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Israeli Commanders Admit To Atrocities in Lebanon

On September 13, the Israeli newspaper "Haaretz," reported that a top Israeli army officer admitted to carrying out atrocities in Lebanon.

"What we did was insane and monstrous, we covered entire towns in cluster bombs," the head of an Israeli occupation rocket unit in Lebanon stated. Quoting his battalion commander, the rocket unit head stated that the Israeli army fired around 1,800 cluster bombs, containing over 1.2 million cluster bomblets. In addition, Israeli soldiers in artillery units testified that the army used phosphorous shells during the war.

International law prohibits the use of such weapons against humans and last month United Nations chief, Kofi Annan, condemned Israel's use of these weapons. The UN estimated that as much as 40 percent of the small-sized bomblets fired into Lebanon failed to explode on impact and even after the cease-fire, they continue to kill civilians.

IAEA Denounces Lies in U.S. Report on Iran

The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mohamed ElBaradei, has sent a letter to the U.S. House of Representatives' Select Committee on Intelligence, criticizing it for "outrageous and dishonest" reporting on Iran.

It said a report issued by the Committee on August 23rd falsely described Iran to have enriched uranium at its pilot centrifuge plant to weapons-grade level in April, even though IAEA inspectors had made clear Iran had enriched only to a low level only usable for nuclear power reactor fuel. The lies in the report gave the impression Iran's nuclear fuel program was much more advanced than a series of IAEA reports and Washington's own intelligence assessments have determined.

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Attacks Against U.S.-NATO Forces Rising in Afghanistan

U. S. and NATO military commanders are expressing growing concern about the rising number of attacks from resistance fighters in Afghanistan.

Currently, there are over 20,000 U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan and Pentagon officials are worried about "heavier than expected resistance throughout the south."

On September 9th, in a meeting in Warsaw, commanders said that thousands of more troops, as well as more helicopters and warplanes, were needed for the occupation. This request was repeated during a September 13th meeting in Belgium. In recent speeches, U.S. Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice, has also been pleading with NATO countries to commit more troops.

Democratic Senator John Kerry also said in a recent speech in Boston that the Bush administration had adopted "a policy of cut-and-run" and the Pentagon should deploy at least 5,000 more troops to help suppress the resistance in Afghanistan. He also called for the deployment of more military hardware.

Senate Approves More Funding for War

On September 7, the U.S. Senate approved House Bill HR5631 which provides over \$420 billion in military spending for FY2007, including over \$50 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The measure passed 98-0.

Foreign Ministers Adopt Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) Guidelines

Reprinted for Granma International, September 15, 2006

On September 14, the foreign ministers of the Non-Aligned Movement [an organization of 116 nations] defined for the approval of their heads of state a group of principles that are to guide the movement's activities from now on.

The fundamentals are contained in a statement on the aims and principles and role of the Non-Aligned Movement in the current international juncture.

Respect for the UN Charter and the sovereignty of the peoples and the territorial equality and integrity of all states heads the document to be endorsed by the 14th NAM Summit that is in session today and tomorrow in Havana.

In addition, the statement refers to the equality of all races, religions, cultures and nations, large and small, and respect for and promotion of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right of the peoples to peace and development.

It ratifies the principle of free self-determination and the inalienable right of states to freely decide on their political, socioeconomic and cultural systems.

An explicit statement that no state or group of states has the right to directly or indirectly intervene in the internal or external affairs of another also appears in the document.

The Non-Aligned Movement rejects the exercise of pressure on or coercion of any country, including the application and/or promotion of any unilateral measure of a coercive nature contrary to international law, or in any other form.

The text stipulates abstaining from having recourse to threats or the use of force in international relations against the territorial integrity, sovereignty or political independence of another country.

At the same time it quotes respect for the immanent right of legitimate individual or collective defense, in conformity with the UN Charter.

Aggression is a crime against peace and entails international responsibility, the document states, and calls on states to combat the organization, instigation, support, promotion, funding of or participation in acts of terrorism in any of its forms.

On the other hand, it sustains that the promotion and defense of multilateralism and multilateral organizations are the ideal frameworks for resolving problems afflicting humanity through dialogue and cooperation.

Finally, it establishes the principle of the defense and promotion of shared interests, justice and cooperation independently of states' differences in political, economic and social systems on the basis of mutual respect and equality of rights (PL).

Fidel Castro Elected President of Non-Aligned Movement

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By acclamation and with the corresponding rap of the gavel Fidel Castro Ruz was elected president of the Non-Aligned Movement. On his behalf, and in line with constitutional regulations, the position is being temporarily assumed by Raúl Castro, who concluded his subsequent speech with a strong call for unity.

Minutes beforehand, Cuban Foreign Minister stated that on medical prescription and in spite of his rapid recovery, he would not be directly present at the Summit, and announced that the Cuban leader is ready to assume his tasks and functions at the head of this Movement once he is completely recovered.

Pérez Roque also noted that the head of state followed the speeches and discussions of the foreign ministers earlier in the week with the closest attention and thanked people for the numerous messages of solidarity and wishes for his recovery that they have sent to him.

Thus Raúl Castro Ruz, first vice president of the Councils of State and Ministers of Cuba, took charge of receiving the visiting heads of state and government on their arrival at the International Conference Center for the start of the highest-level meeting of the NAM summits.

Seconded by Carlos Lage Dávila and Felipe Pérez Roque, vice president of the Council of State and foreign minister,

respectively, and other officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Raúl gave an affectionate welcome to the 50-plus leaders attending. This is considered to be one of the conferences with the greatest participation of high dignitaries.

The Prime Minister of Malaysia, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, as outgoing president of the meeting, declared the 14th Summit open, stating that – with much pleasure – he was handing over responsibility for the Movement to the first vice president of the Council of Ministers, Raúl Castro Ruz who, after conveying Fidel's greetings to the assembly, acknowledged the good work undertaken by Indonesia in the prior stage and gave his guarantee that Cuba would assume the responsibility from now on with similar enthusiasm and seriousness.

IAEA Denounces U.S. on Iran (continued from page 1)

IAEA spokeswoman Melissa Fleming said: "We felt obliged to put the record straight with regard to the facts on what we have reported on Iran. It's a matter of the integrity of the IAEA."

The IAEA has been inspecting Iran's nuclear program since 2003, and it has found no evidence that Iran is working on atomic weapons.

On September 13, however, U.S. officials again repeated its lies about Iran, saying Iran was "aggressively" pursuing nuclear weapons research.