraqi refugees, peacekeeping operations in Sudan and other measures unrelated to the wars.

Bush asks for extra \$200B for Iraq, Afghan wars; President warns Congress against funding delays

IDNUMBER 200710230023
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A5
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: George W. Bush;
KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 288

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If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

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health-care spending bill.

Tories easily survive second test of agenda; Bloc, NDP join government to halt Liberals

IDNUMBER 200710230015

PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald

DATE: 2007.10.23

EDITION: Final

SECTION: News

PAGE: A4

ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / Prime Minister Stephen Harper stands to vote against a Liberal amendment to the speech from the throne, in the House of Commons on Monday. ; Photo: Stephane Dion ;

KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA

DATELINE: OTTAWA

SOURCE: CanWest News Service

WORD COUNT: 264

The opposition Bloc Quebecois and NDP joined the Conservatives on Monday to easily defeat a Liberal amendment to the minority government's throne speech.

The amendment, aimed at forcing the government's hand on such issues as the Kyoto environmental accord and the combat mission in Afghanistan, was killed by a vote of 203 to 89.

The vote marked the second time in less than a week the government of Stephen Harper survived a test of the agenda it set out in the throne speech. A Bloc sub-amendment was defeated Thursday when the Liberals and NDP sided with the government.

The final test comes Wednesday, when the Commons votes on a government motion to accept the speech.

The government is not, however, in any danger of being defeated. Liberal Leader Stephane Dion, who is battling unrest in his own party, has announced his MPs will abstain in that vote rather than force an election at this time.

All three parties would have to unite to vote 'no' for the government to fall.

NDP and Bloc officials said they could not support the Liberal amendment because it blamed the Harper government's decision to kill the former Liberal government's "Project Green" plan for the country's inability to meet the 2012 Kyoto commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Both parties had slammed the Liberal green plan — produced when Dion was environment minister in Paul Martin's government — as inadequate.

Bloc spokesman Frederic LePage said the party also objects to the part of the amendment calling on the federal government to build on the "good work of the previous Liberal government" in affordable housing, literacy and other areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Judy Wasylycia-Leis, chairwoman of the NDP caucus, denounced the partisan language of the amendment.

IDNUMBER 200710230008
PUBLICATION: Calgary Herald
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: A2
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: (See hard copy for description).; Photo: Claire Young ;
KEYWORDS: 0
SOURCE: Calgary Herald
WORD COUNT: 132

Battle Zone

– Dispatches From Afghanistan: Herald reporter Kelly Cryderman is on her way to Kandahar. Read her daily blogs from on the ground.

Flames Bites

– Sports: Heraldhockey.com features a gallery of photo highlights from last night's contest against San Jose, plus video of post-game interviews with coaching staff.

Summit Pics

– Photo Galleries: Some of the best images from the Banff Mountain Photography competition.

Hey Readers

– The Latest From You: Our new Reader Reports feature allows you to submit news tips, photos and videos to editors at the Herald. Help keep Calgarians up to date on what's happening in their city.

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– Daily News Videos: We have the top news videos from Global Calgary featured on the Herald's home page.

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Bush requests \$45.9 billion to ramp up 'war on terror'

IDNUMBER 200710230026
PUBLICATION: The Hamilton Spectator
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Canada/World
PAGE: A7
DATELINE: Washington
SOURCE: Hamilton Spectator wire services
COPYRIGHT: © 2007 Torstar Corporation
WORD COUNT: 378

George W. Bush has asked Congress to approve another \$45.9 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, bringing the 2008 tab to almost \$200 billion and making it the most expensive year of military combat in his so-called "war on terror."

Democratic leaders vowed they would not "rubber stamp" the president's request. But, in keeping with their inability to change the course of the war since coming to power in 2006, no one in the Democratic Congressional leadership vowed to reject the request.

The U.S. president made his request the same day he and administration officials moved quickly to try to tamp down a burgeoning crisis on the Iraq-Turkey border.

Bush expressed his "deep concern" about Kurdish rebel attacks against Turkey launched from Iraq soil and told Turkish President Abdullah Gul the U.S. would continue to urge the Iraqis to take action against the rebels, the White House said.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan faces increasing pressure at home to retaliate after eight Turkish soldiers went missing and at least 17 soldiers were killed in clashes near the Iraqi border over the weekend.

In announcing his supplemental budget request, Bush said American and NATO troops were making gains against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in Afghanistan.

In Iraq, he said the number of civilians murdered by terrorists and death squads is "down sharply," and American deaths in Iraq last month were at their lowest level since July 2006.

