

# National News

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## Kissinger Threatens Use Of U.S. Nuclear Arsenal

"We have a nuclear arsenal with which we are ready to react," former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger told a meeting held under the auspices of the Italian Senate on March 19, the ASCA press agency reports. The speech, titled "Globalization and Geopolitics," was given almost precisely on the anniversary of the kidnapping of former Italian Prime Minister Aldo Moro on March 16, 1978, following threats from the same Kissinger.

"From Iraq and the other rogue states," Kissinger said, "we learned that weapons can be used suddenly against us, but also against Europe. What do we do with countries that have weapons of mass destruction, don't have a democratic system, and have already used these weapons against their own people and their neighbors? Do we wait until these weapons are used or we will find the way to prevent this risk? We Americans gave up our chemical weapons in 1969, but we have a nuclear arsenal with which we are ready to react. Nobody wants a war without consulting our allies, but those who reject the use of weapons must propose an alternative and not just a diplomatic alternative."

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## U.S. Failed in Bid To Oust UN Official

The U.S. government has failed in its effort to oust the chairman of the UN monitoring agency for chemical weapons, José Mauricio Bustani. The attempt had more to do with preparations for a military strike against Iraq's alleged chemical weapons threat, than with the nominal reason for the complaint, allegations of "financial irregularities."

Bustani, a career Brazilian diplomat, opposes the U.S. view that Iraq cannot be dealt with, insists that the UN agency must be neutral (he has argued that inspectors should be sent to the United States, as well), and

favors multilateral dialogue. He is reportedly favorable to Iraq's becoming a member of the agency this year, and, according to *Jornal do Brasil* on March 21, he was negotiating having a team of inspectors sent to Iraq, which team would be recruited by the UN agency, and not by the United States. The "okay" from Baghdad for an inspection by this team was considered "a given," which would throw cold water on the U.S. war plans, a Brazilian Foreign Ministry source told *Jornal do Brasil*.

When Bustani refused to resign at U.S. Ambassador Donald Mahley's request, the United States offered the Brazilian government that it would get a Brazilian diplomat named head of the UN Human Rights Commission (a post Brazil is eagerly eyeing), if it would remove Bustani. Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Lafer, however, publicly rejected this offer, saying that since Bustani was not working for the Brazilian government, but the UN, he couldn't oblige. Mahley became "violent," demanding Bustani's "immediate removal," Brazilian diplomats report.

A Russian representative to the agency told one of the meetings debating the issue: "This phrase, 'immediate removal,' reminds me of someone. Do you know who? Stalin."

The matter was settled on March 22, when Russia, China, Iran, and Brazil all voted to keep Bustani at his post; because so many other countries abstained, the U.S. delegation could not get the two-thirds vote required to fire Bustani.

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## No Signs of Recovery In Silicon Valley

While U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill declares that we were never actually in a recession at all, that's not the way it looks outside the Washington Beltway. The *San Francisco Chronicle* on March 17 reports on the desperate situation in Silicon Valley, the erstwhile capital of the "New Economy." The main indicators of the valley's economic health—job creation, unemployment, office vacancy rates—"are still deteriorating, and are expected to do so for months

to come," Sam Zuckerman writes.

Vacancy rates for valley office space went from 0.6% in the second quarter of 2001 to 15% in the fourth quarter of 2001, with a 25% jump from the third quarter to the fourth quarter of last year. "Start-up" companies that rely on outside venture capital, began running out of cash in the fourth quarter, and are now collapsing at an escalating rate.

Unemployment in the valley now stands at 86,000. In Santa Clara County the unemployment rate in February 2002 was 7.3%, up from 1.6% in January 2001. The article quotes Paul Fassinger, research director of the Association of Bay Area Governments, predicting a rise to 8.5% in coming months. "Jobs and fortunes will continue to be lost, more office space will go crying for tenants, stockholders will still count their losses, and the boom times of the 1990s will fade into memory," the article predicts.

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## Perle Beats the Drums For War Against Iraq

Richard Perle, chairman of the Defense Policy Board and a leading member of the "Clash of Civilizations" cabal in and around the U.S. government, addressed the annual conference of the American-Turkish Council on March 18, calling for war against Iraq, no matter whether other countries support the U.S. or not.

When asked about Arab leaders' unanimous rejection of Vice President Dick Cheney's appeal for support for action against Iraq, Perle said, "Well, I just don't know what they told the Vice President *in private*. . . . The Arab leaders feel there is nothing to be gained by getting ahead of the U.S. on this issue." Perle suggested that at the point the U.S. acted, the Arab leaders would probably all get on board. But, if not, too bad for them.

