

OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT WATCH



Foreign News & Perspectives

IN THIS ISSUE

Volume 1 | Issue 6

October | 2011

For over 25 years, the Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO) at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, has conducted open source research on foreign perspectives of defense and security issues, emphasizing those topics that are understudied or unconsidered.

FMSO's Operational Environment Watch provides translated selections and analysis from a diverse range of foreign articles and other media that our analysts believe will give military and security experts an added dimension to their critical thinking about the Operational Environment.

Materials, outside of the original foreign press article, under copyright have not been used. All articles published in the Operational Environment Watch are not provided in full, and were originally published in foreign (non-US) media. For questions or original articles, contact FMSO at usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mbx.fmsoweb@mail.mil. The Operational Environment Watch is archived, and available at <http://fmsoweb.leavenworth.army.mil>.

FMSO has provided some editing, format, and graphics to these articles to conform to organizational standards. Academic conventions, source referencing, and citation style are those of the author.

The views expressed are those of the author and do not represent the official policy or position of the Department of the Army, Department of Defense, or the U.S. government.

TURKEY

- 3 Iran Warns Turkey against NATO Missile Defense Shield and Syria
- 4 The U.S. to Transfer Three Super Cobras to Turkey for use against the PKK
- 5 Turkey Joins Ranks of Countries that can build their Own Warships

MOROCCO, SYRIA, YEMEN

- 7 Soccer Violence in the Western Sahara
- 9 Growing Tensions between Syria and Jordan
- 10 Tensions Continue in Northern Yemen

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

- 11 Kenya Increases Border Security, but Abductions, Presumably by Somali Pirates and al Shabab, Continue
- 12 Yet Another War in Sudan?
- 13 For Western Sahara Offer of Autonomy and Not Sovereignty Fuels Frustration and Possibly Additional Instability
- 15 African Union Flexes its Muscles, Works to Occupy Mogadishu
- 16 In Need of a Hand: Sahelian States Ask for Military Assistance
- 17 (Fr)Enemies?: Chad and Sudan Discuss Cross-Border Cooperation

PHILIPPINES

- 18 Philippines Insurgency: New People's Army
- 19 Attack on Major Mines in Suriago Norte, Caraga, Philippines
- 19 NPA attacks mining firms in Surigao Norte

MEXICO

- 23 Ritualism and Decapitations in Mexico
- 24 Iranian Terrorist Groups Attempting to Work with Mexican Drug Cartels
- 25 Security for Mexican Schools

COLOMBIA

- 27 Cauca's 'Stations of the Cross'
- ### CHINA
- 29 Chinese Analyst Recommends Military Action in the South China Sea
 - 31 Chinese Viewpoint: A Warning about China's Rare Earth Being Used in U.S. Weapons
 - 33 Chinese Espionage and Putin's Visit to China

CENTRAL ASIA

- 34 Central Asian Assessment of Post-NATO Afghanistan
- 35 Indian Interests in Tajikistan
- 36 Western Winds in Kazakhstan

GEORGIA, ALBANIA

- 37 Saakashvili's Anti-Russian Radar
- 39 Albanian Lectures to NATO Defense College

ROMANIA, SERBIA

- 41 Romania's Involvement in the NATO Missile Defense System
- 42 NATO Shield Poses Threat to Serbia

RUSSIA

- 43 Russian Planning against Terrorist and Developed Armed Forces
- 47 Sound Mind, Sound Body
- 48 Russian Military Medical Reforms
- 50 Internal Security Squabbles
- 52 Russian-Lithuanian Relationship

Regional Analyst

Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa

Robert Feldman, Jason Warner

Middle East

Lucas Winter

Turkey

Karen Kaya

China

Ruoxi Du, Cindy Hurst

India, Southeast Asia

Ivan Welch

Mexico, South America

Tony Scheidel, Brenda Fiegel, Geoff Demarest

Central Asia

Matthew Stein

Russia, Eastern Europe

Ray Finch, Tim Thomas, Kevin Thompson

Layout/Graphics

Aaron Perez

Editors

Ray Finch, Harry Orenstein, Thomas Wilhelm

FMSO Contact

usarmy.leavenworth.tradoc.mbx.fmso-web@mail.mil



Features



3 Iran Warns Turkey against NATO Missile Defense Shield and Syria

"İran'dan Türkiye'ye Füze Kalkanı Tehdidi (Iran Condemns Turkey's Decision to Host NATO Missile Shield Radar)" Milliyet (Nationality), 10 October 2011

"Iran is aggravated by Turkey's stance on Syria, which is Iran's only ally in the Arab world. But what infuriates Iran the most is Ankara's recent decision to host NATO's early warning radar missile system in Turkey's southeast."



15 African Union Flexes its Muscles, Works to Occupy Mogadishu

"Kenya: AU Forces Plan to Cover Al-Shabaab Strongholds," The Daily Nation (Nairobi, Kenya), 7 October 2011

If the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is able to keep the momentum up to the point of restoring order to Mogadishu, its work in the country could easily be the greatest accomplishment in the AU's history



18 Philippines Insurgency: New People's Army

The government of the Philippines has faced a multifaceted insurgency for decades. The longest running movements are being conducted by the Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army



25 Security for Mexican Schools

"Government Steps Up Security Around Schools in Southern Mexico," EFE, 7 September 2011

Teachers at some schools allege that drug traffickers are demanding they pay them money and refuse to report for work

中国 视点

31 Chinese Viewpoint: A Warning about China's Rare Earth Being Used in U.S. Weapons

"为美军武器点石成金 别让稀土变稀泥 (Do Not Turn Rare Earth Into Thin Mud, and Let the U.S. Military Turn Stone Into Gold) 26 Aug 2011

Because of the prominent use of rare earth in enhancing military science and technology, we (China) absolutely cannot allow such situation to continue, still less can we allow the exportation of rare earth to be turned into a threat against our own national security



37 Saakashvili's Anti-Russian Radar

"Saakashvili's Anti-Russian Radar. Georgia Is Prepared To Support the United States' Missile Defense System," Nezavisimaya Gazeta 30 Sep 2011

"Mikheil Saakashvili's latest attempt to strengthen by any means the US military presence in Georgia is far from being his first."

WAR

43 Future War

"Krasnaya Zvezda", (Future War)

War against terrorism should be conducted by the terrorists themselves, and the task of our structure is to create such a war and support it

Iran Warns Turkey against NATO Missile Defense Shield and Syria 10 October 2011

Source: “İran’dan Türkiye’ye Füze Kalkanı Tehdidi (Iran Condemns Turkey’s Decision to Host NATO Missile Shield Radar)” Milliyet (Nationality), 10 October 2011. <http://www.milliyet.com.tr/Dunya/SonDakika.aspx?aType=SonDakika&ArticleID=1448993&Date=10.10.2011&Kategori=dunya&b=İrandan%20Türkiyeye%20füze%20kalkanı%20tehdidi>



Iran-Turkey tension by Aaron Perez. Based on Iran Flag, and Flag of Turkey By David Benbennick [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

İran’dan Türkiye’ye Füze Kalkanı Tehdidi (Iran Condemns Turkey’s Decision to Host NATO Missile Shield Radar)

Iran’s religious leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei’s military advisor General Yahya Rahim Safevi threatened Turkey with “adverse consequences” unless it abandons its policies regarding NATO’s missile shield and Syria. The deputy head of the Iranian Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Mesud Jazayeri said, “Turkey must be held accountable for its full support of Israel.”

Speaking to Iran’s Mehr News Agency, General Safevi said that “Turkey must radically reconsider its policies on the NATO missile shield, Syria and on promoting secularism in the Arab world.” General Safevi, who expressed his disapproval of Turkey’s policies regarding Iran and Syria said, “Turkey is acting in line with American interests. Unless Ankara changes course on these policies, it will lose its own public and neighboring Iran, Iraq and Syria will revisit their policies on Turkey.”

General Mesud Jazayeri also called on Turkey to think carefully about the consequences of hosting the early warning radar system as part of the U.S.-led NATO missile defense shield project. Jazayeri said, “Turkey must see that with these moves, it is using all its resources to support the Zionist regime.”

THE IRANIAN ARMY: “TURKEY MUST ACCOUNT FOR ITS FULL SUPPORT OF ISRAEL”

Iranian high-level officials continue to criticize Turkey. Jazayeri reacted to Turkey’s acceptance to host the NATO radar and said, “Turkey should re-think its long-term strategic interests and draw lessons from the ‘bitter historical experiences’ of other countries and rely more on the strength of its Muslim nation as well as the potency of Muslims elsewhere.” He argued that “Turkey should be held accountable for its policy of fully supporting Israel.”

Jazayeri, who said that Turkey should assume a role that would increase security and stability in the region also claimed that, “Turkey should be held accountable for its acceptance to the installation of the U.S.-backed missile shield on its soil and its all-out support to Israel.”

FMSO Commentary: Tensions are rising in relations between Turkey and Iran, who are both vying for influence in the changing Arab world. Iran is concerned about its declining influence in the region in contrast to Turkey’s increasing popularity. The outcome of the competition between the two non-Arab states in the region will influence the future of the Middle East.

Iran is aggravated by Turkey’s stance on Syria, which is Iran’s only ally in the Arab world. What infuriates Iran the most, however, is Ankara’s recent decision to host NATO’s early warning radar missile system in Turkey’s southeast. Tehran sees this plan as a U.S.-led plot to protect Israel against a possible counterattack by Iran, in the event that Israel targets Iran’s nuclear facilities. Turkey says that the radar system is not being planned against any particular country and has expressed its opposition to explicitly identifying Iran as a potential attacker.

Historically, despite ideological differences between Turkey’s secular establishment and Iran’s Islamic Republic, geopolitical realities and economic imperatives have forced the two to work together on a number of issues. Besides general border security, Turkey and Iran’s shared concern to contain Kurdish militant organizations has led to close cooperation between the two countries. In addition, Turkey’s energy needs dictated a \$23 billion natural gas agreement with Iran signed in 1996, and there has been a steady increase in trade volume between the two countries since then. While Turkey does not want to see a nuclear Iran, the perception of Iran as a member of the “Axis of Evil” has not generally prevailed in Turkey. However, recent developments in the region, Turkey’s stance on Syria and its decision to host an early warning radar as part of NATO’s missile defense system have soured relations.

*The attached article is from the mainstream Turkish daily ‘Milliyet’ (Nationality) discusses recent statements by Iranian officials which threaten Turkey with “unspecified and adverse consequences” unless it changes its course on the NATO missile shield and Syria. **End FMSO Commentary (Kaya).***

FMSO Commentary: On September 30, U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone said that the U.S. would transfer three AH-1Ws to the Turkish military to be used in its fight against the outlawed terrorist organization PKK. This announcement came two weeks after Turkey's Foreign Ministry announced that the NATO missile defense shield radar would be installed at a military base in the eastern province of Malatya. Turkish defense analysts interpreted this as a 'reward' from the U.S. to Turkey due to Turkey's decision to host the NATO radar, although some also expressed that this was insufficient, given the threats coming from Iran regarding Turkey's decision to host the NATO missile shield (see previous article).

Earlier Turkish requests to the U.S. to transfer AH-1W Super Cobras were rejected due to U.S. claims that all of its AH-1W Cobras were being used in Afghanistan. As U.S. forces now prepare to withdraw from Afghanistan, three Super Cobras are expected to be given to Turkey from the Afghanistan fleet.

News of the transfer was welcomed in Turkey, where the pending withdrawal of all American troops from Iraq by the end of 2011 is a cause for great concern because of current U.S. help in providing intelligence regarding PKK activities in northern Iraq, where the group is based and where it launches attacks against Turkish targets. (The decision to provide intelligence to Turkey was made during a 5 November 2007 meeting between then-President Bush and Turkish Prime Minister Erdoğan, during which the U.S. agreed to provide intelligence to help Turkish troops locate and attack PKK targets.)

The attached article, published in the mainstream Turkish daily 'Sabah (Morning),' discusses a recent interview with Ambassador Ricciardone in which he answered questions regarding the transfer of the Super Cobras and about Turkey-U.S. relations in general. **End FMSO Commentary (Kaya)**

The U.S. to Transfer Three Super Cobras to Turkey for use against the PKK

30 September 2011

Source: "ABD'den Türkiye'ye Üç Süper Kobra (Three Super Cobras from the U.S. to Turkey)," Sabah (Morning), 30 September 2011. <http://www.sabah.com.tr/Gundem/2011/09/30/abd-den-turkiyeye-3-super-kobra>

AH-1W Super Cobra By Jim Gordon from Biloxi, MS, USA [CC-BY-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons



ABD'den Türkiye'ye Üç Süper Kobra (Three Super Cobras from the U.S. to Turkey)

The U.S. Ambassador to Turkey said that the U.S. is continuing to share intelligence with Turkey. During a live program on TGRT, the U.S. Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone answered questions about recent developments. In response to a question about whether drone predators would be given to Turkey, he said that the details of this were secret and that he would not be able to comment.

Ricciardone claimed that the U.S. is supporting Turkey in its fight against terror in every possible way and said, "We are still providing Turkey with instant intelligence help." Ricciardone also said that within this framework, three super cobras currently used by the U.S. Marine Corps in Afghanistan would be transferred to Turkey.

'NO MEDIATION'

In response to a question on whether the U.S. would mediate between Ankara and Tel Aviv, Ricciardone said that such mediation was not being discussed, but that the U.S. would like to see the diplomatic dialogue between Turkey and Israel continue.

In response to a question on the Arab Spring, Ricciardone said that it was important for everyone but that it came late. Regarding the events in Syria, Ricciardone said that there was no easy fix, and that the U.S. needed to be in constant consultation with Turkey on the issue.

When reminded of Turkey's decision to agree to host missile shield radar on its soil, Ricciardone said that the U.S. was grateful for Turkey's decision, and that this was an extremely important development for NATO and all of its allies.

Ricciardone, who also answered a question on whether the missile shield was being built with Iran in mind, said, "This is not against any country, it is a defense system, so it cannot be considered to be against any country."

Regarding Turkey's European Union (EU) accession process, Ricciardone said that it would make sense for Turkey to join the EU and that the U.S. had many strategic cooperation agreements with both Turkey and the EU. Ricciardone said, "Eventually Turkey and Europe will come together."

Regarding his relations with Prime Minister Erdoğan, Ricciardone said that he had visited with him during a recent visit to the U.S. and added, "We have good, friendly relations."

Turkey Joins Ranks of Countries that can build their Own Warships 27 September 2011

Source: “İlk Türk Savaş Gemisi TCG Heybeliada, Deniz Kuvvetleri Komutanlığı Envanterine Katıldı (The First Turkish Warship TCG Heybeliada Joined the Navy Fleet)” Haber3.com, 27 September 2011. <http://www.haber3.com/ilk-turk-savas-gemisi-tcg-heybeliada.-deniz-kuvvetleri-komutanligi-envanterine-k-1029409h.htm>



The first Turkish-built Warship 'Heybeliada' By Tersane (Own work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0) or GFDL (www.gnu.org/copyleft/fdl.html)], via Wikimedia Commons

İlk Türk Savaş Gemisi TCG Heybeliada, Deniz Kuvvetleri Komutanlığı Envanterine Katıldı (The First Turkish Warship TCG Heybeliada Joined the Navy Fleet)

The first domestically-built warship, the 'TCG Heybeliada' joined the Turkish navy fleet. Prime Minister Erdoğan, who spoke at the unveiling ceremony, claimed that Turkey was now one of the top 10 countries in the world capable of designing and building its own warship, saying that “Everyone should know that the Turkish flag will continue to be the symbol of peace on the seas and oceans. We will continue to realize whatever our national interests require.”

Speaking at the ceremony, Prime Minister Erdoğan expressed hope that the warship, which is capable of performing reconnaissance and surveillance, target detection, recognition and identification, early warning, base and coastal defense, anti-submarine warfare, surface warfare, anti-air warfare, amphibious operations and patrolling, and which can respond to terror attacks, would be successful. “We will continue to work with all our might to ensure Turkey’s bright future and to create new treasures. Everyone should know that the Turkish flag will continue to be the symbol of peace in seas and oceans. Turkey is now one of the top 10 countries in the world that can design and build its own warship. Our economy is moving strongly towards our goals; our foreign policy is making Turkey

FMSO Commentary: As the 16th largest economy in the world and a rising regional power, Turkey is becoming more independent and self-confident. This confidence is reflected in the initiatives it is taking in its defense industry as well. In an effort to strengthen the country’s defense systems, reduce its dependence on foreign countries for warships, and become more self-sufficient and more competitive in the defense industry, Turkey has designed and built its first warship. As such, it has joined the ranks of the few countries in the world, including the U.S., China, Russia, France, the U.K., and Germany, to have this capability. The goal of becoming more self-sufficient in this field is also part of a long-term view to create more opportunities for export and technology transfers.

The warship, a corvette, was built at a local shipyard and joined the Turkish Navy service on September 27. The warship is part of the MILGEM (National Ship) project, which kicked off in 2004. It is designed for antisubmarine warfare. Its capabilities include reconnaissance and surveillance, target detection, recognition and identification, early warning, base and coastal defense, antisubmarine warfare, surface warfare, anti-air warfare, amphibious operations and patrolling. The design concept of the warship is similar to the Freedom class combat ship developed by Lockheed Martin as the first member of the next generation of US Navy warships.

The attached article discusses the excitement and pride expressed in the unveiling ceremony of the country’s first domestically built warship, the ‘TCG Heybeliada.’ End FMSO Commentary (Kaya).

Continued: The First Turkish Warship TCG Heybeliada Joined the Navy Fleet

a pioneer for peace, and now; our defense industry is crossing an important historical threshold. Countries can no longer project their power if they are dependent on foreign sources in their defense. In these times, you cannot be internationally competitive unless you can combine global values with your own riches.”

Claiming that his government has brought new life to the defense industry, Erdoğan said, “You have to perfect your democracy and never compromise your development targets. While doing this, you have to distinguish yourself by pressing ahead with your own defense projects. We asked ourselves, ‘If the most developed countries in the world can produce their own weapons, helicopters, warships, then why shouldn’t Turkey be able to do this?’ and have made important strides in this direction in the last 9 years. We have increased the rate at which the equipment needs of the Turkish Armed Forces are domestically produced to 50%.”

Prime Minister Erdoğan also pointed out that, among the countries that import military weaponry, Turkey has gone from 6th place in 2004 to 14th place in 2010. Meanwhile, in the list of countries who export military equipment, Turkey has moved from 27th place to 21st place. Erdoğan said, “We didn’t produce this just for ourselves, we also increased our exports. Turkey will become the third country in the world to produce drones. We have also completed all the software and design of attack helicopters. Turkey has become an F-16 modernization hub in this process. Hopefully, we will have even more successes.”

Speaking after Erdoğan, President Abdullah Gül said, “Previously we were dependent on foreign sources for these ships; but today, we are proud to say that we have produced these with our own engineers, technicians and workers. The most important point was when we decided on this and said, ‘We will accomplish this.’ These decisions are in line with Turkey’s greatness. A country is only powerful if it has strong domestic power. And the most important element of that is a country’s military.”

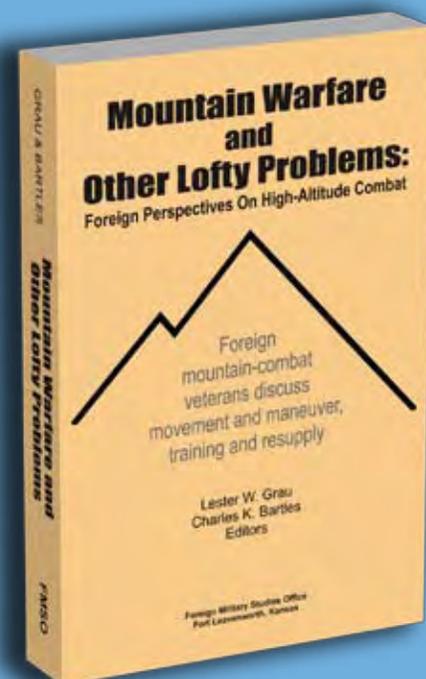
Gül also pointed out the important of cooperation with the private sector and said, “The driving force behind countries that have the best industry, science and technology is their defense industry. In Turkey too, the defense industry will contribute immensely to the development of our economy, industry and technology. War is always the least preferred option. Nobody chooses war. It is the worst case scenario but in order to avoid and prevent war, and force everyone to choose the peaceful option, one must also be prepared for war.”

The United States Army has been involved in a mountain war for a decade. After all this time, **mountain combat remains a stubbornly difficult mission and technology can offer only modest support to the infantry’s mission of closing with the enemy or the logistician’s mission of getting support forward. Training, equipment, weapons, tactics, and logistics all require significant adjustment for mountain combat.** This book covers operations and tactics, artillery, and aviation support, reconnaissance, communications, training, and logistics. It demonstrates that the key to enhancing effectiveness is using the terrain effectively, preparing the soldiers properly, and understanding the environment.

This book is not United States Army doctrine. Rather, it is offered as an alternate view that could help our forces successfully adapt to a most-challenging environment and carry out their mission.

– Lester W. Grau

– Charles K. Bartles



Soccer Violence in the Western Sahara

7 October 2011



Source: “Sahara. Quand Dakhla s’embrase (The Sahara. Dakhla in Flames), Telquel, 7 October 2011. http://www.telquel-online.com/490/actu_moroc1_490.shtml

Map of Western Sahara by CIA World Factbook

Quand Dakhla s’embrase (The Sahara: Dakhla in Flames)

Dakhla lived dark days on September 25 and 26. Violent confrontations resulted in seven deaths, including two policemen. What actually happened?

It all started at the end of a soccer game. Dakhla’s Mouloudia hosted Mohammedia’s Chabab for a match with no consequence other than entertaining the few hundred young people who made the trip to the city’s small stadium. At the end of the game, verbal altercations broke out between supporters of the two teams. A young Sahrawi was even attacked by residents originally from the country’s north. “It could have stopped there,” said an elected official from the region, “but for unknown reasons, the situation quickly escalated.”

The young Sahrawis ran to the city center for reinforcements and in the dozens boarded 4x4s and headed toward the “Wakkala” neighborhood, a new apartment complex inhabited by the former dwellers of the al-Wahda camps, created in the early 1990s by Driss Basri. “The nickname locals give this neighborhood is not insignificant,” a member of a local association recounts. “In Moroccan dialect, this word refers to people who only eat and sleep. It provides a clue about the tensions that exist between the different communities living in Dakhla.” In the early evening, 4x4s filled with turbaned individuals spread terror in the city. Within hours, the city was ablaze. According to eyewitness accounts, “the vehicles did not hesitate to run over pedestrians, resulting in many casualties.”

Trench Warfare

Residents of the neighborhoods of Wakkala and Al Masjid responded by throwing stones and setting up roadblocks around their “zone.” A veritable trench war broke out on Sunday night, with dozens of injured transferred to the hospital, where a young woman also died, crushed by a 4x4. The army entered the town in the middle of the night, though only to calm both sides. The morning of Monday, September 26 was a difficult one in Dakhla. Many shops, banks and schools stayed closed. Members of the Moroccan military crisscrossed the city, their weapons visible in a sign that the commander of the southern zone was taking the situation very seriously. In the early afternoon, a crisis meeting took place in Rabat between

***FMSO Commentary:** The port city of Dakhla, the second largest in the Moroccan-occupied Western Sahara, had a reputation for tranquility in a combative area. Even in November 2010, after bloody clashes between Moroccan security forces and Sahrawi (indigenous Western Saharan) protesters at the Gdeim Izik camp on the outskirts of the territory’s capital Laayoune, Dakhla remained calm. Things changed following violence between the indigenous population and Moroccan settlers in February 2011. When even fiercer clashes broke out last month, many wondered: if Dakhla burns, will the whole Western Sahara burst into flames?*

Two main reasons are given for the clashes in Dakhla: longstanding tensions and rivalry between Moroccan settlers and the indigenous population, and a power struggle among Sahrawi tribal leaders in preparation for potential administrative reorganization. The conflict over Moroccan occupation of the Western Sahara, although dormant for a long time, should not be overlooked. After 35 years Morocco’s vigorous attempts to make the occupation a fait accompli have not succeeded. Morocco is not immune to the major political reconfigurations taking place throughout the Arab World, and the Western Sahara is one of its main strategic preoccupations.

The Western Sahara is the northwest fringe of the ungoverned Sahel, an area that is receiving increased international attention as a potential haven for transnational criminal organizations. Weapons from Libya, at the other end of the Sahel, could begin circulating throughout the region; however, the idea that Polisario fighters (Sahrawi nationalists) were acting as mercenaries for Qaddafi in the early stages of Libya’s civil war should be approached with skepticism.

Moroccan officers stationed in the

Western Sahara are believed to have built extensive financial holdings, not always licit, in the territory. The type of turf wars that could arise from the unification and greater autonomy stipulated by Morocco's regionalization plan for the territory may therefore not be limited to Sahrawi leaders. End FMSO Commentary (Winter)

Continued: The Sahara. Dakhla in Flames

top security officials and following royal instruction the interior minister flew to the region.