In a related development, Osama bin Laden released another audio tape yesterday, calling for Iraqi insurgents to unite and avoid divisive "extremism."

The tape appeared to be in response to moves by some Sunni Arab tribes in Iraq that have joined U.S. troops in fighting al-Qaeda members, as well as other Sunni insurgent groups that, while still attacking Americans, have formed coalitions opposed to al-Qaeda. Its Iraqi branch has carried out some of the deadliest suicide bombings against civilians.

It was the third message from bin Laden since September, when a video marking the anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States ended an absence of more than a year from the al-Qaeda leader.

IntelCenter, a U.S. counterterrorism group that monitors militant messaging traffic, said more tapes from bin Laden might be coming. It noted that he released multiple messages in 2006 after a similar long period without appearances throughout 2005.

RELATED STORY: A11

Bush demands \$196B for war

IDNUMBER 200710230096
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: C3
ILLUSTRATION: Photo: Alex Wong. Bloomberg News / BATTLE CRY: President George W. Bush, flanked by members of military support organizations, makes a statement on the Iraq War Monday in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Bush sent Congress a revised US\$196.4-billion spending request for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. ;
DATELINE: WASHINGTON
BYLINE: Sheldon Alberts
SOURCE: CanWest News Service
WORD COUNT: 282

WASHINGTON – President George W. Bush set off a new round of political fireworks Monday by asking Congress for US\$196.4 billion in additional funds for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If approved, the funds would push the overall cost for the wars beyond three-quarters of a trillion dollars.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Bush warned lawmakers against any delays in approving the funding.

"I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops.

"Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," Bush said at a White House ceremony, where he was flanked by war veterans and family members of soldiers killed in battle.

Bush's request is \$45.9 billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago.

It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars.

Only a few weeks ago, Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw an estimated 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the president's demand that "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

According to the White House budget office, the U.S. has already spent more than \$560 billion on wars since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Bush, but his demand for additional war money comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of the president's recent veto of a major domestic health-care spending bill.

Earlier this month, Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add \$35 billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children.

Bush opposed the bill because he said it would provide coverage for too many middle class children and prompt thousands of Americans to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

Man who planned to behead PM denied bail

IDNUMBER 200710230088
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: C1 / FRONT
COLUMN: National Briefs
ILLUSTRATION: Graphic: Steven Chand;
DATELINE: OTTAWA
SOURCE: Star News Services
WORD COUNT: 151

OTTAWA – One of 18 terror suspects arrested last year in an alleged plot to blow up public buildings and behead Canada's prime minister was denied bail Monday, prosecutors said.

Steven Chand, one of the 18 Muslim men and boys caught in a massive police sting operation in June 2006, "will remain in jail," Dan Brien, spokesman for the Public Prosecution Service of Canada, told AFP.

Two of his co–accused have already been released under strict bail conditions pending trial, and charges against four other teen suspects were suspended.

In September, federal prosecutors filed indictments against the remaining 14 men.

The suspects, charged under Canada's anti–terrorism laws, are accused of hatching a plan to storm parliament and take hostages, hoping to force Ottawa to withdraw its 2,300 troops from Afghanistan.

If their demands were not met, the hostage–takers intended to behead their captives, including Prime Minister Stephen Harper, and also planned to bomb several public buildings in Toronto, according to court documents.

Liberal amendment soundly defeated

IDNUMBER 200710230087
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: News
PAGE: C1 / FRONT
ILLUSTRATION: Colour Photo: Chris Wattie, Reuters / APPLAUSE: LiberalLeader Stephane Dion, centre, receives a standing ovation Monday after voting for a Liberal amendment to the throne speech. ;
SOURCE: CanWest News Services
WORD COUNT: 104

The opposition Bloc Quebecois and NDP joined the Conservatives Monday to easily defeat a Liberal amendment to the minority government's throne speech.

The amendment, aimed at forcing the government's hand on such issues as the Kyoto environmental accord and the combat mission in Afghanistan, was killed by a vote of 203 to 89.

The vote marked the second time in less than a week the government of Stephen Harper survived a test of the agenda it set out in the throne speech. A Bloc sub-amendment was defeated Thursday when the Liberals and NDP sided with the government.

The final test comes Wednesday when the Commons votes on a government motion to accept the speech.

Giuliani in danger of out-Bushing Bush

IDNUMBER 200710230031
PUBLICATION: The Windsor Star
DATE: 2007.10.23
EDITION: Final
SECTION: Editorial/Opinion
PAGE: A6
COLUMN: Dan Gardner
BYLINE: Dan Gardner
SOURCE: Ottawa Citizen
WORD COUNT: 853

In August, the cover story of Harper's magazine looked at the presidential candidacy of Rudy Giuliani. Its headline: A Fate Worse Than Bush.

