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Contributors: Duncan BARE, Lukas HEGI, Oliver PLAUDER

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TOP HEADLINES

4324/12

Geheimdienst-Affäre: François Bausch will Jacques Santer vorgeladen



(wort) An diesem Montag wird die Untersuchungskommission im Parlament, die den Geheimdienst unter die Lupe nehmen soll, erstmals zusammen kommen. wort.lu wird die Sitzung im Plenarsaal der Abgeordnetenversammlung live streamen.

Vor der Sitzung hat François Bausch (Déi Gréng), der Vorsitzende der parlamentarischen Kontrollkommission des Geheimdienstes und Berichterstatter der neuen Untersuchungskommission, in einem

Interview im Tageblatt gefordert, dass der frühere Staatsminister Jacques Santer vorgeladen wird. Unter dessen Amtszeit führte der Geheimdienst offenbar politische Spionage in Luxemburg aus, wie die aufgezeichneten Aussagen des früheren Geheimdienstchefs Marco Mille im Gespräch mit Premierminister Jean-Claude Juncker belegen.

<http://www.wort.lu/de/view/geheimdienst-affaere-francois-bausch-verlangt-dass-jacques-santer-vorgeladen-wird-50ce5768e4b0876371a73151>



HOT SPOTS / WARS

4325/12 -----

Die neue Verfassung spaltet Ägypten

(bazonline) Beim Referendum zeichnet sich eine knappe Mehrheit für den Verfassungsentwurf der Islamisten ab. In Kairo setzen sich die Gegner durch.

Der Machtkampf um die Zukunft Ägyptens geht auch nach dem Auftakt des Referendums über die neue Verfassung weiter. Laut ersten inoffiziellen Ergebnissen zeichnete sich am Sonntag zwar mit rund 56 Prozent eine knappe Mehrheit für den umstrittenen Entwurf der Islamisten ab.

In zwei Provinzen - darunter die Hauptstadt Kairo - setzten sich aber die Verfassungsgegner durch. Das Land ist gespalten. Nach Prognosen beteiligte sich nur jeder dritte Wahlberechtigte an der Volksabstimmung. Die zweite Runde folgt in einer Woche.

<http://bazonline.ch/ausland/naher-osten-und-afrika/Die-neue-Verfassung-spaltet-Aegypten/story/18489561>



UNITED STATES

4326/12 -----

Neuer US-Außenminister Kerry - Obamas zweite Wahl

(spiegel) Jetzt läuft alles auf John Kerry hinaus: Nachdem Obamas Favoritin Susan Rice als US-Außenministerin verzichtet hat, wird wohl der Senator aus Massachusetts den Posten übernehmen. Der Ex-Präsidentschaftskandidat ist eine gute Wahl.

Als John Kerry und Barack Obama das letzte Mal etwas Zeit miteinander verbrachten, da lief es für beide nicht wirklich gut. Das war im Wahlkampf, vor den TV-Duellen. Der demokratische Ex-Präsidentschaftskandidat Kerry schlüpfte damals in die Rolle des Mitt Romney, gab tagelang den Sparringspartner für den Präsidenten. Prompt verlor Obama die erste Fernseh-Debatte gegen Rivale Romney.

Doch Kerrys neue Rolle könnte besser passen: Obama nominiert den 69-Jährigen wohl in Kürze als neuen Außenminister. So berichten es mehrere US-Medien. Der Präsident wird mit seiner Verkündung noch wenige Tage warten, denn das Land befindet sich nach dem Attentat von Connecticut im Schockzustand. Doch ist damit zu rechnen, dass noch vor Weihnachten das

neue außen- und sicherheitspolitische Team des Präsidenten zum größten Teil steht.

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/nachfolger-von-hillary-clinton-wird-john-kerry-neuer-us-aussenminister-a-873245.html>

4327/12 -----

Dempsey Warns of Sequestration's Potential Impact

(DOD) The potential impact of sequestration, if it happens, could significantly degrade the Defense Department's overall readiness for years to come, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs said here yesterday.

Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey was responding to a sailor's question on the possible effects of the massive budget cuts that could take effect in January, while speaking to an audience from U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, U.S. Fifth Fleet.

Sequestration is a mechanism built into the Budget Control Act which would trigger across-the-board cuts in federal spending -- including an additional \$500 billion cut in defense -- if Congress and the president cannot agree on a plan to reduce the federal deficit before Jan. 2, 2013.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118800>

4328/12 -----

Obama Signs Magnitsky Act Into Law

(rian) US President Barack Obama on Friday signed into law the Magnitsky Act, a bill punishing Russian officials for alleged human rights violations that US lawmakers attached to a landmark trade bill normalizing trade relations with Moscow.

The aspects of the law targeting Russian officials, which simultaneously repeals the Cold War-era Jackson-Vanik law, has angered the Kremlin, which says it is an attempt by the United States to interfere in Russia's internal affairs.

<http://www.en.rian.ru/world/20121214/178164443.html>

4329/12 -----

Pentagon Warns US Troops Could Face More IEDs During Withdrawal

(VOA) A Pentagon official said U.S. and allied forces will face a higher threat from improvised explosive devices, IED's, as they draw down in Afghanistan.

U.S. officials said improvised explosive devices, homemade bombs usually placed on roadsides, have accounted for more than 60 percent of U.S. combat casualties in Afghanistan.

2011 was the deadliest year, with more than 1,900 U.S. troops killed or wounded by IEDs.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/pentagon-warns-afghanistan-pullout-could-face-more-ieds/1564528.html>

4330/12 -----

End the war on terror and save billions

(washingtonpost) As we debate whether the two parties can ever come together and get things done, here's something President Obama could probably do by himself that would be a signal accomplishment of his presidency: End the war on terror. Or, more realistically, start planning and preparing the country for phasing it out.

For 11 years, the United States has been operating under emergency wartime powers granted under the 2001 "Authorization for Use of Military Force." (b) That is a longer period than the country spent fighting the Civil War, World War I and World War II combined. It grants the president and the federal government extraordinary authorities at home and abroad, effectively suspends civil liberties for anyone the government deems an enemy and keeps us on a permanent war footing in all kinds of ways.

- (a) http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/fareed-zakaria-end-the-war-on-terror-and-save-billions/2012/12/06/a468db2a-3fc4-11e2-ae43-cf491b837f7b_story.html
- (b) <http://news.findlaw.com/hdocs/docs/terrorism/sjres23.es.html>

4331/12 -----

Air Force launches 3rd X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle

(USAF) In the next installment to improve space capability and further develop an affordable, reusable space vehicle, the Air Force conducted its third X-37B Orbital Test Vehicle launch here on December 11, officials said.

The launch comes on the heels of the successful flight of OTV-2, which made an autonomous landing at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Calif., June 11 after a record 469 days in space.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the strides we've made in this program and the success of the X-37B vehicle on the first two flights," said Mr. Richard McKinney, Deputy Under Secretary of the Air Force for Space. "However, it is important to keep in mind that this is an experimental vehicle and a third mission is still relatively young for a test program. This is the first re-flight of a vehicle so that is certainly a key objective for us. We have only just begun what is a very systematic checkout of the system."

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123329533>

4332/12 -----

US tells UN 200 teens in Afghan prison for about a year at a time

(washingtonpost) The U.S. military has detained more than 200 Afghan teenagers who were captured in the war for about a year at a time at a military prison next to Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan, the United States has told the United Nations.

The U.S. State Department characterized the detainees held since 2008 as "enemy combatants" in a report sent every four years to the United Nations

in Geneva updating U.S. compliance with the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/us-says-it-has-detained-over-200-teens-in-afghan-detention-facility-for-about-a-year-at-a-time/2012/12/08/cddfa82a-40f6-11e2-8a5c-473797be602c_story.html

4333/12 -----

Forecast Sees Eroded U.S. Power

(rfe) A new forecast from the U.S. intelligence community says the United States will likely see its superpower status eroded by 2030 as Asian economies become stronger than the economies of North America and Europe.

However, the "Global Trends 2030" report, released on December 10 by the National Intelligence Council, says the United States is likely to remain among the world's most powerful countries because of the role it can play in resolving global crises, its technological advantages, and its "soft power" or cultural attributes.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/forecast-nic-us-power-eroded-asian-strength/24794871.html>



4334/12 -----

Russia Denies Its Syria Position Has Changed

(rfe) Russia has denied that one of its top diplomats said President Bashar al-Assad is losing control of Syria.

The denial comes as NATO countries moved closer to deploying Patriot missiles and hundreds of troops along Turkey's border with Syria.