In Laayoune, meanwhile, an official meeting to discuss regionalization was interrupted. "This debate is useless because our women and children are being killed in Dakhla. It is shameful. The state should protect us," some chanted in front of elected officials and members of the Advisory Commission on Regionalization. Upon arriving, the minister met with the leaders of the main tribes, listening to comments denouncing "lax enforcement" or blaming "the mismanagement of sensitivities between Sahrawis and northerners." Outside, vehicles were burned and storefronts and bank branches sacked. A school, owned by a local deputy, was torched. The chaos was total.

Power Struggles

On Wednesday, September 28, the city found a semblance of calm. But the toll was heavy. Seven people had been killed over the past 48 hours. Among them, two members of the security forces, "victims of friendly fire" according to several local sources. According to the most recent

reports, the confrontation is taking on yet more worrisome proportions, as residents attempt to set up a camp outside of the city, a move strongly opposed by the authorities. "Barriers have been erected all around Dakhla to prevent a second Gdeim Izik," said a local source. Some residents openly call for the departure of non-Sahrawi settlers from the city. "The situation has been latent for several years. The gap between the two communities is widening," an activist explains.

Something else to take into consideration, according to our interlocutor: the war between various tribes for control of the region. "There is a low-level, underground war going on that is related to the outbreaks of violence in the usually quiet city of Dakhla over the past month," he says. At the center of these passions: the famous project of advanced regionalization by merging the three regions of the Western Sahara to create a single territorial unit. "That would mean that the head of the region will come from a single tribe, which will worry the others, concerned as they are about privileges acquired over the years," said an elected regional official.

Foreign Military Studies Office (FMSO.leavenworth.army.mil)

International Research Collaboration Program

Quality researchers outside of the U.S. government express new ideas that will help define the current and future defense and security environment from understudied and unconsidered perspectives.



Growing Tensions between Syria and Jordan

4 October 2011

Source: توتر بين عمان ودمشق: سورية تنفي تهديد آصف شوكت للمملكة بقصفها بالصواريخ وضجة بعد تصريحات المالح لـ'سي إن إن' حول منطقة عازلة أردنية في درعا

(Tensions between Amman and Damascus: Syria denies that Assef Shawkat threatened rocket attacks on the Kingdom; uproar following comments by Maleh to "CNN" on a Jordanian buffer zone in Daraa), al-Quds al-Arabi, 4 October 2011. <http://www.alquds.co.uk/index.asp?fname=data\2011\10\10-04\04z500.htm>

توتر بين عمان ودمشق: سورية تنفي تهديد آصف شوكت للمملكة بقصفها بالصواريخ وضجة بعد تصريحات المالح لـ'سي إن إن' حول منطقة عازلة أردنية في درعا

(Tensions between Amman and Damascus: Syria denies that Assef Shawkat threatened rocket attacks on the Kingdom; uproar following comments by Maleh to "CNN" on a Jordanian buffer zone in Daraa)

This sequence of events brought an end to the silence of General Bahjat Suleiman, Syria's ambassador in Amman and former head of Syrian security, who felt that Jordan's electronic media had begun mangling his political system and making up stories and tall tales. This was in particular reference to the threats that a Kuwaiti newspaper alleged "King Abdullah II had received directly from Assef Shawkat, the strongman in Bashar's regime." The exchange was neither confirmed nor denied by the Jordanian government.

General Suleiman here found himself facing having to clarify, and on Tuesday he issued a rare, personally signed statement to the press. He said that the allegations made regarding threats to bomb Jordanian cities and a meeting between Bashar al-Assad and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu were entirely devoid of truth.

Coinciding with the Syrian ambassador's declarations were provocative comments made by Syrian opposition figure Haytham al-Maleh, who said that Bashar's regime is in its final weeks and that Jordan will set up a buffer zone in southern Syria and will control it as part of a military campaign to end Bashar's regime. This information was also neither confirmed nor denied by Jordanian officials; however, leaks continue within the Syrian opposition regarding around seventy Syrian military defectors who fled to Jordan since events broke out in Daraa and their being held in special circumstances, also an issue on which official sources in Amman have not commented.

The Jordanian king has ruled out imminent changes in Syria but has repeatedly hinted, critically, at the government's lack of dialogue. Every large and small development in Syria is closely followed in Jordan, both by officials and by the people. Amman allows opponents of the Syrian regime to annoy ambassador Suleiman on a daily basis with their permanent sit-in protests in front of the embassy in the affluent neighborhood of Abdoun in downtown Amman. Most of these leaks and counter-leaks reflect concerns in official relations between Damascus and Amman, with both parties keeping quiet about the strong tensions as they carefully monitor every detail.

FMSO Commentary: As the Syrian stalemate continues, a domestic resolution (even with limited foreign intervention) becomes increasingly complicated. The Syrian military's recent incursions into Lebanon may be a sign from the Syrian regime that it will not go down without dragging in some of its neighbors. Syrian refugees and defecting soldiers have found safe haven in neighboring Jordan and Turkey, an issue that may create tensions if the defectors continue escalating their armed rebellion. The Syrian regime continues to enjoy significant popular support and the risk of civil war grows by the day.

Syria's southern border has been at the heart of the rebellion from the outset, with Daraa (the first town to rebel) located across the border from Jordan. When Syrian authorities cut off mobile phone service there, residents were able to stay in touch by using Jordanian signals. Amman is about 40 miles from there. Jordan, like the Gulf States, has largely avoided major protests through a combination of force, deal-making and economic incentives. As the Gulf States become increasingly vocal against the Syrian regime, Jordan may be put in a difficult position vis-à-vis its large neighbor. The two governments, as the article below indicates, are carefully watching the others' next step as their relations enter a difficult and sensitive period. Rumors, such as the one stating that Assef Shawkat threatened to bomb Jordan, can easily gain traction and have the potential of causing serious damage.

Assef Shawkat, who is married to the president's sister, was long considered Bashar al-Assad's strongman. He was also said to be at odds with the president's younger brother Maher, viewed as the regime's enforcer throughout the protests. **End FMSO Commentary (Winter)**

FMSO Commentary: A struggle for control over important parts of Yemen's northern province of al-Jawf has been going on for several months. Generally speaking, it pits the Huthis and their allies, who are in nominal control of large parts of neighboring Sa'da province, against local allies of the tribal-religious Islah Party, Yemen's largest opposition party. Both groups in theory oppose the government of Ali Abdullah Saleh, but alliances here are unstable and hard to pinpoint; there have, for instance, been reports of government forces joining in the fight against the Huthis.

Al-Jawf is among Yemen's most marginal provinces, which is why it was largely abandoned by government forces not long after protests spread throughout the country. Islah backers and Huthis initially fought for control over the province's abandoned military facilities. The recent fighting, described below, is of a different nature, more indicative of a struggle for authority than for resources.

*The district of Barat al-Inan is largely populated by members of the Dhu Mohammed tribe and is one of al-Jawf's most developed areas, connected by paved road to the capital San'a. It also borders areas of Sa'da province that have been heavily contested by the government and the Huthis since 2002. The region's proximity to Saudi Arabia, combined with the central government's loss of control, makes it worthy of attention. **End FMSO Commentary (Winter)***

Tensions Continue in Northern Yemen

4 October 2011

Source: "صرخة" الحوثيين تفجر الأوضاع في الجوف (Huthi Slogan Ignites Situation in al-Jawf), Mareb Press, 4 October 2011. http://www.marebpress.net/news_details.php?sid=36917&lng=arabic



"صرخة" الحوثيين تفجر الأوضاع في الجوف (Huthi Slogan Ignites Situation in al-Jawf)

Clashes with heavy weapons between the Huthis and tribes allied to the JMP along the Yemen-Saudi Arabia border in Barat al-Inan

Violent clashes broke out between Huthis and tribes allied to the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), in the Wadi Rahum and Dhu Mohammed area, in the district of Barat al-Inan, along the Yemen- Saudi Arabia border in al-Jawf province.

Local sources told "Mareb Press" that violent clashes broke out between Huthis and tribes loyal to the JMP, after a group of Huthis killed a JMP supporter named Fahd bin Naji al-Mihshli during their so-called "week of slogans." The deceased (al-Mihshli) had the previous day asked them not to put slogans on the walls of people's houses, and the following day protested when slogans were pasted on his walls. A fight broke out as he began removing them, and he was attacked and killed. The perpetrators then fled to the house of a Huthi leader named Mubarak al-Faqih.

The sources confirmed that as a result of this attack tribes allied to the JMP surrounded al-Faqih's house, which was protected by a number of Huthis. The tribes shelled the house with bazookas and B-10s and blocked entry from all directions in anticipation of an influx of Huthi followers from outside the region. The sources indicated that the situation is tense in the region. The tribes had surrounded several Huthi vehicles and captured seven Huthi fighters. A number were said to be dead and wounded in the clashes, which broke out in an area adjacent to Najran in Saudi Arabia, on the Saudi-Yemeni border. The clashes may still escalate over the next few days.

Kenya Increases Border Security, but Abductions, Presumably by Somali Pirates and al Shabab, Continue

13 October 2011



Source: Galgalo Bocha, "Kenya Sets Up Bases to Fight Somali Raiders," *The Daily Nation* 9 Oct 2011 <http://www.nation.co.ke/News/Kenya+sets+up+bases+to+fight+Somali+raiders+/-/1056/1252650/-/item/0/-/oympmqz/-/index.html>

Map of Kenya Coast by Aaron Perez (Own Work) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)] map data from ESRI and Gdam.org

Kenya Sets Up Bases to Fight Somali Raiders

Kenya has established six patrol bases near border with Somalia following the recent kidnapping of two tourists in Lamu. The bases at Manda, Shella, Kiwayu and Kipuni will comprise personnel from different security agencies in what analysts see as an attempt to assure of the government's ability to contain Somali raids at the Coast.

Lamu West district commissioner Stephen Ikua said on Sunday Kenya was stepping up sea patrols "to guard our border territories and visitors and Kenyans should feel secure whenever they are around". Reports at the weekend said a speedboat suspected to be transporting pirates towards the Kenyan territory was bombed by foreign naval forces patrolling the Gulf of Aden.

Abandoned firearms

Local security sources said the attack was carried out near Ras Kamboni. "The pirates were in shallow waters when they were spotted by foreign naval forces on patrol in the area. They sped off to the mainland and abandoned their firearms and the boat in waters," said the Kenyan security officer.

The government last week set up a central command to coordinate security operations on the Kenya-Somalia border. The control centre will link police and military operations in securing the border on land, sea and air. A senior security officer told the Nation the idea was mooted after it was realized that no single agency could detect and repel foreigners on its own.

The Lamu tourist abductions have adversely affected tourism in Lamu, with hoteliers reporting massive cancellations. Britain and France have advised their citizens against travelling to the island after suspected Somali bandits abducted Frenchwoman Marie Dedieu, 66.

Ms Dideu was kidnapped from her cottage in Manda on October 1, three weeks after another gang raided Kiwayu Village and killed Mr David Tebutt before abducting his wife, Judith.

Yet to demand ransom

The Kiwayu raid led to the closure of the exclusive resort, rendering dozens of employees jobless. It is believed Ms Tebutt in being held in Somalia, though her captors are yet to demand any ransom.

A source at France's defense ministry told the Daily Telegraph of Britain that its forces based in Djibouti were "involved" in the search for Ms Dedieu.

FMSO Commentary: Kenya's tourism sector, a key component of the economy, suffered another blow when a British tourist and a French resident were kidnapped by Somalis in two separate incidents. Tourism was already suffering following the outbreak of violence that occurred with the 2007 presidential election. Unrelenting street crime in several cities has further damaged the country's international image. With their main source of foreign exchange falling deeper in jeopardy, Kenyan officials have acted to increase security in areas frequented by tourists.

The Kenyan government, recognizing the need to combat Somali incursions on both land and sea, established six patrol bases. In addition, naval activity was ramped up. Unfortunately, despite these added security measures, more foreigners were abducted. Two Spanish women working for Médecins Sans Frontières were kidnapped on 13 October from Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp and home to over 400,000 Somalis who had fled the violence in their native country. Initial reports suggest al Shabab is behind the kidnappings of these Spanish aid workers.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear, at least publicly, who holds the British and French hostages. Speculation by Kenyan authorities is that Judith Tebutt, from Britain, who was abducted 11 September after kidnappers killed her husband, is being held by al Shabab. Kiwayu Safari Village Resort in northern Kenya, where the couple was staying, is less than 30 miles from the Somali border and less than 80 miles from Kismayo, an al Shabab stronghold. Marie Dedieu, a wheelchair bound Frenchwoman, was kidnapped 1 October from Manda Island, south of where Tebutt was abducted but still in the northern part of Kenya's coastline. Pirates are believed to be behind her capture; however, since pirates and criminal gangs are known to sometimes sell their captives to al Shabab, she might already be in al Shabab's hands.

Kenya's military, widely respected as one of the most professional in Africa, is presented with the challenge to protect against both incursions across its long land border with Somalia and pirates along its long coastline. Though a coordinated approach utilizing both military and police forces was implemented following the abduction of the British and French women, it appears that, with the subsequent kidnapping of the women from Médecins Sans Frontières, additional measures, probably to include significantly more personnel, will be needed. Meanwhile, as four Europeans taken from Kenyan soil are being held in Somalia, Kenya's economy is receiving a tremendous hit as tourism has dropped off sharply. It remains uncertain whether Kenya, even with an increased security presence in the Somali border area, can prevent additional abductions. **End FMSO Commentary (Feldman)**

FMSO Commentary: *The ink has barely dried on the recent accord dividing Sudan into Sudan and South Sudan, ending, or at least attempting to end, years of fighting between the mostly Muslim north, which at least for now will continue to be called Sudan, and the Christian and animist south, which formed Africa's newest nation, South Sudan. Omar Al-Beshir, Sudan's President, now faces the possibility of yet another civil war, one which threatens to further fracture the country. Beshir's response in the past to threats of secession and/or greater autonomy of various regions has often been heavy-handed. The genocide in Darfur is a testament to how far he will go to maintain his rule and that of his ethnic group.*

Perhaps anti-Beshir groups are buoyed by the success of South Sudan's seceding. However, in the past many of the groups in Sudan (the northern half of Sudan before the split) opposing him have pursued their own agendas, splintering their efforts and thus incapable of mounting a successful opposition to his rule. That appears to be changing. Anti-Beshir groups in Darfur, South Kordofan (which is north of the Sudan-South Sudan border but is home to many who would prefer to be with South Sudan) and the Blue Nile (also just north of the international border) are close to forming an alliance. All three areas have been the scene of clashes with Beshir's forces, which have created untold numbers of refugees.

*Though at least for the moment Beshir appears secure, should the alliance form and create a unified front, diplomatically and/or militarily, his position could become more precarious. While many would rejoice at his overthrow, there is the possibility his departure could create a vacuum, leading to even more bloodshed than is already occurring and providing an opportunity for al Qaeda to gain an even greater foothold in the region. Their presence, along with China, oil corporations, multiple armed groups with multiple agendas, and a newly found nation on the border - South Sudan - that is struggling for stability, almost ensures Sudan will continue to be a place of great changes, and great interest to the United States, in the years ahead. **End FMSO Commentary (Feldman)***

Yet Another War in Sudan?

8 October 2011

Source: Daniel Finnan, "Beshir risks new Sudan civil war, says SPLM-N chief," RFI Africa, 8 Oct 2011,

<http://www.english.rfi.fr/africa/20111005-beshir-risks-new-sudan-civil-war-says-splm-n-chief>

Omar Al-Beshir By Prince jasim ali (Own work) [CC0 (creativecommons.org/publicdomain/zero/1.0/deed.en)], via Wikimedia Commons



Beshir risks new Sudan civil war, says SPLM-N chief

Sudanese President Omar Al-Beshir could start a new civil war in Sudan, says Yasser Arman, the secretary general of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement's northern branch (SPLM-N). In an exclusive interview he told RFI that anti-Beshir groups in Darfur, South Kordofan and Blue Nile are close to forming an alliance.

"It's high-time for Beshir to be removed. Beshir is worse than [former Egyptian president] Hosni Mubarak, worse than [deposed Libyan leader Moamer] Kadhafi. At least Hosni Mubarak did not divide Egypt and Beshir if he continues, he's going to, again, divide the present north Sudan," says Arman.

Arman was in Paris on Tuesday discussing the unrest in South Kordofan and Blue Nile with French diplomats. After an earlier visit to London, he says his group is lobbying the United Nations Security Council for a no-fly zone stretching from Darfur, across South Kordofan, to Blue Nile in the east.

"We are expecting from them, first of all, to give the most attention to the humanitarian situation. There are more than 300,000 displaced civilians," Arman says. It is also necessary to set up an independent committee to investigate human rights violations, he adds, including mass graves and war crimes.

The unrest in South Kordofan began in June shortly before southern independence, and spread to Blue Nile in early September. SPLM-N MPs said in a statement last month that in South Kordofan alone more than 2,000 people have been killed

Arman believes an agreement unifying all those fighting Beshir is close. When asked about the relationship between the SPLM-N and groups in Darfur he claims they are in the process of finalising an alliance between them and what he calls the "Sudanese resistance movement in Darfur".

"We've already initiated and started this process and we are going to finish by having a joint political and military structure, and a UN military command. We will reach out also to the other Sudanese political forces," he adds.

This so-called "umbrella" movement would have the momentum to remove Beshir, he says. It would signal an "era of democracy" and stop them from having to defend their people against what the SPLM-N chief dubs "atrocities".

Arman denies that aligning the SPLM-N with Darfuri groups could plunge Sudan and South Sudan into war, asserting it has nothing to do with the South. "We are part of the historical leadership of the SPLM and membership of the SPLM, but now there are new realities," he says.

For Western Sahara Offer of Autonomy and Not Sovereignty Fuels Frustration and Possibly Additional Instability

11 October 2011

Source: South Africa: Moroccan proposal on Western Sahara is in fact “perpetuating a re-colonization of the territory,” Sahara Press Service, 11 Oct 2011

<http://www.spsrasd.info/en/content/south-africa-moroccan-proposal-western-sahara-fact-%E2%80%9Cperpetuating-re-colonization-territory%E2%80%9D>



South Africa flag By Flag design – Frederick Brownell, image by Wikimedia Commons users [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

South Africa: Moroccan proposal on Western Sahara is in fact “perpetuating a re-colonization of the territory”

United Nations (New York), Oct 11, 2011 (SPS) - The Republic of South Africa has confirmed that the imposition of the Moroccan autonomy proposal on Western Sahara, which some in the Security Council insists on labelling as ‘serious and credible’ is in fact “perpetuating a re-colonization of the territory.” Addressing the UN Fourth Committee on Decolonization, Deputy Permanent Representative of South Africa to the UN, Mr. Doctor Mashabane, urged that those who defend the Moroccan proposal “do so in complete disregard of the fact that there are two proposals for consideration, both presented by the two parties to the negotiation Morocco and the Frente Polisario.”

The South African official noted that the question of Western Sahara, whilst this very legality is on the side of the Sahrawi peoples in their quest for self-determination, the UN remains paralyzed on this matter, adding that the UN, as custodian of the international law, has a clear obligation to ensure at all times that strict compliance to this law is maintained. In this regard, he recalled that both the International Court of Justice in October 1975 and the Legal Department of the United Nations in January 2002 presented opinions on

FMSO Commentary: There is an interesting historical note with regards to the disputed territory of Western Sahara and the Arab Spring. Though many look at the move to overthrow Tunisia’s President in December 2010 as the Arab Spring’s start, some look at Moroccan authorities using teargas and water cannons a month earlier to disperse more than 10,000 people near the Western Sahara town of Laayoune, who were protesting poor economic and social conditions, as the movement’s genesis. However, with no long term rulers falling - as they later would in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya - the protest at Laayoune received scant attention in the West. Despite many not recognizing its possible role in instigating the Arab Spring, Western Sahara continues to simmer, threatening once again to erupt against what it sees as an occupying force.

The former Spanish colony of Western Sahara, which the International Court of Justice, the African Union, and many nations believes has the right to self-determination, remains under the control of Morocco, which claims the territory for itself. Morocco has made it clear that it will not relinquish Western Sahara, but is offering the region autonomy, a proposal many, including a very vocal South Africa, have called unacceptable.

Recently the UN Fourth Committee on Decolonization held discussions on the issue of Western Sahara, but with Morocco offering autonomy instead of sovereignty, South Africa feels Morocco is “perpetuating a re-colonization of the territory.” These are harsh words, probably reflecting South Africa’s desire that the UN not accept, or be tempted to accept, anything less than full sovereignty for Western Sahara.

There is much to be concerned about regarding Morocco’s continued presence in Western Sahara. Many fear Morocco is exploiting the region’s natural resources, especially the phosphate

deposits. Signs of significant oil deposits in the region make resolution of the sovereignty issue between the Moroccan government and the Polisario Front, which is working for Western Sahara independence, even less likely. There are, however, more than just economic and political disagreements generating anger and distrust between them. Both sides have been accused of human rights abuses, though the Moroccan government far more so than the Polisario. Reports of such violations perpetrated by the Moroccan government are increasing, fueling growing frustration by the Saharawi people and their supporters and contributing to the instability in the region.

*From the standpoint of large scale conflict, the region has been relatively quiet since a UN-brokered ceasefire in 1991. However, with the Arab Spring, wherever it originated, focusing on the rights of people to choose their own leaders, and with nations such as South Africa demanding justice for the region, Western Sahara's drive for sovereignty has been reinvigorated, and an area whose fate has remained in limbo for decades finds itself pushing back even stronger against the "re-colonization of [its] territory."
End FMSO Commentary (Feldman)*

Continued: South Africa: Moroccan proposal on Western Sahara is in fact "perpetuating a re-colonization of the territory"

the matter of Western Sahara that "were legally compelling in favor of the Sahrawi people's quest to exercise their right to self-determination."

Mr. Mashabane strongly deplored the series of blatant disregard for the principles of the UN and a clear violation of decisions taken by the mandated UN Mission to oversee a referendum over 3 decades ago, has not materialized in the territory. The South African Deputy Representative outlined that this flagrant demonstration of biasness in an organ such as the Security Council "only serves to entrench insubordination of the Charter..."

"The decision to hold a referendum to give the Sahrawi people all the options to decide on their political destiny has been a clear, unambiguous and longstanding one," said the South African diplomat, reaffirming his country's commitment to the African Union position that was reiterated at the 2008 AU Summit in Libya that "Calls for the intensification of efforts towards the holding of a referendum to enable the people of Western Sahara to choose between the option of independence and that of integration into the Kingdom of Morocco." He therefore underlined that further prolongation of the status quo on Western Sahara in this Committee is "a negation of the Constitutive Act of the African Union," adding that the unresolved matter of Western Sahara in this Committee also "constitutes a major impediment to the socio-economic development of the continent and of the need to promote peace, security and stability as a prerequisite for the implementation of our development and integration agenda."

He also expressed concerned that the natural resources of Western Sahara "are subject to ongoing plunder and exploitation,"

recalling to the UN special responsibility, in particular this Committee, "in ensuring that the economic interests of the Sahrawi people are not further undermined or compromised by illegal activities that are presented as international trade agreements." Mr. Mashabane stressed that all Member States of the UN have "a clear obligation and responsibility in ensuring that the Sahrawi peoples are consulted in the utilization of any of their natural resources."

On other hand, he said that the situation of human rights in Western Sahara "has worsened in the territory and many of the Sahrawi people are subjected to gross human rights violations," considering that the intransigent attitude of some in the Security Council who block attempts to introduce a legitimate human rights component to the MINURSO mandate "once again interfere with the provisions of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples."The African official called for Capacity-building in Western Sahara as a crucial element for decolonisation, but warning that inadequacy of political, social or economic readiness "should never serve as a pretext for delaying independence."

The discussions at the 4th UN Commission on the question of Western Sahara was completed Monday and culminated on the adoption of a resolution supporting the negotiation process initiated by the Security Council resolutions to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution providing for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

This resolution will be submitted to the UN General Assembly before the end of this year for adoption.

African Union Flexes its Muscles, Works to Occupy Mogadishu

7 October 2011

Source: Ashley Lime, "Kenya: AU Forces Plan to Cover Al-Shabaab Strongholds," The Daily Nation (Nairobi, Kenya), 7 October 2011, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201110090102.html>

Kenya: AU Forces Plan to Cover Al-Shabaab Strongholds

The regional peacekeeping mission in Somalia has declared its intentions to move and secure south and central Somalia.

The African Union Mission in Somalia (Amisom) confirmed it had controlled about 95 per cent of the war-torn country's capital, Mogadishu, and overpowered al-Shabaab militants.

Speaking in Nairobi on Friday, Amisom force commander Maj-Gen Fred Mugisha said recent terror attacks by al-Shabaab revealed how "weak and desperate" the group had become.

He said that as soon the peacekeeping force had acquired complete control of Mogadishu, they would move to the central and southern areas, including Kismayu.

