

Weekly Letter 128



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Headlines

Our countries have untapped potential for cooperation, Yanukovych and Chavez agreed

[more](#) President Viktor Yanukovych met in Kyiv with Hugo Chavez, President the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Welcoming the guest, the President of Ukraine expressed appreciation...

Prime Minister David Cameron introduced the UK National Security Strategy

[more](#) The United Kingdom faces a complex array of threats from a myriad of sources. The National Security Strategy describes the strategic context within which these threats arise, and how...

The United Kingdom will remain a first rate diplomatic and military power

On October 19, 2010, the British Government has [published](#) its **National Security Strategy (NSS)** entitled **A Strong Britain in an Age of Uncertainty** which outlines its reappraisal of Britain's role in the world, the risks to national security and their implication for the United Kingdom (UK). It came along the **Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR)** which [details](#) how British Armed Forces will be reshaped to tackle emerging and future threats.

Prime Minister **David Cameron** [introduced](#) the two documents as part of a "continued full and active engagement in world affairs" in accordance with the defense of Britain's national interest. Given that the country faces "a complex array of threats from a myriad of sources," the government aims to ensure a secure and resilient UK "whose political, economic and cultural authority far exceeds its size," he said.

In a world of startling change which is attending a paradigmatic shifting of power from Western countries to Asia, Foreign Secretary **William Hague** [said](#) the NSS sets out how the government will maintain Britain's security, prosperity and influence in the world.

Echoing his milestone speeches which [developed](#) the challenges and opportunities of the "networked world" for British

foreign policy, Mr Hague stressed the need to coherently use all the instruments of national power, including the armed forces, diplomats, intelligence and development professionals, the police, the private sector and the British people themselves. In short, the UK will maintain a global diplomatic network but with a sharper focus on national security

In that prospect, the NSS set out two clear objectives. Firstly, to **ensure a secure and resilient UK** by protecting the British people, economy, infrastructure, territory and ways of life from all major risks; and secondly, to **shape a stable world**, by acting to reduce the likelihood of risks affecting the UK or its interests overseas. Counter-terrorism, cyber security, international military crisis and national disasters such as floods and pandemics have been set as priorities. In line with the United States' [strategy](#), the British government adheres to the fact that "attacks



A soldier from the Special Air Service Reserves, United Kingdom Army. (Source: MOD)

Iranian President announced Iran's four preconditions for talks with 5+1

[more](#) Addressing the massive gathering of people in the northwestern city of Ardebil, he said one precondition for Iran to take part in the talks is that the 5+1 should make it clear whether...

UK is a "firm friend to Pakistan," Foreign Secretary Hague affirmed

[more](#) Foreign Secretary William Hague outlined the UK's strong commitment to Pakistan at the launch of the British-Pakistan Foundation in London on October 16, 2010. "Pakistan's...

Russian, German, French leaders exchanged views on the future European security architecture

[more](#) Talks between Dmitry Medvedev, Federal Chancellor of Germany Angela Merkel and President of France Nicolas Sarkozy were held in Deauville, France. This is the first trilateral...

UK Strategic Defence and Security Review published

[more](#) "Defence cannot continue on an unaffordable footing," British officials said. "The SDSR aims to bring defence plans, commitments and resources into balance so that we have a coherent..."

Relations with Europe are important vectors in Russia's foreign policy

[more](#) Participants exchanged views on a wide range of issues on the Euro-Atlantic

in cyberspace can have a potentially devastating real-world effect," and "grow as a terrorist enabler." This results in the future creation of the **UK Defence Cyber Operations Group** within the **Ministry of Defense (MOD)** which will ensure the resilience of UK vital networks and conduct operations in the cyber domain, notably through a yet to be finalized Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S.

As for military affairs, the UK will remain a first rate power too. "We reconfigure our Armed Forces to make them better able to meet the threats of the future," summarized Cameron and his deputy **Nick Clegg** in a foreword to the SDSR. Based on the NSS' highest priority risks over the next five years, the British military implements the concept of **"Adaptable Posture"** which applies UK instruments of power and influence to shape the global environment and tackle potential risks at source. Today, Afghanistan where the insurgency remains strong and adaptable, is the top and immediate priority as "it remains vital to UK national security that Afghanistan be able to maintain its own security to prevent al-Qaeda from returning", Mr Hague [wrote](#) in his quarterly report to the **House of Commons**.

The British Armed Forces "2020" will implement five main concepts. Firstly, they will "hold a small number of their most capable units at high **readiness**" like the **Special Air Service (SAS)**. Secondly, they will "hold some capabilities in extended readiness" for **reconstitution** like amphibious units not to be removed from the force structure entirely. Thirdly, **reinforcement** will be made through Reserve Forces to provide additional capability when regular forces are deployed at maximum effort. Fourthly, technical expertise, skills and training will maintain the ability to **regenerate** capabilities which aren't held for the immediate future. Finally, as British forces rarely deploy alone, **dependency** with NATO allies require greater operational cooperation and interoperability.