Russian news agencies quoted Mikhail Bogdanov, a deputy foreign minister and the Kremlin's special envoy for Middle East affairs, as conceding on December 13 that Syria's government was "progressively losing control" and that the victory of the opposition "cannot be excluded."

<http://www.rferl.org/content/us-assad-russia-syria/24798261.html>

4335/12 -----

Russia to Develop Precision Conventional ICBM Option

(rian) Russia may develop a non-nuclear precision-guided payload capability for its new hundred-ton class liquid-fueled ICBM if need be, Strategic Missile Forces (RSVN) Commander Col. Gen. Sergei Karakayev said on Friday.

"The availability of a powerful liquid-fueled ICBM allows us the capability of creating a strategic high-accuracy weapons system with a conventional payload with practically global range, if the US does not pull back from its program for creating such missile systems," he said.

http://en.rian.ru/military_news/20121214/178154441.html

4336/12

Georgia investigations detail stream of radioactive materials on bm

(washingtonpost) On the gritty side of this casino resort town near the Turkish border, three men in a hotel suite gathered in secret to talk about a deal for radioactive material.

The Georgian seller offered cesium, a byproduct of nuclear reactors that terrorists can use to arm a dirty bomb with the power to kill. But one of the Turkish men, wearing a suit and casually smoking a cigarette, made clear he was after something even more dangerous: uranium, the material for a nuclear bomb.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/georgian-investigations-suggest-a-steady-stream-of-radioactive-materials-hitting-black-market/2012/12/09/2e644bcc-4216-11e2-8c8f-fbebf7ccab4e_story.html

4337/12

Moscow Slams US Recognition of Syria Opposition

(rian) The recognition by the United States of Syria's opposition coalition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people shows that Washington is gambling on a military victory by the coalition, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Wednesday.

"I was somewhat surprised to learn that the US, through its president, has recognized the national coalition as the sole legitimate representative of the Syrian people," he said.

<http://en.rian.ru/russia/20121212/178106324.html>



THE IRAN SPECIAL

4338/12

IAEA one more step toward new modality

(irna) IAEA Deputy Director General Herman Nackaerts, who headed the 7-strong man delegation in this round of talks, upon his arrival in Vienna on Friday, accepted that there was progress in the talks.

Tehran also called 7th round of talks' constructive.

8th round of talks has been scheduled to be held in Tehran on January 16, 2013.

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, who was representing Iran in IAEA for many years in Vienna, proposed compiling a new modality for the first time.

During his visit to Vienna on July 2011, and in meeting with Director General Yukiya Amano, Salehi proposed that if the agency declares modality of August 2007 completed, then Iran would be ready to start negotiations to compile a new modality for alledged studies.

http://www.irna.ir/en/News/80455897/Politic/Iran-IAEA_one_more_step_toward_new_modality

4339/12

IAEA Team Holds Talks In Tehran

(rfe) A team from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is due to meet Iranian officials in Tehran to discuss Iran's controversial nuclear program.

The IAEA team is expected on December 13 to press Iranian officials on access to information, officials, and locations the UN-affiliated agency thinks may have played a role in any work on a suspected nuclear weapons program.

Herman Nackaerts, who heads the IAEA's nuclear investigation, said his team was "ready to go" to one suspected site, Parchin, just as soon as Tehran approved the visit.

<http://www.rferl.org/content/iran-nuclear-iaea/24797063.html>

4340/12

Shirin Ebadi: "Irans Geheimdienst kontrolliert die Justiz"

(youtube) Die Friedensnobelpreisträgerin Shirin Ebadi hat in Brüssel den diesjährigen Sacharowpreis des Europaparlaments entgegengenommen. Doch nicht für sich, sondern für die Preisträgerin Nasrin Sotudeh. Die konnte selbst nicht anreisen, denn sie sitzt im Iran in Haft. Den Preis hat Sotudeh gemeinsam mit ihrem Landsmann, dem unter Hausarrest stehenden Filmemacher Jafar Panahi, erhalten. euronews traf Ebadi zum Gespräch.

Hossein Alawi, euronews:

Welche Botschaft sendet die Verleihung des Sacharow-Preises an Nasrin Sotudeh und Jafar Panahi aus, und welche Wirkung hat dies im Iran?

Shirin Ebadi:

Die Botschaft ist die, dass sich die Welt des friedlichen Kampfes der Iraner für Demokratie und Menschenrechte bewusst ist. Es zeigt der Welt, wie sehr die persönlichen und politischen Freiheiten im Iran eingeschränkt sind. Das geht so weit, dass ein berühmter Regisseur, der einen Film drehen wollte, festgenommen und zu einer langjährigen Haftstrafe verurteilt wird, ehe er seinen Film beenden und zeigen kann. Und die Anwältin Nasrin Sotudeh

wurde zu sechs Jahren Gefängnis verurteilt und darf 20 Jahre lang ihren Beruf nicht mehr ausüben. Das zeigt, was im Iran vor sich geht.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGMmZ1WQHSw>



THE SYRIA SPECIAL

4341/12

Bürgerkrieg in Syrien: Assad lässt Damaskus bombardieren

(spiegel) Die Bomben schlugen nur wenige Kilometer vom Präsidentenpalast entfernt ein: Im Kampf gegen die Aufständischen beschießt Assads Luftwaffe mehrere Stadtteile von Damaskus. Beim Angriff auf eine Moschee im Viertel Jarmuk wurden mindestens 25 Menschen getötet.

Syriens Diktator Baschar al-Assad lässt seine eigene Hauptstadt bombardieren. Am Sonntag feuerten Kampffjets mehrere Geschosse auf die Stadtteile Assali und Jarmuk ab. Nach Angaben von Oppositionellen sind dabei mindestens 25 Menschen getötet worden, die in einer Moschee Schutz gesucht hatten. Videoaufnahmen des Angriffs, die von Regimegegnern ins Internet gestellt wurden, zeigen viele Opfer mit verheerenden Verletzungen. In dem Gebetshaus sollen sich zum Zeitpunkt des Bombardements etwa 600 Menschen aufgehalten haben.

Bis zum Ausbruch der Kämpfe in Syrien war Jarmuk das größte palästinensische Flüchtlingslager des Landes, seither haben in dem Viertel jedoch auch viele Syrer Zuflucht gesucht. Etwa 500.000 Menschen leben in dem Stadtteil im Süden von Damaskus. Nach Angaben von Anwohnern war die Bombardierung vom Sonntag der erste Luftangriff auf Jarmuk seit Beginn des Aufstands gegen Assad im März 2011.

<http://www.spiegel.de/politik/ausland/syriens-armee-bombardiert-damaskus-und-toetet-25-menschen-in-jarmuk-a-873220.html>

4342/12

Opposition Victory in Syria Possible

(VOA) A senior Russian diplomat says Syria's opposition may win its battle against President Bashar al-Assad, marking the first time the powerful Syrian ally has acknowledged the Syrian government is crumbling due to internal and external pressure from the nearly two-year uprising.

In comments reported by Russian media, Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said that "the regime is losing more and more territory," and that the "victory of the Syrian opposition cannot be ruled out."

<http://www.voanews.com/content/opposition-victory-in-syria-possible-russia-says/1564285.html>

4343/12

US Stops Short of Legal Recognition of Syrian Rebels

(rian) US President Barack Obama's decision to recognize a Syrian rebel coalition constitutes a political move and does not legally designate the group as Syria's legitimate government, the US State Department said Wednesday.

"This is a political step, not a legal step," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Wednesday of Obama's decision to recognize the Syrian Opposition Coalition, an alliance of rebel groups seeking to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The clarification is not just diplomatic hairsplitting, former State Department and Obama administration officials say.

<http://en.rian.ru/politics/20121213/178118600.html>

4344/12

Syrian Strikes Heighten Urgency of Patriot Missile Depl. in Turkey

(VOA) NATO preparations to defend Turkey from potential Syrian attacks may find new urgency as Damascus begins to use missiles against Syrian rebels across the Turkish border.

U.S. officials on Wednesday said Syrian troops fired Scud missiles at opposition forces for the first time in recent days, marking an escalation of longtime President Bashar al-Assad's fight against a 21-month rebellion.

Turkey has long feared that an increasingly desperate Assad government may resort to striking Turkish targets with its Russian-designed missiles and warplanes, in retaliation for Ankara's hosting and support of Syrian rebels and refugees.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/syria-missile-turkey-nato-patriot-defense-system/1563904.html>

4345/12

'Friends of Syria' Recognize Syrian Opposition

(VOA) A group of more than 100 nations calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down has formally recognized a newly formed Syrian opposition coalition as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people.