At the time, I thought the editors were remiss in failing to conclude the headline with a question mark. Giuliani may be a disturbed egomaniac with a penchant for cronyism, vendettas and uniforms, and it may be frightening to imagine such a man sitting at the desk in the Oval Office, but even a White House headed by Benito Mussolini would have to struggle mightily to be worse than Bush. Hence the question mark.

It seems I was wrong to doubt Giuliani, however. Recent developments suggest he is easily capable of being a bigger disaster than the man who drowned New Orleans.

From the outset of his campaign for the Republican nomination, Giuliani has been accused of lacking the foreign policy experience needed to take command of a global superpower. This is not entirely fair. As mayor of New York, Giuliani spent considerable time trying to get United Nations diplomats to pay their parking tickets. Nonetheless, there is at least a perception that Giuliani knows little of statecraft and so his choice of foreign policy advisers is a matter of importance.

And thus it is noteworthy that a man who could be the next president of the United States is being tutored on world affairs by the cast of Dr. Strangelove.

Daniel Pipes, Martin Kramer, Nile Gardiner, Peter Berkowitz, Norman Podhoretz: The description ordinarily applied to each of these newly appointed advisers to Rudy Giuliani is "neo-conservative hawk," but that doesn't quite capture the full flavour of what's on offer here. Dick Cheney is a neo-conservative hawk and he would find this bunch a little scary. "Clearly, it is a rather one-sided group of people," Dmitri Simes, a foreign policy expert with the Nixon Center and master of understatement told Newsweek. Giuliani is "out-Bushing Bush."

That comment annoyed Daniel Pipes. He and Giuliani's other advisers have often disagreed with the Bush administration, he wrote. And he's right. They have criticized the Bush administration for being far too soft. Less talking, they say. More bombing.

As the neo-con grandfather and Giuliani's adviser, Norman Podhoretz is expected to set the standard on bellicosity and he does not disappoint. Podhoretz — who is on the record saying he "hopes and prays" Bush bombs Iran — recently released a fascinating book called World War IV: The Long Struggle Against Islamofascism.

The reader may find the title confusing. World War IV? What, did I miss one? The Cold War was the Third World War, Podhoretz helpfully explains. That makes the war against "Islamofascism" the Fourth World War. And since the Fourth World War actually started in the 1970s with PLO terrorism and the Iranian revolution, the Third and Fourth World Wars overlapped for two decades. Not that anyone noticed. Which is odd. You'd think it would be hard to miss one World War, let alone two.

No matter. We are now, as always, engaged in a World War. And just as the state of war never changes, neither does Podhoretz's preferred policy. Bomb stuff. That always works. Bush bombed Afghanistan and that was "a spectacular success," Podhoretz writes. The whole point of the exercise was to get Osama bin Laden and his crew but they scampered off to Pakistan. Still, it was a spectacular success, Podhoretz believes, because, well, it involved lots of bombing and bombing always works.

Podhoretz sees evidence of this axiom in Iraq, which is going swimmingly no matter what anyone says. A dictator was overthrown, a government was created, and elections held, Podhoretz writes.

"By what bizarre calculation did all this add up to failure?" Whatever else one may say about Norman Podhoretz, he's no defeatist.

He's also not one to be distracted by details. "In the realm of Islam," he writes, "the news of 9/11 brought dancing in the streets and screams of jubilation." The realm of Islam stretches across two continents and contains close to 1.5 billion people. Who was doing this dancing and screaming? How many were there? Where? Podhoretz ignores such petty questions and sticks with what really matters, which is seeing the enemy across the length and breadth of "the realm of Islam."

The PLO terrorists of the 1970s were secular. Al-Qaida terrorists are religious zealots. These sorts of distinctions matter, one would think, but apparently not. In Podhoretz's index, there are three entries for Steyn, Mark, but none for Shia or Sunni. The Ayatollahs of Iran, the tribal Taliban, the fascist Saddam, the "Islamic socialist" Qaddafi, the Alawite Assad: In Podhoretz's mind, they're all manifestations of a single Enemy fanatically committed to the destruction of Western civilization.

A few months ago, I wrote that should Giuliani become president, I will buy shares in major weapons manufacturers and replace the delphiniums in my backyard with a bomb shelter. Now that Giuliani, in his wisdom, has sought the counsel of Dr. Strangelove and friends, I fear the delphiniums' time is already up.

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Bush seeking US\$196B for war effort

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WASHINGTON – George W. Bush, the U.S. President, set off a new round of political fireworks yesterday by asking Congress for almost US\$200–billion more for military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

If approved, this would push the overall cost for the wars beyond US\$750–billion.

