

Scotland's Oracle

A MONITORING INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

BLACK AND ETHNIC MINORITIES INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCOTLAND

BEMIS is the only Scottish black and ethnic minority led national umbrella body supporting the development of the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector in Scotland.

The development of this organisation followed various consultations and research work, the outcome of which was documented in the "Listening to the Voice", that highlighted the need for the development of a national infrastructure organisation.

BEMIS, as an organisation came into operation in December 2001 with direct support from the Scottish Executive.

The Chief Executive Officer, Rami Ousta explained: "Setting up a national infrastructure organisation with the role we have was never going to be an overnight development. The lack of acknowledgement and support that this sector has experienced over the last few decades, coupled with the lack of direct engagement and effective representation with the diverse communities by key agencies and stakeholder has impeded and fragmented the development of this sector.

"Our priority was to address this situation by working closely with the diverse black and ethnic minority organisations, especially those supporting under-represented or excluded communities as well as developing strong partnerships, with various stakeholders and key agencies, aimed at enabling more effective engagement and representation

in the decision and policy making processes.

"In addition to providing direct support to diverse community groups through our strategy on capacity building for this sector and programmes in training and development, BEMIS, has successfully co-ordinated the development of a collective voice for this sector and communities, which is now being heard and valued at the highest levels both locally and nationally.

"The work of BEMIS over the last two years, as acknowledged by various key agencies and stakeholders as well as the diverse grassroots communities, has not only added value and a positive dimension to the voluntary sector as a whole, but has also played a major role in empowering and profiling the diversity of the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector and the communities this sector represents.

"Some of initiatives that BEMIS Has been and will be delivering this year include:

- Certified Fundraising Training Program enabling capacity building for the sector : trainees will work with various local groups cascading the training and



support as well as working closely with all funders in support of the voluntary sector across Scotland.

- A programme to provide (certified) training for 15 to 20 representatives from this sector on Community Regeneration (Learning and Development/ Planning).
- First national award scheme to recognise the contribution made by the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector
- National conference, in partnership with Communities Scotland (Learning Team) on community development and learning
- National conference, in partnership with BBC Children in Need and the BBC around Youth issues for black and ethnic minorities.

- Launch of the findings from a joint research, in partnership with Volunteer Development Scotland, on volunteering and the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector and diverse communities

- Mapping programme to identify the real structure and dynamics of the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector in Scotland.

"BEMIS, has become an essential bridging mechanism and gateway through which key agencies and stakeholders such as the Scottish Executive, SCVO, Communities Scotland, Volunteer Development Scotland, funders, etc can engage directly with the diverse black and ethnic minority voluntary sector and ensuring that the voice of those most in need is heard in the development of policies, initiatives and appropriate services that impact directly on these communities."

The black and ethnic minority voluntary sector has considerable skills and expertise that can inform positively to the work and development of all initiatives across various fields in Scotland. However, this sector cannot function or develop without external support from the wider voluntary sector, key agencies, and major stakeholders. "It is time that the stakeholders acknowledge that supporting black and ethnic minority voluntary sector is an ongoing and serious process which requires their full commitment, rather than a short term initiative to meet an objective on equality and representation".

Whilst BEMIS is still in its infancy, with limited resources and only a few staff members at the moment, it has already gained an impressive reputation and credibility through a practical and direct approach in delivering to strategies and initiatives as well as establishing strong networks, locally and nationally, within the infrastructure for this sector.

BEMIS will continue its commitment to ensuring that the voice of this sector is heard and the value of working together is acknowledged and promoted. "It is essential that the same commitment is expressed and displayed through action by the wider voluntary sector, key agencies and stakeholders, especially as the role of BEMIS is both unique and at the heart of delivering on equality, social justice, anti-racism strategies and community development etc across all communities."

Contact Details:

Head Office: The Mansfield Traquair Centre, 15 Mansfield Place, Edinburgh EH3 6BB
Tel 0131 474 8045, mail@bemis.org.uk
Highlands Office: Sura Giwa-Osagi, NHS, Assynt House, Inverness IV2 3HG
Tel 01463 704977

"HAVE MORE OF A SAY" SAYS MALCOLM CHISHOLM

BEMIS AND COMMUNITIES SCOTLAND (LEARNING CONNECTIONS TEAM)

An imperative and significant conference was held in Glasgow on Monday 25th October 2004, signalling the growth of positive partnership working between the Scottish Executive and the black and minority ethnic voluntary sector.

The conference, which was addressed by the Minister for Communities, Malcolm Chisholm, focused on the Executive's policies for "Community Learning and Development" and on how black and minority ethnic communities can use them to make a difference.

It was organised jointly by BEMIS (Black and Ethnic Minority Infrastructure Scotland) and Learning Connections, which is part of Communities Scotland (the Scottish Executive's housing and regeneration agency).

Representatives from a wide range of black and minority ethnic community and voluntary organisations from many different parts of Scotland attended the conference. People from other agencies with key roles in Community Learning and Development were also there.

The Conference, chaired by Jonathan Squire, chair of BEMIS's Board of Directors, heard Communities Minister, Malcolm Chisholm emphasise the Executive's strong commitment in helping communities to have more say in their



own future, to open access to lifelong learning and to making sure that all communities have fair opportunities to participate.

Rory MacLeod of Learning Connections then spelt out the Executive's three National Priorities for Community Learning and Development. These focus on community-based adult learning, youth work, and building the capacity of communities to influence decision-making.

Bemis's CEO, Rami Ousta, completed the formal presentations to the conference by outlining BEMIS's role in supporting the black and ethnic minority voluntary sector and by emphasising the importance

of working together to overcome the barriers the sector faces.

There were opportunities in the workshop sessions for all conference participants to discuss- what the Scottish Executive's policies mean to them, to talk about the issues they face in their own work and in their own communities, and to say what they think -needs to happen next.

The emphasis was on building mutual understanding and on making sure that the voices and aspirations of the black and minority ethnic communities are heard.

Lillias Noble of Learning Connections and Jonathan Squire closed the conference by encouraging everybody to make sure that their local Community Learning and Development Strategy involves them. They emphasised that the conference, although important, is only a beginning. They also assured delegates that both Learning Connections, on behalf of the Executive, and BEMIS are committed to making sure that Community Learning and Development works for black and minority ethnic communities.

Rami Ousta's presentation led the vital work that is being pioneered by Bemis in the complex but a culturally rich Scottish black and minority ethnic community.

Barriers And Bridges Event In East Renfrewshire!! A race equality event takes place in St. Ninian's high school, Eastwood Park on 2nd December 2004 in the evening.

It is hoped that this event will bring together 150 young people, black and minority ethnic residents & representatives of East Renfrewshire Council's departments, community planning partners, community learning and development partners, tenants associations and community councils with a view to discussing steps that have been taken so far, to progress the council's race equality scheme and respond to the issues raised in a similar conference which took place in September 2003.

The aims of this year's conference are, therefore-

- * to review progress made since the 2003 conference.
- * to identify priorities for 2004 onwards

Up to now the oracle has revealed some interesting points about this process, you the readers have a right to see the fruit -if there is any-of this process.

East Renfrewshire is a diverse community. Race equality which is important for community cohesion, can only be achieved through the collective effort of all sections of the local population.

It is important readers from East Renfrewshire participate-together we can all make a difference.

If any of our readers need any further info contact Nan Robertson: Tel 0141 577 3328 or email: Nan.Robertson@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

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TO THE FINE PEOPLE OF POLLOKSHIELDS-UNITY AND UNDERSTANDING WILL PREVAIL

POLICE PITCH COMMUNITY MESSAGES TO FOOTBALL FANS

Strathclyde Police is teaming up with Motherwell Football Club for a novel way to promote safety messages and initiatives.

The two year scheme, which kicked off on Sunday 17 October 2004, will see 8 poster sites created at the clubs home ground and its hoped they could become a permanent fixture.

The main display boards will be at the Davie Cooper and South Stands in Fir Park and should reach an audience of thousands at every game.

The posters will change regularly over the two year period, promoting seasonal initiatives such as Safer Scotland and Firework Safety, as well as highlighting community initiatives including the recently launched Key Safe and Crimestoppers.

By using the hoardings, Strathclyde Police, hope to forge closer links with the community and deliver their message in a versatile and eye catching way.

Superintendent Jackie Law, Sub Divisional Officer in Charge of the Motherwell and Wishaw area says; The police will always look for innovative ways in which to deliver awareness of community issues to the public.