"Today, 95 per cent of Mogadishu is under the control of Amisom and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). We will move to the south as soon as we gain full control. Terrorism has nothing to do with military strength. In fact, it shows how weak and desperate the group is," said Mr. Mugisha.

Conquering Mogadishu falls under Phase 1 of the Amisom concept of operation that aims to liberate the whole of Mogadishu.

Amisom, in collaboration with TFG, will conduct its operations in three phases aimed at freeing the people of Somalia from the shackles of atrocities.

The second phase is meant to take control of all townships surrounding Mogadishu and later to the central and southern parts of Somalia, including Kismayu.

Mr Mugisha said the second phase of their operations may help prevent more attacks on Kenya by al-Shabaab militants that has so far seen two tourists kidnapped in Lamu, part of Kenya's coast.

According to the peacekeeping mission, militias loyal to TFG are carrying out their operations south west of Mogadishu near the Kenya-Ethiopia border to prevent terrorism.

According to the mission's force commander, the terrorists are operating in rundown buildings and have built 50 to 100 meter tunnels connecting one building to the other to prevent Amisom from expanding its operations.

The Somali insurgents are also said to be using a combination of tactics ranging from conventional, assymetrical and terror attacks to wreak havoc in the country and its neighbours. Amisom and TFG have not been spared either since the same atrocities are also being waged on their troops.

According to Amisom, the rebels are coordinating their activities with pirates and the ransom money used to drive their war machines.

Some of the challenges the Amisom faces include lack of manpower, lack of helicopters and inadequate maritime capability.

***FMSO Commentary:** International media outlets rarely paint a rosy picture of the African Union (AU). At its best, the AU is portrayed as a hopeful, if not impecunious organization fighting an uphill battle to change the course of continental politics; at its worst, it is a dictators' club that is not only impotent in the face of the continent's woes, but, even worse, simply indifferent to them.*

The accompanying story then offers an alternative and laudable new picture of the AU, one that shows it to be competent and committed to the point that it is able to seemingly do what no other global entity – not even itself in former years – has been able to do: pacify Somalia. If the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is able to keep the momentum up to the point of restoring order to Mogadishu, its work in the country could easily be the greatest accomplishment in the AU's history.

*The AU's apparent successes aside, it is worth noting that the article makes no mention of the U.S. presence in the country. One must assume that, in light of the fact that AMISOM still remains hamstrung by a "lack of manpower, lack of helicopters and inadequate maritime capability," supplemental assistance leading to its seeming effectiveness may have been provided by the United States, particularly, the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa. **End FMSO Commentary (Warner).***

FMSO Commentary: The notion that weak states breed terrorism has in the past decade seen great ascendance. Beginning with Afghanistan, international observers have increasingly noted that some of the world's most chronically weak states – Yemen, Pakistan, and Somalia, for instance – are those in which terrorist cells, unburdened by state security mechanisms, can flourish relatively unfettered. Such has become the case for states in Africa's Sahel region, where Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) has set up shop in the under-monitored regions of mega-states such as Niger and Mali.

*Yet in opposition to the historical reluctance of African states to invite outsiders (particularly from the West) to help provide security assistance, Niger – among other Sahelian states – has seemingly come to terms with the fact that it cannot confront the AQIM threat alone. Increasingly, West African states are cooperating to fight the group, with an active collaboration forming between Mali, Niger, Algeria, Nigeria, and Mauritania. Such cooperation is indeed imperative, not only because AQIM continues to threaten attacks on tourists and symbols of the state, but also in view of the increasingly frequent rumors that AQIM is aiding Nigeria's newest terrorist group, Boko Haram. **End FMSO Commentary (Warner).***

In Need of a Hand: Sahelian States Ask for Military Assistance

22 September 2011

Source: Jemal Oumar, "Les Etats du Sahel demandent une assistance dans la lutte contre le terrorisme" ["Sahelian states ask for assistance in the fight against terrorism"] Magharebia.com, 22 September 2011, <http://www.magharebia.com/cocoon/awi/xhtml/fr/features/awi/features/2011/09/22/feature-01>

Mauritanian President Mohamaed Ould Abdel Aziz By Magharebia, Jemal Oumar [CC-BY-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0)], via Wikimedia Commons



Les Etats du Sahel demandent une assistance dans la lutte contre le terrorisme (Sahelian states ask for assistance in the fight against terrorism)

Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) "is recruiting new agents and using money obtained from payment of ransom for the victims of its kidnappings; and that obliges us to reinforce security so that there are no longer any hostages and therefore the subsequent ransoms that serve as the financing means of terrorist groups," declared the Mauritanian President Mohamaed Ould Abdel Aziz on Radio France International.

Although Mauritania benefits from "excellent relations" that it has established by a tight collaboration in the fight against terrorism with Algeria, Niger and Mali, it "cannot wait for these countries to intervene on its behalf," said the head of state.

These statements came twenty-four hours before armed clashes between security forces and elements of Al-Qaeda in the north of Niger. 59 young terrorist recruits, most aged 20 years or less, have been liberated, indicated the Minister of Defense Karidjo Mahamadou in a communiqué.

For its part, the Nigerian government has asked for international aide in reconnaissance collection and aerial surveillance in its northern region, considered as base for AQIM militants as well as drug traffickers.

The country also expressed its worries about the fact that arms confiscated during the Libyan conflict could fall into the hands of AQIM or certain Taureg groups who could use them in their attempts to destabilize the region.

"Niger needs assistance in the form of both equipment as well as training of its security forces so as to be able to respond to the possibility of terrorism after the fall of the Qaddafi government in Libya," declared President Mahamadou Issoufou.

"We can understand Niger's call for assistance in view of its relatively recent experience in the country with AQIM, and its worries that the insecurity in Libya could spread beyond that country's borders and into its own," explained Rabie Ould Adum, a terrorism specialist. "Al-Qaeda forces are found in Algeria, in Mali and in Mauritania, where young people are recruited and used for terroristic means. Nevertheless, young Nigeriens are not recruited in large numbers."

"As for Niger's call for assistance, it should be understood as that country's desire to assist its northern regions following the example of what the Malian government is doing at the moment," he added.

(Fr)Enemies?: Chad and Sudan Discuss Cross-Border Cooperation

7 October 2011



Source: "Sudan: Chad's President and Country's Intelligence Chief Discuss Border Security," Sudan Tribune (Khartoum, Sudan), 7 October 2011, <http://allafrica.com/stories/201110080127.html>.

Map By Sudan location map.svg: NordNordWest
Map of Darfur-en.png: User:Пакко This derivative image: Idaltu (Sudan location map.svg Map of Darfur-en.png) [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

Sudan: Chad's President and Country's Intelligence Chief Discuss Border Security

Khartoum — The director of the National and Intelligence Security Services (NISS) Mohamed Ata al-Moula was in N'djamena on Friday for talks with the Chadian president Idriss Deby on security issues at the joint border.

Sudan and Chad normalized their relations in January 2010, after several years of tension between the two neighbors. Khartoum and N'djamena traded accusations of supporting rebel groups from the two sides.

In March 2010 they deployed a 3,000 soldiers joint force to prevent cross-border attacks and a number of economic projects were launched between the two countries.

The two countries intensified their consultations since last month after the return of the leader of Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) Khalil Ibrahim to Darfur through the Chadian border.

The meeting "discussed several topics of common interest. These include peace in Sudan and Chad, security along the border between the two countries and strengthening (bilateral) cooperation," said the Chadian presidency in a statement released after the meeting on Friday.

Deby was embarrassed by the transit of the Sudanese rebels through the Chadian territory. Unconfirmed reports say some Chadian officials were involved in the operation. It was also said that the former head of Chadian intelligence was sacked from his position after the return of JEM leader to Darfur.

Sources also say Sudan seeks to convince Deby to participate in a joint action against JEM rebels arguing they represent a risk for the political stability in the two countries.

Khalil Ibrahim said this week he is working with other Sudanese rebel groups on how to overthrow the regime of President Bashir. Rebel groups from Darfur and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) said they are determined to dislodge the National Congress Party from power.

NISS chief said last Thursday that the apparent calm in Darfur does not delude them and they are monitoring rebel activities in the region.

***FMSO Commentary:** Chad and Sudan have long had one of the most tumultuous relationships of any states in Africa.*

Early in their histories they fought overlapping proxy wars, each serving as a staging ground for antigovernment troops of the other. Tensions reached a boiling point in 2005 as refugees from Sudan's Darfur region flooded into Chad, placing an enormous strain on that country's already limited resources. Chad broke off relations with Sudan twice in 2006, though they were restored later that year. But by May 2008 Sudan had announced that it was severing ties with Chad, as the latter was funding rebels in the Darfur region who were attacking Sudanese government troops.

Given these precedents, the new security talks between the two states do not definitively portend peace. To the contrary, the basis of the new talks sees Sudan attempting to convince Chad that the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) – a group based in Darfur that has been repelling government-led attacks – is a threat to Chad. Put otherwise, Sudan is trying to recruit Chad to team up against its own domestic opposition, a feat that, if accomplished, could arguably lead to more, not less, violence in the region.

The renewed cooperation signals a potential new beginning in Sudanese-Chadian relations with which the United States, preoccupied with the status of the new Southern Sudanese state, would be pleased. Nevertheless, normalization of relations between the two countries seems to operate in cycles; the current dialogue may simply be an upswing far from indicative of a long-term détente.
End FMSO Commentary (Warner).

Philippines Insurgency: New People's Army

FMSO Commentary: The government of the Philippines has faced a multifaceted insurgency for decades. The longest running movements are being conducted by the Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army (CPP-NPA) and its affiliate groups, which are mainly based in the whole islands, and the Southern Philippines Secessionist Movements operating in Mindanao. (http://www.army.mil.ph/OG5_articles/Insegenics.htm)

Current armed threats to the internal peace and security of the Philippines are motivated by a variety of ideologies. According to their own analysis, the groups fall out as below:

“First on the list are ideology-based groups such as the New People's Army (NPA), the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and the rogue elements of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF). Next are terrorist groups such as the Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) and the foreign-based Jemaah Islamiyah (JI). Third on the list of armed threats are Auxiliary Threat Groups involved in activities such as extortion and kidnapping. These groups include private armies or Partisan Armed Groups (PAGs).” (http://www.army.mil.ph/pdf_files/bayanihan.pdf)

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its New People's Army (NPA) began armed struggle in 1968. It survived the repressive government of Ferdinand Marcos and reached its greatest strength in the 1980s under the Cory Aquino administration. This insurgency spawned many front organizations and open political groups. Counterinsurgency efforts by the government of the Philippines and internal strife amongst the communist party greatly weakened the NPA in the 1990s. The CPP-NPA has experienced a steady comeback since 2000 and has long proven its resilience. Negotiations, overt political action, and continued violence have characterized the government and insurgent experience for the past decade.



Global demand for commodities to support increased manufacturing has radically expanded exploitation of these natural resources. Many undeveloped areas of South and Southeast Asia have experienced an upsurge in mineral and petroleum extraction. These operations have considerable impact on the localized environment and economy. “Revolutionary taxes” are collected by the NPA from the large mining companies in Caraga on the island of Mindanao. These “fines” are in the several hundreds of thousands of dollars each month. The attacks chronicled here are witness to this insurgent pressure and the growing challenges to global development. **End FMSO Commentary (Welch)**

(left) Map of Philippines showing location of Caraga by seav [CC-BY-SA (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons

(below) NPA flag by Jolle [CC-BY-SA (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)] via Wikimedia Commons



Attack on Major Mines in Suriago Norte, Caraga, Philippines

NPA attacks mining firms in Surigao Norte

Source: <http://www.boholchronicle.com/2011/oct/5/justb41.html>

5 October 2011

MANILA. A police spokesman yesterday said attacks by communist rebels on 3 mines in Surigao del Norte were triggered by the mining firms' refusal to give in to the rebels' demand to pay revolutionary taxes.

Superintendent Martin Gamba, spokesman of Police Regional Office 13, said all mining companies in the province are approached by the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army (CPP-NPA) and ordered to pay revolutionary taxes to the group.

"If they don't pay, they punish the company to coerce them to give revolutionary tax. We don't have exact figures because the companies don't say but according to reports from the intelligence community, millions of pesos are paid every month," he told ANC's "Dateline Philippines."

He added: "If they really wanted to stop mining there, they should be doing it every day but they are doing it selectively. We are presuming that they are attacking those that haven't paid."

Brigadier Gen. Jose Mabanta, Armed Forces Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, meanwhile, said the attacks were a form of "economic sabotage."

Gamba said the collection of revolutionary taxes has been going on for a long time in the province.

He said the rebels target plantations, construction firms and mining companies, with the latter paying the highest revolutionary taxes. Last year, NPA rebels attacked banana plantations and small contractors building bridges in Surigao del Sur province, Gamba said.

Mabanta said the military is sending hundreds of fresh troops including an infantry battalion from the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City and a US-trained Light Reaction Company from Zamboanga City to help mount pursuit

operations against the rebels.

"They are now becoming nuisance to development and economic upliftment in that area. This is the largest single investment in mining. It's a 1.5 billion dollar investment and what they did was they destroy more or less 1 billion pesos worth of equipment...This is economic sabotage, no doubt about it," Mabanta said.

\$1B IN DAMAGES

Interior and Local Government Secretary Jesse Robredo said authorities estimate the damage to properties to reach \$1 billion-\$1.5 billion. He added some 4,000 to 5,000 employees have been affected by the attack.

Around 200 rebels attacked Taganito Mining Corporation (TMC) in Claver town Monday, resulting in the destruction of several facilities.

Taganito is a unit of Nickel Asia Corp., which is partly owned by Japan's Sumitomo Metal Mining Co Ltd.

The rebels also attacked the nearby Platinum Metals Group Corp. and Taganito HPAL Corporation, within a span of 3 hours. The attack forced Nickel Asia to suspend its operations indefinitely.

Communist New People's Army militants march in unison past local residents and supporters during the celebration of the 42nd anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines on Sunday, Dec. 26, 2010, on Mount Diwata in the southern Philippines. (AP Photo/Pat Roque)

Col. Leopoldo Galon, spokesman of the Armed Forces Eastern Mindanao Command, said the rebels destroyed "barges, dump trucks, payloaders, vans, backhoes and warehouses."

The rebels also took hostage 4 people namely resident manager Jose Anievas, security officer Rene Fernal and 2 TMC employees, who were all released on the same day.

*FMSO Commentary: On 3 October 2011 elements of the Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army (CPP-NPA) attacked three separate mining firms in Claver town, Surigao del Norte. The first article is from The Boho Chronicle, which is the most widely read local journal published in the island province of Boho of the Philippines. It is primarily a composite of news wire reports with some local commentary. It reveals a tone of local concern toward the economic affects. **End FMSO Commentary (Welch)***

Continued: NPA attacks mining firms in Surigao Norte

Galon said Platinum Metals lost 91 dump trucks, three barges, seven backhoes, two wheeler loaders, 28 9mm pistols, eight shotguns, five cal. 38 revolvers, 27 Kenwood radios and two road graders.

Taganito and its sister company lost 41 dump trucks, seven wheel loaders, two road graders, a service truck, a mini truck, two shuttle buses, a service pick up vehicle, a generator set, a barge, a mini wheel loader, six hand-held radios, a shotgun and an admin building.

Two barges are ablaze off Claver, Surigao del Norte, following Monday's attack by New People's Army guerillas in this photo sent via Twitter by Roy A627 who said he was onboard a ship passing by Claver. He said their ship captain later reported that communist rebels had attacked the mining site and burned facilities. contributed photo

ATTACKS TO AFFECT MINING EXPORTS

Emmanuel Samson, chief financial officer of Nickel Asia Corp., said Monday's attack was the first time that communist rebels entered into the Surigao del Norte facilities.

He said that while the rebels damaged a lot of equipment, they were unable to touch any of the ore stockpiles.

"Security is the most immediate priority. Of course we are now working on this. We are making all security arrangements just to ensure that this does not recur. We are coordinating very closely with authorities," he said.

EFFECT ON PEACE TALKS

President Aquino on Monday convened members of the Cabinet security cluster to monitor the situation in Surigao del Norte.

Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said the security cluster is continuing the threat assessment ordered by the President, as well as a review of operational procedures.

He also noted that the attacks could affect peace negotiations with the communist movement.

"This was an isolated incident. However, the incident undermines the Peace Process and makes it difficult to pursue negotiations. However, we remain determined to fulfill our people's aspirations for peace. We hope that the rebels will do likewise. The communities in Surigao were the greatest victims here: the attack has affected their employment and safety," he said in a statement.

Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Teresita Quintos Deles noted that peace talks are more difficult when there is no accompanying cease-fire on the ground.

She said the attacks in Surigao del Norte undermine people's confidence in the peace process, creating a 'disconnect' between agreements made on the peace table and what is happening on the ground.

"It begins to look like just another game being played by the parties. Without people's strong support, negotiations become more difficult and a peace settlement more elusive," she said. (ABS-CBN News with Reuters, ANC)

Mineral-rich Red Mountain, facing the Pacific Ocean in eastern

Mindanao, bears the deep scars of large-scale mining, which the government considers a major boost to the economy. At least seven companies extract thousands of tons of nickel, copper, iron, gold and other metal ore daily from this mountain range that runs from Claver, Surigao del Norte, to Carrascal, Surigao del Sur, with more expected to come in. (photo by Rommel G. Rebollido)

A mine worker is dwarfed by earth loaders at the ore yard of Chinese firm Shenzou Mining Group Corp, at Red Mountain on the Pacific coast of eastern Mindanao. At least seven companies extract thousands of tons of nickel, copper, iron, gold and other metal ore daily from this mountain range that runs from Claver, Surigao del Norte, to Carrascal, Surigao del Sur, with more expected to come in.

Burmese government troops have launched a large-scale attack including mortar shells against the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) at the hydropower dam site in Momauk Township, Kachin State, Northern Burma.

The two-day assault started on Sunday and involved government forces and KIA Battalions 15 and 25, according to La Nan, joint-secretary of the KIA's political wing, the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO).

A number of 81mm mortars shells also landed in areas close to the KIA headquarters in Laiza, next to the Sino-Burmese border. Some mortar rounds actually landed on Chinese soil and were inspected by the authorities there, claimed La Nan.

The KIO has accused government troops of attacking the KIA from covered positions amongst civilian infrastructure at the Taping hydropower dam site including workshops and electricity poles. If KIA troops were to return fire, there is a strong possibility that these important Chinese-owned amenities will be damaged.

La Nan alleges that the Burmese government is attempting to cause problems between the KIA and Chinese businesses through these military tactics. KIA troops, however, refused to be drawn into protracted battle with the Burmese Army, he added.

KIA sources also reveal that the KIO leadership will conduct survey amongst Kachin civilians tomorrow to determine if they should seek a ceasefire with the government.

Serious fighting between the Burmese Army and KIA troops has forced more refugees to flee to the Sino-Burmese border since hostilities broke out on June 9.

Both small-scale clashes and heavy fighting have taken place every day across Kachin State despite the government and KIO leaders recently discussing possibilities for a ceasefire.

Meanwhile, local humanitarian groups and relief agencies have raised concerns regarding a rising need for emergency food, shelter and medical care, as well as schooling for children on the Sino-Burmese border.

More than 15,000 internally displaced persons and refugees are currently living in make-shift camps along the frontier, and relief groups are quickly running out of aid and essential supplies.

5 October 2011



Source: <http://www.malaya.com.ph/oct05/news3.html>

Philippine Army Emblem via www.army.mil.ph

AFP tactical error worsened mines attacks?

A lapse in judgment by higher military headquarters gave the New People's Army the opportunity to mount the attacks on three mining firms in Surigao del Norte Monday and destroy some P1 billion in equipment.

The Armed Forces pulled out the Army's 30th Infantry Battalion from the province last month. It replaced the battalion (about 400 to 500 soldiers) with only a company (about 100 soldiers), a military official said.

Military and police reports placed the number of attacking NPA rebels at around 200. The source noted reports placing the NPA rebels at about 500 rebels.

The pullout was ordered despite the "exigency of threat" in the area," and left the province with insufficient defense, the official said.

"That's the reason why they (rebels) attacked. Our defense was lacking there and they overwhelmed the PNP...The enemy saw it (pullout) and they exploited it," the source said.

The official said the battalion, which was based in Placer town, was long due for retraining at the headquarters of the 4th Infantry Division in Cagayan de Oro City. The retraining is part of the Army's battalion excellence program and Philippine Defense Reform Program.

"If there were no lapses, the mining firms should not have been burned. It's obvious (there were lapses)," he said.

The source said officials had earlier held off the retraining because of the rebel threat.

He said Lt. Gen. Arthur Tabaquero, chief of the AFP Eastern Mindanao Command, had requested higher headquarters to further delay the retraining of the battalion but this was rejected.

"For a while, it was held off until higher

headquarters thought it could no longer be delayed so it was pulled out...It was a complete pullout," he said.

The source said the Army company was manning the headquarters of the 30th IB.

"Even if the entire company responded, if you have that large number of enemy, they won't defeat the enemy," he said. He said the headquarters of the 30th IB was 30 minutes away from the site of Taganito Mining Co., one of the three companies attacked.

The official said a number of policemen had been stationed at the Taganito compound but they withdrew because of the overwhelming number of rebels who staged the attack.

PNP chief Nicanor Bartolome Bartolome said the pullout of the Army battalion could have been a factor in the NPA attacks in Claver town as he ordered the relief of Senior Supt. Emmanuel Talento, provincial police chief, and Senior Insp. Diomedes Cuadra, Claver station OIC, for their failure to detect the movement of the big number of NPA rebels.

He said he also ordered the relief of Supt. Rudy Cuyop, chief of the PPSC, because his unit failed to fully implement the internal security operation defense.

Bartolome also said they are verifying intelligence reports that NPA leader Leoncio Pitao alias Kumander Parago and Jorge Madlos led the attacks.

Madlos threatened more attacks if mining companies ignored their concerns. He said that prior to Monday's attacks, the guerrillas wrote letters and sought meetings with mining company officials but were ignored.

— With Raymond Africa and Jocelyn Montemayor

FMSO Commentary: The Philippine Army is primarily a territorial army with its divisions associated with specific locations in the nation. The 4th Infantry Division is responsible for the area of these recent attacks on mining firms. These light infantry divisions of the Philippine Army conduct internal security operations to support civil development.

The following two articles give some insight into the militaries initial posture during the attacks and subsequent reaction. The first piece is from the "Malaya," which is a broadsheet newspaper headquartered in Manila. It was started in 1981 in Tagalog, the Filipino language, and shifted to English. It was closed down by the Marcos regime in 1983. Malaya returned as a strong voice against Marcos and won a reputation of bringing the truth to the people of the Philippines.

The second article is from The Philippines Daily Inquirer. It was founded in 1985 at the end of the Marcos regime. It is the largest circulating newspaper in the Philippines. End FMSO Commentary (Welch)

FMSO Commentary: *The government of the Philippines has attempted to minimize the prowess shown here by the Communist Party of the Philippines - New People's Army (CPP-NPA). This incident is a reminder to all concerned with counterinsurgency: when allowed to, insurgent forces will pick the time and place of attack to their own great advantage. Even after a decade of national effort to defeat the NPA, it remains a dangerous force. End FMSO Commentary (Welch)*



6 October 2011

Source: <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/71455/2-military-officials-relieved-over-surigao-del-norte-mining-attacks>

Map of Philippines showing location of Surigao del Norte [CC-BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikimedia Commons

2 top military officials in Surigao del Norte sacked due to 'serious lapses'

MANILA, Philippines—Two military officials were relieved from their posts after “serious lapses” were seen in their command which resulted to the attack on three mining firms in Surigao del Norte on Monday, Armed Forces Chief General Eduardo Oban said.

In a chance interview on Thursday at Camp Aguinaldo, Oban said he ordered the relief of 402nd brigade commander Colonel Rodrigo Diapana and his deputy, Colonel Cresente Maligmat.

“Definitely, nakakita tayo ng mga rason kung bakit nangyari yung sa Taganito (We saw reasons why this attack happened), definitely we see serious lapses on the ground,” Oban told reporters.

Oban did not elaborate what lapses they found but said the two officials will face investigations to determine whether there was negligence on their part.

“It is SOP (standard operating procedure) that an investigation will be undertaken immediately after a particular incident,” he added.

“We will have to wait for the investigation report but the fact remains that it happened in his area of responsibility,” Oban said of Diapana, who was to be replaced temporarily by Col. James Jacob, chief of staff of the 4th Infantry Division.

In a separate interview, Armed Forces spokesman Colonel Arnulfo Burgos said 4th ID Adjutant Colonel Victor Gealan (not Jalan as earlier reported) will take over Maglimat’s post in acting capacity.

“They were relieved from their posts for operational oversight,” Burgos said without elaborating.

Burgos added the Board of Senior Officers will deliberate who will permanently replace the two relieved officers.

“The appointment of these two senior officers

will ensure continuity in the pursuit operations being conducted by government troops against the New People’s Army bandits responsible for the attack of the three mining firms,” Burgos said.