In another development, a senior U.S. official says the Syrian government recently fired Scud missiles at insurgents. There was no indication the missiles carried chemical weapons.

The use of Scud missiles could be seen as an escalation of the nearly two-year conflict in Syria, and it comes as more international favor has shifted toward the rebels.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/friends-of-syria-to-recognize-syrian-opposition/1563323.html>

4346/12 -----

US Labels Syrian Jihadist Group as Terrorists

(VOA) The United States has declared a Syrian Jihadist force as a terrorist organization, while Western powers gathered in Morocco to push international support for Syria's new opposition coalition.

The State Department designated Jabhat al-Nusra as a terror group on Tuesday, saying that it serves as an alias of al-Qaida in Iraq as it attempts to infiltrate the Syrian conflict.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/us-labels-syrian-rebel-group-as-terrorists/1562475.html>



NEAR / MIDDLE EAST / NORTH AFRICA

4347/12 -----

Panetta signs order to deploy 400 U.S. personnel to Turkey

(usaf) Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has signed an order that will deploy 400 U.S. personnel to Turkey to support the deployment that NATO agreed to recently of Patriot missile capability there, Pentagon Press Secretary George Little said today.

Panetta signed the agreement en route to Turkey as he wrapped up a trip this week that included time in Kuwait and Afghanistan with civilian and military leaders.

He visited the troops to thank them for their dedication and sacrifice, and for spending another holiday season away from family and friends.

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?id=123329977>

4348/12 -----

Rivals Clash Ahead of Egypt Constitution Vote

(VOA) As Egyptians prepare to vote in the first round of a constitutional referendum Saturday, both opponents and supporters of the controversial document were out in the streets to protest.

Supporters of Egypt's new draft constitution were the first to take to the streets of Cairo Friday, congregating in front of a mosque near the presidential palace after midday prayers. Protests were reported in Alexandria, where rock throwing incidents broke out, and Assiout as well.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/rivals-rally-in-egypt-ahead-of-constitution-vote/1564797.html>

4349/12 -----

Multiple Protests Rock Egypt

(VOA) Multiple protests are taking place in Cairo and across Egypt Tuesday, both by Islamist supporters of President Mohamed Morsi and by the opposition National Salvation Front.

Crowds of opposition protesters began converging on the presidential palace by late afternoon Tuesday, as marchers poured in from several parts of the capital. Three walls of large cement blocks prevented the crowd from getting close to the building.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/gunmen-fire-at-protesters-in-cairo-ahead-of-rallies-/1562503.html>

4350/12 -----

Khaled Meshaal rallies Gazans on Hamas anniversary

(bbc) Hamas political leader Khaled Meshaal has told tens of thousands of people marking the 25th anniversary of the Palestinian Islamist group's founding that it will not recognise Israel.

In a fiery speech during his first ever visit to Gaza, he said Palestinians would not cede any part of their land.

Mr Meshaal's visit follows a ceasefire that ended days of violence between Israel and Hamas last month.

Israel described Mr Meshaal's speech as "hateful and extremist".

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-20649583>

4351/12 -----

Abducted US doctor rescued in eastern Afghanistan

(bbc) An American doctor who had been abducted by the Taliban in eastern Afghanistan has been rescued, the US-led international forces say.

Dilip Joseph, of the Morning Star Development aid group, was freed by US and Afghan forces in a joint operation that killed seven of his captors.

US commander in Afghanistan, Gen John Allen, said he ordered the mission as intelligence showed the doctor was in danger of being killed or injured.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-20656391>

4352/12 -----

Obama, Karzai to Discuss U.S. Future in Afghanistan

(DOD) Afghan President Hamid Karzai has accepted an invitation from President Barack Obama to visit Washington in January, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta told reporters here today.

Panetta made the comments during a joint news conference with the Afghan leader after a meeting between the two at the presidential palace.

"I am pleased to inform you that the United States, through our ambassador, has issued a formal invitation to President Karzai from President Obama to meet in Washington during the week of Jan. 7 to discuss a shared vision of Afghanistan beyond 2014," Panetta announced.

A U.S. official said discussion during the Washington visit will include the role the United States will play in the country after 2014.

<http://www.defense.gov/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=118793>



4353/12 -----

South Korea Analyzing North's Rocket Debris

(VOA) South Korea says its navy has retrieved debris from the North's rocket launch earlier this week and will analyze it to learn more about Pyongyang's missile capability.

Defense Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok says a navy ship carrying what appeared to be a fuel tank arrived Friday at a military base in Pyeongtaek.

The tank was inscribed with the name of the "Unha-3" rocket.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/south-korea-analyzing-north-korean-rocket-debris/1565219.html>

4354/12 -----

China Calls for 'Moderate' Response to North Korean Rocket Launch

(VOA) China has reiterated that any U.N. response to North Korea's rocket launch should be "prudent and moderate," after the U.S. urged Beijing to pressure Pyongyang to adhere to its international obligations.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said Thursday the response should be conducive to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, and it should avoid escalating tensions.

China is North Korea's top ally and largest trading partner, and supplies the impoverished country with crucial humanitarian aid.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/china-calls-for-moderate-response-to-north-korean-rocket-launch/1564405.html>

4355/12 -----

Security Council Condemns N. Korean Rocket Launch

(VOA) The U.N. Security Council has condemned North Korea's rocket launch, calling it a clear violation of U.N. resolutions that ban Pyongyang from carrying out missile or nuclear-related tests.

The council held emergency talks Wednesday on the launch. Beforehand, Britain's U.N. ambassador Mark Lyall Grant called it a "provocation."

In Washington, White House spokesman Jay Carney said North Korea would face "consequences" for firing the rocket. He called the move "regrettable" and said it violated U.N. resolutions.

- (a) http://www.voanews.com/content/un_security_council_condemns_north_korean_rocket_launch/1563738.html
- (b) North Korea launches long-range rocket:
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2012/apr/13/north-korea-launches-long-range-rocket>

4356/12 -----

India successfully test-fires Agni-I ballistic missile

(deccanherald) Sharpening its missile prowess, India today successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile with a strike range of 700 km from a test range off Odisha coast.

The surface-to-surface missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher at about 0830 hrs from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Wheeler Island, about 100 km from here, defence sources said.

Describing the test as successful, ITR Director MVKV Prasad said, "It was a practice trial conducted by the Strategic Force Command of the Indian Army."

<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/298037/india-successfully-test-fires-agni.html>

4357/12 -----

U.S. intelligence sees Asia's global power rising by 2030

(reuters) China's economy is likely to surpass the United States in less than two decades but the Asian country is not expected to take on the superpower role of the United States in gathering coalitions to deal with global issues, U.S. intelligence analysts said on Monday.

By 2030 Asia will overtake North America and Europe combined in global power based on gross domestic product, population, military spending and technological investment, a new intelligence report said.

"China alone will probably have the largest economy, surpassing that of the United States a few years before 2030," it said. "Meanwhile, the economies of Europe, Japan, and Russia are likely to continue their slow relative declines."

www.google.com/url?sa=X&q=http://www.wiwo.de/politik/deutschland/lobby-skandal-spion-im-

4358/12

Pakistan - US-Drohne tötet ranghohen al-Qaida-Führer

(diewelt) Eine US-Drohne hat ein mutmaßliches Extremisten-Versteck im Norden Pakistans mit Raketen beschossen. Laut Geheimdienst wurden mindestens vier Menschen getötet, darunter ein al-Qaida-Führer.

Ein führender al-Qaida-Kommandeur ist nach Geheimdienstangaben bei einem US-Drohnenangriff im Norden Pakistans getötet worden. Abu Zaid al-Kuwaiti sei umgekommen, als die Drohne am Donnerstag zwei Raketen auf ein mutmaßliches Extremisten-Versteck im Stammesgebiet Nord-Waziristan an der Grenze zu Afghanistan abfeuerte.

<http://www.welt.de/politik/ausland/article111901080/US-Drohne-toetet-ranghohen-al-Qaida-Fuehrer.html>



EUROPE (GEOGRAPH.)

4359/12

El Masris Auslieferung war schwere Grundrechtsverletzung

(rp-online) Der Europäische Gerichtshof für Menschenrechte (EGMR) hat die Überstellung Khaled el Masris durch Mazedonien an den US-Geheimdienst CIA als schwere Grundrechtsverletzung anerkannt.

Die Richter in Straßburg sprachen am Donnerstag dem Familienvater aus Neu-Ulm ein Schmerzensgeld in Höhe von 60 000 Euro zu. El Masri (49) hatte über menschenunwürdige Behandlung vor fast zehn Jahren in Mazedonien geklagt. Dies war seine letzte Chance, eine Entschädigung für die brutale Behandlung und die Verschleppung zu bekommen.