The siting of these posters within the stadium provide an ideal opportunity to work along with Motherwell Football Club in delivering that message to their supporters Motherwell Football Team Manager, Terry Butcher added; Working together in partnership with Strathclyde Police allows us to interact with our community and help deliver the safety message in the area.

Press statement on Ay Family

Commenting on the recent decision by Germany to give leave to remain to the Ay family, Robina Qureshi, director of the antiracist charity, Positive Action in Housing, said:

"We welcome the news that the Ay family have been given leave to remain by Germany and without having to be locked up in a detention centre. It is a tragic indictment of UK asylum policy that Britain could not do the same but chose instead to incarcerate and institutionalise the family in Dungavel for over a year at a cost of hundreds of thousands of pounds. We call on the home Secretary to review the flaws in his inhumane asylum policy so that genuine refugees can remain in the UK with their liberty intact, and especially in Scotland where population decline is the fastest in Europe. To lock up whole families inside a 'detention centre' is nothing short of barbaric. How sad that this is the Ay children's experience of the UK, and that their relationship with Scotland was as prisoners in a country whose leaders remained silent on their incarceration."

A web page with drawings and writings by the Ay children can be found at: http://www.paih.org/archives/campaigns/ay%20family/ay_family_campaign.htm



NORTH
GLASGOW
COLLEGE

INTEGRATION OFFICER

This post is temporary and is funded until October 2005

SALARY: £17,390 ~ 35 Hours per week

- This post which will be based in Student Services is required to promote inclusion, equality of opportunity and good relations among staff and students from diverse ethnic groups in North Glasgow College.
- The post holder will be required to assist in the implementation of the college's Race Equality Policy Action Plan and in doing so will assist students who are Asylum Seekers and Refugees to integrate into the college environment in line with the college's mission statement Quality Learning Opportunities for All.
- Applicants must have essential knowledge and experience of race equality issues and current legislation along with IT skills and have an appropriate level of the English language. Good presentation and communication skills are also necessary as the post is required to promote equality of opportunity and good relations among staff and students from diverse ethnic groups.

The post holder will:

- Promote equality of opportunity and good relations among staff and students from diverse ethnic groups;
- Aim to eliminate race discrimination by implementing auditing procedures in line with the college Race Equality Action Plan;
- Promote integration to all students in the college;
- Receive on-the-job training in Student Services procedures and the college's Race Equality Action Plan requirements;
- Assist in the recruitment of asylum seekers and refugees to the college;
- Organise a student befriending and mentoring support service for refugees and asylum seekers;
- Provide ongoing advice and guidance to asylum seekers and refugees;
- Advise asylum seeker and refugee students regarding college procedures, childcare, travel, funding and registration;
- Provide advice and guidance to asylum seeker and refugee students in post-course options such as Higher Education and employment;
- Monitor asylum seeker and refugee student attendance and retention;
- Develop and maintain reports on asylum seeker and refugee student progress;
- Maintain records of all activities;
- Coordinate Race Equality Policy Group meetings;
- Develop and maintain links to other appropriate agencies;
- Comply with the Data Protection Act, Health & Safety legislation and COSHH.
- Undertake any other appropriate duties the Student Services Manager may assign

Recruitment packs are available from Human Resources, North Glasgow College, 110 Flemington Street, Glasgow, G21 4BX. Telephone: 0141 630 4123 (Direct Line) to whom completed applications should be returned by FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER 2004.

North Glasgow College welcomes applications from groups which are under-represented within the College..



An Equal Opportunities Employer
QUALITY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL



DESTITUTE ASYLUM SEEKERS

Briefing on Available Resources

This article provides information about crisis level resources for asylum seekers made destitute under current asylum laws who have no recourse to public funds.

It is for anyone involved in assisting and supporting such individuals.

The resources available are relatively new initiatives and are very sparse. What ever is currently available is brought together in this briefing.

At the end of this briefing there is a list of Useful Contacts.

Should you have any questions or comments please email home@paih.org or call Kam, David or Sraboni on 0141 353 2220.

INTRODUCTION

When a person's asylum application has been refused and all appeal right exhausted the National Asylum Support Service (NASS) will move to stop their support after 28 days. In addition NASS will instruct the accommodation provider to begin eviction instructions.

Glasgow City Council, and other housing providers have therefore, began a programme of evictions of asylum seekers from their homes. These evictions are being carried out in response to Home Office instructions.

DEFINITION OF DESTITUTION

Destitution: 'lacking resources or the means of subsistence; completely impoverished'.

Recently the government has taken the step of stopping all benefits and evicting from accommodation an asylum seeker whose asylum case has been rejected and whose rights to appeal have been exhausted. Destitute clients are sometimes termed "appeals exhausted" or are sometimes referred to as "failed asylum seekers". Once someone is "appeals exhausted" and made destitute they have no recourse to public funds, public housing, council homelessness services or financial support. Destitution can occur whilst clients are pursuing judicial review of their original decision.

WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

Short term crisis accommodation Positive Action In Housing has set up a surgery in its offices and a register of people willing to give money or accommodation. We aim to match clients with volunteers who will take them into their homes. If this is not possible we may be able to pay for the client to stay in a hostel for a very short period of time.

Clients have been referred to Positive Action In Housing by word of mouth, the police, bailiffs and refugee groups. We will work with those supporting destitute asylum seekers in order to reach the best solution.

This is the only crisis accommodation support service being offered to destitute asylum seekers who are not willing to risk their safety by returning to their country of origin.

Contact: Positive Action In Housing
98 West George Street
Glasgow G2 1EJ 0141 353 2220
www.paih.org

HARD CASE SUPPORT

"Hard Case" or "Section 4" support is usually very basic, full board only (no cash support) hostel accommodation. This is mostly available in England but there are some places available in Glasgow.

Criteria:

- Individuals must be unable to leave the UK due to a physical impediment to travel (illness, pregnancy)
- Individuals are unable to leave because there is no safe route available for their return
- Individuals are complying with an attempt to obtain travel documents for return
- Individuals have exceptional or compassionate circumstances
- Individuals have applied for judicial review against their decision

How to access:

- Through Scottish Refugee Council (*speak to Duty Desk or ask for Tommy or Tasfey*).

Contact: Scottish Refugee Council

5 Cadogan Square
170 Blythswood Court
Glasgow G2 7PH 0800 085 6087
www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
BRITISH RED CROSS

British Red Cross can provide hygiene packs and sleeping bags, and is looking at other potential support.

Criteria:

- Individual is destitute
- How to access:

- Through Red Cross office in Glasgow.
Contact: British Red Cross
2 Swan Street
Glasgow G4 OAX 0141 332 1607
www.redcross.org.uk

REFUGEE SURVIVAL TRUST

Refugee Survival Trust can provide some payments to asylum seekers who have no other means of support.

Criteria:

- Asylum Seekers who have lost their initial appeal but are appealing/seeking judicial review under human rights legislation.
- Clients must have no other means of support.
- Support lasts for two week periods.
- How to access:

- Referrals through Scottish Refugee Council. Key worker is Juliet Harris.
- If a client presents late in the afternoon and don't have time to go to Scottish Refugee Council by close of business, PAiH can make small payments on RST's behalf (£5.50 for one night or £11 for two nights).

Contact: Refugee Survival Trust

2 Swan Street
Glasgow G4 OAX 0141 332 1607
www.redcross.org.uk

SIMON COMMUNITY

The Simon Community provides sleeping bags and support to anyone who is homeless or destitute in Glasgow.

Criteria:

- Individual is homeless/destitute.
- How to access
- Phone the Simon Community.

Contact: Glasgow Simon Community

69 Dixon Road
Glasgow G42 8AT 0141 423 0949
www.glasgowsimon.org

COMMUNITY CARE NEEDS

This is relevant when the client has support needs that do not arise from destitution. For example: severe mental health problems, physical disability, infirmity etc. It is possible that if the client has any of these needs that the local authority will accept a responsibility to support and accommodate them.

To access this you must first have the local authority carry out an 'Urgent Community Care Assessment'. This should be asked for by telephone and in writing.

How to access

- Contact Duty Office at Osborne Street Social Work Department on 0141 276 4800 to request an appointment.
- If not accompanying client it would be helpful to forward a letter explaining the client's situation.
- Social Work Department will only accept referrals from GPs and Mental Health specialists. Therefore we should advise clients to go to their GP, again with a covering letter, to request a formal referral.

