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Sent: 13 October 2006 15:40
Subject: CAABU British Broadsheet Summary - Friday 13th October 2006

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General Sir Richard Dannatt, the Chief of the General Staff, has said that the continued deployment of over 7,000 British troops in Iraq is "exacerbating the security problems" and said they should come home soon" (The Times). His remarks make the front-page headline of The Daily Telegraph, The Financial Times, The Guardian and The Times. The general's "frank" comments (The Financial Times), made in an interview with The Daily Mail, have been called a "political bombshell" (The Guardian). The Daily Telegraph reports "Sir Richard[']s comments] demolished government claims that Britain's presence in Iraq had helped to restore order rather than fuel unrest". In his interview Sir Richard contrasted Afghanistan, where NATO troops were invited, with Iraq, where "we...effectively kicked the door in." (The Guardian).

A British convert to Islam has pleaded guilty to planning to carry out coordinated terrorist attacks across Britain and the United States (The Times). His multiple plans included the explosion of a radioactive 'dirty bomb' (The Independent) and the "Gas Limos Project", in which he planned "to pack limousines with gas cylinders and explosives, which would be blown up in underground car parks" (The Financial Times). The prosecution accepted that Dhiran Barot had "no funding...for the plots, nor had any of what would have been the necessary vehicles or bomb-making equipment been acquired" (The Guardian). He will be sentenced at a later date.

On the same day the Court of Appeal ruled that the British government had no legal obligation to accept the American offer of the return of British residents from Guantanamo Bay (The Guardian), Margaret Beckett called for the closure of the prison camp, saying "'the continuing detention without fair trial of prisoners is unacceptable in terms of human rights...But it is also ineffective in terms of counter-terrorism'" (The Daily Telegraph). She made her comments at the launch of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Human Rights Report 2006. The report, which omits "any criticism of Israel's attack on Lebanon" (The Guardian) has been attacked by groups including CAABU for having an "Israel 'bias'" (The Times). The FCO report provides figures for Israeli, but not Lebanese, casualties of this summer's war.

In brief: Syria has raised the possibility of peace talks with Israel over the occupied Golan Heights (The Financial Times); the passing of a law allowing Iraq's provinces to group into semi-autonomous regions could "pave the way to the splitting up of the country" (The Daily Telegraph); and The Times reports on the grim legacy of thousands of unexploded Israeli cluster bombs in southern Lebanon.

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The Daily Telegraph

News

We must get out of Iraq soon, says British Army Chief
 Graeme Wilson, Anli Dawar and Thomas Harding

13/10/2006

"The head of the Army has insisted that he sees "eye to eye" with the Prime Minister despite shocking Downing Street by calling for a swift withdrawal of British troops from Iraq. In an interview yesterday Gen Sir Richard Dannatt said that the presence of British forces in the country was making the situation worse and contributing to the cycle of violence. Sir Richard, who took over as Chief of the General Staff in August, hit out at what he said might have been "naïve" attempts to impose a "liberal democracy" on a post-Saddam Iraq"
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/13/udannatt.xml>

Muslim was planning radioactive bomb attack in UK
 Duncan Gardham

"A British Muslim yesterday admitted plotting a series of co-ordinated terrorist attacks in this country including one involving a radioactive "dirty bomb". Dhiren Barot, from Kingsbury, north London, also pleaded guilty to planning attacks against the IMF, World Bank and financial institutions in New York, Washington and Newark. Edmund Lawson, QC, told Woolwich Crown Court, south London: "These plans to carry out explosions at those premises with no warning were basically designed to kill as many innocent people as possible."
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/13/nterr13.xml>

Guantánamo aids terror recruiters, warns Beckett
 Graeme Wilson

"America's detention of terror suspects at Guantanamo Bay is acting as a recruiting sergeant for Islamic terrorists, the Foreign Secretary said yesterday. In the most uncompromising attack yet by a British minister, Margaret Beckett argued that it was not only an affront to human rights but also undermined the fight against terrorism. Her broadside against the United States came as she unveiled the Foreign Office's annual report on human rights across the globe. The document painted a bleak picture of the failure of Coalition forces to halt widespread violence and abuse in both Iraq and Afghanistan."
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/13/wguan13.xml>