Der Deutsch-Libanese war 2003 in Skopje von der Polizei festgenommen worden. Nach wochenlangem Verhör wurde er dem US-Geheimdienst übergeben. Die CIA hatte El Masri wegen mutmaßlicher Verbindungen zu Terrornetzwerken nach Afghanistan gebracht. Dort wurde er über vier Monate in einem Gefängnis festgehalten und misshandelt, bevor man ihn frei ließ. Der Fall hatte ab 2004 in Deutschland großes Aufsehen erregt.

<http://www.rp-online.de/politik/ausland/el-masris-auslieferung-war-schwere-grundrechtsverletzung-1.3104951>

4360/12

Luxemburg: Hof dementiert Geheimdienst-Kontakte

(lessentiel) Der großherzogliche Hof hat in einem Presseschreiben am Samstag mitgeteilt, dass er keine Beziehungen zum britischen Geheimdienst unterhält.

Der großherzogliche Hof hat am Samstag in einer Pressemitteilung erklärt, «keine Beziehungen zum britischen Geheimdienst zu unterhalten». Diese Spekulationen waren am Freitag nach der Veröffentlichung eines Artikels in der Wochenzeitung «d'Lëtzebuerger Land» aufgekommen.

<http://www.lessentiel.lu/de/news/story/27880559>



4361/12

'Eta fugitive' Ordonez 'will now not' oppose extradition

(bbc) A man alleged to be a member of the Basque separatist group Eta has indicated he will not oppose returning to France.

Benat Atorrasagasti Ordonez, 36, has previously fought a five-month court battle to avoid being extradited to France and Spain.

Both countries had issued arrest warrants.

Mr Ordonez, who has lived in the UK since 2001, denies being a terrorist. He was arrested in Leith in July 2012.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-20585611>

4362/12

The truth: Margaret Thatcher likely ordered the Pat Finucane murder

(irishcentral) The truth is Margaret Thatcher likely ordered the Pat Finucane murder -- British can never reveal the truth about the killing of civil rights lawyer

The latest British inquiry into the death of Pat Finucane is again leaving massive questions unanswered.

The Guardian newspaper editorial headline said it best; "Pat Finucane murder: collusion, contrition, but not the whole truth."

My strong belief is that the whole truth is that Margaret Thatcher ordered the Pat Finucane murder on February 12, 1989.

That is the key reason that no British Prime Minister will ever allow a public inquiry into the killing of the Belfast civil rights lawyer gunned down in front of his wife and children at his home.

<http://www.irishcentral.com/story/news/periscope/the-truth-is-margaret-thatcher-likely-ordered-the-pat-finucane-murder---british-can-never-reveal-the-truth-about-the-killing-of-civil-rights-lawyer--183328851.html>

4363/12 -----

Litvinenko death: Russian spy 'was working for MI6'

(bbc) Former KGB spy Alexander Litvinenko was working for the British secret service when he was poisoned in November 2006, a legal review has heard.

The court was told that Mr Litvinenko was paid by MI6 and was working alongside Spanish spies in the days before his death.

British government documents which implied that Russia was behind the 43-year old's murder were also revealed.

Moscow has previously denied any involvement in Mr Litvinenko's death.

(a) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-20715187>

(b) Litvinenko, Russia and MI6:

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/litvinenko-russia-and-mi6-the-evidence-of-an-assassination-emerges-at-last-16250516.html#ixzz2F9xwj8xl>



*(Hat tip to Lukas HEGI
for this info!)*

4364/12 -----

Acht Jahre Haft für britischen Spion

(derstandard) Nordire war Beförderung übergangen worden und bot sich Russland als Spion an

London - Er diene sich aus Frust dem russischen Geheimdienst als Spion an und wurde wie in einem Agentenfilm vom britischen MI5 überführt - jetzt muss ein Marineoffizier acht Jahre ins Gefängnis. Der 30-Jährige habe die Gesetze zur Wahrung von Staatsgeheimnissen gebrochen, entschied der Richter am Mittwoch in London. Auch wenn er nicht in der Position gewesen sei, um wirklich Schaden anzurichten, solle das Urteil eine Warnung sein.

<http://derstandard.at/1353209029422/Acht-Jahre-Haft-fuer-britischen-Spion>



NORTHERN IRELAND

(This section is edited by Oliver PLAUDER, ACIPSS's expert on the IRA)

4365/12 -----

Terror suspects part of New IRA group, court told

(belfasttelegraph) There was a heavy police presence outside Londonderry courthouse yesterday for the appearance of three men on terrorism charges.

In the dock were Jason Ceulmans (42), from Lecky Road, Neil Christopher Hegarty (47), from Sackville Street, and Damien Harkin, also 47, from Westland Avenue, all in Derry.

The three men refused to recognise the court as a clerk put the charges to them; instead they waved to their supporters and gave the thumbs-up sign.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/terror-suspects-part-of-new-ira-group-court-told-16248962.html#ixzz2EsYl9ez3>

4366/12 -----

Kelly gun murder accused joins his RIRA prison pals

(herald) The man charged with the murder of gang boss Eamon Kelly will spend Christmas with his Real IRA pals after he was moved to the notorious 'E' landing of Portlaoise Prison.

The Herald can reveal that Sean Connolly (34) was granted the move this week after prison chiefs decided his life was no longer under threat.

The father-of-two was initially placed in the 'A' landing of the jail after being charged with the murder of Kelly on Friday last.

- (a) <http://www.herald.ie/news/kelly-gun-murder-accused-joins-his-rira-prison-pals-3326832.html>
- (b) 'Border Fox' at funeral of slain gang boss Kelly:
<http://www.herald.ie/news/border-fox-at-funeral-of-slain-gang-boss-kelly-3325196.html>

4367/12 -----

INLA link to huge cannabis shipment

(belfasttelegraph) Gardai have seized a substantial drugs shipment which they say is linked to members of the INLA.

The cannabis consignment was intercepted by officers from the Garda National Drugs Unit following a lengthy operation.

Gardai are satisfied that a number of those involved are INLA activists and include one man whose record as a dissident activist is well known to detectives.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/republic-of-ireland/inla-link-to-huge-cannabis-shipment-16248934.html#ixzz2Esa1CZlh>

4368/12

RAAD lifts its death threat on Waterside man

(derryjournal) A man exiled from Derry under a death threat from vigilante group, Republican Action Against Drugs, has returned to his Waterside home after successful negotiations via a Rosemount community group.

Gary Smith was one of two men who were forced into exile by RAAD almost four months ago.

The other man was Daniel Allen, the brother of RAAD murder victim Andrew. Daniel Allen was allowed to return home last month.

<http://www.derryjournal.com/news/local/raad-lifts-its-death-threat-on-waterside-man-1-4590283>

4369/12

Potential champion powerlifter guilty of IRA membership

(irishtimes) A man described as a potential world champion powerlifter who was found guilty of IRA membership has received a year in jail at the Special Criminal Court.

Neil Smith (35), of Tubberfinn, Donore, Drogheda, Co Louth, had pleaded not guilty to membership of an unlawful organisation styling itself the Irish Republican Army, otherwise Óglaigh na hÉireann, otherwise the IRA, on August 8th, 2010. The non-jury court found that Smith "knowingly and willingly took part in a planned criminal enterprise" and this supported the evidence of Garda Chief Supt Jim Sheridan regarding his membership of the IRA.

<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/ireland/2012/1214/1224327836099.html>

4370/12

Two DUP members get death threats

(belfasttelegraph) Two DUP politicians in Northern Ireland have become the latest to receive death threats amid serious violence in the region.

An MP and a minister in the Stormont powersharing Executive were singled out and dissident republicans were blamed. On Monday evening a petrol bomb was thrown into the police car of a female officer guarding the office of an Alliance Party MP who has also been intimidated by paramilitaries.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/two-dup-members-get-death-threats-16249385.html#ixzz2EsGfIZN5>

4371/12 -----

Woman charged in dissident probe

(belfasttelegraph) A 21-year-old woman has been charged by detectives investigating dissident republican activity in Northern Ireland.

She was charged with attempting to possess criminal property and perverting the course of justice.

The woman was detained by officers from the PSNI serious crime branch in the Whiterock area of west Belfast on Tuesday.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/woman-charged-in-dissident-probe-16250311.html#ixzz2F9qpQLuQ>

4372/12 -----

Lennon reprimands Celtic star over Real IRA tribute

(heraldscotland) Celtic Football Club has disciplined one of its players for attending a memorial tribute to a notorious member of the Real IRA.