CHECKLIST FOR HOUSING ADVICE WORKERS

- Speak to a solicitor for confirmation of client status. This information may also be obtained from NASS.
- Interview client and record the client details. Include any health issues and check any documentation regarding the eviction. If proper documentation is not in place, eviction may not be lawful.
- Inform client of their situation, explain what this means and the options available to them.
- Check all relevant agencies/support for eligibility.
- If not eligible for above, client should be informed that in most cases their best option is to stay with friends or family. However, client and friends/family should understand that this could lead to adverse consequences if their friend/family member is also staying in NASS provided accommodation.
- If no accommodation is available for client, inform client of facilities for 'rough sleepers' i.e. Simon Community, Soup kitchens, day centres etc.

USEFUL CONTACTS

- British Red Cross 2 Swan Street, Glasgow G4 OAX 0141 332 1607
www.redcross.org.uk
- Glasgow Simon Community 69 Dixon Rd, Glasgow G42 8AT 0141 423 0949
www.glasgowsimon.org
- Scottish Refugee Council, 5 Cadogan Sq, 170 Blythswood Court, Glasgow G2 7PH 0800 085 6087
www.scottishrefugeecouncil.org.uk
- YMCA
33 Petershill Drive, Glasgow G21 4QQ
0141 557 2355
options@ymcaglasgow.org
- Refugee Survival Trust
19 Smith's Place, Edinburgh EH6 8NT
0131 554 6776
info@rst.org.uk
- Positive Action In Housing
98 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1EJ
0141 353 2220
www.paih.org

Thanks to David Reilly, Kam Kaur of Positive Action in Housing with support from Michael Collins in a personal capacity - November 2004

★★★★

You can make a donation to our hardship fund for destitute refugees by sending cheques to Positive Action in Housing, 98 West George Street, Glasgow G2 1PJ. Alternatively you can donate online now with any credit or debit card by clicking on www.paih.org

Opposition to Iraq War at New High

Reuters,

London - The public's opposition to the war in Iraq has reached a record high, according to an opinion poll in the Times.

The survey published on Tuesday found 57 percent thought taking military action to oust former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was wrong, compared to 31 percent who supported it.

The same poll in April, 2003, a month after the U.S.-led invasion, found nearly two-thirds of Britons supported the war, compared to 24 percent who thought it was

wrong.

Populus questioned 1,504 people over the weekend after three British soldiers died in a suicide bomb attack at a checkpoint near the Sunni Muslim rebel stronghold of Falluja.

Despite opposition to the war in Iraq, the poll found Blair's Labour Party is on course for a third general election win.

It put Labour on 34 percent, just ahead of the opposition Conservatives on 33 percent, a five point rise since early October.

Blair, who swept to power in 1997 with

a huge majority, has seen his once sky-high poll ratings eroded over his staunch support for the United States in Iraq.

He faced renewed criticism in parliament last month after agreeing to dispatch 850 British troops from their relatively quiet sector in southern Iraq to volatile areas near the Iraqi capital.

Analysts say Iraq is Blair and his party's most vulnerable link in their bid to win a third term at an election expected in May or June next year.

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ILR Family Amnesty - an update

On 24 October 2003, the Home Secretary announced that some families may be eligible to receive Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR). would be given to:

- families who had applied for asylum before 2 October 2000 and the final decision had not yet been issued; and
- had at least one child under 18 years old on 24 October 2003.

The Home Office identified those families which it considered met the criteria and asked them to complete a questionnaire to assess their eligibility. At that point the Home Office wanted families to wait to be contacted rather than apply for consideration under the scheme.

In September 2004, the Home Office decided to ask asylum-seeking families who had not yet received a questionnaire and who believe they are eligible to write a letter of application to:

ILR Amnesty
PO Box 1541, Croydon CR9 2YS
Letters should include basic details

such as:

- name;
- address;
- date of birth;
- HO reference number; and
- reasons why the family thinks it is eligible.

The Home Office has requested that families who think they may be eligible submit a letter of application as soon as possible. On receiving an application letter from an asylum-seeking family, the Home Office will send an acknowledgement letter within five days followed by the questionnaire within four to five weeks.

If the asylum-seeking family does not receive the questionnaire within eight weeks, it should ask an adviser to contact the ILR Helpline on 020 8760 4779. Please note, this helpline will only deal with advisers and not with service users directly.

Families who have already received a questionnaire from the Home Office but who have not yet returned it should do so

as soon as possible. The closing date for applications is 31st December 2004.

CHANGES TO THE CRITERIA

Since the introduction of the ILR Family Amnesty in October 2003, the Home Office has revised its criteria. The following criteria now apply:

- asylum seeking families with a dependent child under 18 on either 2nd October 2000 or 24th October 2003;
- asylum seekers who were joined by a dependent child, between those dates;
- families where the principal applicant's asylum claim was refused but the family was granted limited leave to remain;
- families who entered the UK under the Kosovan Humanitarian Evacuation Programme (HEP) before 2nd October 2000 and did not apply for asylum.

Advisers who would like further information regarding the criteria or who wish to discuss specific cases should contact the ILR Helpline on 020 8760 4779.

ICT will keep you up to date with any further changes.

The revised policy guidance note can be seen using the following link:

www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/ind/en/home/laws___policy/policy_instructions/apis/one-off_exercise_to.html

Yasser Arafat - respected, admired, loved

Mohammed Abdel-Raof Arafat al-Qudwa al-Hussaini, later nicknamed Yasser Arafat, was the Father of the Palestine.

He will be remembered as an unmovable, dedicated and loyal resistance fighter to the Palestinian struggle. His leadership divided opinions, but his goal was peace.



Yasser Arafat: respected, admired, loved

Yasser Arafat was born on 4th August 1929. His exact place of birth is still uncertain. Although, some say Jerusalem or Gaza, records show he was actually born in Cairo, Egypt.

His parents were both of Palestinian heritage and were wealthy textile merchants. He was a mere five years old when his mother died and he was sent to live with his uncle in Jerusalem, the old capital of Palestine.

After four years in Jerusalem, the young Arafat returned to Cairo where his



A young Yasser Arafat

older sister raised him and his siblings. Well-known for his secrecy regarding his private life, Arafat never spoke about his relationship his father, although it was clear they were not close and he never went to his funeral in 1952.

Yasser Arafat's well-respected status as the symbol of Palestinian nationalism came from a fifty year long career as a

resistance fighter and struggle for nearly fifty years. From the age of seventeen, he helped to smuggle arms to Palestinian fighters to be used against the British and the Jews during the war.

By the age of nineteen, Arafat had abandoned his studies at the University of Faud (later to be named the university of Cairo) to fight in Gaza against the Jews. The Palestinians lost this war in 1948 and the State of Israel was formed.

Distressed at losing the war, Arafat applied for a visa to study at the University of Texas, but ended up returning to his studies in Cairo, where he completed his engineering degree in 1956.

However, although he was committed to his education, Arafat never gave up on his quest for a liberated Palestine and spent much of his spare time involved in political activities and created the Palestinian Graduate Association at university and became the leader of the Palestinian students.

Soon after earning his degree, he left Egypt to work in Kuwait as an engineer and then successfully began running his own contracting firm, of which most of the profits funded his political activities. It was his will and determination to promote and fight for an independent Palestinian State which led to the creation of Al-Fatah in 1958, which he formed with other Palestinian exiles including the former Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmud Abbas.

Al-Fatah was a guerrilla group consisting of a network of secret cells, with the main objective being to attack the Jewish state and free the Palestine. By 1959, the group was publishing a magazine campaigning for a liberated Palestine.

Within five years, Arafat left Kuwait and took the group's agenda to the front line organise Al-Fatah raids into Israel from, their base in Jordan in their struggle to bring awareness to the Palestinian cause and its refugees.

The year of 1964 also saw the formation of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), a coalition of all the groups committed to liberating the Palestine which was sponsored by the Arab league.

Although initially, the Arab sponsors preferred a more peaceful approach to the Palestine conflict, Israel again won, but this time in the six day war of 1967.

It was at this point that Al-Fatah came out as the most powerful and best organised of all the PLO groups and eventually took over the organisation in 1969, announcing Arafat as the Chairman of the executive committee.

The PLO, no longer under the control by the Arab states, transformed into an independent nationalist organisation and developed its own army in Jordan.

The organisation's ongoing guerrilla attacks on Israel eventually broke down relations with King Hussein of Jordan, who expelled the PLO from his country.

During the Jordanian army's crack down, thousands of Palestinian civilians died- this was called the Black September. The PLO were forced to flee to Lebanon.

Although the PLO attempted to rebuild a base in Lebanon, they were once again flushed out when Israeli forces invaded Lebanon and Arafat fled to Tunis.