The **National Security Council** acknowledged it took "difficult but necessary decisions". They concluded that there is a "strategic requirement for **future carrier-strike capability**" in order give the UK "long term **political flexibility** to act without depending (...) on agreement from other countries to use of their bases," But the UK will, however, operate **"only one aircraft carrier"** considering that forces will "far more likely engage in precision operations" than in large-scale air combat. Also, the UK will maintain a **nuclear deterrent** that will ensure its ability to respond to the "low probability but very high impact risk of a large-scale military attack by another state,"

What's really significant in both the NSS and the SDSR is the clear frankness of the global assessment of Britain's influence and security priorities. The two documents target realistic objectives and announced **new investment** along with **drastic savings and cuts** which show the full determination of Cameron's government to maintain Britain in the world first league of advanced and developed countries. In brief, it wants to do the same, if not more, **quickly, flexibly** and **affordably** in the light of the perceived as irresistible decline of Europe. Not so **"distinctive"**, however, the British reappraisal subscribes to a vast trend of adaptation to the new global and strategic environment, like the soon-to-be-published **NATO Strategic Concept**.

Must-read

- [The National Security Strategy \(39 p.\)](#)
- [The Strategic Defense and Security Review \(75 p.\)](#)

agenda. Particular attention was given to the President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev's initiative to...

How India sees the role of force in strategic affairs

more "Is there an Indian doctrine for the use of force in statecraft?" NSA Shri Shivshankar Menon asked. "This is not a question that one normally expects to ask about a power..."

Somalia's instability increases and humanitarian situation deteriorates

more The members of the Security Council expressed their concern at the continued instability in Somalia and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. They reaffirmed their support for...

Clinton and Qureshi see progress made in the Strategic Dialogue process

more At the third Ministerial-level meeting of the Strategic Dialogue, the United States and Pakistan emphasized that a democratic, progressive, and prosperous Pakistan was...

Military leaders discussed U.S.-Pakistani partnership

more Defense Department leaders met with Pakistan's army chief of staff to discuss military-to-military partnership and security assistance as part of the Third U.S.-Pakistan...

IMF sees continued recovery in Europe, risks remaining

more Europe continues to recover from its deepest recession in the postwar

Iran set out four preconditions for 5+1 talks

Four months after the latest UN resolutions against Iran, President **Mahmoud Ahmadinejad** announced four preconditions for talks with **Group 5+1**. He said that "the 5+1 should make it clear whether they are to follow rules and logics" of the **IAEA** regulations. Secondly, the group should explain whether their objective is "negotiation and friendship" or "animosity". Thirdly, he urged them to "announce their views about the atomic bombs" Israel "possesses," He reiterated his country already abides by the **IAEA Safeguard Agreement** and that Western nations try to impose a double-standard through actions which would not even frighten a "five-year old child," Finally, he stressed that the Iranian nation" was not willing to withdraw from its (legitimate) rights" to peaceful nuclear energy. Besides, Ahmadinejad added that the strengthening of international sanctions "has bolstered national solidarity, self-esteem and courage to Iranian nation," A few days later, Foreign Minister **Manouchehr Mottaki** said that talks to determine venue, date and content of the negotiations with the group was still under discussion. The recent developments at the Russian-made **Bushehr** reactor questions the peaceful nature of Iran's program, U.S. spokesman **Philip J. Crowley** said. "Iran does not need an indigenous enrichment capability to generate civilian nuclear energy,"

Medvedev, Merkel and Sarkozy conversed about European security

On October 19, 2010, talks between President of the Russian Federation **Dmitry Medvedev**, Federal Chancellor of Germany **Angela Merkel** and President of France **Nicolas Sarkozy** were held in Deauville, France. This was the first trilateral meeting of the three leaders since 2005. It confirmed the importance of the relations with Europe in Russia's foreign policy. They exchanged views on the future European security architecture, focusing, in particular, on the **European Security Treaty**. Russia's relations with the European Union were also reviewed, including the Russian-German initiative to establish a **Russia-EU Foreign and Security Policy Committee** at the ministerial level, and Mr Sarkozy's proposal to create a single economic and security space between Russia and the EU. Mr Medvedev announced that he will take part in **Russia-NATO summit** to be held in November. It "will be an important opportunity to deepen and broaden the political dialogue and practical cooperation, to enhance our shared security," NATO Secretary General **Ander Fogh Rasmussen** stated. At the upcoming EU-Russia summit in December, the Russian side will lobby for the abolition of visas between Russia and the EU.