He added that Eastern Mindanao Command Chief Lieutenant General Arthur Tabaquero will remain as the commander of the Joint Task Force Taganito, which is tasked to conduct pursuit operations against the NPA rebels.

“The situation in the area is stable and security forces have been enhanced for a safe and secure environment for the people in the area,” Burgos said.

In a separate interview, AFP Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Jose Mabanta Jr. said there was a lack of coordination between the security sector (which included the AFP and the Philippine National Police) and the other stakeholders in the area.

“There is still a lot of improvement that we need to do in terms of coordination among the various stakeholders,” Mabanta said.

Asked if there were intelligence reports about an imminent NPA attack on the three firms, he said: “It was not really a full report, but we knew these were critical areas where there was mismanagement in preparation.”

“Certainly there has been a security lapse... There may have been failure in intelligence,” Mabanta added.

On Tuesday, PNP Director General Nicanor A. Bartolome sacked three police officials in Surigao del Norte for failing to detect the movement of such a large formation of NPA rebels.

Relieved were Provincial Director Senior Superintendent Emmanuel Talento, Provincial Police Security Company commander Supt. Rudy Cuyop, and Claver municipal police station chief Senior Inspector Diomedes Cuadra.

Ritualism and Decapitations in Mexico

5 June 2011

Source: Vera, Rodrigo. "Decapitaciones rituales (Ritual Decapitations)", Proceso, 05 June 2011

Tzompantlis used to display the heads of decapitations victims by the Aztecs [Public Domain] via Wikimedia Commons



Decapitaciones rituales (Ritual Decapitations)

Decapitations in Mexico are synonymous with drug trafficking. Take for example the human head left at the gravesite of Arturo Beltran Leyva, aka La Jefe de Jefes (the Boss of the Bosses) at the Jardines de Humaya graveyard in Culiacan, Sinaloa. In this instance, the decapitated head served as an offering for the deceased drug lord. This idea further relates to the thought that violence associated with drug trafficking crimes is ritualistic. In terms of commonality, mutilation is most frequently used torture tactic, while the decapitation serves as the final act in the sequence of terror.

The dismembering of the victim usually begins with a finger, then the hands, then a leg, and finally, the head. According to Enriquez Zuniga Vazquez, a professor at the National Institute of Penal Studies, decapitations serve various purposes. First, the head is the part of the body that identifies a person. After the head is cut off and separated from the body, it makes identifying the victim much more difficult. Regarding Mexican drug cartels, the decapitation is normally performed in two manners: with the victim alive, which serves as a form of torture, and after the victim has been killed.

The tool of choice in decapitating a live victim is the Gigli saw, a device with jagged edges that is often used by orthopedic doctors to carry out amputations. While performing this type of decapitation, the victim is commonly placed on their knees while the saw is wound around their neck until the head is completely severed. The benefit of using this type of device is that it provides a clean cut and allows for relative ease when cutting through bony structures.

History of Decapitations in Mexico:

Decapitations in Mexico are thought to have begun over the course of the past decade, but they really began in the nineties with the Gulf Cartel. It is thought that the art of decapitation was brought into the ranks of the Gulf Cartel by Guatemalan Special Forces soldiers known as Kaibiles, given the fact that decapitations served as a means of choice to kill opposition during the Civil Wars that plagued the country for over 30 years. Since the nineties, virtually all cartels in Mexico have started using decapitations, and second to mutilations, it appears to be one of the most widely used torture tactic utilized by organized crime groups.

FMSO Commentary: The mention of decapitation and its prevalence within the ranks of Mexican drug cartels is commonly correlated with Middle Eastern terrorist groups. However, it is much more likely that the actual influence of this kill tactic has much closer ties to the former practices of indigenous tribes and neighboring Central American countries. Regarding indigenous groups, the Aztecs and the Mayans commonly decapitated losing opponents following a ballgame known as Tlachtli (see playing field in picture below). The Aztecs also used decapitations to intimidate rivals and to display their warrior skills. This idea is evidenced by the tzompantlis, a unit used to display the decapitated heads of victims (see picture below). A third influence is Los Kaibiles, a group of special forces soldiers from Guatemala who commonly decapitated peasants and indigenous persons during the 36-year civil war there. Members of this same group were later recruited in the late 90s by Los Zetas, the former armed wing of the Gulf Cartel, and, shortly after, the first decapitations were noted in Mexico. Nearly thirteen years later decapitations are used by virtually every drug-trafficking organization in Mexico, but the tools being used, the rituals associated with them, and the means in which they are broadcasted have evolved.

Beheading equipment, to include the chain and gigli saws, seems to be slowly replacing historically used devices. The evolution of the decapitation method also includes the filming of them so that they can be sent to popular websites like blogdelnarco or mundonarco, where they are downloaded by thousands of viewers. A recent filming included the murder of two Sinaloa Cartel operators at the hands of a rival cartel, and may be one of most gruesome live decapitations to date. It has been named the 'number one video of the year' on many gore-type sites. This last example clearly indicates that drug cartels have evolved from historical decapitations, though the practice itself was most likely adopted from influences much closer to home. End FMSO Commentary (Fiegel)

Iranian Terrorist Groups Attempting to Work with Mexican Drug Cartels

Iraníes intentan reclutar a narcos mexicanos para atentado en EU (Iranian Attempt to Recruit Mexican Drug Traffickers to Carry Out Attacks in the US)

FMSO Commentary: *The recent arrest of Mansor Arbabsiar, 56, a nationalized US citizen who holds both US and Iranian passports, has raised questions regarding how close the ties between terrorist groups and Mexican drug-trafficking organizations could be. This speculation came to light following the revelation that this individual offered an undercover DEA agent \$1.5 million dollars to assassinate Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi Ambassador to Washington. How an Iranian national managed to get involved with an undercover DEA agent posing as a Los Zetas operator is not known, but it is possible that actual Los Zetas operators were contacted by the Iranian nationals, and in an attempt to redeem themselves in the eyes of both U.S. and Mexican authorities, they directed the Iranian nationals to the undercover DEA agent.*

Recent incidents that have brought negative attention to Los Zetas include:

- the August 30, 2011 attack on the Casino Royal that left 52 individuals dead in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon. During this attack Los Zetas operators discriminately opened fire on customers in the Casino due to the fact the owner had not paid his extortion fees to the group.
- the murder of 29 campesinos in the Peten Department of Guatemala in May 2011. In this instance Los Zetas were actually looking for Otto Salguero, the owner of Los Cocos Ranch, where the murders were carried out.
- the murder of ICE Agent Jaime Zapata in San Luis Potosi on February 15, 2011. According to a Los Zetas operator arrested following this incident, the attack was a case of mistaken identity.
- the attack against US citizens on Falcon Lake on September 30, 2010, which resulted in the death of David Hartley.

The incidents mentioned above clearly demonstrate that Los Zetas have begun to veer down a path that deviates from committing murders related strictly to drug-trafficking incidents in the sense that they do not hesitate to involve innocent parties. However, Mexican drug cartels, even extreme groups like Los Zetas, are far from likely to collaborate with terrorists for the simple fact that it would be incredibly unbeneficial, given the negative attention it would draw from both Mexican and U.S. authorities. Furthermore, even if Los Zetas would have earned \$1.5 million dollars for the assassination of Adel al-Jubeir, it would not be enough cash to mediate the repercussions of the decision had it really been presented to them.

On the other hand, a possible reason Los Zetas may have considered this offer had it truly been presented to them is their fight to maintain their territories in light of the offensive that has been mounted against them by the Sinaloa and Gulf Cartel. Previously Los Zetas dominated Veracruz, in addition to parts of Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon. Now all of these areas are under dispute, which means that Los Zetas must acquire additional resources, to include weapons, ammunition, and an expanded work force, if they are going to be successful in defending their territories. These items directly correlate to a need for increased cash flow, which money from terrorist groups could provide. In an attempt to increase manpower Los Zetas have been known to kidnap migrants, as evidenced by the mass kidnapping of more than 70 individuals in San Fernando, Tamaulipas, in August 2010. A second mass kidnapping was also carried out by this group on June 23, 2011 in Medias Aguas, Veracruz. An estimated 80 migrants were kidnapped in this instance.

The end point regarding drug cartels and terrorists is that any involvement between the two would represent a certain demise for that drug cartel. Does this mean that drug cartels would never get involved with terrorist groups? Absolutely not. The Sinaloa Cartel is known to conduct business with Afghan heroin producers, but this does not mean they are willing to carry out assassination on Mexican or US soil for these same groups. Still, the possibility should never be ruled out, especially when considering Los Zetas, as they are a very unpredictable and violent group whose leadership has undergone numerous changes over the past two years. End FMSO Commentary (Fiegel)

11 October 2011

Source: "Iraníes intentan reclutar a narcos mexicanos para atentado en EU [Iranian Attempt to Recruit Mexican Drug Traffickers to Carry Out Attacks in the US]", Milenio, <http://www.milenio.com/cdb/doc/noticias2011/10272d7bee4dc600b9f16420ab6bf4f0>, Accessed on 11 October 2011.



FBI Director Robert S. Mueller at press conference in Washington D.C. for charges against Manssor Arbabsiar and Gholam Shakuri. Photo by FBI via fbi.gov

On 29 September 2011, U.S. authorities arrested Mansor Arbabsiar, 56, after it was discovered that he offered an undercover DEA agent posing as a Los Zetas operator \$(USD) 1.5 million to murder Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi Ambassador to Washington. The arrest in question was carried out at the JFK International Airport following Arbabsiar's return from Mexico. Following his arrest, Arbabsiar, was identified as a naturalized U.S. citizen who possesses both a US and Iranian passport.

At this point, Gholam Shakuri, a second Iranian national believed to have been involved in this incident has managed to allude authorities. Preliminary investigations indicate that Arbabsiar and Shakuri may have also been in the initial phases of planning attacks to target individuals and Saudi embassies on US soil.

Security for Mexican Schools

7 September 2011



Source: “Government Steps Up Security Around Schools in Southern Mexico,” EFE, 7 September 2011. <http://www.efe.com>

Students at Casa Hogar Benito Juarez School in Oaxaca City, Mexico by Mat McDermott [CC-BY-NC-ND 2.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0>)], via Flickr.com

Security near Schools in Mexico Increased in Response to Threats against Teachers

Army troops and police conducted aerial and ground patrols around schools in Acapulco, a port city in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero, in the wake of complaints by teachers that they were the targets of extortion rackets run by drug traffickers, the state government said. Security cameras and panic buttons to summon police will be installed in schools, said Guerrero Governor Angel Aguirre Rivero in a press conference on 6 September 2011. “There are some 52 schools in areas of Acapulco” that did not open due to fears of violence from extortionists, Aguirre said. Teachers at some schools allege that drug traffickers are demanding they pay them money and refuse to report for work, said Guerrero Attorney General Alberto Lopez Rosas. “There are teachers who say the traffickers are demanding they pay 10,000 pesos (about \$830) or half their salary,” a teachers union leader told EFE on the condition of anonymity. The public should ignore “the anonymous messages that were aimed over the Internet and in fliers in a perverse way at teachers” in Acapulco, the governor said.

Hotel and restaurant owners, as well as service station operators and auto dealers in Guerrero have also reported been targeted by organized crime groups that demand 3,000 pesos (\$250) a week. The owners of restaurants, clothing stores, and even beauty parlors in Chilpancingo, the capital of Guerrero, have complained about extortionists who demand about 2,000 pesos (some \$160) a week from them. The owners of 10 service stations in Acapulco closed their businesses for several hours a few weeks ago to protest the high level of extortion.

Acapulco, Guerrero’s top tourist destination, has been plagued by drug-related violence in recent years. The Cartel Independiente de Acapulco (CIDA) has been battling the Comando del Diablo for control of the illegal drug trade in the port city, police say. The Cartel Independiente de Acapulco was created by former members of the gang led by Edgar Valdez Villarreal, who was known as “La Barbie” and was arrested by the Federal Police on 30 August 2010. Several close associates of Valdez Villarreal, including Moises Montero Alvarez, who was arrested recently, Carlos Antonio Barragan Hernandez and Benjamin Flores Reyes, who was detained in March 2011, formed the cartel after the arrests of several key members of the organization.

The battle for control of the gangs has ratcheted up the level of violence in Acapulco. The gang war has been marked by shootouts in the streets and the discovery of mutilated bodies with “narcomessages” in Acapulco and other parts of Guerrero. The Cartel Independiente

***FMSO Commentary:** The term drug-trafficking organization (DTO) has been used for decades, as it appropriately identified these groups and their mainstay illicit activity. In the past few years, the use of the term DTO is being utilized less and being replaced by the term TCO, or transnational criminal organization. It is quite clear the rationale behind this shift away from the usage of DTO; these organizations do not deal solely in the trafficking of drugs anymore. They have now expanded their operations increasingly more into the trafficking of arms and human trafficking.*

However, things did not stop there. These organizations are so well organized and heavily armed that, operating in small areas of impunity throughout the nation, they increase their revenue more so through extortion efforts. What once started with extorting local businesses has moved to the unthinkable: extorting those community members who provide a developmental basis for all of our children - the teachers.

No one knows where the revenue-producing efforts of these TCOs will cease, as the Mexican security forces (whether federal, state, or local) seem to all currently operate as a reactionary force vice that of a progressive one. With most of the security forces spread thin, many foreign governments have offered direct “boots on the ground” assistance, which the constitution of the Mexican government currently does not allow. This appears to have given the TCOs a slight upper hand, as it forces the reactionary security entities to operate in a game of “cat and mouse” or “whack-a-mole,” where, when a blow is dealt to a criminal organization in one location, it regroups and simply pops up somewhere else.

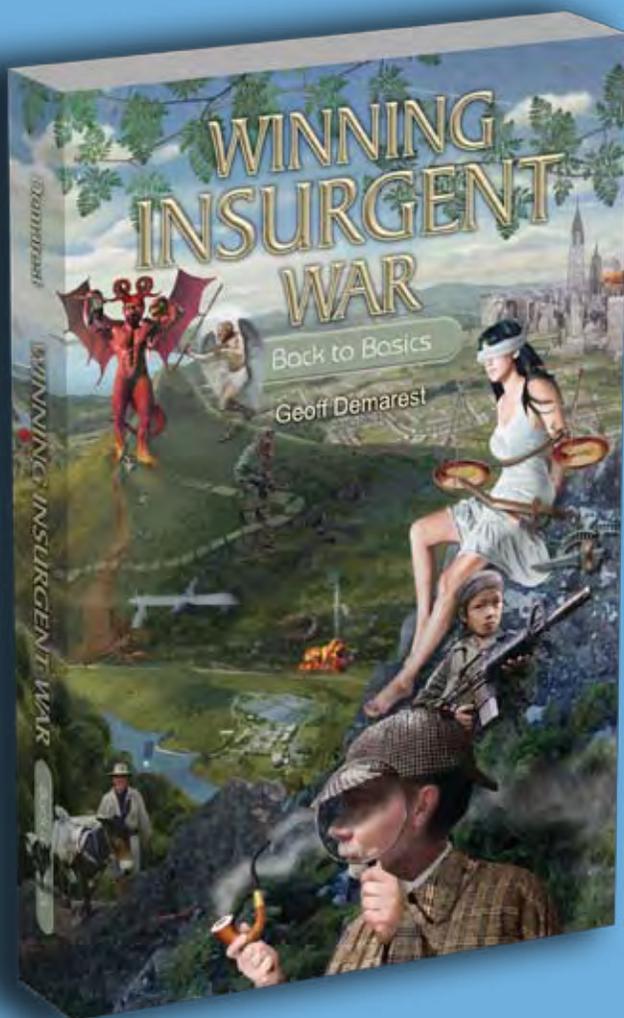
Where some analysts view the expanding roles and operations of these

Continued: Security near Schools in Mexico Increased in Response to Threats against Teachers

cartels as a sign of weakness, others view it as a sign that the cartels are gaining more control, power, and impunity throughout the nation. Only time will tell whether these are indications that the cartels are being forced financially into other moneymaking ventures, or simply flexing their muscles, operating with less oversight and more impunity. End FMSO Commentary (Scheidel)

de Acapulco and the La Barredora gang, two small criminal organizations that mainly operate locally, were behind most of the murders committed this year in the resort city, said the Public Safety Secretariat in August 2011. Several other even smaller gangs and some large cartels, which were trying to get a foothold in Acapulco, also contributed to the violence. The Cartel Independiente de Acapulco beheaded 15 people whose bodies were found on 8 January 2011 at the Plaza Sendero shopping center, the secretariat said.

Tourism industry leaders have blamed the drop in visitors to Acapulco on the global economic slowdown, interest in newer destinations like Cancun, and the wave of drug-related violence. The federal government recently decided to turn the Tianguis Turistico, Mexico's largest tourism fair, into an event with rotating venues after being in Acapulco for 24 years. Some tourism industry watchers interpreted the move as a response to the crime and violence in Acapulco.



Regarding the kind of conflict the book addresses, it is about a broader set of conflicts than 'insurgency.' The umbrella category might be 'irregular.' I defer to a section on 'Terms' in a 1960 US Army field manual titled Operations Against Irregular Forces. It states,

The term irregular, used in combinations such as irregular forces, irregular activities, and counter-irregular operations, is used in the broad sense to refer to all types of nonconventional forces and operations. It includes guerrilla, partisans, insurgent, subversive, resistance, terrorist, revolutionary, and similar personnel, organizations and methods.

As for whom the book was written, the title seeks its audience. The text touches on a broad range of subjects. My hope then, is that the book will find its best audience, and that some of the ideas in it will be contagious.

— Geoff Demarest

Cauca's 'Stations of the Cross'

29 September 2011

Source: Cauca's Terrible Ordeal ["El viacrucis del Cauca"] see <http://occidente.co/regionales/el-viacrucis-del-cauca> Accessed on 29 September, 2011. The article, originally in Spanish, was translated by the FMSO analyst

El viacrucis del Cauca (Cauca's Terrible Ordeal)

“**A**rmed conflict in Cauca [Department] is nothing new. Caucan soil has been the setting for violence for many years. By the 1980s, part [of the Department] was already one of the main territories where the then guerrilla group, M-19, operated, and where work sessions of the peace accords that led to its demobilization were carried out. But once they were demobilized, those spaces were occupied by other armed actors such as the FARC and ELN that now sew anxiety in this Department.

The attacks carried out by the FARC last Sunday, that affected four population centers in northern Cauca, forced a security council to be held in Popayan, with the presence of President Juan Manuel Santos, who highlighted advances in the theme of security that had been achieved in that department. As will be noted, President Santos made patent after the council that the strategy of the Fuerza Pública (public forces) against the guerrilla in Cauca Department is producing positive results.

The President said that the strategy of the Fuerza Pública in the region consists in cutting off the high parts of the western mountain range in order to eradicate the guerrilla, which has been conducting harassment attacks in order to misdirect the attention of those operations, looking to have us rethink our strategy -- “A trap into which we of course are not going to fall,” Santos Calderon assured.

Presence of the Fuerza Pública

In spite of recent public order events that have occurred in Cauca, the governor in charge of the Department, Alvaro Grijalba, highlighted the support that the territorial entity has had, not just from the Fuerza Pública, but also from the national government in order to guarantee tranquility. The Governor stressed that the fuerza pública has had a permanent presence in all of Cauca's counties for a long time, the Army in rural zones and the police in the county seats. In referring to the comment made by President Santos regarding spaces that have yet to be covered, Grijalba explained that “there are sectors of the pacific coast due to the same difficulty of penetration and movement as much for the armed forces as for the population itself, other counties for their remoteness and very geography have the same difficulties but they are being covered little by little, but in the 42 counties there is fuerza pública.”

Analysis of the Arco Iris Foundation

Many analyses regarding the problematic of public order in Cauca have been made. There are those who suggest that the origin of the violence is centered on its being a movement corridor for the terrorist groups, others suggest the presence of illicit crops, or land tenancy. Ariel Fernando Ávila, coordinator of the Arco Iris Foundation Armed Conflict Observatory and National University researcher, asserted that in the last four years the intensity of the armed conflict in Cauca has increased some 10 to 14 percent. “It is not a new tendency, in the first half of 2011, as compared to the first half of 2010, an increase of 12 percent appeared, said Avila, who expressed that the conflict owes to many causes, such as the following:

The Cauca zone has converted into a theatre of operations of the FARC, whose Joint Western Command is the command that has best adapted to the “Plan Renacer” [Plan Rebirth] of Alfonso Cano [Currently the ostensible leader of the FARC]. It is a zone of great complexity, with land and mining problems between campesinos and indigenous peoples, and where there is an increase in illicit crop cultivation. Cauca is one of the country's most important centers of social conflict, with movements like the CRI [referring to the Consejo Regional Indígena or Regional Indigenous Counsel], which seeks to remain independent of the illegal armed actors, and seeks to create its own identity.

Cauca is one of the focal points of the country's development with the enlargement of the Pan-

*FMSO Commentary: The armed conflict in northern South America is complex, but this article from Diario Occidente, Cali, a daily newspaper from the Colombian city of Cali, serves as a primer regarding the nature of the warfare in a key battle area, as well as the nature of the attendant competing narratives. The Diario Occidente article is about warfare in Cauca Department (Colombia is divided administratively into 32 departments) found in southwestern Colombia. Traditional smuggling routes run through a half of the department's 42 municipios (counties). Colombians have long fought over these routes, plus commodity source areas, including poppy and coca croplands and precious metal mines. Violence oriented toward local populations, both in order to control intelligence and to exploit the necessary labor, has been a perennial element of the competition. The Nuevo Arco Iris [New Rainbow] Foundation often provides arguments that are relatively apologetic toward the FARC. In this article, Nuevo Arco Iris is reportedly discounting the use of the area as a FARC line of communications, but that perspective is dubious at best. Illegal mining seems to have risen in status among the strategies of parasitism. We note both how subtle the pressures are on local leaders and how careful the government wishes to be in basing military units in the area. **End FMSO Commentary (Demarest)***

Continued: Cauca's Terrible Ordeal

American Highway, the mining engine, and cane cultivation. "Cauca is a focal point that needs to be pacified, even violently if necessary, for development" said Avila, who finishes saying that in that department the fuerza pública has not known how to win over the population, and there are many outrages and the demonizing of the social movement. According to what the coordinator of the Observatory suggested, in conflict intensity, Cauca is one of the five most involved departments in the country, where there is more deterioration in security, together with Arauca, Norte de Santander.

FARC and ELN Corridors and Illegal Mining

For his part, the governor in charge of Cauca, Alvaro Grijalba, stated that the outlaw groups "know that there exists a series of corridors that are important for the development of their delinquent activities, that are fundamental for the transport and extraction of psychoactive substances with which they strengthen their finances, and for this reason they insist so much on maintaining dominion over those territories." The functionary explained that in the case of Argelia County, it is the gateway to the Pacific Ocean, while it is through northwest Cauca that the subversives can move toward the center of the country.

Commander of the Cauca Police, Carlos Rodríguez, explained that in Cauca, public order problems owe to drug trafficking and to illegal mineral exploitation, which also produces great dividends for groups outside the Law. Rodríguez said that in Cauca exist the FARC, ELN and illegal mining.

A Battalion.

Regarding the installation of a high mountain battalion in northern Cauca to combat the guerrilla and criminal bands, the governor in charge of Cauca, Álvaro Grijalba, suggested that the process of creation continues and that currently "socialization is being done, a prior consultation with ethnic groups that inhabit the zone, and it is part of the process to establish itself in Toribio county." Grijalba explained that the objective of the initiative is to have a special force that rejects and defend the rights of the people who are the day by day victims of delinquent activity. In referring to the terrain where the battalion installations are to be built, he confirmed that its achievement is a question of institutional support and of the agreement that is reached, and the departmental governor will support whatever is necessary for the security of the people of Cauca." Grijalba said that currently studies are underway regarding the site where it is going to be located, with prior consultation, sufficient funding, but the intention exists on the part of the departmental and national government.

Worries

The Cauca Public Defender, Victor Meléndez, said that his office works in diverse activities, such as the early warning system, accompanying at-risk communities, accompanying displaced populations, psycho-legal advising of victims, judicial representation of victims, presence in conflict zones, but what worries him most is the affectation [harmful psychological impact] in some Cauca communities. There is an affectation in some communities, principally in the indigenous zone, resguardos [similar to reservations] that suffer a permanent affectation for being in the theater of war, it is very worrisome that children, people who have to limit their personal, familial, and community activities, permanent risk that they might be affected by an explosive artifact, that they could lose their animals, the crop", said Meléndez. Precisely today, the National Public Defender, Vólmar Pérez, will be in Popayán [the capital of Cauca], to reactivate the territorial table of human rights guarantees and territories of Cauca, and also carry out an evaluation of electoral guarantees.