Despite this distance however, the PLO still stuck to its pledge to fight for the Palestine's liberation and resorted more extreme measures of hijacking passenger jets and other violent acts.

In shocking developments, the PLO's tactics were changed when Arafat renounced terrorism and acknowledged the existence of Israel during a speech at the United Nations. He renounced terrorism and acknowledged Israel's existence, winning him international support.

This newly found support wavered though when the PLO backed Saddam Hussein during the 1991 Gulf War, creating tension between himself, the U.S. and Israel.

Despite their differences, the leaders still worked to establish peace between the Palestinians and the Jews and signed the Oslo Agreement in 1993, which reassured Palestinian elections.

The Oslo Agreement was seen as a victory worldwide and Arafat along with the late Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin and Shimon Peres were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994.

This brief spell of progress towards peace failed to materialise and any resolution to the delicate situation in the Palestine looked increasingly unlikely when Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated and the right-wing politician, Benjamin Netanyahu came to power in 1996.



Arafat divided opinions but wanted peace

The Palestinians began to lose patience with Arafat and lost faith in the Agreement, making Arafat increasingly unpopular and triggering off the second Intifada (uprising). The Israelis and the Americans accused him of refusing to accept a good deal for the Palestinians and refused to negotiate with him.

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Ay family granted leave to remain

Mainly because of what happened to them in dungavel

Commenting on the recent decision by Germany to give leave to remain to Medya and Newroz Ay, and by extension, the rest of the family, Robina Qureshi, director of the antiracist charity, Positive Action in Housing, said: "We welcome the news that the Ay family will be given leave to remain by Germany. It is a tragic indictment of UK asylum policy that the family were granted leave to remain by another country mainly because of the harm done to them after spending a year as Scotland's prisoners in Dungavel. We call on the home Secretary to review the barbaric flaws in his inhumane asylum policy so that genuine refugees can remain in the UK with their liberty intact, and especially in Scotland where population decline is the fastest in Europe. To lock up whole families inside a 'detention centre' is nothing short of barbaric. How sad that this is the Ay children's experience of the UK, and that their relationship with Scotland was as prisoners in a country whose leaders remained silent on their incarceration."

===== NCADC NEWS SERVICE =====

Ay Family - has their 16 year Odyssey finally come to an end!

Medya and Newroz Ay have been granted the right to remain in Germany on Humanitarian grounds.

The judgement of the Koblenz court can be appealed against by the German equivalent of our Home Office, and they would have 14 days to lodge the appeal. So the family are not quite yet at the end of their 16 year journey to find Sanctuary, but close. If the decision stands for Medya and Newroz, then the rest of the family will automatically benefit.

NCADC will hold its breath for a fortnight. However, Scotland is already celebrating the decision as a victory. PAIH were inundated with calls from many of the Ay Families supporters in Scotland, who took the family to their hearts from the moment the family were incarcerated in Dungavel Removal Centre. According to the Scottish daily newspaper, 'The Herald' reporting on the court decision, a major factor "is believed to relate to psychiatric reports into the emotional health of two of the girls as a result of their incarceration in the South Lanarkshire centre".

In particular the 'The Herald', who championed the family, chose to make the Ay Family the subject of their leader column in a recent issue. NCADC have taken the liberty of reprinting both articles in full. There are 28 related stories on NCADC's website, just type Ay Family into 'Search site' on left side of webpage. <http://www.ncadc.org.uk/>

Relief, at last, for Ay family

Editorial Comment The Herald Thursday 4th November 2004

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/27321.html>

Germany recognises how they suffered in Scotland. As paradoxes go, it could hardly be crueller yet, in the final analysis, deliver a more beneficial outcome. A court ruling has effectively granted the Ay family, who had been detained at Dungavel immigration centre in Scotland for more than a year, indefinite leave to live in Germany. The judgment of the court in Koblenz, granting the right to stay in Germany, applies specifically to two of the four Ay children - Medya and Newroz. The decision was apparently reached on humanitarian grounds, based on psychiatric reports on the two sisters. These showed that they had been psychologically traumatised during their incarceration at Dungavel. A consequence of the ruling is that it will automatically apply to the other Ay children, Dilovan and Beriwan, and their mother, Yurdugal.

The family has enjoyed relative freedom in Germany since being deported from Scotland in August last year. Campaigns have been run since then to secure permanent status.

Finally, after many years living in limbo in countries away from their Kurdish homeland (none of the children from Beriwan, 15, down was born in Turkey), the family has what it craved and deserved: the right to put down roots in a tolerant democracy where there is a chance of making the most of life's opportunities, free from the fear of repression based on ethnic background. If in Germany, why not Scotland, another country that sees itself as a tolerant advocate of equal opportunities and where the rights of children are paramount?

We all know the answer. The Scottish Executive abnegated its duties in regard to the education, health and welfare of children in its care in the case of the Ay family. These are all devolved responsibilities but, instead of fighting for the Ay children's rights, ministers hid behind immigration's reserved status to avoid the risk of upsetting a government at Westminster playing tough on asylum.

We all know the consequences of that stance. Scotland's schools inspectorate and the chief inspector of prisons in England both criticised the scandalous duration of the family's detention, and the deleterious impact of that on the children's personal, social and educational development. If there had been proper regard for their welfare, these would all have been enriched. Instead, there was, inevitably, regression. Just how much we now know from the psychological reports presented to the German court. Clearly, it decided the children should suffer no more.

That the Dungavel experience has, perversely, worked in the Ay's favour is nothing for Scotland to take pride in; shame remains the leitmotif for this country's treatment of the family.

Ay family win asylum in Germany

Alison Chiesa The Herald Thursday 4th November 2004

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/27372.html>

The Ay family, who spent a record time in Dungavel detention centre in Scotland, have been granted asylum in Germany. A court is understood to have allowed the Kurdish family indefinite leave to remain on humanitarian grounds after they appealed when the German government rejected an asylum application.

The ruling is believed to relate to psychiatric reports into the emotional health of two of the girls as a result of their incarceration in the South Lanarkshire centre. Yurdugal Ay and her four children spent more than a year at the immigration detention centre while applying for asylum, before being deported to Germany in August 2003.

The psychiatric report showed that two of the children, Medya, nine, and Newroz, 14, were traumatised by their treatment at Dungavel, according to Pro Asyl, a German human rights charity.

While in Dungavel, church and union leaders, cross-party politicians, and children's charities condemned their detention, arguing that it breached international laws.

The case gave devolution one of its most difficult hours as Scottish Executive ministers remained silent on the grounds that immigration responsibility was reserved.

Rosie Kane, the SSP MSP, who fought for the family to remain in Britain, said last night: "If the psychological reports into the children's health, as a result of being at Dungavel, led to the decision it is tantamount to child abuse by the UK government."

Aamer Anwar, of the family's legal team, said he would apply for them to be returned to the UK. He said the family were used as "sacrificial lambs" to show David Blunkett, the home secretary, was tough on asylum.

Source for this Message: NCADC

Media stories; The Herald Thursday 4th November 2004

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/features/27321.html>

The Herald Thursday 4th November 2004

<http://www.theherald.co.uk/news/27372.html>



DIVERSITY DRIVE KICKS OFF

Ethnic Minority leaders urged to champion their region

A drive to encourage more ethnic minority men and women to apply for the board of the regional development agencies for the was launched recently by Equality Minister Jacqui Smith to mark Black History Month celebrations.

The Regional Development Agencies are business-led organisations, and provide strategic leadership to promote economic development, enterprise and regeneration in their regions, tackling economic differences within their regions as well as driving up the performance of the regions as a whole.

Speaking at a reception in London to mark Black History Month, Equality Minister Jacqui Smith said: "With more than a quarter of a million minority ethnic enterprises delivering over £13 billion a year to Britain's economy, minority ethnic leaders are vital to the economic success of the region.

"Their under representation was highlighted this morning when I appointed four new members to the North West development agency. These were four high calibre individuals, but I would love to have seen more applications from ethnic minority leaders.

"I'm not talking about quotas, it's a demanding selection process and the calibre of candidates is very high, but we simply aren't getting enough people - men and women - from ethnic minorities coming forward.

"I know there are leaders out there who are highly successful in their own walks of life, but I would like to see them bring that success to the table and spread their message to help other ME businesses in the region.

Board members have a drive to change the region that they represent and individuals are chosen for their ability to contribute, with appointments being made on merit following an open and transparent competition. The Boards are made up of people who have substantial experience of working in business, education, trades unions and the voluntary and community sector, as well as serving Local Councillors.