As Democratic leaders on Capitol Hill balked, Mr. Bush warned against any delays in approving the funding. "I often hear that war critics oppose my decisions, but still support the troops. Well, I'll take them at their word. And this is a chance for them to show it, that they support the troops," he said.

The President said he needs US\$196.4–billion for day–to–day military operations for 2008 in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to fund State Department operations in the war zones.

His request is US\$45.9–billion higher than the White House anticipated when it first asked for the 2008 war funding only a few months ago. It would make 2008 the most expensive year so far for the two wars. Only a few weeks ago, Mr. Bush announced the U.S. intends to withdraw about 30,000 troops from Iraq by next summer.

Harry Reid, the Senate majority leader, said Democrats have no plans to vote on the war funding until after Christmas, despite the President's demand that "Congress should not go home for the holidays while our troops are still waiting for the funds they need."

According to the White House budget office, the United States has spent more than US\$560–billion on wars since the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The latest request would push the total past US\$750–billion. Congress has never rejected a military funding request from Mr. Bush, but his demand comes as Democrats are cranky and combative because of his recent veto of a major domestic health–care spending bill.

This month, Mr. Bush vetoed bipartisan legislation to add US\$35–billion over five years to a health insurance program for underprivileged children, saying the bill would provide coverage for too many middle–class children and prompt thousands of people to drop private insurance so they could get government coverage.

KEYWORDS: WAR; IRAQ; ARMED FORCES; UNITED STATES

Turkey's PM under pressure to invade; 100,000 troops await signal at the Iraq border

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COLUMN: Peter Goodspeed
ILLUSTRATION: Black & White Photo: Anatolian, Necip Capraz, Reuters / A Kurdish village guard patrols yesterday as a military convoy passes in the Turkish province Hakkari, which borders Iraq. ;
BYLINE: Peter Goodspeed
SOURCE: National Post
WORD COUNT: 629

Turkish army trucks and heavy weapons rumbled toward the Iraq border yesterday as pressure to invade northern Iraq became almost irresistible.

With thousands of Turkish protesters demanding revenge for a weekend Kurdish guerrilla ambush that left 12 Turkish soldiers dead and another eight missing, the government promised to exhaust all diplomatic channels, but warned it is ready to resort to force.

"We can no longer tolerate the fact that the United States and the Kurdish regional government in northern Iraq have done nothing against the PKK [Kurdistan Workers' Party] and still want to prevent us from attacking the PKK camps in northern Iraq ourselves," Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the Turkish Prime Minister, said yesterday.

"If this means that relations with the United States will suffer, then that is something we will have to accept. We are prepared to pay the price."

With 100,000 troops poised on the border with Iraq and military leaders pressing for a chance to strike at the PKK, he is rapidly running out of options.

Turkish newspapers are already discussing different scenarios. They range from inserting special forces into Iraq in a bid to snatch some of the PKK's top leaders to an all-out invasion.

The most likely seems to be a combination of a special forces operation and pinpointed air strikes against the PKK. Ideally, Turkey would conduct such an attack with U.S. forces based in Iraq.

Failing that, it might send as many as 20,000 troops five to 10 kilometres inside Iraq to seize control of the border and hunt for its kidnapped soldiers.

A much larger invasion force could be used to carry out a more comprehensive attack, striking deep into Iraq at the PKK's leaders, hideouts and supply routes.

Any military action will have huge political and security implications for the entire Middle East. Turkey is the only genuine Islamic democracy in the region and the only Muslim country in NATO. It is also a key ally in Afghanistan and a crucial link in the supply chain for U.S. troops in Iraq — 70% of U.S. supplies and at least 25% of the gasoline used by U.S. troops come through Turkey.

An attack could also permanently scupper Turkey's faltering attempts to join the European Union.

Last night, Turkish artillery units were shelling rebel positions along the rugged border, while reinforcements were being rushed into place.

A full-scale invasion is unlikely since it would shatter Ankara's relations with the West and hasten the destruction of Iraq.

Still, even a limited incursion could destroy Iraq's floundering government and complete the country's destruction by plunging the relatively peaceful Kurdish region into conflict.

Condoleezza Rice, the U.S. Secretary of State, spoke to Mr. Erdogan by phone yesterday, asking Turkey to delay action "for a few days." But, according to the Hurriyet newspaper, she was told the United States had little time to lose.

"If you are going to take steps on this matter, they need to be taken quickly," Mr. Erdogan was quoted as saying.