Iraqi law paves way to splitting up the country
 Oliver Poole and Damien McElroy

"Iraqi MPs have passed a law enabling the country to be split into semi-autonomous regions, despite warnings that it could mean the end of Iraq as a sovereign state. The federalism Bill, introduced last month by a Shia party, passed the 275-member parliament by 141 to 0. Its opponents had boycotted the vote in a failed attempt to prevent enough MPs being present to reach the required 50 per cent quorum. The new law comes at a time when reports in the United States say that a commission led by a leading US elder statesman is preparing to tell President George W Bush to abandon his drive to establish a democratic state across Iraq."
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/main.jhtml?xml=/news/2006/10/13/wirq13.xml>

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 The Financial Times

News

Army chief says British troops should quit Iraq
 Stephen Fidler and James Blitz

"Britain's new army chief has said UK forces should leave Iraq soon because they are making the security problem there worse. In unusually frank remarks from a serving soldier that suggest he disagrees with government policy that calls for troops to stay until Iraqi security forces can take over, General Sir Richard Dannatt said

Britain should "get ourselves out sometime soon because our presence exacerbates the security problems".

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/e7b16a96-5a56-11db-8f16-0000779e2340.html>

Briton admits US terror plot

Nikki Tait

"A London man on Thursday pleaded guilty to planning terror attacks in Britain and the US, including plots to blow up financial centres in New York, New Jersey and Washington.

Dhiren Barot, a Muslim convert, pleaded guilty Woolwich Crown Court to one count of conspiring to murder people between January 2000 and August 2004.

Prosecutors said that Mr Barot, who was arrested in August 2004, had indicated that the plea encompassed terrorism plans in both the US and UK. On the former score, Edmund Lawson, QC, told a judge at the south London court that there had been proposals found by police on a computer after the August arrests two years ago.

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/f65bbae6-5a02-11db-8f16-0000779e2340.html>

Kelly rules for Muslim funding 'risk legal challenges'

Michael Peel

"Plans to "rebalance" official funding of Muslim groups towards those that publicly oppose extremism and endorse "shared values" could trigger legal challenges unless carefully executed, lawyers warned yesterday.

They said proposals to base financing decisions partly on ill-defined and sometimes subjective values such as freedom of speech and tolerance could fall foul of human rights laws."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/d3f01330-5a57-11db-8f16-0000779e2340.html>

Syrian overtures on Golan Heights spark Israeli debate

Harvey Morris

"Syrian calls for peace talks with Israel on the return of the occupied Golan Heights have stirred an Israeli debate in the aftermath of the summer war in Lebanon.

But while some politicians and commentators suggest Damascus' "charm offensive" should not be rejected out of hand, the government says Syria must end support for radical Palestinian and Israeli groups if it wants to revive negotiations."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/38175840-5a13-11db-8f16-0000779e2340.html>

Iraq's clerics to issue call for peace from Mecca

Roula Khalaf

"Iraq's Sunni and Shia religious leaders are set to meet in the holy city of Mecca next week to endorse a call for an end to all sectarian bloodshed.

The meeting starting October 19, organised by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and backed by Saudi Arabia, comes amid rising concern over a spill-over of Sunni-Shia violence into other parts of the Middle East."

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/6d42b6b2-5a05-11db-8f16-0000779e2340.html>

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The Guardian

News

Army chief: British troops must pull out of Iraq soon

Richard Norton-Taylor and Tania Branigan

"General Sir Richard Dannatt, the head of the army, dropped a political bombshell last night by saying that Britain must withdraw from Iraq "soon" or risk serious consequences for Iraqi and British society.

In a blistering attack on Tony Blair's foreign policy, Gen Dannatt said the continuing military presence in Iraq was jeopardising British security and interests around the world.

"I don't say that the difficulties we are experiencing round the world are caused by our presence in

Iraq, but undoubtedly our presence in Iraq exacerbates them," he said in comments that met with admiration from anti-war campaigners and disbelief in some parts of Westminster."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,1921450,00.html>

Dirty bomb was part of plot for terror attacks in UK

Rosie Cowan

"A British Muslim yesterday admitted plotting mass murder through a series of terrorist outrages in the UK and the US that were "designed to kill as many innocent people as possible".

In one of the few major successes for anti-terrorist investigators since September 11, Dhiran Barot, 34, also admitted planning to use a radioactive dirty bomb in the UK that would have caused "injury, fear, terror and chaos", a court heard."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/frontpage/story/0,,1921298,00.html>

Guantánamo detainees - 'I haven't stopped crying since I heard...I think they want to kill him'

Diane Taylor

"For the last four years Jahida Sayyadi, 61, has remained silent about her son Bisher al-Rawi, one of at least nine British residents being held at Guantánamo Bay. But yesterday, distraught at the court of appeal's refusal to instruct the government to request the return of Bisher and two other men, she spoke out for the first time since her son was arrested in November 2002.

