

## UNITED STATES CALLS FOR REBUILDING IN AFGHANISTAN

*New York Times*

Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy defense secretary, called today for accelerating the reconstruction of Afghanistan, and he outlined a new plan for using American, Afghan and possibly European forces to improve security in more than half a dozen cities. Mr. Wolfowitz tried to underscore the Pentagon's new emphasis on rebuilding Afghanistan. "We're clearly moving into a different phase, where our priority in Afghanistan is increasingly going to be stability and reconstruction," Mr. Wolfowitz said. "There's no way to go too fast," Mr. Wolfowitz said of reconstruction. "Faster is better." Mr. Wolfowitz met with the Afghan minister of defense, Marshal Muhammad Fahim, to discuss stepping up the training of the Afghan National Army. Mr. Wolfowitz spent much of his day promoting a new American plan to station soldiers in as many as eight cities outside Kabul to provide security for aid workers and American diplomats. Many aid workers and diplomats have been unwilling to spend time in cities other than Kabul because of fears of terrorism, assault, banditry and rape. The new units, known as provisional reconstruction teams, would include American Special Operations soldiers, Army civil affairs soldiers trained in reconstruction work and conventional ground troops. Though the units would be small, American officials contend that their mere presence -- and their ability to call in airstrikes by American warplanes -- would greatly expand security in those cities. The first team has begun work in Gardez and additional teams will be placed in Bamian and Konduz in the coming month. The Bush administration also plans to ask members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to provide small numbers of troops for the teams. Eventually, Afghan soldiers can support or even replace American troops. The reconstruction teams have been criticized as inadequate by some Afghan officials and international aid workers who want the United States and its allies to extend the international peacekeeping force that now patrols Kabul to other cities.

## IRAQ DISCLOSES FOUR WARHEADS IN WHAT ARMS INSPECTOR CALLS "CONSTRUCTIVE" TALKS

*New York Times*

Iraq told the top two United Nations arms inspectors today that it had found four more empty chemical weapons warheads similar to the 12 discovered by a United Nations inspection team last week. The inspectors, Hans Blix and Mohamed ElBaradei, said Iraq's disclosure of the additional warheads was a sign that Iraq might be more forthcoming. "I think we are making some progress," Dr. ElBaradei told reporters. On January 27, Mr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei must present to the United Nations Security Council a crucial progress report on nearly two months of renewed inspections -- a report that may help determine whether the United States carries through with its threat to attack Iraq. Mr.

Blix and Dr. ElBaradei were firm that Iraq must become more "proactive" in declaring weapons, sites and documents if it is to convince the Bush administration that it has indeed disarmed or is serious about disarming. Since inspections began again in November, United Nations teams have carried out 400 visits to potential weapons sites. Inspectors turned up 12 small warheads, all empty though designed to deliver chemical weapons short distances, that Iraq had not admitted to having. Officials in Washington called the discovery of the chemical warheads "troubling and serious" and part of an Iraqi pattern to avoid detection of its weapons. But both Mr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei played down both discoveries as relatively minor on their own, even as they

said they pointed to the need for greater cooperation on the part of the Iraqis. "These are not weapons of mass destruction," Mr. Blix said. "Shells are not W.M.D.," he added, using the common shorthand for weapons of mass destruction. "But they are a sign that not everything has been declared and that is worrying." In general, the arms inspectors have praised Iraq's basic level of cooperation. So far, Iraqis have not impeded access to any sites the inspectors requested. Mr. Blix and Dr. ElBaradei also made the case that the Jan. 27 deadline should be just the start, rather than the end, for inspections. With antiwar sentiment apparently rising around the globe, several top leaders agreed that inspections should be given more time.