At a minimum, Turkey has told the U.S. and Iraqi governments the only way to avoid military action is to expel the PKK, close the group's camps and hand over its leaders.

Jalal Talabani, Iraq's President and a Kurd, dismissed the ultimatum yesterday, saying, "The handing over of PKK leaders to Turkey is a dream that will never be realized."

But later in the day, Massoud Barzani, head of Iraq's Kurdistan regional government, suggested the Kurds might be willing to declare a ceasefire, a suggestion confirmed by the PKK with the caveat that Turkey stay on its side of the border.

But Turkey has rejected all PKK ceasefire offers in the past, and Mr. Erdogan is under intense pressure to strike back.

Yesterday, the main headline in the ultra-nationalist newspaper Yeni Cag read, "There are tanks, cannons, soldiers, but no political will."

Turkey's patience may hold until Mr. Erdogan meets George W. Bush, the U.S. President, on Nov. 5.

Then, if he doesn't get what he wants, he will almost surely give the go-ahead for military action.

"If a neighbouring country is providing a safe haven for terrorism ... we have rights under international law and we will use those rights, and we don't have to get permission from anybody," he said yesterday, using the same argument Mr. Bush used for invading Afghanistan in 2001.

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New Polish leader vows to strengthen EU connection

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WARSAW – Poland's new government vowed yesterday to mend relations with its neighbours and lure expatriates back from elsewhere in the European Union.

With nearly all the votes counted, Civic Platform, the pro-business opposition party led by Donald Tusk, won a projected 209 seats in the 460-seat parliament. It is expected to form a coalition with the Polish Peasants' Party, which has a projected 31 seats.

The ruling conservative Law and Justice Party of Jaroslaw Kaczynski, the Prime Minister, and his twin brother, President Lech Kaczynski, won 166 seats.

Civic Platform's decisive victory drew cheers in Brussels, but some concern in Washington as Mr. Tusk pledged to strengthen ties with the European Union but rethink Warsaw's military engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

He will also review plans to allow part of the controversial U.S. missile defence shield on Polish soil.

Mr. Tusk said the Kaczynskis' single-minded defence of national interests had done more harm than good.

"One gets the impression in Poland today that the Jaroslaw Kaczynski government was not very successful in dealing with the task of securing good relations with Russia and Germany," he said.

He has also promised to cut taxes to boost the Polish economy and persuade the more than one million Poles who left the country in search of jobs to return home.

Expatriates as well as young urban voters turned out in unprecedented numbers to end Law and Justice's two-year grip on power. The turnout reached almost 54%, the highest level since the fall of Communism in 1989.

Civic Platform said the new government would adopt the EU charter of fundamental rights, which Law and Justice had opposed because of its liberal stand on homosexuality.

The man in charge of renegotiating relations with Washington is widely expected to be Radek Sikorski, a 44-year-old British citizen and a former defence minister, who resigned from the government after falling out with Mr. Kaczynski.

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Liberals' Kyoto plug easily defeated

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OTTAWA – The opposition Bloc Quebecois and NDP joined the Conservatives yesterday to easily defeat a Liberal amendment to the minority government's Throne Speech.

The amendment, aimed at forcing the government's hand on such issues as the Kyoto environmental accord and the combat mission in Afghanistan, was killed by a vote of 203 to 89.

The vote marked the second time in less than a week the government of Stephen Harper survived a test of the agenda it set out in the speech. A Bloc sub-amendment was defeated on Thursday when the Liberals and NDP sided with the government.

The final test comes tomorrow when the Commons votes on a motion to accept the speech. The government is not, however, in any danger of being defeated. Liberal leader Stephane Dion, who is battling unrest in his own party, has announced his MPs will abstain in that vote rather than force an election.

All three parties would have to vote no for the government to fall.

NDP and Bloc officials said they could not support the amendment because it blamed the Harper government's decision to kill the former Liberal government's "Project Green" plan for the country's inability to meet the 2012 Kyoto commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Both parties had slammed the Liberal green plan — produced when Mr. Dion was environment minister — as inadequate.

Bloc spokesman Frederic Lepage said the party also objects to the amendment calling on the government to build on the "good work of the previous Liberal government" in affordable housing, literacy and other areas of provincial jurisdiction.

Judy Wasylycia-Leis, chairwoman of the NDP caucus, denounced the partisan language of the amendment.

"We don't make it a habit of supporting Liberal election leaflets," she said. "They basically suggest that everything they did in government as Liberals was the be all and the end all, and everything since then has been a disaster. They forget to acknowledge they are part of the problem."

KEYWORDS: POLITICIANS; POLITICAL PARTIES; GOVERNMENT; CANADA