Manager Neil Lennon said Anthony Stokes had damaged the reputation of the club after apparently being photographed at a benefit in Dublin in honour of Alan "The Model" Ryan, who was shot dead in September.

The Celtic manager confirmed last night the club had taken action over the incident. "We spoke to him," said Lennon, confirming but not detailing the "internal" action.

<http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/lennon-reprimands-celtic-star-over-real-ira-tribute.19657743>

4373/12 -----

Rocket find: men are refused bail at Londonderry court

(bbc) Three men arrested after the discovery of a rocket last week have been refused bail at Londonderry Magistrates Court.

District Judge Greg McCourt said he was remanding the three men in custody because of fears of them re-offending or absconding if released on bail.

The defendants are Jason Ceulmans, aged 42 from Lecky Road; Damien Harkin, aged 47 from Westland Avenue, and Neil Christopher Hegarty, also 47.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-foyle-west-20708764>

4374/12 -----

PUP man denies that UVF orchestrated violence

(newtownabbeytoday) THE Progressive Unionist Party has denied claims that UVF members were responsible for orchestrating the violence outside Mossley Mill on Friday night (December 7).

Phil Hamilton, the PUP's East Antrim representative, was responding to claims by South Antrim MLA Paul Girvan that known paramilitaries were behind the trouble.

The DUP man, who was among around 200 guests at the Mayor's Christmas dinner, was stoned when he went out to the gates of the council offices to try to reason with the rioters.

<http://www.newtownabbeytoday.co.uk/news/local/pup-man-denies-that-uvf-orchestrated-violence-1-4580148>

4375/12 -----

Bomb found at photographer's home

(belfasttelegraph) A pipe bomb has been discovered at the family home of a press photographer in Northern Ireland.

Mark Pearce from Mayobridge near Newry in Co Down has worked as a photographer for over 20 years.

His family was woken by police shortly after midnight at their home in Carraig Crosain. Six homes in their street were evacuated.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/bomb-found-at-photographers-home-16250551.html#ixzz2F9oscNoC>

4376/12 -----

SDLP's Conall McDevitt: fascists will not scare me

(belfasttelegraph) The SDLP's Conall McDevitt has described those who issued a death threat against him as "fascists".

Mr McDevitt, a member of the Northern Ireland Policing Board, was one of two politicians who was warned their lives are at risk yesterday.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/sdlps-conall-mcdevitt-fascists-will-not-scare-me-16250480.html#ixzz2F9rWPGrG>

4377/12 -----

Gerardine Mulvenna warned by police to leave home

(bbc) The Alliance Mayor of Larne has been forced to spend two nights away from her own home on police advice.

The PSNI had warned Gerardine Mulvenna and other Alliance councillors in east Antrim about safety concerns following the ongoing flag protests.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20728726>

4378/12 -----

Peter Robinson death threat: Darren Scott appears in court

(bbc) A Belfast man has appeared in court charged with threatening to kill Northern Ireland First Minister, Peter Robinson.

Darren Scott, 34, from Croft Court, is also charged with improper use of an electronic communications network.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20706185>

4379/12 -----

Limavady SDLP office vandalised, union flag erected

(bbc) The Limavady office of an SDLP assembly member has been vandalised.

East Londonderry MLA John Dallat said that a party sign was torn from the wall and a union flag was placed on the nationalist party's building.

He said he believed it was linked to a protest over the decision to limit the number of days the union flag is flown at Belfast City Hall on Tuesday.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20704284>

4380/12 -----

Sinn Fein activists given 'dissident' death threats

(belfasttelegraph) Two Sinn Fein activists, one a prominent republican and the other a former IRA prisoner have received death threats.

Police informed the two men, neither of whom are elected, that their lives are at risk.

But both men say they will not leave their homes in Londonderry.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/sinn-fein-activists-given-dissident-death-threats-16249431.html#ixzz2EsHf7gs2>

4381/12 -----

Supergrass prosecutions reviewed

(belfasttelegraph) The process of deciding whether to take future prosecutions based on supergrass evidence has been reviewed in the wake of a controversial murder trial this year, Northern Ireland's Director of Public Prosecutions has said.

Barra McGrory said he took the action after a detailed analysis of the judgment in the case that saw 12 men acquitted of a range of terrorist offences, nine of them for the murder of UDA leader Tommy English in Belfast in 2000.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/supergrass-prosecutions-reviewed-16248851.html#ixzz2EsUAPFZZ>

4382/12 -----

Belfast flag violence: Loyalists petrol bomb police car

(belfasttelegraph) Loyalists have tried to kill a police officer after they set fire to her patrol car in Belfast.

A gang of 15 men tossed a petrol bomb into the unmarked vehicle after surrounding and smashing it outside the offices of Alliance Party MP Naomi Long. It was the worst incident in another night of sporadic violence in parts of east and south Belfast involving loyalists who took to the streets again in protest against a decision by Belfast City Council to restrict the flying of the union flag at Belfast City Hall.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/belfast-flag-violence-loyalists-petrol-bomb-police-car-16248691.html#ixzz2EsXNgxur>

4383/12 -----

Conal McDevitt and Guy Spence receive death threats

(bbc) Two Belfast politicians are the latest to receive death threats amid ongoing protests over flags.

The SDLP's Conal McDevitt, MLA, and the DUP councillor, Guy Spence, received the threats on Thursday.

Mr McDevitt got the threat in the post and the threat to Mr Spence was made in a telephone call to Belfast City Hall.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-20711565>

4384/12 -----

Finucane: The unanswered questions

(belfasttelegraph) Three separate inquiries have investigated the murder of Pat Finucane. But still there are more questions than answers, says Brian Rowan

We now have close to 1,000 more pages of reading relating to the Pat Finucane murder; those pages of the review by Sir Desmond de Silva now added to the investigations of Sir John Stevens and the report of Judge Peter Cory.

All three made damning findings of collusion; the shocking levels and scale of what was going on inside the so-called 'dirty war' found in the many page turns of de Silva's review.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/opinion/news-analysis/finucane-the-unanswered-questions-16250446.html#ixzz2FAMYH8vq>

4385/12 -----

Pat Finucane murder: shocking levels of state collusion

(belfasttelegraph) A report into the murder of solicitor Pat Finucane has concluded there was "no overarching state conspiracy", but "shocking" levels of state collusion.

Sir Desmond de Silva's review of the 1989 murder of the Catholic father of three found that collusion by the state went beyond a failure to prevent the crime.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/pat-finucane-murder-shocking-levels-of-state-collusion-16249566.html#ixzz2Es3A035x>

4386/12 -----

Reputation of the Army 'at stake'

(belfasttelegraph) The publication of Sir Desmond de Silva's report into the killing of Pat Finucane sparked renewed calls for a public inquiry into the 1989 murder.

But there was also concern over the damage it might inflict on the armed forces, with Lord King, the Conservative peer who was Northern Ireland secretary at the time of Mr Finucane's death, saying the British Army's reputation was "at stake".

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/reputation-of-the-army-at-stake-16249637.html#ixzz2EsDFryIK>

4387/12 -----

Widow dismisses 'whitewash' report

(belfasttelegraph) The widow of murdered Belfast solicitor Pat Finucane has dismissed the report into his death by Sir Desmond de Silva as "a sham... a whitewash... a confidence trick", telling a press conference: "This report is not the truth."

Renewing her call for a full public inquiry into her husband's 1989 death, Geraldine Finucane said the British Government had suppressed the truth and attempted to throw all blame on dead individuals and disbanded organisations while exonerating ministers, serving officers and existing security agencies.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/widow-dismisses-whitewash-report-16249618.html#ixzz2EsDqZW30>

4388/12 -----

Finucane 'a godfather' - Maginnis

(belfasttelegraph) Pat Finucane has been labelled a "godfather" from an "IRA family" by former Ulster Unionist MP Lord Maginnis of Drumglass.

Sir Desmond de Silva's review of the 1989 loyalist murder of the Belfast solicitor concluded that state employees actively furthered and facilitated it, but said there was no over-arching conspiracy.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/northern-ireland/finucane-a-godfather-maginnis-16249660.html#ixzz2EsIEbruE>

4389/12 -----

Navy officer jailed for spying bid

(belfasttelegraph) A Royal Navy petty officer has been jailed for eight years for trying to pass Britain's nuclear submarine secrets to men he believed to be Russian spies.

Edward Devenney, 30, was told he had betrayed his country and his colleagues.