Applicants must satisfy a demanding criteria, but generally they should have a detailed knowledge of the region, together with a good operational network of regional or sub-regional contacts.

Further information
www.englishrdsa.com
www.dti.gov.uk

CRE WARNS OFCOM NOT TO IGNORE RACE

Broadcasters could legitimately ignore race when vetting their output under a new draft code proposed by the Office of Communications (Ofcom), the CRE warned today.

Responding to a consultation on the regulator's proposed Broadcasting Code, the CRE criticised Ofcom's decision not to include specific reference to racial and related offence (such as religious offence).

Trevor Phillips, CRE chair, warned that this omission could cause broadcasters not to give adequate attention to race, and that race relations could suffer as a result. He said: "These are sensitive times for relationships between communities, both internationally and domestically. If proper attention is not given to what is broadcast and how it is presented, our efforts to improve race relations could well suffer.

"It is never our intention to censor the media, but broadcasters must be conscious of the potential impact of their decisions and the need to reflect all points of view.

"We would have hoped that Ofcom would have taken this opportunity to advise broadcasters on how best to approach the difficult issue of balancing freedom of expression on the one hand and ensuring that Britain's diverse communities are not unnecessarily divided on the other.

Sadly, this draft Code makes no specific reference to race and thus provides no guarantee that broadcasters will give any consideration to racial matters when vetting their programming or advertising output. This is of grave concern; not least as it is likely that public trust in the regulatory process could be eroded."

www.cre.gov.uk/media/nr_arch/2004/nr041015a.html

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SCOTLAND'S ORACLE DOESN'T BOW TO PRESSURE, WE INVESTIGATE EVEN FURTHER!!!!

We received an intimidating message from a representative who claimed innocence after one of our articles.

This intrigued us, so we did a further investigation going back several years into this individual's professional life and what we have found out from witnesses is astounding - our worrying exposé will concern many. From debatable business practices to racial harassment.

And that's coming from a member of the black and minority ethnic group.

If community groups have enough funding to hire legal representation - then they must be well funded AND HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE - both in somebody's past and the present!!!

Our ongoing investigation has revealed some worrying truths that will concern funders and ethnic minorities.

WATCH THIS SPACE!!!! THE TRUTH IS GOING TO BE REVEALED!

Arafat: continued from page 3

Arafat was voted president of the Palestinian Authority in 1996. Although seen as a symbol of resistance and struggle for his mother-land, Yasser Arafat has often been accused by his people and the international community of being dictatorial throughout his leadership by refusing to delegate responsibilities and prepare a predecessor to take over the reigns should anything happen to him.

This is despite him being in a plane crash, suffering a serious stroke and several assassination attempts being made by Israeli intelligence officers. It was only after significant international pressure that Arafat appointed his first Prime Minister, Mahmud Abbas in April 2003, who lasted less than 4 months.

Ahmed Qorei then took over, but achieved little success in convincing Arafat to give up some control of the security services. In 2001, the Israeli army surrounded Yasser Arafat's West Bank headquarters in Ramallah, destroying his helicopter fleet and preventing him from escaping.

The compound attacked by Israeli forces several times and it was there he remained until his failing health forced the Israeli government to allow Arafat to be taken to France for treatment at the beginning of November.

He is survived by his wife, Suha Tawil and his daughter Zahwa, who both live in Paris. A sinner, a saint, a bully, a winner in others Yasser Arafat was undoubtedly one of the most charismatic, influential Father of the nation.

HOW A £600 MILLION TREASURE HOARD IS STOPPING SCOTTISH HOMEOWNERS FROM GOING GREEN

Clutter obsessed householders in Scotland let £45 million worth of energy escape through the roof each year

A £600 million hoard of buried treasure is obstructing the efforts of householders to go 'green', a study by Scottish Gas has revealed. Householders in Scotland say that it's too much hassle to shift junk out of their attics - from Sixties clothes and batman suits, to motorbikes and stuffed monkeys - so that they could fit energy-saving insulation.

The cast-offs stored in Scotland's 1.6 million lofts, while useless, are preventing householders from going green because they're too valuable to just throw away, respondents told researchers for Scottish Gas in a survey for Energy Efficiency Week which commenced on Monday 25 October.

Scottish Gas discovered that a typical home in Scotland has £389 of treasure buried in the loft - a national total of over £600 million. One in eight homes have over £1,000 worth of bric-a-brac in the attic.

Over 40% of heat loss in homes is through the roof and walls, making uninsulated lofts one of the worst energy wastage offenders.

Now, Scottish Gas is urging householders to clear their attics and add a minimum of 250mm (10 inches) of insulation. Dave Crowther, a Scottish Gas energy efficiency expert, said: "Two thirds of the people we surveyed said that if they knew loft insulation could save them money, they would make more of an effort

to clear out their attic.

"Householders could sell half the stuff in their loft to pay for insulation, and could potentially save £95 a year on energy bills. That would represent a saving throughout Scotland of £45 million, and a massive saving of energy. So we're urging people to sell their clutter, insulate their lofts, and save both money and energy."

Throughout Britain, over 20m homes have lofts stuffed with children's clothes and toys (47%), books and magazines (46%), dumped electrical goods (40%) and old records or photographs (28%). One in five have no idea what's up there.

Most wacky and unusual items found in the survey include:

- Eight Can Can outfits for men
- 2,000 copies of unsold singles recorded by a failed pop star
- A cardboard cut-out of Hugh Grant!
- Stuffed bears, beavers, penguins and owls
- Bee hives and rats' nests
- Adult magazines (*always attributed to the previous owner*)
- Children's milk teeth and various other body parts!
- A Spice Girls' cake
- An ostrich egg and people's ashes

Ann Maurice, presenter of Channel Five's 'House Doctor', said: "Many people don't realise they could actually make some money from the contents of their

attic, as well as make their homes more appealing to prospective buyers.

"Better insulated or 'green' homes are becoming of increasing importance to home buyers, so clear those out lofts now.

"There are a number of ways in which you can flog some of the unused items in your lofts, including internet sites like eBay and uk-flogit, as well as your local car boot sale."

Simple initiatives can make a home 'greener':

- Over 40% of all the heat lost in an average home is through the loft and walls. 250mm of loft insulation can save up to 25% of your heating costs, while cavity wall insulation can reduce heat loss by up to 60% and can save homeowners up to £100 on their annual energy bills.
- Double-glazing cuts heat loss through windows by 50% as well as reducing noise and condensation problems.
- Upgrading heating controls will improve the efficiency of any central heating system - if a thermostat is set higher than 21°C, for every 1°C that it is turned down by, 10% can be saved from heating bills.
- The potential annual energy saving for loft insulation is £95. Savings are based on an uninsulated loft having 250mm of insulation installed. (*Source: Energy Saving Trust, July 2004*).

BRITAIN'S FIRST POLICE BRAVERY MEDAL BROUGHT HOME

A 15-year quest to bring Britain's first police bravery medal home to Glasgow is now over and its owner will be presenting the medal for display to the Glasgow Police Museum at 1000 hours on Tuesday, 26 October 2004.

The medal was presented to Constable John Kerr of Glasgow Police in 1871 following an act of quick thinking and bravery which saved the lives of 68 people.

Whilst out on patrol in the Old Wynd, near Trongate on 23 November 1871, Constable Kerr heard bricks falling from a building. He quickly entered the close and chapped every door instructing the residents to leave. After ensuring all the tenants had made their escape, Constable Kerr attempted to leave the building but it collapsed whilst he was on the third floor. Fortunately no one was injured, including Constable Kerr who simply climbed out the rubble and dusted himself down!

In recognition of his gallant act, Constable Kerr was awarded the very first

Police Bravery Medal.

The hunt for the medal started in 1989, when Alistair Dinsmor, then an Inspector with Strathclyde police, was told that a bravery medal was being auctioned in London. Being the first of its kind, the Strathclyde Police and Fire Committee was persuaded to try to buy it, but the committee was outbid and the medal went to a private collector.

The trail went cold and, when the Glasgow Police Heritage Society established its museum in 2001, Alistair tried to trace the medal by contacting all the police medal collectors that he knew, but without success. The museum opened in May 2002 and a photographic presentation of the medal and its story went on display.

On 11 May 2004, Alastair was in the museum when Jerry Platt from Florida, USA, dropped in to look at the bravery medals on display. During his conversation with Alastair, he told him that he had the elusive Glasgow Police Bravery Medal of 1871 and he agreed to lend the medal for a limited period.