Investment Urged

Together with Toribío, Caloto, Jambaló, Suárez, Corinto is one of the counties of northern Cauca affected by the activities of the FARC. Gilberto Muñoz, mayor of that population, explained that in spite of some public order problems, there is tranquility in his county and even that, "two weeks ago we made ourselves a very nice, complete cultural week, with all the communities and communal action boards." The local leader affirmed that the armed groups have always been in the Cauca zone, and that what's really missing is more social investment. "I have always said that if we don't make social investment, they can put in all the police and soldiers they want and they are not going to solve the problem, the problem of Colombia is lack of opportunities, lack of inclusiveness, of response to the generation of income, of employment. Unfortunately sometimes there is a perspective from the military part, and we have been adamant, and we have said so to the President and to the military forces."

In the case of Corinto [county]

Muñoz explained that "a great investment effort has to be made, in the area of agricultural and fishing productivity, here, after all, the people produce coffee, fruit, there is cattle, we have good soils, and there is investment in each other, that if the people need to get their product out, that there be investment in maintaining the rural roads, the electric grid, we have a project presented in Bogota to expand service, and for education, here we have to make an investment so that young people who complete high school really have the option to attend a university or a technical college, the Sena [Servicio Nacional de Empleo, or National Employment Service] sometimes does some vocational work and if don't talk them up, and we don't put ourselves to the contest we will never have a real solution and the generation of income [maybe 'migrants to'] in the urban area, because our county hasn't a single company, and we live with barely a pulse."

By the same token, Ariel Avila of the Nuevo Arco Iris Foundation spoke, expressing that "peace in these territories, the absence of conflict is not to be made at the point of lead, or by increased troop strength. Colombia is not experiencing a terrorist threat, it is an armed political conflict, this also requires political solutions, and internal commerce needs to be created, prone to campesino development."

For his part, Gilberto Muñoz concluded referring to the guerrilla harassing attacks that, "One is never prepared, a human being always seeks where to protect himself, here orientations and suggestions have been given, but we don't want to accustom ourselves to that, the worst thing would be for us to accustom ourselves to the war, to the conflict -- we have to be capable of seeking the way out together.

New Attacks

New public order problems presented themselves in Cauca Department this Wednesday. According to what Colonel Carlos Rodríguez of the Cauca Police indicated, yesterday two harassment problems presented themselves, one in El Mango Corregimiento [precinct], where two explosive devices were launched against the police that did not cause any loss of life or infrastructure; and the other in Crucero Pandiguando precinct in El Tambo county, where a group of terrorists attacked. "These two sectors are critical within the theme of narco-trafficking, which is the principle fuel that is specifically affecting Cauca" Colonel Rodríguez said. The officer affirmed that there was peace in the urban surroundings. The Colonel indicated he will continue with the intelligence efforts as requested by President Juan Manuel Santos in the security council.

Chinese Analyst Recommends Military Action in the South China Sea

27 September 2011



Source: Huangqiu Shibao Online “龙韬：当前是在南海动武的良机 (It is the Right Time to Start a Fight on the South China Sea) 27 Sep 2011. <http://www.huanqiu.com>

Map of South China Sea by Yeu Ninje [CC-BY-SA 3.0 (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>)], via Wikipedia

龙韬：当前是在南海动武的良机 (It is the Right Time to Start a Fight on the South China Sea)

Before the 1970s, there were no controversial issues about the South China Sea; no country in the world raised any objection about China’s sovereignty declaration over the sea areas which are defined by the nine-dotted line. The root cause of the “issue” of the South China Sea lies in the South Vietnamese regime; after Vietnam became independent, it invaded China’s Nansha [Spratly] Islands and claimed sovereignty of China’s Xisha [Paracel] Island areas. Although China beat the South Vietnamese regime in the Xisha warfare and launched a land counterattack in the self-defense war against Vietnam, China did not stop Vietnam’s overt invasion on the South China Sea in time, and this led to a South China Sea syndrome. On the one hand, some other countries are encouraged to “openly seize” China’s Nansha Islands; on the other hand, Vietnam invited the United States and other small countries to get involved in the South China Sea issue, trying to deter China and escalate the bilateral dispute into an international issue.

China has concentrated on developing the economy, earnestly expecting a harmonious and stable environment. China does not want to see the South China Sea issue becoming an international issue and thus, causing a huge sacrifice of the country and an international disaster. China displays unmatched sincerity. For the moment, the South China Sea issue is escalating into an international issue; the trend is evident but the situation has not finalized yet. I think it is the best time for China to analyze the situation with a cool mind, seize the opportunity, and take decisive action.

Now all countries on the South China Sea are having arms races and adding remote heavy air and naval weapons to their existing armaments. Even Singapore which has no relation to the South China Sea is preparing to introduce state-of-art stealth fighters. The military plans of Australia, India, and other countries are careful enough for a world war;

FMSO Commentary: There have been tension and conflict in the South China Sea over the past 40 years as the surrounding countries have laid claims to various islands, primarily within the Spratly and Paracel archipelagos. The area is of great value to the surrounding countries because of rich fishing populations and oil and gas deposits that are believed to be beneath the ocean’s floor. At an international level, the area is a critical crossroad for global shipping channels, connecting the Indian Ocean to the Pacific Ocean.

In September, Long Tao, a strategic analyst from the China Energy Fund Committee, published the following commentary on why China should resort to military action in the South China Sea. In his commentary Long explained that no one disputed China’s sovereignty over the South China Sea until the 1970s, when Vietnam gained its independence and “invaded China’s Nansha (Spratly) Islands and claimed sovereignty of China’s Xisha (Paracel) Island areas.” Long encouraged China to wage small scale wars against the Philippines and Vietnam as a punishment for running the most wild and to serve as a warning to other countries interested in staking claims in the area.

*A full blown conflict between Asian nations in the South China Sea is unlikely due to the close economic integration in Southeast Asia. However, such commentary is worthy of attention. All sides have been building up their military capability, in particular China, which, for example, finished construction of its first aircraft carrier in July. Due to the strategic location of the area, any actions that would cause the shipping lanes to shut down could be detrimental to the global economy. **End FMSO Commentary (Hurst)***

Continued: It is the Right Time to Start a Fight on the South China Sea

Japan is also busy about war preparation. As for the United States, it not only has a good sale of its armaments and adds fuel to the flames, but also prepares for military intervention.

After America claimed to “return to Asia,” some small countries thought they had gotten a patron and raised a hue and cried for a war against China. Some intimidate China by wielding guns and powder, which is quite ridiculous.

The potential energy of a war in the South China Sea area is accumulating and China has not much time to waste. China should act as a host for regional cooperation and development, compete with the Western oil companies by offering more favorable conditions, and participate in oil and gas exploitation. As for some countries exploiting oil in our sea areas, China should try peaceful means to dissuade them before resorting to force. China should not worry about small-scale battles, because it is the best way to release the potential energy of war. A few small-scale wars will make a big-scale war unnecessary.

As far as the outbreak of war is concerned, we can analyze and see who is most reluctant to see warfare in the South China Sea. There are more than 1,000 oil and gas wells in the South China Sea area, but not one belongs to China. There are four airports in Nansha Islands, but the China mainland has none there. And China has no other important economic infrastructure. No matter who will finally win the war, the South China Sea will become a sea of fire once the war breaks out. Guess who will suffer most, just imaging those drilling platforms in the South China Sea like flaring torches? Who will bear the heaviest loss at that time when the Western oil and gas companies withdraw?

The South China Sea is the best battlefield for China. I think China should narrow the fighting target if it starts a fight. China could punish the Philippines and Vietnam which run most wild; this would serve as a warning to others. The war scale should be controlled to serve the purpose of punishment and no need to copy the war model of America in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Libya. China will certainly win the battle and if successful, the battle is very likely to become a moral enlightenment action, as what is told in the story of “Seven Catches.”

Many Chinese scholars think the United States makes China act indecisively on the South China Sea issue. However, for the moment, America has not been free from the mess of anti-terrorism wars, and the situation in the Middle East is far from stable. The United States is surely incapable of opening a second battlefield in the South China Sea, and its tough attitude is just bluffing.

The Philippine compares itself to a mosquito and said that it is not afraid of China which is like a giant elephant; and it attempts to win the sympathy of the international community. Surely, the elephant

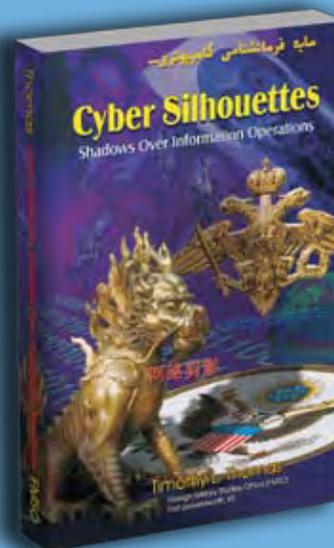
should not tread on the mosquito; but, is it justifiable for the mosquito to sting the elephant? What is more, the “mosquito” has invited the “hawk” in dealing with the elephant. My point of view is that because some countries infringe upon China’s territorial sovereignty and hold continuous, large-scale military exercises, it is a justifiable reason for China to launch a decisive counterattack.

Taking justifiable actions, creating advantageous situations, and maintaining the situation under control are still the principle to which we must hold on. By making a great determination for a large-scale war and an actual preparation for a small-scale war, China should hand over the option to the opponent, choosing between war and peace, and set up a new image of China. In 2008, Russia took decisive actions and soon stabilized the situation in the Caspian Sea; this experience tells us, though the action of major powers might shake the world for a while, the result is a fundamental realization of regional peace and strategic reconciliation between major powers in the long-term, which is a blessing of world peace.

This book explores the impact of the Cyber Age on military thinking and operations worldwide. Four issues are examined: the contrast between the concept of “cyber operations” used by civilians, including criminals and terrorists, and the concept of “information operations” used by armed forces; the differences in information operations (IO) theory among the US, Russian, and Chinese militaries; the manner in which militaries

use information operations in peace and in war; and the impact of cyber and information processes on the mind, the military machine, and their interface

– Tim Thomas



Chinese Viewpoint: A Warning about China's Rare Earth Being Used in U.S. Weapons

26 August 2011

Source: Zhongguo Qingnian Bao Online “为美军武器点石成金 别让稀土变稀泥 (Do Not Turn Rare Earth Into Thin Mud, and Let the U.S. Military Turn Stone Into Gold) 26 Aug 2011. <http://www.cyd.com.cn>

为美军武器点石成金 别让稀土变稀泥 (Do Not Turn Rare Earth Into Thin Mud, and Let the U.S. Military Turn Stone Into Gold)

Recently, the Ministry of Land and Resources issued a circular on implementing the State Council's "Several Points of Opinion on Promoting the Sustained and Healthy Development of the Rare Earth Industry", requiring comprehensive screening of rare earth mineral prospecting and exploiting rights, raising the threshold of mining permission, prohibiting in principle the existing rare earth mines from expanding their production capacity, substantially reducing the number of rare earth mining enterprises, striving to basically shape a rare earth mining structure dominated by large enterprises within one to two years. Over a long time, although our country is reputed to be a "rare earth kingdom", we almost had no pricing right and had no say in the international market. Moreover, researches in the domain of using the resources lagged far behind such developed countries as the United States and Japan. This led to the frequent appearance of a situation in which the resources were sold very cheaply at the expense of the environment and the long-term interests of our nation.

Rare earth is the general name of a series of metal elements, and is also referred to as "gold" in industry. Its most distinguished function is to substantially enhance the quality and performance of other products. In a certain sense, it is rare earth that accomplishes those fantastic military miracles...

Rare earth is the general name of a set of 17 metal elements, including lanthanum, cerium, praseodymium, neodymium. Because the electronic structure of the rare earth elements is very special, they have very rich physical features, including optical, electrical, magnetic, and thermal features, and can be mixed with other materials to shape a rich variety of new materials with different performance features. Their most distinguished function is to substantially enhance the quality and performance of other products.

In the last nearly 20 years, rare earth applied technology made substantial and rapid development in the domains of new materials and high technologies. Reportedly, one out of four new high-tech inventions was related to the use of rare earth. The "Patriot" missiles could easily knock down the Scud missiles; the M1 tanks could discover opposing targets before being discovered by opponents; the most advanced stealth fighter aircraft F-22 of the United States could cruise at supersonic speed. All were results of applying technologies related to the use of rare earth.

In a certain sense, the US military enjoyed overpowering superiority in the several local wars in the post-cold-war period, just because it held an advanced and leading position in rare earth science and technology. Of course, the use of rare earth in the military domain is far more than the cited examples. Rare earth materials play an extremely important role in information equipment, guidance equipment, semi-conductor equipment, the shaping of laser, the external coating material of the stealth aircraft. It can be said that rare earth has been applied to all aspects of the contemporary military industry as a whole.

In fact, almost all advanced and sophisticated weapons and military equipment contain rare earth elements. In particular, rare earth is concentrated on the most crucial parts of these weapons to produce miraculous effects. The "Patriot" missiles could easily destroy Scuds because of the marvelous job done by the precision guidance system, and the guidance system and do such marvelous job because it uses about 4 kilograms of samarium-cobalt magnets and neodymium-iron-boron magnets to produce electron beam focusing. Samarium and neodymium are rare earth elements.

FMSO Commentary: The following article illustrates that China is well aware of the importance of rare earth elements to foreign militaries, in particular to the United States. Chinese sources have referred to rare earth elements as a treasure trove of new material and the vitamins of modern industry. The article describes how rare earth elements have contributed to the overwhelming superiority of the U.S. military.

The author opines that China is potentially exporting its rare earth elements to other countries at its own peril. By all indications China lags behind the United States in military technological innovation. (Note: This is not to say that the United States is so far advanced that China will never catch up. The United States is much more transparent than China and, in some cases, one can only guess how far into applied research and development Chinese scientists have been diving. On the other hand, what is known is that China has thousands more scientists who focus on research and development of rare earth elements than does the United States.)

According to the article, the world is consuming cheap Chinese rare earth. If all of the country's reserves are used up one day, the author believes that China will be forced to pay premium prices to purchase rare earth elements from other nations.

Rare earth elements are an important "weapon" to safeguard China's rights and interests and counter other countries' power politics.

The author recommends that China should reduce its production and exports of rare earth elements. Currently, the United States and Japan are the top purchasers of China's rare earth. However, these two countries are currently involved in various disputes with China. If and when a confrontation should arise, the author ironically asserts that "it is very likely that the crucial parts of the aircraft, warships, and missiles that may truly cause threats to China are made of the rare earth materials we export without care of the consequences."

In a double edged sword scenario, since global production outside of China has not yet been able to pick up momentum, a severe and sudden reduction in rare earth exports from China could potentially deal a blow to the production of military equipment. Knowing the extent of the U.S. reliance on rare earths for its military could certainly lead China to take steps that could put a damper on the production of U.S. military weapons. **End FMSO Commentary (Hurst)**

Continued: Do Not Turn Rare Earth Into Thin Mud, and Let the U.S. Military Turn Stone Into Gold

In addition to the guidance system, the crucial part of the “Patriot” control wings also contains rare earth alloys. After rare earth materials were added to the armor of some advanced tanks, its anti-penetration performance was enhanced. For more examples, neodymium, a rare earth element, is also used in the production of the missile tail fin system and in the production of magnetic iron in the electric engines of some naval ship equipment; the mixture of samarium and cobalt can be used in the production of the naval ship navigation systems; the ytterbium element can be used in the production of the tank and missile laser guidance systems. To put it in a nutshell, by compared with traditional weapons, the strong points of the advanced and sophisticated weapons are their attributes of being convenient, more sensitive, more accurate, and easier to use.

Though it is simple to talk about these technologies, they actually concentrate many highest achievements in the material science, electronic science, and engineering domains in contemporary times, and most of these achievements are related to the discovery and implementation of some special functions of rare earth materials. In this sense, the development and use of rare earth in the last few decades actually provided a powerful engine for military science and technology.

Currently, exploitable rare earth minerals are mainly concentrated on a small number of countries, but based on their own strategic and environmental protection consideration, most countries mainly rely on the low-cost rare earth minerals exported by China...

Currently, exploitable rare earth minerals in the world are mainly concentrated in several countries, that is, China, the United States, Russia, Australia, India, and South Africa. In 2009, China’s proved rare earth reserves are 36 million tons, accounting for 36 percent of the world’s total; China’s annual output was 120,000 tons, accounting for 97 percent of the world’s total. On the other hand, the United States’ rare earth consumption ranked first in the world. In 2009, the proved rare earth reserves in the United States were 13 million tons, accounting for 13 percent of the world’s total, but its output was zero; in the same year, Russia’s proved rare earth reserves were 19 million tons, accounting for 19 percent of the world’s total, but the output was also zero; India’s rare earth reserves were 3.1 million tons, or 3 percent of the world’s total, and the output was 2,700 tons, or 2 percent of the world’s total. In that year, Japan imported about 30,000 tons of rare earth, while its output was zero. By viewing this batch of data, one may ask why the United States and Russia did not exploit rare earth on their homeland?

At present, the whole world is consuming China’s cheap rare earth. One day, if we eventually use up our rare earth, a kind of non-renewable resources, our posterity will have to pay hundreds, thousands, or even tens of thousands of times of the price to purchase such resources from other nations. The question is: Can we guarantee that we will not be once again subject to the ill fate of being the target of “export restrictions” and “embargoes”?

In addition, the disorderly exploitation of rare earth minerals may also cause startling environmental devastation. Because the mining of rare earth needs to use large quantities of chemicals, and the cost of processing the large volumes of waste water is also very high, plus China’s cheap export of rare earth over a long time, the Western countries successively closed down their own rare earth mines, and turned to simply purchased and stockpiled China’s cheap rare earth.

As “industrial vitamin”, rare earth minerals are our richest strategic resources and precious assets, and are also our important “weapon” for safeguarding our own rights and interests and countering other big countries’ power politics...

At present, more and more countries and military forces are actively getting involved in the contention for and the development of rare earth for the purpose of gaining the capability of asymmetric control over their opponents. For this, as a country with the largest rare earth reserves in the world, China should cool down such “competition” from the source. In particular, as the United States and Japan, which are the main purchasers of China’s rare earth, are involved in various disputes with China, when confrontation actually takes place, it is very likely that the crucial parts of the aircraft, warships, missiles that may truly cause threats to China are made of the rare earth materials we export without care of the consequences. Some Japanese scientists once boasted that without the chips made by Japan, the cruise missiles of the United States would not attain that precision. However, we may imagine that without China’s rare earth, the microelectronic chips could never be produced.

It can be said that the cheap export of rare earth has greatly harmed China’s long-term interests. China’s rare earth supply accounts for about 30 percent of the world’s total supply, but China’s rare earth export accounts for 80 to 90 percent of the world’s total. If such situation continues, China’s rare earth reserves may be maintain for just 15 to 20 years. On the contrary, if we cherish this type of strategic resources and precious assets, this will eventually bring about great technological superiority to us.

Only by controlling the resources, we may not fundamentally seize the right of speech. The true value of rare earth lies in its use. China should change from a large rare earth possessing country into a powerful rare earth using country...

Although our country has rich rare earth resources, we now still lag far behind the United States, Japan, and other countries in the domain of applied research. Statistics show that Japan is currently the country achieves the highest added value in the use of rare earth in the world, rare earth being used in the domain of new and high technologies accounts for over 90 percent of its gross rare earth consumption. However, in our country, rare earth is mainly used in the traditional domain, and that being used in the high-tech domain is less than 50 percent. In particular, our country almost has no self-owned intellectual property rights in the domain of new rare earth materials.

According to a report of the State Development and Reform Commission, China’s annual capacity of rare earth smelting and extraction is 200,000 tons, twice as much as the world’s annual demand. The ill-planned massive development and the low level of overall planning is the main reason why China cannot become a major country in the development and use of rare earth resources. Because of the prominent use of rare earth in enhancing military science and technology, we absolutely cannot allow such situation to continue, still less can we allow the exportation of rare earth to be turned into a threat against our own national security.

As rare earth is a kind of strategic resources, the rare earth industry is different from other ordinary manufacturing industries, and the added value is mainly concentrated on the middle and lower links of the production chain. In the chain of “mineral production”, “smelting and extracting products”, “functional materials”, “parts”, “end allied products”, with the extension of the chain to the lower links, the economic effects and such social effects as energy conservation and emission reduction will become higher. At present, China is the world’s largest country in the rare earth reserves, raw materials output and exports, but it mainly plays a role of raw material supplier. Therefore, only by actively promoting the industrialization of the technologies of which we possess intellectual property rights can we resolve the deadlocked condition in the rare earth applied research domain of China.

Chinese Espionage and Putin's Visit to China

8 October 2011

Source: Jiandian Ling Zhong Guanxi Shou Caiyi (Spy Case Makes Russian-Chinese Partnership Suspicious), GlobalTimes, 8 October 2011 <http://news.21cn.com/caiji/roll1/2011/10/08/9353145.shtml>

It is clear that the Chinese authors of this article advocate peaceful relations with Russia. However, Russia's concern over Chinese espionage provides evidence of the hidden tension between the two giant "strategic partners."

“间谍案” 令中俄关系受猜疑 Spy Case Makes Russian-Chinese Partnership Suspicious

Shortly before Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin is to head for China for summit talks with the Chinese leadership, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) unexpectedly announced that it has detained a Chinese national for a year for allegedly trying to buy technical and repair documentation about the Russian S-300 anti-aircraft missile system. The FSB did not reveal the reason why it decided to disclose the arrest only at this point, making media and analysts suspect its motives.

According to the FSB, this Chinese man, identified as Tun Shenyun, was acting under the guise of a translator of official delegations and had made attempts to get documentation for the S-300 long-range surface-to-air missile system by bribery. The Russian newspaper "Independence" claims that China could have got the documentation through normal channels. Currently, it is difficult to make judgements on this incident.

Israel National News Website published an article on October 7, analyzing the intentions of Russia to announce the spy case one year after the arrest and right before the visit of Putin to China. This article identifies three motives behind Russia's curious timing. First, as the United States retrenches its global dominance, the bonds between Russia and China could be weakened, and a reemergence of the Russian-Chinese rivalry like the one during the Cold War is not impossible. Second, Russia increasingly views China as a serious competitor in the arms trade, and the Russians are warning the Chinese that despite the strategic cooperation between the two countries, espionage in Russia. A final reason is that an arrest over charges of technology theft represents an indirect compliment to Russian technological prowess and constitutes a balm to Russia's harmed pride.

An article from Asia Times Online Hong Kong edition claims that energy cooperation will still be the focus of Putin's visit to China. In addition, it suggests that Putin's trip should be evaluated in reference to Russia's relations with the West. On the one hand, US-Russia "reset" ground to a halt. On the other hand, the Obama administration is resuscitating contentious issues such as missile defense and the "greater Central Asia" strategy, which are also in China's concern. Problems exist in Russian-Chinese relations, but this does not mean that our strategic partnership is unstable. Russia and China are competitors as well as partners, but definitely not rivals. To deny the Russian-Chinese partnership is to misrepresent the bilateral relations between the two states.

***FMSO Commentary:** Despite the intensive cooperation between Russia and China and the fact that both countries just vetoed the Western resolution against Syria on the UN Security Council, Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB) unexpectedly revealed that it arrested a suspected Chinese spy last year. This spy allegedly posed as a translator while seeking sensitive information on the Russian S-300 anti-aircraft system. More curiously, the news of the arrest was released less than a week before Vladimir Putin's imminent visit to China. This is Putin's first trip abroad since he announced last month that he will run in Russia's next presidential election.*

In this article, published by GlobalTimes, a Chinese newspaper representing official opinions on international affairs, the authors consider it too early to make any judgment on this spy case. Instead, they refer to an analysis from Israeli media, which attribute Russia's announcement to growing strain between Russian and China. As US global dominance declines, China and Russia will increasingly compete in military matters. This article cites the result of a report produced by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), which states that China's increasing global influence and reduced dependence on the export of weapons and energy from Russia, are making Russia strategically less significant to China. Nevertheless, the article calls for greater partnership between Russia and China.

*It is clear that the Chinese authors of this article advocate peaceful relations with Russia. However, Russia's concern over Chinese espionage provides evidence of the hidden tension between the two giant "strategic partners." The need for cooperation does not prevent Russia from feeling threatened by China's rise. China, on the other hand, though maintaining prudent rhetoric, cannot help revealing its growing self-confidence in its now seemingly advantageous position vis-a-vis Russia. **End FMSO Commentary (Du)***

FMSO Commentary: Central Asian governments have had a major interest in the situation in Afghanistan for the past ten years, and, now that the U.S. has announced a withdrawal in 2014, they are even more attentive. The following article reflects the Central Asian view that the Taliban or related groups could turn their attention to Central Asia after 2014. The advice the article gives is ambiguous, saying that Central Asian leaders should not build bridges with the Taliban, but also mentions that when the Taliban gained power crime and drug trafficking decreased.