Mr Justice Saunders, sentencing him at the Old Bailey, said Devenney knew what he was doing when he met the two men in January.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/navy-officer-jailed-for-spying-bid-16249549.html#ixzz2EsLk53Am>

4390/12 -----

Spy to face colleague assault trial

(belfasttelegraph) A spy has appeared in court to deny sexually assaulting and beating a colleague.

The MI5 officer - who is known in court by the pseudonym Mark Barton - is accused of attacking the female colleague between August and December last year.

She is known in the proceedings as "2363".

Barton appeared at London's Southwark Crown Court behind a screen to deny four charges: two of assault, one of sexual assault and one of putting a person in fear of violence and harassment.

<http://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/local-national/uk/spy-to-face-colleague-assault-trial-16248531.html#ixzz2Efw5Sxeo>



GERMANY

4391/12 -----

Spion im Gesundheitsministerium

(wiwo) Die Apothekervereinigung ABDA erkennt spät, dass sich aggressive Lobbyarbeit nicht immer lohnt. Ein ehemaliger Mitarbeiter steht im Verdacht, für interne Unterlagen aus dem Bundesgesundheitsministerium bezahlt zu haben.

Friedemann Schmidt ist fernseherprobter Moderator mit eigener wöchentlicher Sendung auf N24. Schmidt ist auch Apotheker und ab 2013 Präsident der Standesvereinigung ABDA. Recht unbeholfen wirkt der neue Vormann allerdings angesichts der Vorgänge, die mutmaßlich einen ehemaligen Mitarbeiter der ABDA betreffen. Durch sie rückt die Pharmazeuten-Lobby in Berlin in schlechtes Licht. Nun ist Schmidt um möglichst große Distanz zum ehemaligen Sprecher der Vereinigung bemüht, der die ABDA 2011 verließ.

<http://www.wiwo.de/politik/deutschland/lobby-skandal-spion-im-gesundheitsministerium/7521204.html>

4392/12 -----

Union will Geheimdienst-Kontrolle im Bundestag stärken

(reuters) Die Union will die parlamentarische Kontrolle der Geheimdienste verbessern.

Eine entsprechende Initiative kündigte der Parlamentarische Geschäftsführer der CDU/CSU-Bundestagsfraktion, Michael Grosse-Brömer, am Dienstag in Berlin an. Ziel sei es, dass der Bundestag die Geheimdienste "mehr aktiv und weniger reaktiv" kontrollieren könne, sagte der CDU-Politiker. Die Union schlage etwa vor, dass das Parlamentarische Kontrollgremium des Bundestages (PKG) selbst den Auftrag für Ermittlungen bei den Geheimdiensten erteilen können soll. Kommende Woche solle dazu eine Klausurtagung der PKG-Mitglieder am Sitz des Bundesnachrichtendienstes (BND) in Pullach stattfinden.

Hintergrund sind die Pannenserie bei den Ermittlungen zur Neonazi-Mordserie sowie der parteiübergreifende Eindruck von Bundestagsabgeordneten, von Fehlentwicklungen in den Geheimdiensten sehr spät zu erfahren.

<http://de.reuters.com/article/domesticNews/idDEBEE8BA01L20121211>



4393/12 -----

Salzburg-Skandal: Faymann-Kritik an Fekter-Aussage

(orf) Mit ungewöhnlich scharfen Worten hat Bundeskanzler Werner Faymann (SPÖ) die ÖVP und Finanzministerin Maria Fekter im Salzburger Finanzskandal attackiert. Fekters Ankündigung, eine „Troika“ nach Salzburg schicken zu wollen, sei ein „unanständiges Verhalten“, so Faymann in der ORF-„Pressestunde“. Gleichzeitig stellte er sich hinter Landeshauptfrau Gabi Burgstaller (SPÖ). „Ich hoffe, dass sie wieder antritt“, sagte Faymann und forderte „gläserne Kassen“ für alle Bundesländer und Gemeinden.

- (a) <http://www.orf.at/stories/2156774/>
- (b) „Die ÖVP wird sich täuschen“:
<http://www.orf.at/stories/2156672/2156673/>

Strasser-Prozess: „Die Geschichte vom Geheimdienst“

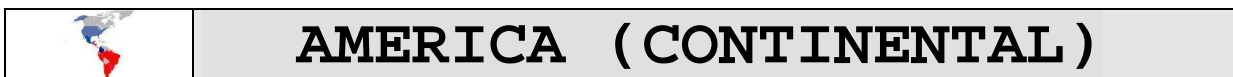
(diepresse) Oberstaatsanwältin Alexandra Maruna bringt Ernst Strasser am vierten Prozesstag erneut ins Wanken. Die beiden verdeckt arbeitenden englischen Journalisten sind nun für 13. Dezember nach Wien geladen.

Wien. „Ich hatte schon als Minister das Gefühl, Zielobjekt eines Geheimdienstes zu sein.“ Schon damals habe ihn das Bundesamt für Verfassungsschutz und Terrorismusbekämpfung, das BVT (Ernst Strasser sagt immer „der BVT“), im Stich gelassen. Ab 2010 war es wieder da, dieses Gefühl. Damals will Strasser, mittlerweile EU-Parlamentarier, wieder einen Geheimdienst („Vielleicht auch einen Wirtschaftsgeheimdienst“) gewittert haben: nämlich bei seinen Treffen mit den beiden als Lobbyisten getarnten Journalisten Jonathan Calvert und Claire Newell.

Montag, vierter Prozesstag: Richter Georg Olschak scheint mit dem „Gefühl“ des Angeklagten, mag sich dieses auch zweimal eingestellt haben, nicht viel anzufangen. „Wann ist die Geschichte mit dem Geheimdienst aufgekommen?“, fragte er nun einen Korruptionsermittler, der als Zeuge aussagte. Der Zeuge wandelte das Wort „Geschichte“ ab und machte daraus: „Verteidigungslinie“. Diese habe Strasser in der ersten längeren Einvernahme so „gewählt“.

Warum er damals, als EU-Parlamentarier und vor allem als ehemaliger Innenminister, nicht einfach zur Polizei ging, will der Richter von Strasser wissen. Und schlägt rückblickend ein einfaches Wording vor: „Mein Name ist Strasser, es warat wegen dem Bestechungsversuch . . .“ Strasser wusste an dieser Stelle mit seiner Antwort nicht restlos zu überzeugen. Nur so viel: Hätte die Polizei ermittelt, wären die mutmaßlichen Agenten „weg gewesen“.

<http://diepresse.com/text/home/politik/innenpolitik/1319789>

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Colombia's Farc peace talks resume in Cuba

(bbc) Peace talks between the Colombian government and Farc rebels have resumed in Cuba, after a week's break.

In a statement, the rebels hinted that there was still a long way to go before they could reach an agreement to end five decades of conflict.

The Colombian government has said a peace deal should be reached in a matter of months, not years.

It has continued its military attacks on Farc camps, despite a unilateral ceasefire declared by the rebels.



AFRICA (SUB-SAHARA)

4396/12 -----

Somalia: 'Al-Shabab' militants forced out of Jowhar

(bbc) Somali troops and African Union forces have captured the town of Jowhar from the Islamist militant group, al-Shabab, reports say.

The troops encountered no resistance as the militants had fled, said a military spokesman and residents in the town.

Jowhar was the biggest town under the control of al-Shabab Islamists.

The al-Qaeda linked group has been driven out of most urban areas over the past two years, but still controls many rural areas of the country.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-20658236>

4397/12 -----

Analysis: Premier's ouster complicates Mali crisis

(irin) Mali's coup-triggered political crisis that has seen half the country seized by Islamist militias deepened with the arrest and resignation this week of interim Prime Minister Cheick Modibo Diarra - something which could complicate international peace efforts, say analysts and observers.

Nine months ago, renegade troops overthrew President Amadou Toumani Touré, making possible an Islamist conquest of the north. Under international pressure and mediation by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the junta turned over power to a civilian leadership, but political wrangling and the influence of ex-coup leader Amadou Sanogo have often hobbled negotiations to resolve the crisis.

<http://www.irinnews.org/report/97030/Analysis-Premier-s-ouster-complicates-Mali-crisis>

4398/12 -----

Mali's President Appoints New Prime Minister

(VOA) Mali's interim president has appointed a new prime minister. The move comes less than 24 hours after the former interim prime minister resigned following his arrest by soldiers loyal to the military junta that overthrew the elected government in March.

Mali's interim president, Dioncounda Traore, said Tuesday night on state television that he had accepted the resignation of now former prime minister Cheikh Modibo Diarra, but made no direct mention of his arrest.

