

# International Intelligence

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## ***Egypt, Russia Discuss Policy Initiatives***

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak began a three-day visit to Moscow on Nov. 2, with a private meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin. The Presidents discussed the Iranian nuclear problem and the current critical situation in the Palestinian territories, Iraq, Lebanon, and Sudan. In a joint press conference, Putin said that “it is important to underline that our approaches to the resolution of the majority of urgent global problems coincide.” Putin suggested that Egypt could contribute to the resolution of the Mideast crisis by joining the Mideast Quartet (which currently consists of Russia, the United States, European Union, and UN).

Putin also underlined that bilateral trade exceeded \$1.6 billion in 2005 and grew 52% year on year in the first eight months of 2006. “Egypt represents a huge interest for Russia and is one of our foreign policy priorities,” he said. “Egypt remains one of our main partners in the Arab and Islamic World.”

Mubarak, who was accompanied in Moscow by a business delegation, told the press conference that the Presidents discussed a pilot project to set up a special industrial zone in Egypt. “We are going to grant them a free economic zone where they can work in preferential conditions,” he explained. “The very widest range of industries can develop in this zone, including pharmaceuticals, oil, gas, and other sectors. Egypt is interested in developing cooperation with Russia in space exploration, peaceful nuclear research, and high technologies.”

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## ***Chile’s Pinochet Will Stay Under House Arrest***

Gen. Augusto Pinochet “is a threat to the safety of society,” said Judge Alejandro Solis on Oct. 30, in explaining why he refused to grant provisional freedom to the 90-year old former dictator (who was put in power by George P. Shultz, Felix Rohatyn,

and Henry Kissinger, among others). Pinochet was indicted on Oct. 27 for 35 cases of kidnapping, 23 cases of torture, and one murder at the infamous Villa Grimaldi concentration camp run by the DINA (secret police) during the 1970s and 1980s. He has been declared mentally fit to stand trial.

As for charges by Pinochet’s defense team that the government “invented” the report of nine tons of gold held in Pinochet’s name at the Hong Kong & Shanghai Banking Corp, Interior Minister Belisario Velasco told Radio Cooperativa, “We don’t have to invent anything. . . . Pinochet had \$27 million in banks abroad,” as legal authorities have proven. “We don’t have to invent gold ingots or anything else to explain his government’s corruption.” Velasco pointed out that many of the right-wingers who are screaming about corruption in Chile today, are the same ones who supported Pinochet while he was engaged in his sordid and illegal financial activities—not to mention torture and murder. “And they never said anything.”

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## ***Israeli Cabinet Accepts Fascist Lieberman***

The Israeli Cabinet approved fascist Avigdor Lieberman and his Yisrael Beiteinu party as a new coalition partner on Oct. 29. The move was approved by the Knesset. Only one minister, the Labor Party’s Ofir Pines-Paz, voted against it. Pines-Paz also announced his resignation from the Cabinet, because he wants to run for the leadership of the Labor Party.

In a commentary in the daily *Ha’aretz* on Oct. 30, Akiva Eldar scored the silence of the Labor Party and others, noting that the common comparisons of Lieberman to Austrian right-winger Jörg Haider, do Haider an injustice. “Even in his most fascist days, [Haider] never called on Austria to rid itself of citizens who’d been living in the country for generations. Also, Haider never suggested standing up legislators representing these citizens in front of a firing squad,” as Lieberman has advocated for Israeli Arabs and their representatives in the Knesset. The Israeli Ambassador to Austria admitted

that Haider never made an anti-Semitic utterance and that he “does not threaten Jews.” Nor did Haider become a Cabinet minister when his party joined the Austrian government.

Yet, Eldar noted, Shimon Peres, “the Nobel Peace Prize laureate, warned Austria at the time that the inclusion of Haider in the coalition will ostracize it from the family of nations.” European governments were saying they would refuse to meet Haider. What if, Eldar writes, “European Union countries announced that the Deputy Prime Minister [Lieberman] is an unwanted personality in Europe?”

Eldar concluded that Lieberman’s entry into the government is dangerous, because “If a Jewish politician who aspires to transfer an Arab minority across the border can sit in an Israeli cabinet, why should an anti-Semite not sit in an Austrian government?”

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## ***Iran Calls for SCO To Seek Broader Cooperation***

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) should encourage its members to intensify their cooperation via other regional bodies, said Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki, the IRNA news agency reported on Oct. 30. Speaking at the opening session of the 14th International Central Asia and Caucasus Conference, Mottaki said that member states are well situated to promote regional economic growth, and embark on transportation, infrastructure, and energy development projects.

“One of Iran’s major foreign policy strategies is based on cooperation with regional states to resolve a major part of the problems facing the region, and promote security, welfare, and economic development,” he said.

Mottaki added that as an SCO member, Iran seeks to establish relations between “the real peace-seeking Islam and regional populations, and to warn the region’s governments against the unreasonable hardline approach toward Muslims” that is part of the so-called war on terror. Central Asia has a crucial role to play also, he said, between East and West.