Alastair Dinsmor of Glasgow Police Heritage Society, said: I have been searching for this medal for so many years and it was an amazing surprise that an American visitor to the museum was in possession of it!

I am absolutely delighted that we can display such a wonderful piece of history at the museum and Mr Platts generosity in allowing us the pleasure of this medal is greatly appreciated.

YES SLAVERY IS CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY, MINISTER ADMITS

THE GOVERNMENT has ditched its' much-criticised position that slavery is not a crime against humanity because it was legal at the time.

In a U-turn a Home Office minister admitted it WAS a crime. The government sparked uproar at a United Nations conference in 2002 when it declared that the Trans-Atlantic slave trade was legal.

But in a stunning U-turn the British government now accepts that it WAS a crime against humanity. About time too, campaigners fumed.

Speaking in the Commons, Home Office minister Fiona Mactaggart said: "Slavery is a crime against humanity. Slavery and the slave trade were, and are, = appalling tragedies in the history of humanity."

But she stopped short of endorsing reparations. The government's reversal came in the first Commons debate on slavery in modern times, triggered by campaigning Liverpool MP Louise Ellman who collected the signatures of 118 fellow MPs.

Ellman's Early Day Motion, which attracted cross-party support, called on the government to recognise slavery as a crime against humanity, and demanded a national slavery memorial day.

In the Commons debate Mactaggart

threw her weight behind moves to celebrate the bi-centenary of abolition in 2007. She said: "2007 has particular resonance for us in the UK. I want to begin a debate about how we, as a country, should mark this anniversary. We [must] learn the lessons of the past."

The Home Office has already given £400,000 to projects, and set up a steering group to advise the government on what slavery memorial activities should happen in 2007.

Louise Ellman: pressure on government

Ellman said: "She [Mactaggart] wasn't very specific about whether it would be a day or something else. We're certainly moving towards doing something specific." "The aim is make it part of the whole community's knowledge, making everyone aware of the enormity of it, and linking that with current oppressions."

Ellman welcomed the government's U-turn on recognising slavery as a crime against humanity. She said: "I think it's a very significant step which goes a long way. They are listening and it is now being taken seriously, not being seen as a fringe issue."

The government's slavery memorial

working group includes top barrister Lincoln Crawford, Kofi Mawuli Klu from campaign group Rendezvous of Victory, and London Mayor Ken Livingstone's race advisor Lee Jasper.

"Slavery is a crime against humanity. It was an appalling tragedy" Home Office minister Fiona Mactaggart

Three years ago the Home Office set up a slavery memorial committee following a surprise promise for a national memorial day by Tony Blair in an interview with Britain's top black newspaper the New Nation.

But the committee collapsed after members, including Jasper, resigned accusing civil servants of obstructing progress.

Jasper has given the latest moves a cautious welcome but warned the government they must give the process their full backing this time.

Ellman is backing plans for a slavery gallery at Liverpool's Albert Docks, which played a major part in the slave trade. She called for a series of national events to mark the year, and for the teaching of slavery to be better integrated into the school curriculum.

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DEPARTMENT FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS UK ANNOUNCES PLANS ON EU EMISSIONS TRADING SCHEME

The Government has announced its proposals on the total number of greenhouse gas emission allowances to be allocated to UK industry as part of the first phase of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme

The UK published its National Allocation Plan in May, setting out provisional allocation levels for the first phase of EU emissions trading (which runs from 2005-7). These were based on interim projections of emissions over the period. The allocations have now been reviewed in the light of ongoing work on the projections and the new climate change agreement targets agreed with industry.

Emissions by UK installations covered by the EU emissions trading scheme for the period 2005-7 are now estimated to be 56.1 million tonnes CO₂ (or 7.6%) higher than was the case in April. The Government has considered how to reflect in its plan this increase in emissions from the interim April projections.

The Government is planning to propose to the Commission an amendment to the National Allocation Plan increasing the total number of UK allowances for the period 2005-7 by 19.8 million allowances to 756.1 million allowances. This is an increase of less than 3% from the number in the April plan. The allocation is now 5.2% below final projections of business as usual in the UK, compared to the April allocation of 0.7% below business as usual.

The proposal would set out the overall allocation of allowances for the first phase

of emissions trading at a level which ensures that the UK sets a balance between the concerns of business about potential competitiveness impacts and the UK's leadership on climate change. The industrial (non-generating) sectors will continue to receive an allocation based on their needs. Overall, the emissions cap will take the UK beyond its Kyoto commitment, and is consistent with its domestic goal of moving towards a 20% reduction in CO₂ emissions on 1990 levels by 2010.

Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Margaret Beckett, said: "This decision is good news for tackling climate change. The EU emissions trading scheme is a vital part of our drive to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across Europe. "The scheme is crucial in encouraging industry to develop more energy efficient technology and adapt to a lower carbon future."

In making this allocation, we are balancing the need to protect the competitive position of UK industry while moving us beyond our Kyoto Protocol commitment towards our tougher national goal."

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Patricia Hewitt, said: "The EU emissions trading scheme is central to our

strategy to tackle climate change. By putting a value on carbon, it will create a strong incentive to industry and business to use less and cleaner energy, and will send a signal on the value of carbon in the economy.

Our allocations to industry reflect independent research to advise on sectoral growth rates. Overall, our approach is consistent with the goals set in our Energy White Paper and balances the importance of our climate change objectives with the need to support the competitiveness of UK industry as well as safeguarding the security of energy supplies."

The Government consulted earlier in the year on whether various types of change to installations would be eligible to apply for a free allocation of allowances from the new entrant reserve. We have now decided to seek the Commission's agreement to:

- extending eligibility to the following types:
- significant increases in the 'good quality' capacity of CHP schemes;
- offshore projects to enhance oil and gas recovery including platform modifications; and
- provisions on site rationalisation.

The Government will be publishing further details of these decisions shortly.

EMEC Decades Ahead....

Within the current economic climate, it is extremely difficult for any organisation to exist for 5 years, let alone maintain its position as leader within its field.

However the Ethnic Minority Enterprise Centre (EMEC) has done just that. This year it will celebrate its 10th birthday and is determined to approach its 25th birthday with greater success.

On Friday 27th August 2004, EMEC were awarded the Training and Education Award at the Empower Awards Ceremony held in Glasgow. This is a great accolade for an organisation, which strives to help the community in a balanced manner. EMEC offers support to those individuals who are trying to achieve success in this complex world and offer advice to individuals who have hit upon hard times.

EMEC continues to grow from strength to strength and Rizwan Ahmed from EMEC is extremely optimistic for the future - "We were tremendously honoured to receive this award and it proves that we have been adding value to the community for 10 years. With continued support from various organisations such as the Scottish Executive, Glasgow City Council, Greater Glasgow NHS and Learn Direct, we can start planning for our 25th birthday".

EMEC, based in Glasgow, specialises in a variety of areas such as:

- NFIP (*New Futures Inclusion Project*) provides information and advice, in

conjunction with Family Support, to individuals and families affected by drugs and alcohol.

- EMAS (*Ethnic Minority Health Action Project*). Through partnership with EMAS, it provides advocacy services in Greater Glasgow specifically for minority ethnic community members

EMEC is also the lead organisation in Employment and Training for Ethnic Minority communities in Glasgow and is committed to helping individuals achieve their full potential and to develop a skilled and motivated workforce of value to the city's employers. And it is for these great efforts that they have been rewarded.

Research Seminar- Needs Of Older Black And Minority Ethnic Housebound People At Network House

A unique interactive seminar is taking place on Wednesday 8th December 2004 at the Multi-Cultural Elderly Care Centre (MECC) Network House, 311 Calder Street, Govanhill, Glasgow.

MECC has recently undertaken a research project, funded by Communities Scotland, to identify the needs of black and minority ethnic housebound older people in three areas of Glasgow.

As part of this decisive and innovatory research, MECC completed 98 interviews, 4 case studies and two focus group meetings (Male & Female) over a

six month period.

MECC's research consultant Teresa Dolan has prepared a draft report on the basis of the findings from those investigations. These will be shared with the seminar attendees.

There will be four work shops as part of this interactive seminar where ideas, possible strategies and personal experiences can be put forward. It is

hoped that these contributions may become part of the final report.

The seminar starts at 10am until 1.00pm- lunch will be provided.

For further information or to book a place contact Mr Islam before Friday 3rd December 2004.

Telephone 0141-585-8014
email: islam@taleemtrust.org
Places are limited so be quick!!!!

WAS YASSER ARAFAT MURDERED?

Dr Ashraf-al-Kurdi who regularly examined the Palestinian leader, urged that post mortem be done on the body.