"I haven't stopped crying since I heard the judgment," she said. "It seems clear to me what a court should do if someone is kidnapped and then jailed. We are weak individuals battling against a strong superpower to get our loved ones home. We hoped the judge would side with the weak not with the strong.""

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guantanamo/story/0,,1921383,00.html>

Residents 'not government's responsibility'

Richard Norton-Taylor

"The government is under no obligation to demand the return of three British residents from Guantánamo Bay even though they have suffered degrading treatment, the appeal court ruled yesterday.

It said: "This suffering is the consequence of the actions of a foreign sovereign state for which the United Kingdom bears no responsibility under the European Convention on Human Rights or the Human Rights Act.""

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/guantanamo/story/0,,1921216,00.html>

FO's human rights report omits attacks on Lebanon

Ewen MacAskill

"The Foreign Office came under fire yesterday after omitting any criticism of Israel's attack on Lebanon in its annual human rights report.

Margaret Beckett, the foreign secretary, told a press conference the omission was because the timing was "a little bit tight" for publication. She said she anticipated the war being dealt with more fully in next year's report.

But the authors did find sufficient time to include criticism of the Lebanese-based guerrilla group Hizbullah, and one of its backers, Syria, over attacks on Israel and to provide a figure for Israeli, but not Lebanese, casualties."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,,1921071,00.html>

General gives voice to army's unspoken fears

Richard Norton-Taylor

"Even before his explosive remarks in which he calls for the swift withdrawal of British troops from Iraq, General Richard Dannatt had a reputation for speaking his mind. In his first interview as head of the army, he spoke to the Guardian last month about the burdens being placed on the army in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. "Can we cope?" he asked. "Just."

The comments made clear that just two weeks after taking over the post, Gen Dannatt was unhappy with the way the government was using the armed forces in Iraq and Afghanistan."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/Iraq/Story/0,,1921461,00.html>

Comment

For their eyes only

Richard Norton-Taylor

"Two men are to be tried behind closed doors in an Old Bailey courtroom in a move that will stop the public finding out whether George Bush proposed what would have been a war crime and how Tony Blair reacted. The evidence the government does not want us to hear is in an official record of a meeting in Washington in April 2004, when the situation in Iraq was deteriorating fast. The memo, it has been reported, refers to Bush's alleged proposal to bomb the Arabic TV channel al-Jazeera, and is said to reveal how far Blair went in criticising US military tactics in Iraq at a time when troops were bombarding Falluja..."

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,,1921199,00.html>

Letters

Should women defend or attack the veil?

(Seven letters on veiling, from feminist and other perspectives)

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1921144,00.html>

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The Independent

News

Army chief says British troops should be pulled out of Iraq

Andy McSmith

"Tony Blair has received a public warning from the country's most senior military commander that the British presence in Iraq is threatening disaster there and in the UK.

General Sir Richard Dannatt, who took over as Chief of Staff six weeks ago, has warned the commitment to Iraq "exacerbates" problems faced by the UK in other parts of the world. He urged Mr Blair to give up his ambition to see a liberal democracy established in Iraq and settle for a "lower ambition", warning that British troops were not invited into Iraq and the time when they were welcome has passed."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/politics/article1868137.ece>

Beckett says Guantánamo Bay camp should be closed down

Ben Russell and Nigel Morris

"International terrorism could be fuelled by anger over the US detention camp at Guantanamo Bay, the Government has admitted for the first time.

Margaret Beckett, the Foreign Secretary, made the most strident British demand yet for its closure, but faced immediate accusations of hypocrisy for refusing to intervene on behalf of UK residents incarcerated there.

She warned that the camp was as much a "radicalising and destabilising influence" as it was an aid in the "war on terror".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/letters/story/0,,1921144,00.html>

British man admits 'dirty bomb' plots in UK and US

Jason Bennetto

"A British man has admitted he plotted to use a radioactive "dirty" bomb and other explosive devices to carry out terrorist attacks in Britain and the United States.