<http://www.voanews.com/content/mali/1562449.html>



4399/12 -----

Datenspionage: IT-Experte arbeitete für Ex-Umweltminister Gabriel

(spiegel) Nach und nach decken die Ermittler das ganze Ausmaß des Datenlecks im Gesundheitsministerium auf. Andere Ministerien sind möglicherweise ebenfalls betroffen: Nach SPIEGEL-Informationen arbeitete der Datenspion auch in drei anderen Ressorts.

Der beschuldigte IT-Experte im Fall des Datendiebstahls aus dem Bundesgesundheitsministerium soll auch in anderen Bundesministerien gearbeitet haben, wie der SPIEGEL aus Kreisen der Ermittler erfuhr, die mit dem Fall befasst sind. Vor seiner Zeit im Gesundheitsressort soll Christoph H. im Bundesarbeitsministerium, im Wirtschaftsministerium und im Bundesumweltministerium tätig gewesen sein, wo er zeitweise auch den E-Mail-Account des damaligen SPD-Ministers Sigmar Gabriel betreut habe.

<http://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/pharma-spion-verdaechtiger-it-mann-arbeitete-in-mehreren-ministerien-a-873200.html>

4400/12 -----

Verfassungsschutz - Geheimdienst-Kontrolle ohne Handy

(hr-online) Der Landtag hat am Mittwoch mit Mehrheit von CDU und FDP Regeln zur besseren Kontrolle des Verfassungsschutzes verabschiedet. Die Opposition sieht durch die neuen Vorschriften vor allem die Abgeordneten gegängelt.

Der Gesetzentwurf war von CDU und FDP eingebracht worden. Demnach soll der Landtag bei der Überwachung des Verfassungsschutzes mehr Kompetenzen bekommen.

Künftig können die Mitglieder der parlamentarischen Kontrollkommission für den Verfassungsschutz mehr Akten einsehen und auch Sachverständige beauftragen, zum Beispiel den hessischen Datenschutzbeauftragten. Aus Gründen der Geheimhaltung müssen Abgeordnete jedoch bei den Sitzungen der Kommission ihre Handys abgeben. Außerdem dürfen sie hinterher keine Notizen mitnehmen.

http://www.hr-online.de/website/rubriken/nachrichten/indexhessen34938.jsp?rubrik=34954&key=standard_document_46949351



INTEL HISTORY

4401/12 -----

A case for targeted killings

(washingtonpost) 'Gosh!' Says Roosevelt On Death of Yamamoto

– New York Times, May 22, 1943

President Franklin Roosevelt was truly astonished when told by a reporter that Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto, architect of the Pearl Harbor attack, had been shot down by U.S. planes over a Pacific island after Americans decrypted Yamamoto's flight plans. FDR had encouraged this "targeted killing" – destroying a particular person of military importance – a phrase that has become familiar since Israel began doing this in 2000 in combating the second Palestinian intifada.

But was the downing of Yamamoto's plane an "assassination"? If British commandos had succeeded in the plan to kill German Gen. Erwin Rommel in Libya in 1941, would that have been an assassination? If President Ronald Reagan's 1986 attack on military and intelligence targets in Libya, including one that Moammar Gaddafi sometimes used as a residence, had killed him, would that have been an assassination?

http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-will-drones-have-a-place-in-modern-warfare/2012/12/07/7a91c88a-409f-11e2-bca3-aadc9b7e29c5_story.html

Birger Stromsheim, Hero on Skis in an Anti-Nazi Raid, Dies at 101



(nytimes) There was no Google Earth, no Gore-Tex and only a modest measure of hope on the February night in 1943 when six Norwegians parachuted into the remote and frigid Telemark region of their home country for an outdoor challenge like few others.

They had skis and explosives and a destination: the German-controlled Norsk Hydro facility, high on an isolated and snowy ridge. The Norwegians intended to destroy equipment inside that the Germans were using to produce what is known as heavy water, a crucial ingredient in making a nuclear weapon and one they feared the Nazis would use to build an atomic bomb. One of the demolitions experts on the team, Birger Stromsheim, died Nov. 10 in Oslo at 101.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/12/10/world/europe/birger-stromsheim-who-aided-raid-on-nazi-plant-dies-at-101.html?hpw&r=0>



(Hat tip to Duncan BARE for this info!)

Eichmann-Akte im Giftschränk?



(fr-online) Informierte der westdeutsche Geheimdienst bereits 1953 über den Aufenthaltsort des Nazi-Kriegsverbrechers Adolf Eichmann? Eine Akte im Bundeskanzleramt lässt das vermuten. Doch niemand darf das Dokument sehen.

Die Organisation Gehlen, der Vorläufer des Bundesnachrichtendienstes, hat offenbar schon deutlich früher als bislang bekannt Informationen über das Versteck von Adolf Eichmann preisgegeben. Das geht aus einer Antwort der Bundesregierung an den Bundestagsabgeordneten Jan Korte (Linke) hervor, der nach gesperrten Unterlagen über die NS-Kriegsverbrecher Adolf Eichmann und Klaus Barbie gefragt hatte. Demnach soll sich in einer gesperrten Akte ein Hinweis darauf finden, dass die Organisation Gehlen bereits 1953/54 den Nazijäger Simon Wiesenthal über den Aufenthalt Eichmanns in Südamerika in Kenntnis gesetzt hatte.

- (a) <http://www.fr-online.de/politik/ns-vergangenheit-eichmann-akte-im-giftschrank-,1472596,21070938.html>
- (b) <http://www.fr-online.de/politik/ns-vergangenheit--die-akten-muessen-auf--den-tisch-,1472596,21067696.html>



HOT DOCS ONLINE

4404/12 -----

Cheneyism Preserved But Attenuated in New Plum Book

(fas) In the George W. Bush Administration, Vice President Dick Cheney advanced the idea that the Office of the Vice President is not part of the executive branch, and that it was therefore exempt from the sort of oversight mechanisms – including classification oversight (b)– which it might otherwise be (and previously was in fact) subject to.

Somewhat unexpectedly, this conception of a Vice Presidency that transcends the three branches of government reappears in the 2012 edition of the Plum Book, (c)an official publication which lists thousands of employment positions for appointees within the federal government and which is published every four years.

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/ovp_plumbook.html
- (b) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2007/02/isoo_asks_attorney_general_t_o_.html
- (c) <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/GPO-PLUMBOOK-2012/content-detail.html>

4405/12 -----

The 2010 Census, and More from CRS

(fas) New and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that have not been made publicly available include the following.

The 2010 Census: Count Question Resolution Program, December 7, 2012 (b)

An Analysis of STEM Education Funding at the NSF: Trends and Policy Discussion, December 12, 2012 (c)

Value-Added Modeling for Teacher Effectiveness, December 11, 2012 (d)

Teacher Quality Issues in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, December 10, 2012 (e)

U.S. Farm Income, December 10, 2012 (f)

The National Flood Insurance Program: Status and Remaining Issues for Congress, December 10, 2012 (g)

Department of Defense Energy Initiatives: Background and Issues for Congress, Decembr 10, 2012 (h)

Navy Force Structure and Shipbuilding Plans: Background and Issues for Congress, December 10, 2012 (i)

Navy Ford (CVN-78) Class Aircraft Carrier Program: Background and Issues for Congress, December 10, 2012 (j)

Coast Guard Polar Icebreaker Modernization: Background, Issues, and Options for Congress, December 10, 2012 (k)

Navy Ohio Replacement (SSBN[X]) Ballistic Missile Submarine Program:
Background and Issues for Congress, December 10, 2012 (l)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/2010_census.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42092.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42470.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41051.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42127.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40152.pdf>
- (g) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL34391.pdf>
- (h) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/R41129.pdf>
- (i) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42850.pdf>
- (j) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42558.pdf>
- (k) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RL32665.pdf>
- (l) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/weapons/RS20643.pdf>

4406/12

NRO Releases Redacted Budget Book for FY2013

(fas) The National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), (b) the U.S. intelligence agency that is responsible for developing and operating the nation's intelligence satellites, has released a redacted version of its Congressional Budget Justification Book (c) for the current fiscal year in response to a Freedom of Information Act request.

"NRO systems allow users to quickly focus multiple sensors on almost any point on the globe to respond to emerging crises or operational requirements and provide persistent, multi-INT coverage," the budget document says.

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/nro_fy2013.html
- (b) <http://www.nro.gov/>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/irp/nro/fy2013cbjb.pdf>

4407/12

Presidential Reorganization Authority, and More from CRS

(fas) Noteworthy new and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that have not been made available to the public include the following.