## SHARON ACCUSES EUROPE OF FAVORING PALESTINIANS

*New York Times*

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel accused European states of bias in favor of the Palestinians, criticizing their role in an American-backed plan for Middle East peace. Mr. Sharon sought to align Israel with the United States and against the three other members of a diplomatic "Quartet" — the United Nations, the European Union and Russia — that has drawn up a detailed "road map" for peace and a Palestinian state. Mr. Sharon said that when it came to the peace effort, Israel agreed with the United States, but not with the other Quartet members. Mr. Sharon said that Israel accepted the road map. But he also made clear that he had his own interpretation of what that map called for, repeat-

edly saying that he intended to follow the guidelines laid down in a speech by President Bush last June. Compared with the road map, Mr. Bush's speech demanded far more immediate concessions from the Palestinians than from the Israelis. Mr. Sharon said today that Israel would make "painful concessions" for peace. But he has set numerous conditions for the Palestinians before negotiations could begin, including that they halt all violence, overhaul their political system, dismantle militant groups, and collect illegal weapons. The road map demands that as part of a first stage the Israelis also make concessions, including withdrawing from all West Bank and Gaza territory seized since September 2000. It also calls on Israel to dis-

mantle all settlements built since March 2001 and to freeze further construction. Mr. Sharon did not address those demands directly. He said that Israel did not want to stay in the territory it had recently taken, but had no choice but to remain there because of Palestinian violence. Mr. Sharon said he was sincere in supporting the eventual creation of a Palestinian state, citing as evidence that he was willing to make such an endorsement in an election campaign. Mr. Sharon's party, Likud, is comfortably ahead of its chief rival, Labor. Elections are set for January 28. Labor's leader, Amram Mitzna, calls for immediate negotiations with the Palestinians, without condition.

## SECURITY COUNCIL CALLS ON PARTIES IN CONGO TO ABIDE BY PEACE AGREEMENTS

*New York Times*

Members of the United Nations Security Council today stressed the need for all parties claiming a role in the future of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to demonstrate their respect for human rights, international humanitarian law, and the security and well-being of civilian populations in areas under their control. Reading a statement to the press, the Council President said members called on all Congolese parties to implement without delay the Pretoria Agreement of 17 December 2002, in order to establish a transitional government that should lead to elections in the DRC. Deeply

concerned at the resumption of fighting in eastern DRC and the continuation of instability in the northeast of the country, Council members urged the parties to abide by the terms of the Gbadolite Agreement signed on 30 December 2002, and in particular to cease immediately all military activities in the area. The massacres and systematic violations of human rights perpetrated by the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC) and the Congolese Rally for Democracy/National (RCD-N) troops in the Ituri area were also strongly condemned by the members of the Council. Council members further stressed that it was important for

the Governments of both Rwanda and the DRC to fully implement their commitments under the Pretoria Accord. They encouraged further efforts by MONUC to continue to verify the implementation of these commitments, in particular the full withdrawal of Rwandan forces and the absence of all forms of support to foreign armed groups by the Government of the DRC. The statement also expressed the Council member's concern at reports of continuing sponsorship of proxy groups in the DRC, and called on both sides to cooperate fully with the verification efforts of MONUC.

## CONFIGURATION OF SECURITY COUNCIL MAY FORCE U.S. TO RENEW LOBBYING OVER IRAQ

*New York Times*

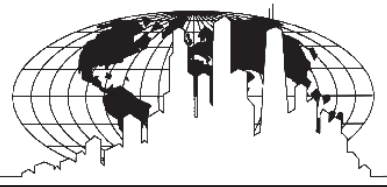
It took nine weeks of exhausting negotiations for the United States and the other 14 nations on the Security Council to agree on a resolution on Nov. 8 to make Iraq give up its illegal weapons. But just as the optimal cool-weather season for a military assault in Iraq's deserts approaches in February, the United States may have to go courting again. In a routine annual rotation, Angola, Chile, Germany, Pakistan and Spain joined the Council. The nonpermanent members broadly represent the views of their regions. When Syria added its vote in to complete the unanimous support for Resolution 1441, which set up the weapons inspections now under way, it sent a resounding message to Iraq and the rest of the Arab world. The new configuration adds complexities for Washington. The United States may have to persuade skeptical members to accept its interpretation of less-than-overwhelming evidence that Iraq cheated the inspectors by hiding illegal weapons.