Dhiren Barot, 34, a Muslim convert from Willesden, north London, has become the first person in the United Kingdom to be convicted of conspiracy to murder in relation to a terrorist offence."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/uk/crime/article1868068.ece>

US charges al-Qa'ida video man with treason

Rupert Cornwell

"A 28-year-old Californian accused of collaborating with al-Qa'ida has become the first American citizen since the aftermath of the Second World War to be indicted for treason, a crime which theoretically carries the death penalty.

The charges against Adam Gadahn – who is believed to be living in Pakistan – were announced by the Deputy Attorney General, Paul McNulty, at a Justice Department press conference. Mr Gadahn "chose to join our enemy and provide it with aid and comfort by acting as a propagandist for al-Qa'ida," Mr McNulty said."

<http://news.independent.co.uk/world/americas/article1868064.ece>

Letters

If not 655,000, how many deaths in Iraq could Bush justify?

(Two letters on the estimate, published yesterday in The Lancet, that 655,000 Iraqis have died since the invasion in March 2003)

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/letters/article1867946.ece>

The veil is seen as a gesture of defiance

(Four more letters on veiling)

<http://comment.independent.co.uk/letters/article1867946.ece>

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The Times

News

Army chief called in to explain 'quit Iraq' appeal

Michael Evans and Sam Coates

"Tony Blair's foreign policy was in tatters last night after the head of the Army said that the continued presence of British troops in Iraq was responsible for bloodshed at home and abroad.

The scathing comments by General Sir Richard Dannatt directly contradict the Prime Minister, who has repeatedly claimed that the invasion of Iraq played no role in galvanising Muslim extremism in Britain and bringing about the 7/7 bombings."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7374-2402108.html>

'Dirty bomb' mastermind plotted a wave of atrocities across Britain

Sean O'Neill

"A Hindu convert to Islam admitted yesterday to plotting to build a radioactive "dirty bomb" and carry out a series of attacks in Britain.

Dhiren Barot's key plan, which he called the Gas Limos Project, was to commit mass murder by packing three limousines with propane gas cylinders and explosives and detonating the giant bombs in underground car parks beneath crowded buildings."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,29389-2401966.html>

Troops accused of gun-running for cocaine and cash

Daniel McGrory and Dominic Kennedy

"Nine British soldiers are facing a court martial for allegedly smuggling guns out of Iraq to sell for drugs and cash. Investigators fear that weapons and ammunition being trafficked by troops from war zones will end up in the hands of gangsters.

The soldiers from the 3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment are accused of buying cocaine from gangs in Germany, where their unit was based. Royal Military Police have investigated claims that

the alleged drugs were sold to other British troops still serving in Iraq."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,7374-2401628.html>

Harvest of death is reaped where the cluster bombs were scattered

Stephen Farrell

"Eleven years old, the schoolboy was too engrossed watching a bulldozer demolishing his neighbour's house to notice one of the pine cones fall from the branch above his head.

Except it wasn't a cone.

Seconds after the tiny object hit the ground Mohammed Hassan Sultan was dead, killed by shrapnel to the heart from an Israeli cluster bomb that had lain unnoticed in the tree for six weeks.

He was among 20 Lebanese people killed by Israeli explosives left over from the 34-day conflict, most of them victims of the one million cluster bombs that the United Nations estimates litter south Lebanon."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,251-2401615.html>

Rights study attack for Israel 'bias'

Richard Beeston

"The Foreign and Commonwealth Office was accused yesterday of applying double standards after its annual human rights report condemned Hezbollah and Syria for abuses in Lebanon, but omitted any criticism of Israel.

The section on the war in Lebanon said that Hezbollah fired 4,000 rockets into northern Israeli cities, killing 40 civilians and injuring 2,000 more. "We remain deeply concerned by Syria's ongoing support for Hezbollah," the 355-page report added."

Also quoted online: "Chris Doyle, the head of the Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding (CAABU), said that yesterday's failure to condemn Israel's actions would further damage Britain's reputation in the region.

"It is ridiculous, it undermines the credibility of the report," he said. "For the FCO to put its head in the sand like this is farcical. It will not do any good for Britain's standing in the Arab world."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,251-2401617.html>

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Chris Doyle

Director

CAABU (Council for Arab-British Understanding)

"Islamic Science and the Making of the European Renaissance" A lecture by Professor George Saliba - 19 October - for details:

http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=events&article=events&detail=george_saliba

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<http://www.justgiving.com/chrisdoyle>

see the CAABU section on the current Israel-Lebanon conflict

http://www.caabu.org/index.asp?homepage=key_issues&article=israel_lebanon

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