Presidential Reorganization Authority: History, Recent Initiatives, and Options for Congress, December 11, 2012 (b)

Presidential Appointee Positions Requiring Senate Confirmation and Committees Handling Nominations, November 15, 2012 (c)

Legal Protections for Subcontractors on Federal Prime Contracts, December 10, 2012 (d)

Loss of Federal Pensions for Members of Congress Convicted of Certain Offenses, December 10, 2012 (e)

The National Defense Authorization Act for FY2012: Detainee Matters, December 11, 2012 (f)

"Gang of Four" Congressional Intelligence Notifications, November 19, 2012
(g)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/pres_reorg.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42852.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL30959.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41230.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/96-530.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42143.pdf>
- (g) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/intel/R40698.pdf>

4408/12

Senate Puts Brakes on Defense Clandestine Service

(fas) The Senate moved last week to restrain the rapid growth of the Defense Clandestine Service, the Pentagon's human intelligence operation.

Under a provision of the FY2013 defense authorization act that was approved on December 4, the Pentagon would be prohibited from hiring any more spies than it had as of last April, and it would have to provide detailed cost estimates and program plans in forthcoming reports to Congress.

"DoD needs to demonstrate that it can improve the management of clandestine HUMINT before undertaking any further expansion," the Senate Armed Services Committee wrote in a report on the new legislation.

http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/senate_dcs.html

4409/12

Open Source Technologies for Arms Control

(fas) Members of the public are invited to develop and submit ideas to an essay contest on the potential uses of open source information and technology to support international arms control initiatives.

The State Department (b) is sponsoring the contest in partnership with the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (c) and the Moscow-based Center for Policy Studies (d).

"The contest aims to harness the ingenuity of American and Russian citizens to think creatively about innovative ways to use open source information and communication technologies for arms control verification, compliance monitoring, and monitoring of sensitive facilities," the CNS said in its announcement. (e)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/essay_contest.html
- (b) <http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/12/201627.htm>
- (c) http://cns.miis.edu/stories/121206_open_source_essay_contest.htm
- (d) <http://pircenter.org/en/events/1750-call-for-papers-for-the-201213-international-arms-control-essay-contest-innovation-through-open-source-technologies>

4410/12

Iran's Ballistic Missile Program, and More from CRS

(fas) Noteworthy new and updated reports from the Congressional Research Service that Congress has not made publicly available include the following.

Iran's Ballistic Missile and Space Launch Programs, December 6, 2012 (b)

Syria's Chemical Weapons: Issues for Congress, December 5, 2012 (c)

Egypt: Background and U.S. Relations, December 6, 2012 (d)

In Brief: Next Steps in the War in Afghanistan? Issues for Congress, December 6, 2012 (e)

Afghanistan Casualties: Military Forces and Civilians, December 6, 2012 (f)

Detention of U.S. Persons as Enemy Belligerents, December 4, 2012 (g)

Right to Work Laws: Legislative Background and Empirical Research, December 6, 2012 (h)

- (a) http://www.fas.org/blog/secretcy/2012/12/iran_ballistic_missile.html
- (b) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R42849.pdf>
- (c) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/nuke/R42848.pdf>
- (d) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/mideast/RL33003.pdf>
- (e) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42137.pdf>
- (f) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R41084.pdf>
- (g) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/R42337.pdf>
- (h) <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R42575.pdf>

4411/12

Report on Global Trends Discusses Game Changers

(DOD) The pace of change in the world has accelerated and Global Trends 2030 -- a publication of the National Intelligence Council -- lists what experts consider game changers that will drive world events over the next 18 years.

The Office of the Director of National Intelligence released the Global Trends 2030 report Dec. 10. The game changers that appear in the report are mostly in place today.

"It's the economy, stupid" may have been the bumper sticker moment in the 1990s, and it will continue to be a game changer in the years ahead. The report said that the international economy will "almost certainly" be characterized by regional economies moving at different speeds -- just as they do today. This will cause imbalances and economic winners and losers in the world.

<http://www.defense.gov/News/newsarticle.aspx?ID=118781>

4412/12

Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds

(dni) Global Trends 2030 is intended to stimulate thinking about the rapid and vast geopolitical changes characterizing the world today and possible

global trajectories over the next 15 years. As with the NIC's previous Global Trends reports, we do not seek to predict the future—which would be an impossible feat—but instead provide a framework for thinking about possible futures and their implications.

In-depth research, detailed modeling and a variety of analytical tools drawn from public, private and academic sources were employed in the production of Global Trends 2030. NIC leadership engaged with experts in nearly 20 countries—from think tanks, banks, government offices and business groups—to solicit reviews of the report.

- (a) <http://www.dni.gov/index.php/about/organization/national-intelligence-council-global-trends>
- (b) US-Intelligence-Dienste sehen bis 2030 möglichen Wirtschaftskollaps, Rohstoffkriege und den Absturz Amerikas voraus: <http://info.kopp-verlag.de/hintergruende/geostrategie/mike-adams/us-intelligence-dienste-sehen-bis-2-3-moeglichen-wirtschaftskollaps-rohstoffkriege-und-den-absturz.html>

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|  | <h1>LITERATURE</h1> |
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4413/12

Uwe Markus: Kerngeschäft

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|  | <p>(mopo) „Ohne Atomstrom gehen in Hamburg im Winter die Lichter aus.“ Gebetsmühlenartig wiederholte Johannes Koppe in den 70er Jahren dieses Statement. Der Manager der Hamburgischen Electricitäts-Werke (HEW) war ein Hardliner, das ideale Feindbild aller Atomkraftgegner. Es war die perfekte Tarnung: Der Physiker war 26 Jahre der Spion Nummer eins der Stasi in der Hansestadt. Die MOPO am Sonntag traf den 80-jährigen Rentner in seiner Wohnung in einem Plattenbau in Berlin-Lichtenberg.</p> <p>Johannes Koppe, der ehemalige Top-Agent, ist heute ein gemütlich wirkender älterer Herr. Er sitzt in seinem Wohnzimmer in der 24. Etage eines gigantischen Wohnhochhauses unweit der ehemaligen Stasi-Zentrale, sagt: „Was ich gemacht habe, war richtig. Ich war Teil einer solidarischen Bewegung, die die Welt zu einem besseren Ort machen wollte.“</p> |
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- (a) Uwe Markus: Kerngeschäft. Das Doppelleben des Atomspions Dr. Johannes Koppe. Nora. November 2012. ISBN-10: 3865573088. ISBN-13: 978-3865573087. Euro 19,90.
- (b) <http://www.mopo.de/nachrichten/atom-experte-johannes-koppe-der-stasi-spion--der-ganz-hamburg-taeschte,5067140,21126520.html>



CONFERENCES / LECTURES

4414/12

Zentrale des DDR-Geheimdienstes - Die andere Seite der Stasi-Platte

(pnn) Roland Jahn, Chef der MfS-Unterlagenbehörde, möchte die frühere Stasi-Zentrale zum Campus der Demokratie machen, sieht das Areal als lebendigen Ort und träumt von den Stones auf dem Dach.

Roland Jahn spekuliert auf die Wirkung des Ortes. Der Bundesbeauftragte für die Stasiunterlagen hat einiges vor mit dem Gelände des Ministeriums für Staatssicherheit an der Ruschestraße in Berlin-Lichtenberg. Immer noch wirkt das ehemalige Geheimdienst-Hauptquartier ganz eigenartig, nämlich anziehend und abstoßend zugleich. Hochhäuser, wie gigantische Bauklötze neben- und aneinandergestellt, 50er-Jahre-DDR-Moderne neben der Plattenbaugleichförmigkeit der Siebziger, dazwischen Koniferen in Betonblumenkübeln: So stellt sich die Unterdrückungs- und Überwachungsmaschine der DDR heute dar, so zieht sie jeden an, der sich einen Eindruck von ihrer Größe, ihrer Selbstgefälligkeit und ihrer Macht verschaffen will. Und so wird sie noch immer alle abstoßen, die zu DDR-Zeiten von der Stasi ausgeforscht, genötigt, erpresst und eingesperrt worden sind.

<http://www.pnn.de/brandenburg-berlin/705140/>

Deadline for application: 20 December 2012

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Austrian Center for Intelligence, Propaganda and Security Studies (ACIPSS)
Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz

mail: Attemsgasse 8/III, A-8010 Graz, Austria
tel.: (+43) 316 380 8097
fax: (+43) 316 380 9730
web: www.acipss.org
email: newsletter@acipss.org (newsletter-related)
email: office@acipss.org (general matters)