Regarding Egypt, Perle said, "We should do it anyway and not worry about the Egyptians. Turkey is more important than Egypt." He claimed that compared to 1991, Saddam was much weaker, the U.S. had more sophisticated weaponry, and 11 more years of Saddam Hussein's rule had in-

creased the domestic opposition even from within the Iraqi military. "It would be much quicker, much easier now. Not like 1991. . . . There will probably be dancing on the streets of Baghdad when Saddam falls." A conference participant mentioned objections raised by former Clinton adviser Ken Pollack, who warned that military moves against Iraq would be a long, hard affair. "He's wrong," Perle said. "But we don't have to take Baghdad," he added. "If Saddam retreats to Baghdad, we have the Kurds in the North and the Shiites in the South to keep him boxed in. If Saddam tried to move out of Baghdad, the U.S. Air Force will get him."

When asked if a military attack against Iraq required a relaxation of tension in the Middle East, Perle replied, "No. And we can't let that determine our actions. The Palestinian media is still calling for a holy war against Israel."

Another speaker asked about Gen. Anthony Zinni's sarcastic description of an attack on Iraq as being a "Bay of Goats" invasion, Perle said, "I didn't understand Zinni's remarks when he said them. I don't believe the U.S. will enter a failed operation. Zinni is wrong in his judgment of this administration."

## General Clark Warns of Afghanistan Guerrilla War

Gen. Wesley Clark (ret.), the man who commanded the 1999 bombing campaign against Yugoslavia, and who wanted ground troops to be deployed there, was quoted by the London *Daily Telegraph* on March 22, saying that there are "worrisome signs" that the United States-led coalition is drifting into a position similar to that of the Soviet Union after its invasion of Afghanistan in 1979. Clark told the *Telegraph* that the Soviets "won big victories to start with. It took a year or two for the opposition to build up."

Asked if the coalition forces could be dragged into a war of attrition, like the Soviets were, he said, "I do think it's a possibility. The thing we must have is intelligence domination on the battlefield, and that means hu-

man intelligence, and that means boots on the ground."

He added that the U.S. forces have two major advantages over the Soviets: technology, and the fact that there is no overtly opposing superpower, like the role the United States played in the 1980s. He warned that the war could go wrong, if Allied forces allowed themselves to become involved in guerrilla warfare, or if there were serious factional strife in the country (he apparently did not mention that there already is such strife).

## 'Jane's Digest' Reports Israeli Spying on U.S.

Jane's Intelligence Digest, one of the best-informed British intelligence outlets, on March 15 described the impact of Israeli espionage against the United States as "political dynamite which could result in a political backlash against Israel, which is finding itself increasingly isolated." The scandal has received almost no coverage in the U.S. media, apart from *EIR* and Fox-TV.

The British magazine stresses that "Israel's intelligence organisations have been spying on the U.S.A. and running clandestine operations on U.S. soil since the Jewish state was established. . . . It is rather strange that the U.S. media, with one notable exception, seems to be ignoring what may well prove to be the most explosive story since the 11 September attacks—the alleged break-up of a major Israeli espionage operation in the United States which aimed to infiltrate both the justice and defence departments and which may also have been tracking Al-Qaeda terrorists before the aircraft hijackings took place. . . . Justice Department spokeswoman Susan Dryden dismissed the espionage allegations as 'an urban myth that's been circulating for months.' . . .

"U.S. officials admitted to reporters that the entire investigation had become 'too hot to handle,' but declined to give further details. However, some FBI officials did confirm at the time that the Israelis were running a major eavesdropping operation that had penetrated into the highest echelons of the U.S. administration."

**REP. JOHN CONYERS** (D-Mich.) called the Bush Administration's decision to use secret evidence against a Muslim charity, the Global Relief Foundation, "a slap in the face for those who supported him." The evidence is supposed to demonstrate that the charity is connected to al-Qaeda. "I call on the President to abide by his campaign promise and to cease the practice of gutting the very freedoms we are attempting to protect," Conyers said on March 18.

**CALIFORNIA** Gov. Gray Davis is proposing to close the state's private prisons, citing cost and declining inmate populations. Under the plan, five private prisons would close by the end of June, and four remaining would be closed as their contracts expire in 2007.

**NOAM CHOMSKY**, the linguistic formalist and erstwhile radical "Sixty-Eighter," addressed an audience of 3,500 mostly Baby Boomers in Berkeley, California on March 23, giving his view of "U.S. guilt" for the bloodshed in the Mideast, and blaming the Palestinians for having "unwisely accepted" the Oslo Accords. Asked about possible involvement by U.S. government circles in the Sept. 11 terror attacks, he replied "absolutely not, completely implausible," repeating the formulation several times.

**'JEWISH VOICES** Against Israel's Occupation of Palestinian Territories" was the title of an ad taken out in the *New York Times* on March 17 by a U.S.-based group called Jewish Voices Against the Occupation. The statement calls upon Israel to agree to an international peace-keeping force in the occupied territories; and to cease building or expanding settlements as a first step toward their complete evacuation. It calls on the U.S. government to suspend military aid to Israel that is used to maintain the occupation, until Israel withdraws completely from the occupied territories.