Leading Jordanian neurologist, Dr al-Kurdi, claimed that poisoning was the highest probable cause of Mr Arafat's increasingly mysterious death.

The iconic figure of the Middle East and a symbol of opposing oppression - Yasser Arafat was flown to Paris for treatment after tests indicated that he had a low count of blood platelets, components

that help clotting. Al-Kurdi who had examined a gravely ill Arafat in his besieged compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah just before his journey to France, stated that one of the causes of platelet deficiency is poison.

Neither doctors nor Palestinian leaders have said what caused Yasser Arafat's deaths after days in a deepening

coma. Although not definitive the renowned medical expert believed that the highest reason for the Palestinian leader's death was poisoning.

There has been widespread speculation that Arafat could have been poisoned by Israel.

As usual, Israel denied the allegations!!!!

UNHCR - reiterates no Forced Removals to Iraq

In light of the worsening situation in Iraq UNHCR has reissued its advice to all States not to carry out any forced removals to Iraq, though this time the emphasis is much stronger.

They are of the opinion that the authorities in Iraq are "currently unable to ensure the safety of all Iraqi citizens" and in particular people targeted by non-state agents because of "their political affiliations, religious beliefs, or other motives, may be in need of international protection and thus merit the status of refugees".

NCADC would urgently ask the UK government in light of the worsening situation in Iraq. To reconsider the claims of the many failed Iraqi asylum seekers in the UK at the moment, failing that to grant them some form of long/short term protection, enabling them to work.

IRAQ: UPDATED UNHCR ADVISORY STRONGLY DISCOURAGES FORCIBLE RETURN

Since the start of the hostilities in Iraq early last year, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) has issued regular advice to all States not to forcibly return any Iraqis to their homeland until the situation stabilises.

Now, because of recent developments both in Iraq and in some host countries, an updated UNHCR advisory has been issued to governments strongly reiterating this advice.

The advisory notes that the situation in Iraq is still extremely unstable and dangerous, characterised by a general lack of law and order and the erratic provision of basic services. The update, issued to governments last week, says no part of Iraq can be considered safe, although it's clear that at any given time, some areas of the country are more stable than others and some people continue to return voluntarily. It notes with concern that in the past six months, there has been a growing trend to target Iraqi civilians working for international organisations, as well as people associated, or perceived to be associated, with the Interim Iraqi Government, including government officials themselves, a number of whom have been killed. Members of the Iraqi police forces, but also doctors, journalists, artists and intellectuals, have all become frequent targets of both harassment and violence by non-state agents.

The advisory says that while the security situation in Baghdad is widely recognised as volatile, there has been a degradation of the security situation in many other cities, including Diala, Erbil, Falluja, Kirkuk, Mosul and Sulaymaniyah. Fewer NGOs are operating in Iraq and UNHCR has no international presence in the country, making it impossible for us to monitor possible cases of persecution on the ground. Furthermore, the Iraqi Ministry for Displacement and Migration is still in the process of building up its own operational capacity. In such circumstances, no parts of Iraq can be considered definitely safe for return, according to the latest advisory.

With this in mind, the advisory asks States to continue to suspend all forcible returns to Iraq and insists that governments should not introduce any measures providing an incentive to repatriation -- be it financial grants to encourage departure, or punitive rules as a deterrent to stay in the host country.

In the current climate of increasing violence, the advisory also requests that States pay particular attention to asylum claims from Iraqi nationals. Despite the regime change in Iraq, people targeted by non-state agents because of their political affiliations, religious beliefs, or other motives, may be in need of international protection and thus merit the status of refugees. This is particularly so since the authorities in Iraq are currently unable to ensure the safety of all Iraqi citizens.

New anti-racist toolkit for youth workers

By Jenny Bourne

I Ain't Racist But... aims to give youth workers the knowledge and tools 'to respond constructively to racist incidents and deal appropriately with victims and perpetrators'.

Written by Mandeep Rupra of the Racial Harassment Action Group Monitoring Project at Leicester Racial Equality Council, the stated intent of the toolkit is to encourage youth workers to respond to racist incidents and to deter such incidents in a youth setting. In fact, the 75-page toolkit concentrates on the former rather than the latter task - but that is no mean feat.

Section One explains exactly what might constitute a racial incident, the legislation that covers the area and the ways in which young people might respond to incidents. Section Two sets out the procedures youth workers should adopt following an incident: protect and support the victim; assist the perpetrator to recognise that the behaviour is unacceptable and help change it; ensure the incident is investigated; deter others from engaging in racist incidents.

The toolkit, which contains useful case studies and excellent lists of references, eschews the usual overemphasis on abstract discussion about racism generally in society or moralising about racism's evil. Instead it provides systematic and practical techniques appropriate to combating racism in a youth-work setting.

I Ain't Racist But ... is available for £20 plus postage and packing from Leicester Racial Equality Council, Epic House - 3rd Floor, Lower Hill Street, Leicester LE1 3SH. Tel: 0116 299 9800. Email: administrator@lrec.org.uk

The Institute of Race Relations is precluded from expressing a corporate view: any opinions expressed are therefore those of the authors.

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As a Community newspaper we recognise the need for accessibility to all organisations voluntary and non-voluntary. With this in mind we present our rate chart.

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PERSECUTED THERE - DESTITUTE HERE

We can't show you their faces, or tell you their names or which country they're from.

We can say he is a highly skilled doctor, 68 years old, in need of urgent heart surgery. They had to flee their home and country.

Why? Because he was doing his job as a doctor and a senior government official did not want him to. They had to leave and lost everything. They sent their children into hiding, and got on the first flight anywhere. There was no choice. It is not safe for them to return and that's why they are still here.

You'd think they would get help but their asylum claim was refused. Fortunately, they do have a good lawyer who is fighting their case. But their NASS support was stopped. Sheriff Officers instructed by the Council issued an eviction order. They aren't allowed recourse to public funds, i.e. homeless units, hostels. The street was their only option.

When they came to us, they were relying on food handouts from kind neighbours, and visiting the local mosque for meals. Positive Action in Housing is now supporting them on a weekly basis out of our destitution fund. Our caseworkers are arguing for the social work Department to accommodate them. If this attempt fails, we will try to get them a temporary room or space to sleep in someone's home through our destitution register.

This family are just one of the many hundreds of people we supported in 2004. Please help others like them. You can. By donating regularly to Positive Action in Housing's humanitarian work which is funded entirely by individual donations. Every penny goes towards assisting destitute asylum seekers. To make a donation, send a cheque made payable to 'Positive Action in Housing' and post to:

Positive Action in Housing, 98 W, George St. Glasgow G2 1PJ
Tel 0141 353 2220 Fax 0141 353 3882 Email: home@paih.org

Alternatively, go online at www.paih.org and click on the 'donate online' link.

Positive Action in Housing is a Scottish wide minority ethnic led charity whose mission is to work with communities and others to enable everyone to live in good quality, affordable and safe homes, free from discrimination and the fear of racial harassment and violence. We provide a casework service for those facing homelessness, racist attacks or poor housing conditions. We assist refugees and asylum seekers to overcome their housing problems. We campaign for and assist people facing destitution or long term detention. We organise donations for vulnerable individuals and families. We also run a volunteering programme, support anti racist campaigns, inform wider policies from a grassroots perspective and provide training, consultancy and best practice for registered social landlords, councils, minority ethnic and refugee groups, advice workers and others.

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STRATHCLYDE POLICE FORCE'S DIVERSITY UNIT ARE HERE

One of the larger police forces in the UK Strathclyde Police were always well ahead of their debatable English counterparts in the multicultural system. A realistic and uncompromising approach to policing a very diverse Scottish society, the police force has always been on the ball- their astute intelligence is one of the reasons Scotland's never felt the terrifying anti-social complications of the race riots prevalent in the many parts of the multicultural England the last few years.

The pioneering police force believes that it's best to reflect the present Scottish community within its own many tier system -internally and externally.

Although it is a 'collective' emphasis- it is the Community Safety's Diversity Unit - based at Force Headquarters at Pitt Street whose sole mission is to lead on the cultural diversity process within the entire system.

Headed by Supt. Dick Stevens-different officers in the unit deal with different sections of the community which make up the six strands of diversity recognised by the Scottish Executive and the Association of Chief Police Officers in Scotland (ACPOS).

We'll be speaking to Dick Stevens and some of his team soon -watch this space!!!!