While the drug trade has become a major problem for Central Asia both for governments and the population along the trafficking routes, the threat of spreading instability is still a bigger problem. Central Asian governments may not like the idea of the Taliban as a part of Afghanistan's future, but, if it meant a more stable situation, they would eventually accept it. Ultimately, Afghanistan after 2014 will depend on the involvement of Central Asia. While Central Asian leaders are concerned about how this plays out, they are equally troubled because they believe that no one notices. End FMSO Commentary (Stein)

Central Asian Assessment of Post-NATO Afghanistan

27 September 2011

Source: Pairov Chorshanbiev, "The Central Asian Nations Underestimate the Threat of the Post-NATO Afghanistan," Asia-Plus, 27 September 2011. <http://news.tj/ru/news/strany-tsentralnoi-azii-nedootsenivayut-ugrozu-poslenatovskogo-afganistana>



Afghanistan Soldier villagers photo "Khudahafiz", via Atlantic Council US <http://www.acus.org/trackback/50304>

СТРАНЫ ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ НЕДООЦЕНИВАЮТ УГРОЗУ ПОСЛЕНАТОВСКОГО АФГАНИСТАНА (The Central Asian Nations Underestimate the Threat of the Post- NATO Afghanistan)

The Central Asian nations underestimate the situation that might emerge in Afghanistan in 2014 in connection with the upcoming withdrawal of American troops, said Kazakh political scientist Rasul Jumaliev. In his opinion, a hostile force like the Taliban, may now be directed against Central Asia, in particular Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan.

"This is a huge threat to regional security – said Jumaliev – Now we can and need to, not try to build bridges with the Taliban, but somehow prepare for and monitor this situation." Jumaliev believes that in the end in Afghanistan, the Taliban will come to power as a brand of a national-liberation struggle. The Taliban will represent all the organizations that are united against NATO. There are positive aspects, for example, when the Taliban gained power in 1996 it ended the civil war and decreased the number of crimes and the country ceased to be a source of heroin.

Director of the Center for Strategic Studies under the President of Tajikistan, Sukhrob Sharipov, said that the nations of Central Asia must be prepared for the withdrawal of coalition forces in Afghanistan. "Countries must have a concrete action plan until 2014 and after, - he stressed. - We must come together to effectively counter the threats. "Sharipov also believes that the U.S. and Europe will have to provide comprehensive assistance to the Central Asian states to ensure security in the region after the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan.

Indian Interests in Tajikistan

22 September 2011

Source: Pranab Dhal Samanta, "India seeks to revive hospital on Afghan border," Indian Express, 22 September 2011. <http://www.indianexpress.com/news/india-seeks-to-revive-hospital-on-afghan-border/850026>



Map of Tajikistan by NordNordWest with Ayni & Farkhor location data from Wikipedia, [CC-BY-SA-3.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0)], via Wikimedia Commons

India seeks to revive hospital on Afghan border

Gearing up for the uncertain security scenario after the US downsizes presence in Afghanistan by 2014, India has formally approached Tajikistan to allow re-establishment of the famous Indian field hospital at Farkhor on the Tajik-Afghan border. India had first set up this hospital in 2000-01 to service the Northern Alliance troops fighting the Taliban.

However, after the Taliban were ousted, the hospital had been folded up. Nearly a decade later, it is back on priority list in the light of the fast-changing situation in the area. It's learnt that an Indian team held detailed discussions on this issue and a range of other proposals with their Tajik counterparts at Dushanbe few weeks ago. Also, both sides sorted out issues emerging from the nature of Indian presence at the Ayni airbase, 10 km from Dushanbe.

With the US set to withdraw from the Af-Pak region, New Delhi is doing its best to revive old contacts and increase influence as well as presence among Central Asian republics.

***FMSO Commentary:** While considerable attention has been paid to the supposed New Great Game between China, Russia, and the U.S. over access and influence in Central Asia, there are other interested parties involved. For the past several years India has been involved in security and energy related activity in Turkmenistan (the proposed Turkmen-Afghan-Pakistan-India gas pipeline), in Kyrgyzstan (officers from Kyrgyzstan's army can now attend various Indian military academies), and in Tajikistan (where the Indian military refurbished the Ayni airfield outside Dushanbe and set up the Farkhor field hospital).*

As the following article mentions, the Farkhor hospital closed sometime in 2001-02. The article also mentions the Ayni airfield, which India refurbished at an estimated cost of \$70 million, including improvements to the air traffic control tower, hangars, a perimeter fence and an extension of the runway to accommodate any type of aircraft. India tried to sign an agreement with Tajikistan to base Indian Air Force aircraft at Ayni but never finalized the deal.

*In the past month Russia reached an agreement with Tajikistan on basing rights for the 201st Motorized Rifle Division, and apparently included in the agreement was a lease for Ayni. There is speculation that India might share this airfield with Russia. This demonstrates that, while there is some competition over access in this region, the Central Asian states do have a choice with whom they cooperate. **End FMSO Commentary (Stein)***

FMSO Commentary: This is the second article in as many months where the government-backed newspaper Liter has highlighted military cooperation between the U.S. and Kazakhstan. The article points out detailed information that the average citizen in Kazakhstan knows little about, particularly U.S. foreign military assistance programs and the history of joint exercises and other cooperation. Kazakhs are probably only aware of military cooperation with Russia through bilateral programs or the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

When Kazakhstan's Senate rejected plans to deploy four soldiers as part of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) in Afghanistan this past June, it did so with the support of veterans groups (particularly veterans of the Soviet war in Afghanistan) and the general public. The deployment could still happen, but it is a remote possibility and it would only happen if Nursultan Nazarbayev, Kazakhstan's president, overrules the senate. This move would cause public backlash, coming at a time when there are already protests in different parts of the country over wages. While public opinion in Kazakhstan does not directly influence decisions at the highest levels of government, it can have an indirect impact.

While the Afghanistan deployment is unlikely, military cooperation between the U.S. and Kazakhstan will continue. At the very least, this leaves the door open for future deployments with the U.S. or NATO. However, before any other deployments are even discussed, the government may have to sell the idea of military cooperation with the U.S., and articles like this could help. End FMSO Commentary (Stein)

Western Winds in Kazakhstan



15 September 2011

Source: Andrey Korolev, "Combat Brotherhood," Liter, 15 September 2011. http://www.liter.kz/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7314&Itemid=2

Kazakh and US soldiers during training exercise. Photo by Staff Sgt. Mylinda DuRousseau U.S. Army via <http://co.ng.mil>

Боевое братство (Combat Brotherhood)

Against the background of the "Arab Spring" Central Asia continues to be an island of stability. Kazakhstan plays a large role in the maintenance of peace in our region, which is that of a leader in social and economic development and political reform. In this complex process the United States plays an important role, which in recent years has been involved in helping our country to reform the domestic armed forces and enhance the combat readiness of military units. Many members of the military command in Kazakhstan have trained in NATO military schools in Rome (Italy), Oberammergau (Germany), and the George C. Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen (Germany), and were able to familiarize themselves with aspects of NATO.

The cadets of the Military Academy of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan took part in NATO peacekeeping exercises at Fort Polk, Louisiana and other places. It should be mentioned that the Pentagon has created conditions for training of Kazakhstan's military in line with NATO standards. This is done through International Military Education and Training (IMET). As part of the IMET program Kazakhstan's service members have trained in well known U.S. military institutions: West Point, the Command and General Staff College, and the National Defense University. As of 2010 over the U.S. has sent more than 360 of Kazakhstan's service members to military institutions for more than 30 specialties.

In September 2003, the two countries (Kazakhstan and the U.S.) signed a five-year plan of military cooperation. Kazakhstan's plan, the only state in the region that has this kind of plan, includes important areas of cooperation like the development of the peacekeeping capacity of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan and also the improvement of military education and participation in joint exercises. The formation of the military structure of Kazakhstan is conducted by western standards. The regional commands structure, "West, East, South, and Astana", of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan is modeled after the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Sergeant Major of the Armed Forces of Kazakhstan has been trained in the U.S., where he became familiar with methods of preparation and service of non-commissioned officers. Since September 2004, Americans have been carrying out preparations for an NCO course for Kazakhstan.

The strategic partnership and bilateral military cooperation between our country and the U.S. appears to be the next opportunity to preserve peace and stability in Central Asia, which is now so essential for the region.

Saakashvili's Anti-Russian Radar

30 September 2011



Source: Yuriy Simonyan, "Saakashvili's Anti-Russian Radar. Georgia Is Prepared To Support the United States' Missile Defense System," *Nezavisimaya Gazeta* 30 Sep 2011

Missile Defense system via Atlantic Council US <http://www.acus.org/trackback/48752>

Georgia Is Prepared To Support the United States' Missile Defense System

Georgia wants to replace Turkey in the missile defense shield now being created. According to confidential information, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili, who recently received a negative response to this proposal from US President Barack Obama, has repeated it to the publication *The Daily Beast*. If the US side changes its mind and agrees with Saakashvili, Georgia, unlike Turkey, will not object to passing on data received from the radar stationed in the country to Israel.

Mikheil Saakashvili's latest attempt to strengthen by any means the US military presence in Georgia is far from being his first. All the previous attempts, however, including appeals to set up a full-fledged military base, have been met with caution by Washington. On the one hand, Saakashvili's proposals apparently fit in with the United States' plans, which envisage the universal strengthening of its positions and influence, and, at the same time, allow it to maintain a sufficiently serious force grouping in the vicinity of hostile Iran. But, on the other hand, Washington absolutely did not, and does not want to be directly drawn into a possible military conflict between Georgia and Russia, whose leaderships, like Iran's, are regarded as difficult to predict.

Saakashvili's motives for stationing the radar in Georgia are entirely understandable. Before the 2008 war, the Georgian leadership used to tease Russia more with similar ideas, or attempt to make them an object of political bargaining with Moscow. But now, the proposal bears a practical, even a rational character, and is itself, on the whole, risk-free.

First, relations with Moscow, which before August 2008 could have been spoiled by enticing an American military contingent, will now become no worse - only a second war could be worse. At the same time, from the practical point of view, for Russia, in the

FMSO Commentary: Three years after the Georgia-Russia War, the countries' relationship could not be worse. The Russian bases in South Ossetia and Abkhazia are home to thousands of Russian military troops, who regularly conduct military exercises. Each side accuses the other of "provocative" military activities along the borders between South Ossetia/Abkhazia and Georgia proper. Georgia regularly accuses Russian secret services of terrorist attacks (in the form of exploding bombs) and cease-fire violations. The current cease-fire borders seem to be taking on a permanent nature. Both countries routinely criticize the other in the local and international press. To Russia there is arguably no subject more sensitive than Georgia.

Well, perhaps there is one lone subject more sensitive than Georgia - NATO's missile defense plans. Russia's stance on the missile defense systems is well-known: instead of favoring two independent systems that would exchange information, Russia prefers a single system covering all of Europe that would be operated jointly by Russia and NATO with full interoperability. Moscow is concerned that a NATO missile defense system in Eastern Europe and Turkey could be used to target Russian nuclear capabilities. The Russians, in order to prevent what they call a new arms race, want legally binding guarantees that such missiles would not be directed against Russia. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov recently stated Russia needs "solid legal guarantees" the missile deployments will "not upset the strategic and regional nuclear balance." NATO missile defense is a particularly touchy and delicate subject for Moscow.

Thus, it is difficult to say which subject evokes a stronger emotional response for Russia: Georgia, or the NATO missile defense shield. What happens when these two topics are somehow combined? One gets a strongly-worded, scathing Russian article, such as the one below. The takeaway here: an ugly border dispute between two former (present?) belligerents with near irreconcilable differences can become all the more precarious when nuclear weapons are involved. **End FMSO Commentary (Thompson)**

Continued: Georgia Is Prepared To Support the United States' Missile Defense System

opinion of Georgian and Russian military experts alike, whether the radar is in Turkey or in Georgia has no special significance. But coming from Tbilisi, this looks like the latest provocation, a show of anti-Russian politics, and could theoretically compel Russia to station in, say, Abkhazia, an Iskander-M operational and tactical complex capable, if need be, of neutralizing this radar.

Second, Saakashvili has yet again taken advantage of the opportunity to stress his ultra-loyalty to the United States and his desire to join NATO.

Third, he genuinely fears a military strike from Russia, whose troops, as he himself never tires of repeating, "are located only 60 kilometers from Tbilisi." Moreover, his fears are growing in view of the probable return to the presidential throne of "enemy no.1" Vladimir Putin, who, in Saakashvili's words, "experiences satisfaction, simply goes out of his mind, from planning the individual details of special operations...it is impossible to imagine anyone touching such a sore spot for Russia, and especially for Putin, as Georgia, in such a way that Putin should not know about this, or should not issue an order." Meanwhile, if the presence of an American contingent will not become a guarantee of the stability of the Georgian regime, it will at least reduce, in its own perception, the degree of threats.

Fourth, if the Americans do agree to place a radar in Georgia, this will increase the regional significance of Georgia itself, which was wounded by those same aforementioned events of three years ago.

Fifth, by declaring that he would not object to handing over data received from this radar to Israel, or even to any country, Saakashvili may be hoping for a certain improvement in relations with Tel-Aviv, which deteriorated markedly after the arrest of Israeli businessmen close to the ruling elites. Despite the petitions of prominent representatives of the Israeli political establishment, the defendants were sentenced to lengthy prison terms.

The negative consequences could boil down to certain exchange of views with Turkey, which in this radar saga is possibly trying to play its own game with the United States, and for which the march stolen on it by neighboring Georgia may have come as an unpleasant surprise.

However, in the probable bickerfest with Ankara on this question, Tbilisi could indicate that, in point of fact, it was Turkey itself, by setting the condition of not using the radar in Israeli interests, that prompted Georgia, which is seeking to join NATO, to offer its services. Especially seeing that, following the "Turkish ultimatum," the United States openly began to look for alternative options - the initiators of revising the Pentagon's decision to place a missile defense radar in Turkey were the influential Republican senators Jon Kyl and Mark Kirk.

Saakashvili's hopes of the radar being stationed in Georgia do not look too overstated. When Obama recently declined to increase military cooperation with him, the "Turkish ultimatum" did not yet exist. The Georgian leader complained about this to *The Daily Beast*, admitting that the White House does not want to sell him modern missile defense systems and antitank weapons, which are needed solely for the purpose of increasing defensive capability, seeing that, even with its one enemy - Russia - Georgia is prepared even now to cooperate on individual questions. In particular, on the problems of Russia's membership of the World Trade Organization.

Mikheil Saakashvili stated that in negotiations on the WTO Tbilisi is waiting to receive from Moscow "the minimum technical framework that will allow any international public organization to carry out monitoring on the borders." As is well known, Georgia has demanded that Russia ensure that its officials are allowed to monitor the Abkhazian and South Ossetian sectors of the border, refusing to examine counter proposals in the form of restoring Georgian products to Russian markets: "For Russia, we have no wine or other products," Saakashvili stated recently. Now the Georgian leader has essentially noticeably softened the condition on the fulfillment of which Tbilisi would cease to bar Russia's entry to the WTO. The question, however, is whether this will be successful, and whether Moscow will even discuss with Abkhazia and South Ossetia the topic of the access of at least "international public organizations" to the border, in view of the fact that these republics, which have been recognized by Russia, have categorically objected to the presence of official Western structures, let alone Georgian ones.

However, there is also another circumstance not allowing one to regard the problem of Russia's joining the WTO as being easy resolvable. This being that, literally the other day, Georgian Foreign Minister Grigol Vashadze at a meeting with US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, having heard out her wish to see Russia in the ranks of the WTO, repeated Tbilisi's well-known tough condition. Thus it is evidently only at the next talks in Geneva, which are scheduled for the end of October, that it will become known whether there have been changes in Tbilisi's mood.

Albanian Lectures to NATO Defense College

26 May 2010

Source: Albanian Minister of Defense Speech to NATO Defense College, 26 May 2010, http://ns1.mod.gov.al/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=603%3Afjalimi-i-ministrit-te-mbrojtjes-imami-ne-itali&catid=3%3Afjalime&lang=en

Speech of H.E. Mr. A. Imami, Lecture to NATO Defense College

Dear General Loeser,
Dear Students,
Ladies and Gentlemen

Thank you for inviting me to address this audience today and talk about NATO, the Western Balkans region and the new strategic concept. I feel privileged to deliver a lecture in the NATO Defense College, as I am very well aware that since its establishment in 1951, first in Paris and then in Rome, this institution has contributed with high standard courses in Politico-Military issues by preparing thus selected personnel for NATO, among which some Albanians.

For many years, as a professor at the Academy of Arts I have been lecturing about art. This is my first lecturing in political-military issues and I couldn't think of a better place than this.

Western Balkans, Albania and NATO

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Albania, as Croatia, is a new member of the Alliance, as from 2009. In a recent report from IDM, it is shown that Western Balkans up to a 66% of population think that NATO provides security and stability in the region, compared to 26% EU, and 4% OSCE and UN. The same holds true for the opinion of Western Balkans region with regard to contributions in missions such as that of Afghanistan. 79% of the population thinks that their governments should send and continue to send troops in ISAF, in 80% they regard NATO presence there as important or very important.

In Albania itself NATO is supported by a 90% of population. One might ask Why this support?

Well, ladies and gentlemen, one should not forget that Western Balkans not far from these days moved from war to peace, from disintegration to sustainable development progressing significantly towards a Euro-Atlantic future. This area of contemporary Europe suffered ethnic rivalry, hyper-nationalism and bloody wars, in these area geopolitics and ethnic boundaries are often not divided.

What does NATO perform as so specifically to the countries of Western Balkans?

The former Secretary General of NATO, Lord Robertson has defined NATO as :”Our unique partnership was born in common philosophies of freedom and democracy. It was forged during half a century’s fight against tyranny. Now it stands as a beacon of democracy, toleration, plurality, openness and candor in a world menaced by extremism and

***FMSO Commentary:** Imagine you are a rabbit in the jungle, happily hopping along and minding your own business. Suddenly, you happen to wander into the wrong place at the wrong time - on either side of you are two of the biggest tigers you have ever seen. Unfortunately, you are in a confined space, with brush and undergrowth all around you. There is no convenient escape. You’re stuck. Fortunately for you, neither tiger cares about you, at least for the moment; they are focused on each other, as each perceives the other as treading on his territory. The tigers, each bearing huge, sharp teeth, simply look at each other with menacing eyes. You’re not sure what to do, since from your perspective you can’t tell if you are about to witness a huge fight to the death, or whether the whole thing is just theatrics. What should you do?*

This must be how some of the smaller countries feel when it comes to NATO’s missile defense plans and Russia’s opposition to it. It would certainly be understandable if a small country like Albania, one of the poorest countries in Europe, felt this way.

*Even though Albania arguably took sides when it recently became a member of NATO, apparently the country nonetheless wants to remain diplomatic in its public statements on sensitive issues such as NATO’s proposed missile defense shield. The following article, though a bit dated, is an excerpt from a speech delivered by Mr. Arben Imami, Minister of Defense of the Republic of Albania. The part where Mr. Imami talks about the missile defense shield is highlighted. In contrast to the Georgian president’s comments in the previous article, Mr. Imami’s carefully worded statement is a good example of how to keep the focus of the superpowers on one another, and off of a small country like Albania. **End FMSO Commentary (Thompson).***

Continued: Speech of H.E. Mr. A. Imami, Lecture to NATO Defense College

instability.”

Based on this our countries look at NATO as a family of shared values of democracy, rule of law and freedom. And all this are what we in the Western Balkans are working to build; as a political consultation mechanism that is geared towards consensus. It creates a high degree of confidence between members and push them to seek common solutions to common problems. A place where Member countries from both sides of the Atlantic can have discussions and consultations on important political and security issues. It is a broad Alliance and in the area of asymmetric threats this Euro-Atlantic dimension is more than needed a perspective that is helping our people, politicians and governments to look forward and leave the conflicts past behind

Last, but the most important, we have resolved the problem of security.

Today the Western Balkans are a more secure and stable area in which different people share the same living space, a crossroad of ideas, technologies and goods which offers opportunities for growth and integration. The region as a whole aims at EU integration and the regional cooperation is growing. The enemies of the past are today partners. This is the region that has been changed more than any other in these 20 years that passed after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Albania and Croatia joined the alliance in 2009; Macedonia will receive, we hope soon, an invitation. Montenegro was invited to enter Membership Action Plan in 2009; late this April, the Alliance decided to grant the Membership Action Plan even to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The door to NATO remains open for Serbia, and the Alliance is looking forward to Serbia taking more active role in the Partnership for Peace Program, which it joined in 2006.

All these countries, even small and with different level of ambitions, all contributing with troops in NATO missions. Albania, especially, considers its engagement in NATO operations, not only as a “must” deriving from its membership, but as a common sharing of security, which makes this small country safe and protected for the first time in its history.

NATO-EU relations and good partnership

NATO must continue exploring the possibility of establishing new partnerships with countries and organizations which share our principles, values and priorities, and which contribute to a more efficient response in managing civil and military global crisis. The Strategic Concept must recognize the European Union as the key NATO partner in addressing security challenges.

Nuclear issues

Considering that there are countries like Iran or North Korea that are working to possess nuclear capabilities, the New Strategic Concept must emphasize the role of NATO in deterring terrorist attacks and the spread of nuclear weapons. Albania is against the proliferation of nuclear weapons and supports restrictive manners that can be taken against countries that do not implement the agreement or decision on this issue.

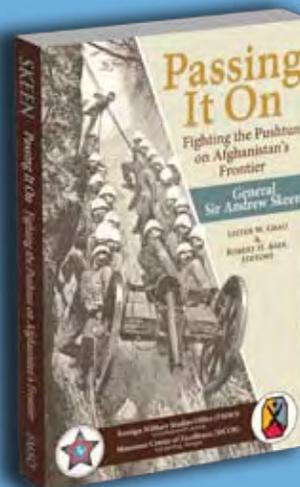
NATO-Russia relations

The Alliance is stressing even more the fact that cooperation with Russia is necessary in handling and coping with security challenges in some countries of the world as well as the enforcing of disarmament policies. NATO-Russia relationship have significant impact on other important issues of the Alliance and are sensitive for many reasons, since they included relationships of the countries within the Alliance, as well as of the Alliance itself with other countries such as Ukraine or Georgia.

I would like to underline that the development of cooperation with Russia should not be made through compromises at the expense of Russia’s neighbours. In this context, the new strategic concept should have clarity and provide general directions for how and for what to cooperate with Russia. Giving Russia the opportunity to share missile defense with NATO is a good way to create and increase the mutual trust.

Thank you for your attention.

The American infantry battalion is now a well-established actor in the Afghan theater. So why would the Foreign Military Studies Office and the Maneuver Center of Excellence resurrect a book from 1932 for the leaders of those units? Well, the book is about fighting Pushtun tribesmen in the remote regions of Afghanistan/Pakistan — an unchanged battlefield and an opposing force consistent in the difficulties it has caused for great armies over millennia.



This book, originally published as a guide for British lieutenants and captains, demonstrates that improvements in technology — much of it available to both sides — have had only a modest impact on infantry fighting in this rugged terrain. However, it also demonstrates that the key to enhancing basic infantry effectiveness is using the terrain effectively, maintaining force security and understanding the mountain people.

— Lester W. Grau

Romania's Involvement in the NATO Missile Defense System

22 September 2011



Source: Basescu On Romania's Involvement in the US Defence System: 'We Cannot Afford To Ignore Day's Risks,' Agerpress in English, 22 September 2011

Ballistic Missile Defense promotion slide, via MDA. mil

Basescu on Romania's Involvement in the US Defense System: 'We Cannot Afford To Ignore Day's Risks'

Bucharest, Sept 22 (Agerpres) -- President Traian Basescu has reiterated that the ballistic missile defense shield is a defensive system and that one of the reasons justifying Romania's involvement in the US ballistic missile defense system is the indication in some recent studies that there is an increased risk of ballistic missile strikes and Romania cannot afford to ignore this, because it has operational nuclear reactors and chemicals plants. "The US ballistic missile defense system is not an aggressive system, not a system against someone particularly; it is a defensive system that protects Romania, other countries, and the US. There are very many wondering why do we need this headache, and I would ask them what would they do, given that all studies indicate rising risks of ballistic missile strikes that target even Romania, risks that increase because of the proliferation and development of such systems in countries that are not engaged in the non-proliferation process. And my take here is simple: if we could solve this issue, could we afford to ignore the day's risks when we have two operational nuclear reactors? Can we afford to ignore such risks when we have operational chemicals works and many other industrial facilities that have to be defended?" Basescu said Wednesday [21 September] evening on the TVR public television channel.

About the emergence of additional risks as a result of Romania having signed a ballistic missile defense agreement with the US, Basescu said this is possible but measures are being taken to counterbalance them. "It would be incorrect for me to say that there is no risk related to the deployment of parts of the US ballistic missile defense system in Romania. Romania does become a target for those who intend such things against a NATO member state; I would say a priority target. At the same time, the risk is counterbalanced by the security systems that will be implemented in such cases. There have to be air forces able to respond, to deter any attempt to strike the installations. There also have to be defense equipment to prevent such scenarios. So, as the risks increase measures are being taken to counterbalance, counteract such risks. Yet, the biggest risk is a country that cannot defend itself against such a strike. That is the biggest risk!" Basescu explained.

