
International Intelligence

Arab Nations Plan Joint Work on Nuclear Programs

Heads of the nuclear agencies of Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq announced plans at a May 11-12 meeting in Amman, to coordinate development of peaceful nuclear technologies, particularly in medicine and agriculture.

They met in their capacity as members of the Cooperative Agreement for Arab States in Asia for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology (ARASIA). The participants approved, among other things, "the scheme of strategic planning that meets their future energy requirements and developing a secure formula for getting rid of waste in the long term," the statement said.

Opening the meeting, the head of the Jordanian Nuclear Energy Authority, Khalid Touqan, said that the conference attendees sought "clear and effective solutions" in electricity generation, water desalination, and mining, with the help of nuclear technology. Because of the steep rise of oil prices, several Arab states have recently decided to develop their own nuclear programs, to be used mainly in generating electricity.

WWF To Mexico: Drink Blood, Eat Butterflies

The hit man in Mexico for Prince Philip's Worldwide Fund for Nature, National Water Commission Director General José Luis Luege Tamargo, in the first week of May threatened Mexicans that they had better stop using so much water. Visiting the drought-stricken state of Durango, Luege parroted the WWF's Malthusian mantra that population growth is putting water supplies at risk.

For years, the WWF, in alliance with some of Mexico's richest plutocrats (among them, the son of the sometime richest man in the world, Carlos Slim), has told Mexicans that they must adopt "a new water culture," to "save the country's water basins

and bodies" from the "threats" arising from human activity: "excessive" irrigation for agriculture, dams and transfers for water management, etc. People must accept that water is scarce, and learn that only "available water" can be used, because desalination and water transfers would threaten "The Environment."

These lunatics succeeded in amending Mexico's National Water Law in 2004, to recognize The Environment as "a user" of water, "and, as such," must "be represented in participating bodies."

The only kind of economic activity that doesn't harm the environment, is "ecotourism," the WWF insists. Typical is their Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, in the state of Michoacán. The WWF manipulated that state government into prohibiting any economic activity in the reserve, other than servicing tourists coming to watch butterflies a couple of months a year. That left 10,000 people who formerly supported themselves by logging, with no recourse but to live off housing subsidies provided by the WWF, with money from the Slim family's telecommunications cartel, Hewlett Packard, and others.

Despite the prohibition on productive activity, local residents have continued logging. As one villager put it, "We can't eat butterflies."

General Rips 'Revolution in Military Affairs'

Gen. Vincent Desportes, commander of the Doctrine of the Use of Force Center (CDEF) of the French Defense Ministry and incoming head of the Interarms defense college, said recently that the inability of Western armies to win wars should lead to a reconceptualization of military doctrine.

Speaking at a two-day colloquium organized by the defense association Democracies, and the CGT trade union, General Desportes said that the most recent wars have shown all the limits of "technological" wars. Weapons and technology in war are only important to the extent that they are able to produce a *political* change in the situation, whereas in all these wars, technology did

not produce the desired political result.

"The Iraqi conflict," he told *Le Monde* in an interview on April 26, "has been a turn in the Western and especially American understanding, of what is a war." The Americans were not worried about "the day after" the war, because it was a matter of winning above all.

But there was also a very dangerous interpretation of the Pentagon's "Revolution in Military Affairs," he said, according to which technology itself could produce results. "We know that this is false, as the examples of Iraq, Afghanistan or Lebanon show: Technology does not produce a political effect.... Because America is the dominating power, we followed this current of thought. But the difficulties of Western armies today show it is urgent to think of war otherwise."

In his speech at Democracies, General Desportes also insisted that the aim of war is to reestablish peace as soon as possible. Yet the present wars are not achieving either that, or victory; they are only provoking asymmetric wars, which the Western powers are not in a position to win.

The general is the author of two recent books on military strategy, *Introduction à la stratégie* (2007) and *La guerre probable* (2007).

China Blames Spot Market For Spike in Oil Prices

China's *People's Daily* noted May 12 that "both oil producers and consumers ... benefit from a stable oil prices system ... [and] the long-term and sound development of the oil industry." But "at present the control over oil prices seems beyond both of them."

Part of the reason for this is that "since the 1980s, the controlling power of oil prices has been transferred from OPEC to the New York Mercantile Exchange. Statistics show that ever since 2004, risk capital involved in transactions in the crude oil futures market has exceeded half of the total turnover. Many analysts believe the weak dollar has driven oil prices to levels that defy supply and demand economics."