## THOUSANDS CONVERGE IN CAPITAL TO PROTEST PLANS FOR WAR

*New York Times*

In a show of dissent that organizers said "shattered the false myth of consensus," for a war with Iraq, tens of thousands of protesters converged today for a rally and march against the Bush administration's threatened use of military force against Saddam Hussein's regime. A swelling crowd filled several blocks west of the Capitol carrying signs, waving banners and chanting, "No war with Iraq." Many in the crowds seemed undeterred by the steady and seemingly inexorable march toward a possible war, as the United States and a few allies marshal troops, naval flotillas and air wings in a rapidly escalating mobilization in the Persian Gulf region.





## RIVALS RALLY IN IVORY COAST AS PEACE TALKS ENTER FOURTH DAY

*The Associated Press*

Demonstrators on both sides of Ivory Coast's conflict held marches today as peace talks to end the civil war moved into a fourth day. Up to a million people have been displaced and hundreds have been killed in the fighting, which began with a failed coup in mid-September. Thousands of government supporters gathered in Abidjan's main square, many with painted faces and branches wrapped around their heads to show they were prepared for war. In Bouaké, Ivory Coast's second largest city, a similar display of support for the rebels took place. Bouaké, 220 miles north of Abidjan, was taken by the rebels on Sept. 19. The first sizable contingent of West African peacekeepers destined for the cease-fire line — 172 Senegalese Army soldiers with military vehicles — arrived today aboard a French boat. The peacekeeping force will eventually have more than 1,200 soldiers. France has no plans to draw down its 2,500-member military force in Ivory Coast once the West Africans move up to the front line. On Saturday, a United Nations envoy, Carolyn McAskie, visited people in a slum in Abidjan whose shantytown homes had been destroyed by the government, which said the area housed rebel supporters. She said she was shocked by the conditions she found.



## NORTH KOREA WANTS TO TALK

*New York Times*

The United States and North Korea inched closer today toward a resolution of a crisis over nuclear weapons development. President Bush spoke on Tuesday of reviving an initiative toward North Korea which would have the United States offer food and energy aid, along with political and security guarantees. In exchange, North Korea would be required to show it had eliminated its nuclear weapons programs. "If they satisfy our concerns about the nuclear programs, we are prepared to consider a broad approach that would entail, in the final analysis, some economic co-

## STILL LOST IN AFGHANISTAN: BIN LADEN AND TWO OTHERS

*New York Times*

Osama bin Laden, Taliban leader Mullah Muhammad Omar, and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who opposes the government of President Hamid Karzai and has called for a holy war against the United States, have frustrated more than a year of American efforts to find them. They are believed to be hiding in Afghanistan's remote mountain ranges and in the lawless tribal areas that straddle the border with Pakistan. From there, they and their followers maintain the potential to stir trouble in the region even as the United States seeks to shift its military activity toward the Persian Gulf. While it is not clear how much communication Mr. bin Laden is able to maintain with Al Qaeda, terrorist cells believed

## IN VENEZUELA, CHÁVEZ REMAINS UNYIELDING

*New York Times*

Despite mounting international pressure to resolve the political conflict that has pushed this country to the brink of anarchy, President Hugo Chávez hinted that he would use military force if necessary to break a strike, now entering its eighth week, that has crippled most of the formal economy and caused shortages of food and fuel. Today, he appointed two loyal military officers to top security posts and threatened new raids on businesses. "Some businessmen have

operation, perhaps in the power field," the American ambassador to South Korea, Thomas C. Hubbard, said. "We are prepared to go beyond food aid." Until this week, North Korea had shown little faith in a negotiated solution to the crisis, and it appeared to be racing toward the development of nuclear weapons. In recent days, however, there have been increasing calls for a diplomatic settlement from North Korea. The current crisis with North Korea began last October, when the United States presented evidence of a secret program to produce highly enriched uranium, whose only practical