FMSO Commentary: Romania, a relatively recent member of NATO (since 2004) is another country that the missile defense system directly impacts, both politically and economically. On 21 September 2011 Romanian Secretary of State Bogdan Aurescu delivered a speech at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmish-Partenkirchen, Germany. He talked about what implications the development by the US of the ballistic missile defense system in Europe will have for Romania and the region. He emphasized that Romania's decision to host some elements of the antimissile defense system expresses "our country's steady commitment to the principles of the indivisibility of the Allied security and solidarity." He also emphasized the strictly defensive nature of the system to be placed in Southern Romania and stated that, in short, "the anti-missile defense will make our world a safer place." Similarly, Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Baconschi stated, "The wind of change in the Arab world demonstrates that democracy is worth fighting for, and once gained it must be jealously protected. As a member of the free world and as a strategic partner of the United States, Romania is determined to participate in the effort toward global security." Foreign Minister Baconschi stated that building a missile defense system on Romanian soil is an essential part of the effort to implement the decision NATO made last November in Lisbon to develop a missile defense capability.

Given the fact that Romania is geographically closer to Russia than some of the other countries which will support the missile defense system, Russia cannot be happy. A missile defense system in Romania would literally be on Russia's doorstep. The Romanian leadership has, no doubt, taken this fact into consideration. Indeed, one might even interpret Romania's enthusiasm toward the missile defense system as more political in nature, rather than motivated by military necessity – Romania wants to demonstrate its independence from Moscow. In the following article, Traian Basescu, the President of Romania, emphasizes the defensive nature of the system and suggests that Romania's participation is simply the lesser of two evils. **End FMSO Commentary. (Thompson)**

FMSO Commentary: For a viewpoint closer to the Russian view, let us look at Serbia. It is no surprise that Russia's traditional ally is just as unhappy about NATO's proposed missile defense system as Russia, and sees it as a threat to regional stability. Serbia operates a number of somewhat outdated, Soviet-style surface-to-air missiles, many of which were destroyed during the war in 1999. The lack of a modern missile defense system, combined with still fresh memories of NATO's victory a decade ago, induces some Serbian leaders to look to Moscow for security guidance.

The article below underscores how Serbia is a country politically divided. A large part of its populace remains committed to the country's traditional identity with Russia and its longstanding anti-Western sentiment (accentuated by NATO's bombing of Serbia in 1999, as well as an ongoing push by the West for Serbia to accept Kosovo's independence). Conversely, progressive and influential elements of Serbia's political establishment are pressing for further integration with the West via NATO and the EU – primarily for economic reasons – with Kosovo's independence remaining a troublesome thorn in their side. The article reflects a genuine concern for the country's safety regarding the geographical proximity to Serbia of NATO's missile defense components. There is also a hint of frustration that this NATO endeavor also places Serbia in an awkward political position vis-à-vis tense EuroAtlantic-Russia relations. **End FMSO Commentary. (Thompson)**

NATO Shield Poses Threat to Serbia

25 September 2011



Source: "NATO Shield Poses Threat to Serbia, Expert Says," Belgrade B92 Online, 22 September 2011 <http://www.b92.net/eng/news/politics-article.php?yyyy=2011&mm=09&dd=25&navid=76551>

Bilateral meeting with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the President of the Republic of Serbia, Boris Tadic. Photo by NATO via www.nato.int

NATO Shield Poses Threat to Serbia, Expert Says

BELGRADE – The U.S. missile bases in Romania could represent a threat to Serbia since it could end up being a collateral damage in a possible missile attack.

Only two days after the agreement had been signed to set up the U.S. missile shield in the U.S. Deveselu Air Base, Washington signed an agreement on September 15 to build an identical base in Poland.

Russia has stated it will take reciprocal measures and direct its missiles toward the bases hosting the NATO missiles.

"We are living in a period when a new cold war is being waged. There are numerous reasons to set up the missile shield along Russia's borders, and the most important one is to prove economic and military power of the U.S. and NATO countries to everybody in the international community. A strategic consequence of the missile shield is to impose a need on Russia to build a new missile defense system which costs a lot, with an aim to economically drain it. The second important goal is an internal polarization of population in Russia," Faculty of Security Studies Professor Slobodan Mi oviæ told daily Veæernje Novosti.

"Setting up of the missile shield less than 200 kilometers from Serbia has a large negative affect on security and increases our country's vulnerability," the professor explained.

"This is especially the case because our anti-aircraft defense systems are outdated. Setting up of the missile shield is a provocation of all the countries in the South East Europe and the Balkans, because it requires far bigger financial expenses if you want to maintain security at the necessary level. It will probably cause additional conditions and pressures in our country because of the membership in NATO and in the European collective security and defense system," he pointed out.

Mi oviæ believes that the missile shield in Romania will force Serbia to make a difficult choice - to decide not to invest in defense and additionally reduce security or to increase financial expenses.

"NATO will not pressure Serbia into formally joining the Alliance after the missile shield is set up in Romania," he said, adding that the purpose of the missile shield was to exert psychological and economic pressure on Russia, not to start a nuclear war.

"However, the one that has power has a big problem because it is always tempting them to use it. In case of a large-scale conflict Serbia could easily become a collateral damage, not only because of the missile shield in Romania but also because of the U.S. bases in Kosovo. However, much bigger danger for the entire South East Europe in that case would be if Klotzoduy Nuclear Power Plant was hit," the professor was quoted as saying.

Russian Planning against Terrorist and Developed Armed Forces

13-19 July 2011

Source: Krasnaya Zvezda, "Future War"

Future War Krasnaia Zvezda, 13-19 July 2011

The world is changing. The development of technologies and geopolitics are changing the look of possible wars of the future and are objectively putting on the agenda the issue of the necessity of new approaches in military development. It is becoming evident to many independent specialists that a new model for the development of the armed forces must correspond to the new realities. A country preparing to win wars of the past is inevitably doomed to destruction, as world history has demonstrated more than once. Today we present one viewpoint set forth in the Russian language section of the Internet (the expert, who stated this in "Zhivoi zhurnal" [Live journal] uses the pseudonym "El Murid"—<http://el-murid.livejournal.com>). The reflections, of course, bear the nature of a discussion, but as presented they merit the attention of specialists.

The war in Libya is interesting in that one can speak about the emergence of an absolutely new situation in wars between regular adversaries, where absolute dominance in the technical and fire power of a coalition not only does not result in unconditional and swift victory, but, on the contrary, limits any of its potentials to influence the situation in a positive direction for it.

Obviously it makes sense, putting aside the purely military specifics, to ask the question: What kind of wars await us in the immediate future? Of course, "us" is Russia. Let everyone else have their own headache.

From ancient times military art has crystallized one and the same idea, which has been sounded by various military philosophers, historians, and theoreticians in different ways; its essence, however, remains unchanged. Men use weapons to fight. The most perfect weapon turns into a useless piece of high-tech metal or some other material if it is used incorrectly.

This, however, is still not everything. Despite the fact that men use weapons, it is not they who fight. More precisely, it is not completely they. Organizational structures fight. **And every new war requires new organizational structures.** Sometimes innovations are of a cosmetic nature, sometimes fundamental. But this is just why it is impossible to create a universal and all-conquering military machine: each adversary requires an individual approach and new solutions. And a military machine—even one with the most terrifying power—that has been honed on one adversary turns out to be useless against another. This is what we are observing in Libya.

It will be a matter of organizational structures if we wish to understand what kinds of wars there will be in the immediate future. It is not about weapons—this is a purely secondary and very pragmatic question. It is not about military power or lack of military power or military stratagems. These are also secondary and completely unimportant.

As is known, any management/administrative problem is solved in three stages. In the first stage the problem is formulated, that is, name what we want to obtain at the end. In the second stage organizational structures are created to solve this problem. In the third stage the structures are manned and resourced. Only such an approach is intelligent and the least wasteful, although, undoubtedly, it does not guarantee that there will not be mistakes and errors. An incorrectly formulated problem takes all the sense out of its subsequent solution. An incompetently created organizational structure has a low coefficient of useful activity and wastes a considerable part of its resources and time in a "white noise" routine. And so forth.

Therefore, it is namely in order to understand with what we will have to contend in the future (which very soon may be the present) that it is necessary at first to formulate what kind of adversary we will have to fight against, and just how we intend to defeat him or, in the worst case, disrupt his plans.

FMSO Commentary: This article describes the author's views of the important future considerations Russia must take when contesting terrorists and developed nations. With regard to terrorists, the author makes the point that finding and killing terrorist leaders is an idiotic strategy. It is better to play leaders off one against another, intimidate rank-and-file members, discredit rebel leaders, and offer endless amnesties. The idea is to force terrorists to confront terrorists. The article appeared before Osama bin Laden was killed.

When confronting developed nations, the author finds it necessary to establish a proper correlation of forces and means and innovate in the area of "wonder weapons." This concept is in opposition to Western strategies, which are focused on behaving like grand chess masters and attempting to place an adversary in an untenable position. Russia must create situations that do not allow

adversaries to place them in an untenable position. Russia must force the adversary to enter a war the latter wants to avoid, especially if that adversary is psychologically unprepared for it. The author postulates that operational art comes down to attaining air dominance. Thus, another key to future victory against developed nations lies in creating a powerful air defense system. Perhaps for this reason the Russian armed forces over the past year has focused on creating an aerospace force. However, also postulated is that spetsnaz forces will play a larger role everywhere (frogmen, hackers, etc.) for Russia's armed forces in the future.

There are contradictions in the article. For example, while first stating that wonder weapons help ensure victory, the author ends the article stating that "aircraft carriers and other wonder weapons for our country" have no future. The solution lies in another plane,

indicated as a “man” who is willing to fight for his country, not a “man” who is hired to fight. The anti-mercenary and anti-man-for-hire mentality is obvious in the author’s presentation. Also of interest is that in both the fight against terrorism and against potential developed adversaries, it is necessary for Russian theorists to “create such a war” that enables success. This concept appears more comprehensive than the US concept of “shaping.” “Creating” appears to mean starting from scratch while shaping appears to mean developing a situation with the components at hand (or adding a few) to one’s liking. End FMSO Commentary (Thomas)

Continued: Future War

In my opinion we will be forced to immediately conduct one or several of five possible conflicts:

- against regular, high-tech Western armies;
- against regular industrial armies of third-world countries;
- against irregular formations—terrorists, saboteur groups, insurgents, and insurgent territories;
- cyberattacks against high-tech targets of the military and civil infrastructure;
- information warfare.

These are fundamentally different adversaries and, without a doubt, either we must have an army capable of quickly re-forming under conditions of a war against each of them, or we must have five different armies and five different strategies. Which is better—we will examine later. However, I think that the scale of the problem is obvious.

Irregular Formations of Insurgent Territories, Terrorists, and Saboteurs

These are our permanent problems today, tomorrow, and in the foreseeable future for decades to come. The theater of military operations is the territory of Russia and the entire world.

In order to understand how to fight against this enemy it makes sense to make several axiomatic statements.

First. The international struggle against terrorism is a myth. Terrorist groups are an instrument of the struggle between some countries and others. It makes no sense to join with the US, for example, with regard to the issue of the struggle against the Taliban if “Taliban” is only one of the administrative departments of the US, albeit a specific one. Therefore, the struggle against terrorism is purely a national problem.

Second. Russia, under conditions of the violation of international law, must firmly clarify itself regarding the issue of the legitimacy of observing the sovereignty of neighboring countries. In the case where a terrorist threat originates from the territory of a neighboring country, we must, being aware of possible complications, individually decide the question of employing force on the territory of this neighboring country. In other words, if the situation requires a strike against a base or against a concrete target, or the conduct of a special operation on the territory of a foreign country, then it is necessary to do this. If it is necessary to break open a computer and set up a network in a foreign country, there can be no vacillation or questions. If it is necessary to disorganize transport work in a foreign megalopolis and cut off feeding in a regional relay network in any country, not even a hint of tolerance can arise. Such a war cannot be waged in any other way.

Terrorism

In order to formulate the strategy for such a war, it is necessary to understand very clearly the modern structure of terrorist organizations. This is a two-level system, on the lower level of which are cells that are not connected to one another. These are the terrorist groups. The second level is the headquarters.

It is completely obvious that the strategy for struggling against this enemy must originate from the fundamentally different structures of the levels. The lower level is the network. Chaos. The absence of any kind of structure whatsoever. The upper level is composed of very clandestine hierarchical structures—analytical, staff, financial, lobbyist, informational, etc.

The struggle against them is fundamentally different. In order to struggle against the lower level it is necessary to create a structure on the same order—specific leaders, agents of influence, and spetsnaz assembled with regard to national, ethnic, and religious indicators. The aim of this struggle is to play the different terrorist network groups, as well as entire structures, one against the other. The tactics for this are varied and are not the purpose of this article, but the idea of the struggle should consist not of reacting to terrorist acts and sabotage that have already occurred or are anticipated, but rather of creating a war of everyone against everyone in the terrorist network structure that is opposing us. What will come to us and to our territory should, without a doubt, be intercepted and snuffed out by already existing special service structures. The principal struggle will, however, unfold directly in the terrorist detachments and groups.

Continued: Future War

In order to struggle against the upper level of terrorist organizations, it is necessary to create a similar hierarchical structure, replicating the adversary's structure—analytical, financial, staff, etc. The goal is to bring to light all levels of the enemy hierarchies and conduct operations to destroy them, to include physical destruction, even on the territory of any other countries.

It is obvious that the struggle against the upper level of terrorist organizations essentially comes down to cyberwar – the stern ninja warrior appears only at the final stage, and the basic war will be waged in the information domain. In this sense, ten hackers will do the work of hundreds of “force specialists”: they will nullify records, clean out databases, remotely set fire to computers and C3 systems, download compromising information, etc. And so the contour of such a structure is a quiet, modest office with hundreds of “wolfhounds on a leash.”

Insurgencies and Insurgent Territories

Essentially this is a subcategory of the terrorist threat discussed above. By its nature any insurgency is highly lacking in organizational structure. There are many leaders, many different currents, sects, armed groups, etc. In addition to the purely force component in a war against an insurgency, it is necessary to have a structure, part of whose mission is to create chaos in the insurgent environment, to play the leaders off one against another, to intimidate the rank-and-file members, and to offer amnesty—endless amnesties, which split the insurgents from within.

Any insurgency and any revolution fades out very quickly if their leaders discredit themselves in the eyes of the rebels. To kill them and make martyrs of them is an idiotic strategy. To make them traitors is the most reliable method. Nothing demoralizes an enemy so much as his leadership manifestly betraying his ideals. And this is the aim of such a structure.

Conclusion

In other words, war against terrorism and insurgency should be waged by the forces of both the special services and the army, but not head-on, where for a shot from a village artillery removes the village from the face of the earth, or after a terrorist act at an airport restrictions are set up at all stations, and six months later everyone has forgotten about them. War against terrorism should be conducted by the terrorists themselves, and the task of our structure is to create such a war and support it.

It is obvious that such a structure must be established in both the army and special services, because it is always possible that tasks that are atypical for one of these institutions may arise. The problem of coordination arises—this is that one structure is still probably purely informational-analytical, with decision-making rights.

Regular Armies of Industrially Developed Countries

The most complex [*neodnoznachnyi*] adversary against whom we will most like struggle is, undoubtedly the regular armies of industrially developed states. As a subcategory, we may clash with neighboring armies of developing states equipped by foreign “sponsors.”

I call such an adversary “complex” because he is sort of habitual [*privychnyi*], and it is namely in opposition to him that the entire Soviet machine was honed. But just sort of. The problem is that the Soviet military machine was honed under global opposition and directed toward global war. Local conflicts that were conducted on the territory of third-world countries were, for the most part, considered exercises and a means for developing tactical experience and operational art.

Strategically the army was ready to fight as well in the Second World, by means of masses of equipment and men on enormous expanses.

Today, however, global conflict has been eliminated without a trace. Low- and mid-intensity local conflicts have taken its place (conflicts with the participation on the part of both sides of 500,000 and 1,000,000 respectively are considered as such).

The aim of global opposition in its military phase was earlier formulated as the complete disintegration of the adversary; here, his physical survival was not a limiting factor.

Today the aim of any conflict is fundamentally different: inflicting military defeat and forcing [the vanquished] to accept the victor's conditions, without seizing the adversary's territory, without inflicting upon him catastrophic damage, and, if possible, without subjecting the adversary's army and civilian population to fatal losses.

Theaters of military operations have shrunk from expansive regions with varied geographic and climatic conditions to a point. One thing is certain: there may be several of them, but there are no and cannot be any continental or oceanic theaters of military operations.

History has turned a complete cycle and returned in a spiral to the point where two armies gather on one field and resolve the outcome of a war in one general engagement or, in the extreme case, in a short series of fierce skirmishes.

There is no doubt that each conflict is individual, and it makes no sense to lump together all conflicts into some single system. Nevertheless, it is impossible today to imagine a repeat of the epic engagements of the First and Second World Wars.

It is for just this reason that all armies of developed industrial countries are today developing according to a very stereotypical principle, which originates from the strictly Western strategy of defeating the adversary, if possible, without any or with minimum contact with him.

This means a number of very substantive differences of the contemporary industrial army:

- this is an army **manned on a voluntary basis** (the names may be different—for hire/mercenary, voluntary, contractual, professional—but the essence is one and the same). It is understood that different countries do this differently: there is the mixed type of manning; there is universal obligatory military service (as in Israel, although for Israel the adversary is completely different). On the whole, however, our concern is, namely, the for-hire soldiers/mercenaries [naemnik];

- operational art comes down to **attaining dominance in the air**. The attacking side tries to destroy the air defense and rocket defense systems, and enemy aviation and airfields, and the defending country tries to protect its air defense system and inflict unacceptable damage on the adversary's aviation;

- ground operations come down to **capturing or holding key points**; in this case decisively defeating the adversary's forces is not the aim of the war.

In other words, total war is a thing of the past; adversaries behave like grand masters behind a chessboard. Having made a number of successful moves, after which “checkmate” is inevitable, the victor proposes that the vanquished assess the situation and surrender without having the game continue to its unavoidably destructive conclusion.

In fact, victory is determined by the correlation of forces and means, combat power, and degree of innovation in their *Wunderwaffe* [“wonder

Continued: Future War

weapons”] arsenals, and depends very little on the military capabilities of either the command or the personnel. It is for just this reason that a characteristic feature of Western armies is the swift degradation and subsiding of the middle level for all links—this is noted everywhere.

Practically speaking, what does this mean? If we are to play according to the proposed rules, then under a completely changing task we are faced with creating organizational structures analogous to Western structures, which duplicate and replicate the structure of the military organization of NATO, as the largest and most powerful industrial adversary. [We are faced with] developing not a massive but an extremely expensive modern aviation and air defense; with reducing the cumbersome structures of the ground forces, honed under massive employment; with resolving problems of opposition at sea; with developing special forces; and with creating extremely powerful strike formations outfitted with the most advanced equipment.

It should be mentioned that, in my opinion, much of what is now being done within the framework of military reform in Russia is very sensible.

Duplicating a foreign organization, however, undoubtedly leads to the acquisition as well of the faults of the Western military machine. There are many of them. Too many of them, and taking into account that the currently victorious Anglo-Saxon strategy of organizing armed forces profoundly contradicts national military traditions, the copy will always be worse than the Western equivalents. Worse—this means that he who plays “according to the rules” will either always lose or will always require greater force effort and greater expenditures of resources and time.

Russian military tradition is based on the beauty of the operation, that is, on the ability to find a solution, in the presence of a deficit of resources and time, that will make it possible to achieve the maximum possible result. The Anglo-Saxon strategy of total superiority, on the other hand, in principle discounts the situation of equal forces or, even more so, the logistical superiority of an adversary. If this superiority does not exist or if it is not evident, it is practically guaranteed that the conflict will not shift to the military phase.

This means that, in a conflict with the industrial army of any probably adversary, it is necessary to assign a fundamentally different mission, which will make it possible, even if there is a gap in some component or other, as a minimum to get out of the conflict with a draw.

I see the only non-trivial way out of the complex situation as follows. **The weakest link in any structure is man.** Under certain circumstances. Under other circumstances he may be the strongest factor. This means that it is necessary to create from the beginning a situation in which the adversary, categorically not wanting a contact war, avoiding it, and fearing it, will be forced to engage in such a war, essentially being psychologically unprepared for it.

Such a situation is created by breaking the adversary’s strategy as he attempts to seize air dominance. The very fact of the existence of a powerful air defense system operating from the lowest through to the highest echelons, makes the solution of the task of gaining air dominance extremely problematic. Yes, it is theoretically possible to destroy air defense systems, but if to do this the adversary will suffer unacceptable aviation losses, there will be nothing with which to maintain air dominance. Therefore, the existence of air defense and rocket defense makes such a conflict extremely problematic, and the iron guarantees to bring down everything that may cross the air boundary will thwart any aggressive plans...

Falling out of step in strategy and the impossibility of gaining dominance in the air demoralize commanders and staffs of an industrialized adversary, because it assumes a shift to conducting direct combat operations in contact. In a situation where there is not total air support the adversary’s command simply does not risk escalating the conflict further.

As a variant—however, under our conditions it is, of course, inapplicable—a very curious situation has unfolded in Libya. Qadaffi’s forces in no way reacted to NATO raids, employing the very simple and very effective tactic of dispersal and the ability to concentrate at a moment’s notice, deliver a strike against the adversary, and once again disperse. Gaining dominance in the air was absolutely no help to the coalition, and among the European military there was a feeling of increasingly distinct lack of focus: they did not understand what they should do.

This, however, is only the beginning. Having made the assumption that **the weak link in an army for hire is man** (which, by the way, is confirmed by the entire history of mankind), it is necessary to demoralize not only the adversary’s command, but also his personnel proper. Once again it is a matter of a strategy for which the adversary is not prepared, with respect to the very nature of his organization.

The spetsnaz era has arrived. *Spetsnaz* is not capable of stubbornly holding the defense of Stalingrad or of making a bayonet charge—the normally trained infantry deals with this. But to create bedlam in the adversary’s tactical and operational rear areas, to harass enemy soldiers before contact, to conduct a total information struggle against the adversary’s tactical and operational levels—only the *spetsnaz* are capable of this. If the theater of military operations also encompasses water expanses, then there are also frogmen for this. The tactics of harassment are fatal to a for-hire army—the for-hire soldier is incapable of “staunchly bearing the burdens and deprivations of military service”; he did not join the army for this.

The entire idea of struggle against such an adversary comes down, in essence, to waging a psychological war. Having demoralized the adversary—both the command and control link and the lower-standing structures—his superiority in the remaining components can be leveled.

Thus, in my opinion, in creating a nonnuclear component of the army it is necessary to shift the balance to the side of maximum equipping of air and rocket defense, as well as to increased training and outfitting of *spetsnaz* troops, capable of fighting in any environments and under any geographic conditions.

It is namely in this key area that it is necessary to examine my doubt of the necessity of powerful armored forces, aircraft carriers, and other “wonder weapons” for our country. Undoubtedly an industrial army must develop all components of its organizational, informational, and technical structure; however, the race to outstrip other countries that are immeasurably more powerful with respect to finances, resources, and other indicators has no future. The solution lies in another plane.

Sound Mind, Sound Body

2 October 2011

Source: Denis Telmanov, "Military Psychologist Corps Will Be Doubled Due to Soldiers' Inadequacy: Without Help, Every Fourth Draftee in the Army Can Be a Suicide," *Izvestiya Online*, 2 Oct 2011

Russian Military Psychologists to Be Doubled to 3,000

The Defense Ministry will double the number of Army psychologists in military units to 3,000. Such measures are being taken due to a sharp deterioration in the state of draftees' minds in recent years. Every fourth conscript now needs the help of a psychologist -- according to the military's data, there already have been 83 cases of suicide since the beginning of the year.

"Today's youth is less stable against stresses. Alcohol, drugs, and total Internet dependence shape a personality which has difficulty of adapting in the social medium, especially a closed one such as a military unit. Therefore the mind does not stand it when they are plucked from their micro-world," Defense Ministry Military University Psychology Department Professor Petr Korchemnyy said, explaining the military leadership's decision to *Izvestiya*.

According to World Health Organization data, drugs now are used regularly by almost 7 million Russians, almost 60% of whom are young people in ages from 16 to 30. Each year drug dependence causes the death of 30,000 young people. Only 4% of all schoolchildren have not tried alcohol. Every seventh child is being brought up in an incomplete family.

There is only one psychologist for 3,000 conscripts in each brigade for now, and he is physically incapable of devoting attention to each soldier. World practice considers the standard to be when a specialist "leads" a group of no more than 500.

"It is much simpler to identify soldiers in a borderline state if regular talks are held with the "risk group" -- conflicted or withdrawn youths, children from disadvantaged families, those with convictions, and those with problems in personal life," a woman psychologist of one of the Ground Troops brigades told *Izvestiya*.

There will be 1,500 new Army psychologists recruited from psychology faculties of civilian vuz's [higher educational institutions]. The military themselves of course want graduates of psychology faculties of MGU [Moscow State University] and SPbGU [St. Petersburg State University], but pay of R6,000-8,000 hardly will attract specialists from these vuz's. "The main requirement is that the education must be academic," the Defense Ministry emphasizes.