U.S., Pakistan discussed floods, aid and security issues in 3rd Strategic Dialogue

The third round this year of the 3rd Strategic Dialogue took place in Washington DC. U.S. Defense Secretary **Robert M. Gates**, Navy Adm. **Mike Mullen** and Undersecretary of Defense for Policy **Michele Flournoy** met with Pakistani Army Chief of Staff Gen. **Ashfaq Kayani**. The U.S. delegation acknowledged the "important" contributions and the role of the Pakistani military; weeks after two coalition helicopters "inadvertently" killed three Pakistani soldiers along the border with Afghanistan. Also, they discussed the counterinsurgency strategy and stressed on the need to better coordinate actions. For their respective roles, U.S. Secretary of State **Hillary Rodham Clinton** and Pakistani Foreign Minister **Makhdoom Shah Mehmood Qureshi** mostly discussed assistance to the flood victims of Pakistan for which the U.S. has been providing USD 390 million in immediate relief and recovery efforts. They welcomed the good coordination between the State and Defense departments as the "U.S. military has provided airlift that rescued more than 23,000 people already," Both expressed satisfaction on the progress made in the Strategic Dialogue process.

period with GDP projected to expand by 2.3 percent in 2010 and 2.2 percent in 2011, after a 4.6 percent...

NATO is not only a defence alliance, but also a security organisation

[more](#) German Minister Werner Hoyer declared that "It has been a community of partners sharing the same values. This is clearly reaffirmed in the current draft. None of NATO's..."

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev made a working visit in Turkmenistan

[more](#) The first conversation between Dmitry Medvedev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov took place at the Turkmenbashi airport. During the conversation...

Iran, Venezuela signed 11 agreements

[more](#) Iran and Venezuela have signed 11 memoranda of understanding (MoU) during Venezuelan president's visit to Tehran. The MoUs were signed by the two countries' ministers during...

Daily Updates

[October 25, 2010](#)

[October 22, 2010](#)

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Weekly Letter 129 will be available on November 1, 2010.

Security Council expressed its concern at Somalia's increasing instability

At a meeting presided by Uganda's President **Ruhakana Rugunda**, the members of the **Security Council (UNSC)** [reaffirmed](#) their support for the **Djibouti Agreement** and peace process as the basis for the resolution of the conflict in Somalia, and reiterated their full support to the **Transitional Federal Government (TFG)** and the **African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM)**. They called on them to continue efforts in the constitution-making process and welcomed the appointment of **Jerry Rawlings** as the new African Union High Representative for Somalia. While condemning attacks perpetrated by armed groups, they called on the international community to provide additional resources to AMISOM and train, equip and build the capacity of the Somali national security forces. Despite "glimmers of hope", Somalia still faces well-known obstacles, UN Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon** [told](#) the UNSC on October 21, 2010. Citing the appointment of **Mohamed Abdillahi Mohamed** as new Prime Minister and the taking over of some main cities previously occupied by armed groups, he perceived a decrease in popularity of the extremist group **Al-Shabaab**. However, he said, "continuing insecurity and conflict in parts of the country are attracting foreign extremist elements," In order to overcome difficulties, the United Nations (UN) will work towards achieving the political objectives of the Djibouti peace process, in four key areas: reconciliation, constitution-making, agreement between the TFG and other regional authorities like Somaliland's and Puntland's, state-building. Today, two million people still need emergency aid, including 1.4 million who have been displaced internally since 2007. The increasing instability not only threatens Somalia but the whole surrounding region as well, experts said. On July 12, 2010, bomb attacks killed 76 people in Kampala, the capital of politically destabilized Uganda. Somalia-based Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for it, which was [confirmed](#) by U.S. officials on July 14, 2010.

Russia and Turkmenistan expand friendly relations, focus on energy

On October 21, 2010, President of the Russian Federation **Dmitry Medvedev** came in Turkmenistan for a working visit and was [welcomed](#) by his counterpart **Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov** at the Turkmenbashi airport. The two leaders [discussed](#) regional issues and Mr Medvedev praised Turkmenistan's neutral status in Central Asia. "This is a difficult region, and a lot depends on Turkmenistan. That is why our efforts to counter the main threats represent an exceptional and productive cooperation," he said. "We value the position Turkmenistan takes as a neutral state on the key issues of expanding cooperation in Central Asia," the Russian President [reaffirmed](#) later in a speech. Announcing that the two countries "will continue developing promising areas of (bilateral) cooperation in the field of energy," Dmitry Medvedev also [stressed](#) that **energy remains a key component** of the relations between Russia and Turkmenistan. With a trade turnover between the two countries that amounted to USD 1,857 billion over the first 8 months of 2010, there is room for an increase in Turkmen exports of natural gas to Russia. In an unusual move, Deputy Prime Minister **Igor Sechin**, who was a member of the Russian delegation, was [quoted](#) as telling *ITAR-TASS* news agency that Russia doesn't compete with Turkmenistan in Chinese gas market. "We don't compete in the Chinese market," he stressed. "The Turkmenistan-China cooperation is different from ours," he added. Actually, China's emergence as an important player in Central Asia has been challenging Russian interests in the area for several years; analysts said. The "friendly" interaction between China and Russia in Turkmenistan is animated by contradiction, they said, citing two competing projects of gas pipelines, China's having clearly taken the lead. Anyway, Presidents Medvedev and Berdimuhamedov agreed to review progress at a **Scientific Innovation Forum** to take place in Ashgabat next year.

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