linked to his group were held responsible for attacks that have left more than 200 people dead since October. Recently, there have been boastful reports from supporters of Mullah Omar and Mr. Hekmatyar that they have formed an alliance and are urging their followers to fight against the 9,000 American military forces still active in Afghanistan. For now, most attacks aimed at American and allied forces here have been low level. Yet the threat ties down more than 1,000 troops at any time in a line of bases along the border with Pakistan. Hundreds of American Special Forces have been hunting for Mullah Omar for months, recently raising complaints that they are stirring up the anger of local people. A car bomb in Kabul on

reflected and have started to open their factories," he said. "Those who refuse, who resist, well, be sure that today, tomorrow, or after we will raid your warehouses." His comments came as new rounds of negotiations were to begin between Mr. Chávez and a coalition of business people, union leaders and civic groups that began the strike in an effort to force the president from office. They accuse him of being an authoritarian leader who has undermined the country's four decades of democracy. They have

use is for nuclear weapons. Since then, Washington has cut off fuel shipments to the country. In response, North Korea expelled international monitors at its mothballed nuclear power plants and has signaled its intention to restart the plants, which could quickly give it more bomb-making material. In other diplomatic activity today, Russia's deputy foreign minister, Aleksandr Losyukov, presented a plan to North Korean leaders in Pyongyang, the capital, that would provide security guarantees and a resumption of economic assistance if North Korea shut down its nuclear programs.

Sept. 5 that caused dozens of casualties -- and the near assassination of President Karzai in southern Afghanistan on the same day -- were a warning of how much havoc even a small group of opposing forces can cause. "The real problem is the groups in Pakistan, who are operating in the tribal areas and who cross the border into Afghanistan," the Afghan deputy defense minister, Bismillah Khan, said. The United States military maintains that Pakistan is cooperating in efforts to police the border. Interior Minister Taj Muhammad Wardak maintains that there is little public support for the renegade leaders and that support will fall further if the police are better paid and trained and if reconstruction offers people more opportunities.

vowed to keep up the strike until he agrees to call elections. The strike has shut down most oil wells and refineries in Venezuela, the world's fifth largest exporter, cutting off supplies. Negotiations overseen by the Organization of American States, reinforced by the formation of a so-called group of friendly countries including the United States, Mexico, Chile, Brazil, Spain and Portugal, have dragged on since November. Mr. Chávez has denounced the opposition as "oligarchs" and "coup plotters."

## ISRAEL INTENSIFYING EFFORTS TO WARD OFF SUICIDE BOMBINGS

*New York Times*

The Israeli Army has rounded up scores of Palestinians this week in a stepped-up campaign ahead of elections set for January 28. The arrests appear in part to reflect Israeli worries that Palestinian suicide bombers, who killed 22 in Tel Aviv on January 5, will strike again before the election. Israeli officials say one factor in the increase in arrests is better intelligence — some of it gleaned from earlier arrests and closer coordination between the army, which has surrounded the Gaza Strip and reoccupied the West Bank, and Israel's domestic intelligence service. The Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem reported two weeks ago that more than 1,000 Palestinians were in custody. The last time that many Palestinians were being held was 1991, during the previous intifada.

## ACROSS EUROPE, A WEEKEND OF ANTI-WAR RALLIES

*New York Times*

Antiwar demonstrators took to the streets today on a weekend of protests in numerous European cities, with marchers objecting to America's threats to use its military might against Iraq. About 10,000 people ignored chilly rains as they marched through the center of Brussels this afternoon to call for peace and to wave angry slogans against the Bush administration like "Bush only wants oil." In Ankara, Turkey's capital, thousands of people took part in an antiwar demonstration as General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, arrived in the country to push for American use of Turkish bases in the event of a war with Iraq. The protests in Brussels today remained peaceful, but they follow several days of unrest this week in the Belgian port of Antwerp. Small bands of protesters have tried to block the transports with American military trucks and helicopters coming from Germany and destined for the Persian Gulf region. Opinion polls across Europe indicate that opposition to the use of military force against Iraq is strong. Rallies were held on Saturday in Germany, Italy, Russia and Sweden, but by far the largest turnout was in France. Thousands marched in Paris and in at least a dozen other French cities.