According to human rights organizations of soldiers' mothers, due to the desire of military commissariats to fulfill the plan to matter what, each year up to 30% of servicemen are declared unfit to serve in the Army because of hidden illnesses, including mental.

"In 16 years of work, I saw military psychologists only in Chechnya. but they were of little use, because all the same, they are subordinate to the unit commander: what he says is how it will be. Therefore soldiers turn immediately to us with their problems and we go directly to the military procurator and get our way," said Mariya Fedulova, spokeswoman of the Union of Committees of Soldiers' Mothers of Russia.

The first authorized psychologist appeared in the Soviet Army in 1976. The psychological service has constantly changed since then, but has remained steadily in demand. Military psychologists now work in the armies of practically all countries of the near abroad, with the exception of Georgia and Azerbaijan.

In the US Army, which together with reservists numbers around 2 million persons, 60,000 ideological workers with a psychology education fight for the mental health of officers and men. And the number of psychologists has increased several-fold in a zone of combat operations.

And in the Israeli Defense Army, which is constantly expecting war, all officers are responsible for psychology; they are overseen by a separate specialist directly subordinate to the General Staff.

Outside of Russia the suicide problem is the most acute in the US and Japanese armies. Already over 160 American military personnel have committed suicide in 2011. One hundred forty-nine persons died that way in the Russian Army in 2009 and around 200 in 2010.

FMSO Commentary: Even with projected larger budget allocations, Russia continues to grapple with many aspects of military reform. Well publicized reports concerning the military exercises this past fall (i.e., Center 2011) appear to indicate that progress is being made in the new combat-ready brigade structure. Attracting adequate personnel to man this 'new-look' military, however, remains a challenge. Simply put, despite the reduced draft totals, there are not enough healthy young Russian men who are willing to serve in the military.

There are a host of related problems tied to military manpower, particularly at the conscript-soldier level. Those subject to the draft were conceived and spent their childhood in the economically-distressed period of the 1990s. Many in this pool of potential Russian warriors suffer from the side effects of malnutrition, substance abuse, and general poor health care. Conscripting weak soldiers into the ranks is problematic, especially those suffering from, or subject to various types of mental illness.

Traditionally, military service has been regarded by many in Russia as a rite of passage for young men. The often harsh conditions would transform the immature youth into a 'real man.' Nice theory, but the reality has often been less positive or productive. Those soldiers suffering from physical or mental illness have often found the stress to be insurmountable. For the past two decades, suicide rates within the Russian military have been disproportionately high.

The excerpted article below describes additional efforts by the Ministry of Defense to help new soldiers cope with the stress of military service. These mental health professionals may be able to help soldiers to learn to channel this stress into a positive/constructive direction. Combined with other initiatives to address the larger societal factors which contribute to this stress (i.e., corruption, bullying, poor living conditions), this program will hopefully help to reduce the incidence of suicide in the Russian military. **End FMSO Commentary (Finch)**

FMSO Commentary: If there is room for improvement in mental healthcare for Russian soldiers (see previous article), the same is doubly true for general medical care within the Russian military. At one time, certain aspects of Soviet military medical care were considered among the best in the world. Prior to the collapse of the USSR, chief party and military leaders had access to cutting-edge medical technology. While a few remnants of this system survive (i.e., Burdenko Military Hospital in Moscow), much of the Russian military healthcare system has deteriorated over the past 20 years.

Anyone who closely monitors military issues in Russia can attest that over the past couple of decades there has hardly been a month without a gruesome and tragic story about how Russian soldiers have been injured, mistreated or abused, and ended up disabled or dead due to poor medical care. A partial list of contributing factors includes poor hygiene, shoddy medical facilities, lack of equipment, medicine and supplies, misdiagnosis, and a casual disregard for the lives of conscript soldiers. Substandard medical care has been another powerful reason why so many Russian families have been reluctant to allow their sons to serve in the military.

*The situation might be starting to improve. The perilous demographic situation has begun to force Russian military leaders to recalibrate how they value the health and welfare of individual soldiers. There is still a long way to go, but as the excerpt from the overly optimistic interview below suggests, the 'cannon-fodder' mentality of the past may be slowly beginning to change. **End FMSO Commentary (Finch)***

Russian Military Medical Reforms

18 June 2011

Source: I. Melnikov, "A Profession of Warmth and Humanity," *Voyenny Vestnik Yuga Rossii*, 18 Jun 2011



Left: Labelling transliterates to Bifidumbacterin (Siccum), a preparation of dried Bifidum bacteria. Applications include prophylaxis and acute treatment of intestinal infections.

Right: Стрептомицина Сульфат (Streptomycini Sulfas) is Streptomycin sulfate, an antibiotic suited for treatment of Mycobacterium tuberculosis, the bacterium that causes most cases of tuberculosis.

Found on the abandoned premises of a former Russian military hospital in Beelitz-Heilstätten. Photo by cbmd [CC-BY-ND-NC-2.0 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd-nc/2.0)], via Flickr.com

Military District Chief Outlines Impact of Reforms

The country has celebrated a professional holiday -- Medical Worker's Day -- on the third Sunday of June for many years. In the Army this date expanded beyond the framework of a strictly professional holiday long ago, because military medics traditionally enjoy well-deserved respect from people in uniform. We met and talked with Candidate of Medical Sciences, Colonel of the Medical Service Vyacheslav Novikov, chief of the Southern Military District Medical Service, on the eve of the holiday.

[Melnikov] Vyacheslav Alekseyevich, what is the district's military-medical service today?

[Novikov] It is a 12,000-strong staff of medical workers that includes over 500 officers. Structurally, the medical service is composed of 17 military hospitals, nine military clinics, two state sanitary-hygienic inspection centers with eight branches, two medical technology and property supply centers, a state forensic medical and criminology center, and eight military units and offices. The reorganization of the North Caucasus District into the Southern District resulted in the addition of the Black Sea Fleet, Air Force, Border Troops, and Railroad Troops commands' medical offices to our structure.

[Melnikov] What progress has been made in improving the district military-medical departments' material and technical resources base?

[Novikov] The Southern Military District command pays a lot of attention to the development and improvement of the material and technical resource base of military-medical institutions. After a long break, an orthodontic laboratory started operations in Rostov-na-Donu in June, which enabled us to improve the quality of dental services for service members, their families, and military retirees. A modern, well-equipped cafeteria started operating in the Volgograd military hospital just a few days ago. It is no secret that proper nutrition is one of the main therapeutic factors.

I can cite repairs to a therapeutic facility in the district's military inpatient hospital as yet another example. Additionally, hospital premises in Buynaksk and Mozdok garrisons are being developed, and repairs to a surgery department in the Maykop hospital are in full swing.

The long-awaited commissioning of an eight-story therapeutic facility in the district's military inpatient hospital is planned for December 2011. In particular, a magnetic resonance tomography imager will be installed, and the physical therapy section will be equipped with bath

Continued: Military District Chief Outlines Impact of Reforms

tubs for underwater traction.

[Melnikov] The wide-scale army reforms impacted military medicine as well. What effect did they have on military-medical service staff?

[Novikov] The Colonel-ranked military doctor used to serve through his 50th birthday or even longer previously, but now the maximum service age is limited to 45. However, 45-50 years is the age of a doctor's professional prime, when he is no longer a craftsman but the Aesculapius -- a master with extensive professional experience.

We try to keep doctors in civilian positions after their demobilization from the Armed Forces in order to retain military-medical staff.

[Melnikov] Vyacheslav Alekseyevich, you have led the district's medical service for six months now. What were you able to accomplish in that time?

[Novikov] The first thing that I encountered was flaws in the organization of the Rostov garrison's dental service. It concerns orthodontics especially. I believe that this problem is now being resolved. New management was appointed and a separate long-range development plan was prepared. The most important is that an orthodontic laboratory started working.

We were able to finalize staff organizational measures. This procedure is not simple and is frequently painful. For example, the hospital in Yerevan was subject to cuts due to the low number of patients. The optimization process designed for effective use of hospital beds has been completed in other medical facilities. The process of improving the therapeutic-diagnostic base is ongoing. Nevertheless, I consider the fact that we were able to retain medical service staff despite emerging difficulties to be the main result of the last six months.

[Melnikov] Lately, military retirees have become concerned that they will be deprived of access to the inpatient-outpatient service system....

[Novikov] No major changes are forecast in the inpatient-outpatient service system. The volume of procedures and outpatient studies will remain the same and will increase in the future. The diagnostics will be improved. I want to reassure military retirees that the process of providing medical care will be preserved without changes. Additionally, we will not be content with what we have today and will improve the quality of medical care.

[Melnikov] It is a pleasure to talk about leading staff the day before a professional holiday....

[Novikov] On the eve of Medical Worker's Day we want to wish our colleagues health, happiness, smiles, and warmth. Let our profession invoke the most positive and kindest emotions among people, because our profession is inspiring and patriotic. Medical workers are selfless people, and they will fight for the sick person's life and health until the end, regardless of the time and effort involved.

When I talk about the future, I am confident that we will accomplish everything, because we have a desire, a boundless loyalty to our

profession, and high professionalism among doctors and nurses. I also wish for our work to be limited mainly to the prevention of sickness and to the advocacy of a healthy lifestyle.

50 years is the age of a doctor's professional prime, when he is no longer a craftsman but the Aesculapius -- a master with extensive professional experience.

We try to keep doctors in civilian positions after their demobilization from the Armed Forces in order to retain military-medical staff.

[Melnikov] Vyacheslav Alekseyevich, you have led the district's medical service for six months now. What were you able to accomplish in that time?

[Novikov] The first thing that I encountered was flaws in the organization of the Rostov garrison's dental service. It concerns orthodontics especially. I believe that this problem is now being resolved. New management was appointed and a separate long-range development plan was prepared. The most important is that an orthodontic laboratory started working.

We were able to finalize staff organizational measures. This procedure is not simple and is frequently painful. For example, the hospital in Yerevan was subject to cuts due to the low number of patients. The optimization process designed for effective use of hospital beds has been completed in other medical facilities. The process of improving the therapeutic-diagnostic base is ongoing. Nevertheless, I consider the fact that we were able to retain medical service staff despite emerging difficulties to be the main result of the last six months.

[Melnikov] Lately, military retirees have become concerned that they will be deprived of access to the inpatient-outpatient service system....

[Novikov] No major changes are forecast in the inpatient-outpatient service system. The volume of procedures and outpatient studies will remain the same and will increase in the future. The diagnostics will be improved. I want to reassure military retirees that the process of providing medical care will be preserved without changes. Additionally, we will not be content with what we have today and will improve the quality of medical care.

[Melnikov] It is a pleasure to talk about leading staff the day before a professional holiday....

[Novikov] On the eve of Medical Worker's Day we want to wish our colleagues health, happiness, smiles, and warmth. Let our profession invoke the most positive and kindest emotions among people, because our profession is inspiring and patriotic. Medical workers are selfless people, and they will fight for the sick person's life and health until the end, regardless of the time and effort involved.

When I talk about the future, I am confident that we will accomplish everything, because we have a desire, a boundless loyalty to our profession, and high professionalism among doctors and nurses. I also wish for our work to be limited mainly to the prevention of sickness and to the advocacy of a healthy lifestyle.

FMSO Commentary: *With the 20-year anniversary of the USSR collapse on the near horizon, there have been a host of conferences, symposia, and workshops dedicated to trying to better understand the factors which led to this dissolution. One central question deals with the failure of Soviet security agencies to take a more active role in preventing this collapse. Part of the answer lies in the deep-seated corruption within these institutions. As the system started to crumble, instead of defending the Communist Party structures, many of the high-ranking ‘defenders’ were helping to steal state assets.*

*The questionable allegiance of Russia’s security agencies is also a factor today. While there is no question of Russia’s capitalist credentials, there are serious concerns surrounding the separation of state and private business interests. Instead of defending state interests, a portion of those wearing Russian security uniforms continue to use their position for personal enrichment. The line between public and private property remains blurred, and this abuse of power has now led to friction within and among the various security agencies. As the excerpted article suggests, this internal struggle for resources could have serious consequences for Russian domestic security. **End FMSO Commentary (Finch)***

Internal Security Squabbles

3 October 2011

Source: Andrey Soldatov, “A Third Term and the Special Services,” *Yezhednevnyy Zhurnal*, 3 Oct 2011



FSB vs FSO by Aaron Perez. (CC-BY-SA) derived from Federal Security Service and Federal Protective Service Emblems [Public Domain] via Wikimedia Commons

Friction Between Russian Special Services-Very Dangerous

No matter how much the special services’ budgets have grown throughout the 2000s, by the fall of 2011 these structures have encountered the most serious internal crisis for many years. The political uncertainty of recent months has only intensified it, and Putin’s declaration that he is running for president has not resolve the situation.

This crisis is being manifested in the most diverse spheres of activity.

Conflict between the top and middle-ranking officer tiers

The conflict has been intensifying since the mid-2000s and has been caused by managerial mistakes by the special services leadership. This applies first and foremost to the system of incentives.

Whereas in the KGB system generals occupied dachas in Rublevka [upscale residential area of Moscow favored by officials] these dachas remained departmental property, and after they retired they had to be vacated.

In the mid-2000s ownership of a significant proportion of the KGB generals’ dachas in Rublevka was transferred to top FSB [Federal Security Service] officers who were serving at that time.

Colonels and majors were angered not only by the very fact that gifts worth many millions were being handed out but also by the obvious shortsightedness -- there were no plots left for the new generation of generals, which undermines the motivation system within the special service.

The system of assigning staffers was yet another cause of friction between the generals and the middle-ranking officer corps. Whereas assigned young colonels usually remained loyal to the FSB as they reckoned on coming back and continuing their career in the special service, generals obtaining jobs in big companies regard them as their last posting and succumb more easily to the temptation to forget the interests of the special service in favor

Continued: Friction Between Russian Special Services-Very Dangerous

of the interests of their new boss.

Against such a backdrop it should be no surprise that corruption among generals is a permanent subject for discussion within the special service, and the number of lawsuits brought by officers against the FSB leadership over small pensions and undelivered apartments is growing.

Another thing that is not conducive to internal cohesion is the increment paid to officers holding administrative posts, as a result of which a person doing paperwork makes several times more than his comrade who has these same rank but works in the field. There is also a difference in salary between officers serving in the central apparatus and regional directorates, which looks absurd when it comes to officers serving in adjacent buildings -- in the FSB's Moscow Directorate, for example.

Friction between the special services

The uncertainty surrounding the identity of the next president and friction within the tandem have led to increased mistrust within the security services.

Relations between the special services and the FSO [Federal Protection Service] were not improved at all by the fact that FSO Deputy Director Aleksandr Lashchuk was persistently described in the corridors as the head of Medvedev's unofficial campaign staff.

FSB friendship with the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] and the MChS [Emergencies Ministry] was not helped in any way by the recent decision to place the FSB's Directorate M (part of the Economic Security Service), which is responsible for overseeing the MVD, the MChS, and the Justice Ministry, under the immediate jurisdiction of the FSB director, with the manifest task of stepping up to the work on the police and the MChS.

For their part, relations between the army and the FSB finally collapsed when the FSB was ordered to step up control over the army environment (one of the results of which was clearly the second Kvachkov case). In response, people close to Serdyukov have already started to get openly angry at the special service's interference in the Armed Forces' affairs, and an idea that has been articulated is to create a military internal investigations service that might replace the special agents in units.

The chances that in such conditions groups capable of playing their games ahead of the elections will emerge within the special services are vanishingly small. The friction and mutual mistrust between the top and middle-tier officer corps is not conducive to the formation of such groups and the emergence of leaders. The age crisis has caused paralysis at the leadership level, while the intergenerational friction has given rise to passivity among middle-

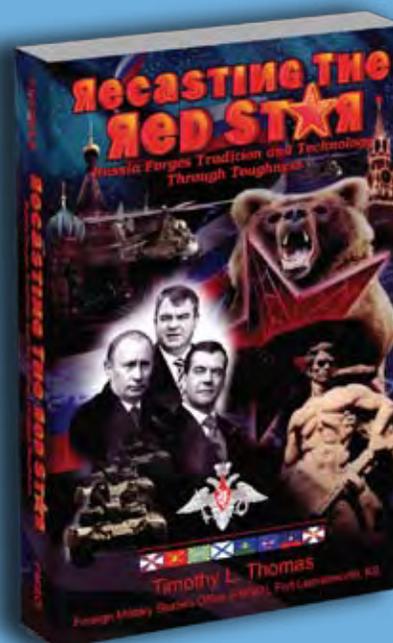
tier officers.

In addition, despite all of the privileges that the special services acquired in the 2000s, the generals from Lubyanka have not been able to acquire the position in the country's economy that Egyptian army generals, for example, have acquired in their country. The current Russian special service generals do not control big corporations and areas of business and are able to offer patronage only to their own immediate entourage; they do not have the resources to support and promote large groups of loyal associates.

Meanwhile it is precisely this situation that, by leading to passivity among the officer corps, is putting the special services in a situation that could prove to be very dangerous if a serious crisis was to occur in the country.

Recasting the Red Star describes Russia's modernization effort in a comprehensive fashion. The Defense Ministry's military reform effort and the operational environment implied in Russia's national security strategy (2009) and military doctrine (2010) are described. The Soviet culture of military thoughts is examined to include a short history of Tsarist and Soviet military traditions. These chapters serve as a reference point for the traditions behind Russia's modernization effort.

– Tim Thomas



FMSO Commentary: *As the largest country on the planet, down deep some Russians harbor a belief that their enormous size gives them ‘more equality’ than smaller countries. On a theoretical level, Russian leaders attest to the international equality of nations. Given their history and cultural traditions, however, this understanding does not always translate well at the practical level. A good example of this disproportionate thinking can be found in Russia’s relationship with the Baltic countries of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia.*

For much of the 20th century ethnic leaders in the Baltic countries chafed under the yoke of Kremlin-communist control. They resented the colonial-type practices of the Soviet-Russian leaders. Toward the end of the 1980s and early 90s, Baltic leaders did their part to hasten the demise of the USSR, and, once freed of Kremlin control, worked diligently to join European economic and security structures. Their inclusion into NATO in 2004 added a certain swagger among some Baltic politicians toward their powerful neighbor to the east. From a Russian perspective these small countries now behaved as though they were under the very powerful krysha (roof) of NATO and the US. This attitude helped to cause considerable resentment among Kremlin leaders.

*With the likely return of Putin as the top Kremlin leader (some say he never left), there are renewed concerns among Baltic leaders that Russia will use its disproportionate size to intimidate its neighbors. Continued European and American economic instability have contributed to these worries. As the excerpted interview with a Lithuanian political scientist suggests, given the uncertain geopolitical landscape, being a conscientious and tactful neighbor remains key to Baltic security and growth. **End FMSO Commentary (Finch)***

Russian-Lithuanian Relationship

2 October 2011

Source: Nemira Pumprickaite, “We Are Paving the Way for Further Confrontation with Russia,” Irt.lt, <http://www.irt.lt>, 2 Oct 11



Locations of Russia and Lithuania map by Russavia [CC-BY-SA-2.5 (www.creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.5)], via Wikimedia Commons

Paving the Way for Further Confrontation with Russia

Political scientist Raimundas Lopata notes that Lithuanian politicians have not learned yet how to communicate with Russia, and that it is likely that after [Russian Prime Minister Vladimir] Putin becomes Russian president again, Lithuania’s relations with Russia will shift toward confrontation.

Putin has already confirmed that he would seek to become president in the March 2012 presidential election in Russia. Considering that president in Russia is elected for a six-year term, Putin could stay in office until 2024. [Russian President] Dmitriy Medvedev is likely to become prime minister if his party United Russia wins the Duma election.

The Russian opposition reacted to that in an angry way. They compared Putin to [Belarusian President] Alyaksandr Lukashenka, said that corruption would worsen and that Russia would return to the [former Russian President Leonid] Brezhnev era. It is worth noting that it was during Putin’s presidency that energy became part of political, and not economic, agenda, and Russia was very eager to block the Baltic countries’ plans to join NATO.

Journalist Nemira Pumprickaite interviewed Raimundas Lopata, professor at the International Relations and Political Science Institute, for LTV program “Savaite” [Week], and asked him what changes would take place in Russia if Putin becomes president again, and what that would mean for Lithuania.

[Pumprickaite] Lithuanian Prime Minister Andrius Kubilius says that naive hopes are over. He refers to the reset of strategy toward Russia, but says he is not surprised at all. It seems to me there is a contradiction. What about you, were you among those who were naively dreaming or are you not surprised as well?

[Lopata] I think that Kubilius is being inconsistent. We can take the famous strategy of containing Russia as an example. On the other hand, if we look closely at when the naive dreams began, we would arrive at another name, the honorary chairman of their party (Homeland Union-Lithuanian Christian Democrats [TS-LKD]), professor Vytautas Landsbergis. One of his phrases became the new leitmotif for the government’s policy toward Russia.

[Pumprickaite] Could you please repeat this phrase?

Continued: Paving the Way for Further Confrontation with Russia

[Lopata] The professor said, in his peculiar style, that perhaps the quarrels with Russia were too drastic and too unnecessary, and that perhaps we should try something else. This became guidance for the then foreign minister.

[Pumprickaite] You have in mind [former Lithuanian Foreign Minister] Vygaudas Usackas?

[Lopata] Yes, I have in mind Usackas, who indeed was trying to do something about the relations with Russia and Belarus. As we know, the president [Dalia Grybauskaitė] joined the process. Do you remember how she helped Lithuanian dairy producers and transportation companies [by making a phone call to Moscow]? It seemed that indeed the situation was changing and that something new was taking place. However, as you know, everything ended the way it always ends. Only this time the situation was even worse than usual.

[Pumprickaite] Are you trying to say that the prime minister was talking about some naive individuals who hoped that relations with Russia would be reactivated and that he had in mind Landsbergis, and not himself?

[Lopata] It seems to me that he is talking about the public in general, but he is part of that public. Such statements are indeed shortsighted. In other words, he is blocking the way for all other tactics and strategies, for the consideration and implementation of such tactics. The problem is that in our relations with Russia we seem to discuss things, decide on them in Vilnius, and then inform Moscow about the changes in the relations. This is not the way things should be done.

This shows that we have not learned how to work with the Russians. I understand that the work is difficult and that it is tiring for many reasons, but the work should be based on regular and patient discussions. In other words, neither Lithuania nor Moscow should limit the communication to just informing about what has been decided. The only way to do things in politics, especially in diplomacy, is through talking, there is no other way.

[Pumprickaite] Can you answer directly: What would it mean for Lithuania if Putin returns as president?

[Lopata] First we should ask ourselves how prepared we are for that. It seems to me that we are paving the way for further confrontation. The Russians would not miss such an opportunity. I think Putin would not miss it.

[Pumprickaite] Was there a difference in the attitude of Putin's or Medvedev's Russia toward Lithuania?

[Lopata] It is very difficult to say. We can speak about slight differences in rhetoric, but we are talking about the substance here, which means there is no difference.

[Pumprickaite] What did you have in mind when you said that all Lithuania's actions show that we are getting ready for further confrontation with Russia?

[Lopata] For example, the prime minister's statement that the Russian press has already evaluated as the most cynical statement made by state leaders. Another example I have in mind is the president's recent statement, her attempt to kill two birds with one stone, but she forgot about the bear. I have in mind when the president said that the Belarusian opposition was financed by the Kremlin. Such statements are more suitable for political scientists than the president or other high-ranking Lithuanian politicians, such statements show that all these years have not taught us yet to act in a more careful and statesmanlike way.

[Pumprickaite] Defense and energy independence have always been the two issues that have been dividing Lithuania and Russia. Can we say that the difference in the attitudes will worsen if Putin becomes president?

[Lopata] We can say so. All that we have discussed earlier proves such tendencies are taking place. We are not discussing the energy policy, nuclear power plants are being built in our neighborhood, there is no dialogue.... Without a doubt, the answer to your question is yes.

[Pumprickaite] But the international community, at least the United States and Germany, has said that despite the change of leadership in Russia, it would not discontinue the development of bilateral relations, and almost the entire world is saying the same.

[Lopata] It is not surprising. Rationale and geopolitical policies prevail over what we see as values. Only pragmatic interests remain. I think that we should not fool ourselves. Big countries do have their values. I think that the West has one clear goal -- to westernize the entire former Soviet Union territory, including Russia, in a long-term perspective.

However, we should consider many nuances. The principal nuance is that the West indeed does not think that the lack of democracy in Russia poses a threat to the West. And Lithuania is using criticism as a strategic tool. This is Lithuania's core mistake.

[Pumprickaite] Could this backfire on us?

[Lopata] Without any doubt.

[Pumprickaite] The situation may continue until 2024; how do you think our future relations will develop?

[Lopata] Lithuania has its strategy for the period until 2030. Perhaps Lithuania has decided how it is going to behave until 2024? I do not think so. I think we can predict that relations with our neighbors will be extremely difficult.