Strathclyde Police's Diversity Unit: L→R: Ch Insp. Alex MacDonald; Insp. Tom Harrigan; Supt. Dick Stevens; Sgt John McTeair

AMINA - MUSLIM WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTRE (MWRC) ANNOUNCES NEW FREEPHONE NUMBER FOR AMINA MUSLIM WOMEN'S HELPLINE

Amina (MWRC) is an organisation based in the Southside of Glasgow which aims to ensure that Muslim women are fully able to participate in all aspects of society without having to compromise their beliefs and customs.

Amina (MWRC) is run by Muslim women, for Muslim women, although we do help people from all backgrounds where we can. We work at two levels - with policy makers and mainstream service providers to help them become more aware of, and to meet the needs of, Muslim women, and by direct provision of faith and culturally appropriate helping services.

We have been providing face to face helping services for women in the greater Glasgow area (or anyone else who is able to come to us) since April 2002. These include information and advice on a very broad range of topics from suitable leisure activities to family problems; counselling; befriending; and advocacy. We have a small reference library with two public access computers for women who want to come in and spend some time in a friendly environment. We run occasional seminars on topics of interest and relevance to women, often involving mainstream organisations in contributing to input and debate on the topics. We also host a women's group and a mother and baby / toddler group.

We have a very active Volunteer Programme with volunteers involved in providing the full range of services and helping with organisational and administration work. All volunteers are trained for the work they undertake and are provided with out of pocket expenses to cover items such as travel and childcare. For more information about the Volunteer Project contact Zerqa Soofi Volunteer Coordinator.

The Amina Muslim Women's Helpline was established in November 2002 as part of phased development and rollout of Amina the Muslim Women's Resource Centre services. Since then we have received hundreds of calls and in the last year have helped well over 200 women. The Helpline covers the whole of Scotland and is especially effective in providing support to women who cannot leave their homes for health or family reasons and to those women who are particularly isolated geographically. We can provide callers with both information and a listening ear from a trained helpline worker who understands their religious and cultural background. Many of our

service users have told us that we have made a huge difference to their lives.

Thanks to the Scottish Executive we now have a Freephone number 0808 801 0301.

Our helpline operators speak English, Urdu, Punjabi, Arabic, Kurdish, Farsi, Bengali and Swahili. We also use Language Line for on-line interpreting so we can cater for all language groups. For more information contact Lida Rezanejad, Helpline Development Worker.

We are also intending to hold a major Conference in February 2005 in Glasgow. So as they say, watch this space!! For more information about the Conference contact Azra Ramzan, Development Worker or Fariha Thomas, Coordinator.

Amina - the Muslim Women's Resource Centre can be contacted at:

Network House,
311 Calder Street,
Glasgow, G42 7NQ.
Tel: 0141 585 8026
Fax: 0141 585 8017
e.mail: aminamwrc@aol.com

Hamid Shami's Gems of Wisdom

ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR ARSENAL EXPOSED

Israel is thought to have begun its quest for weapons of mass destruction soon after the establishment of the state in 1948.

Faced by a hostile region and vastly outnumbered by its enemies-prime Minister David Ben-Gurion desired a nuclear deterrent, but without wanting to upset Israel's friends by introducing non-conventional weapons into a flashpoint region.

So Israel did a secret deal with France to build the Dimona nuclear plant, which is thought to have gone into production to make the ingredients for nuclear weapons in the 1960s.

Successful governments employed a policy of 'nuclear ambiguity' and have hidden behind the apparently misleading formula that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons into the Middle East.

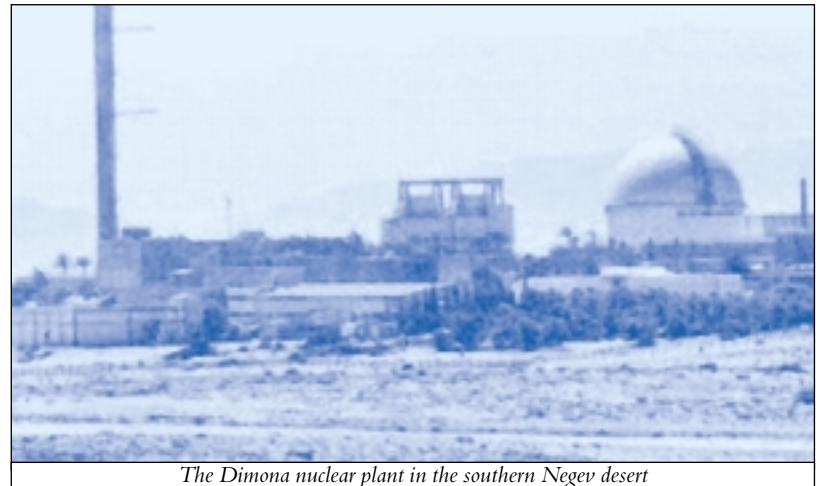
Ever since admitting that the Dimona plant housed a nuclear reactor rather than a textile factory, Israeli officials have insisted it is intended for exclusively peaceful purposes.

Israel never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, so Dimona is not subject to international scrutiny- and its ambiguity policy has been accepted by Washington-which has laws preventing it from supporting proliferating states- at face value. It was against this murky backdrop that the Vanunu affair exploded in 1986.

Mordechai Vanunu is a Moroccan Jew born in 1954, whose family arrived in Israel in 1963. In 1971, he became a sapper in the Israeli army, having failed in his main ambition to join the air force.

After military service, he was taken on as a trainee at Dimona and ended up working in the underground Machon 2 facility, which he claimed was responsible for the production of the bomb components plutonium, lithium dueteride and beryllium.

Outside his top secret job, Vanunu began studying philosophy at Ben Gurion University, where he became more and more involved in politics- espousing pro-Palestinian views and joining the anti-war movement.



The Dimona nuclear plant in the southern Negev desert

By 1985, he learnt that he was being made redundant, but he had already decided to leave the plant, taking his infamous photographs before his departure.

The world was stunned when the Sunday times published its expose - Revealed: The secrets of Israel's Nuclear Arsenal on 5th October 1986.

The then-editor (and now broadcaster) Andrew Neil described the three page spread as the greatest scoop he achieved as head of one of the UK's most influential newspapers.

Not only did Vanunu's account expose the sham of the blind eye policy towards Israel's nuclear capability by its main ally - Washington, his information, which was verified by experts in the nuclear field, also indicated that Dimona was capable of producing much more weapons-grade plutonium than previously thought.

According to him, the plant had been

upgraded several times to increase production of plutonium and in 1985 could make 1.2 kg per week, enough for up to 12 nuclear warheads a year.

Israel's estimated nuclear capability had to be revised from a handful of weapons to approximately 100-200 warheads-ranging from battlefield weapons to warheads that could lay waste to whole cities.

He also recounted stories of how US experts allowed to inspect the site in 1960s had been tricked by false walls and concealed lifts-so that they did not even realise the six underground floors at Machon 2 existed.

Mordechai was cunningly arrested by the Israeli authorities and jailed, where he claimed that he was tortured-recently released-he was virtually housebound - and couldn't leave the country-at the time of publishing this issue of the Oracle-this man of integrity has been re-arrested.

www.arabnews.com | cartoon by amjad rasmi



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Show Racism the Red Card:

Scotland United for a FARE Fortnight

Show Racism the Red Card, Scotland's campaign against racism in football and society, gathered players and supporters at Hampden to kick off their Football Against Racism in Europe (FARE) action weeks, October 14-28. Events were held in Scotland and indeed Europe-wide to combat the problem of racism.

Players from 1st, 2nd and 3rd division squads, Scotland women's team and Asian amateur club, Glasgow Ansar attended the event, alongside police, stewards and supporters representatives.

On a Saturday, last month- clubs, players and fans united for an anti-racist day of action at every 1st, 2nd and 3rd division Bell's Scottish Football League fixture.

This marked the official launch of the campaign in the SFL and SRTRC have been encouraged by the response.

Peter Donald, Secretary of the Scottish Football League said:

"The Scottish Football League clubs are happy to throw their weight behind the Show Racism the Red Card Campaign and hope that their visible participation in the campaign at the matches help rid football of racism."

In the Bank of Scotland Premierleague every midweek game on 27 October will allow clubs to highlight



Sadly, last season again saw incidents of racist abuse at Scottish football grounds, large and small. The authorities, police and stewards presence today reflects the work that is being done to ensure the correct procedures are in place to deal with these offences, should they occur again.

With the help of hundreds of organisations, SRTRC will begin distributing 200 000 anti-racist football squad posters to young people throughout Scotland for season 2004-2005, with all 12 SPL clubs, 4 SFL, Scotland men's team,

we fully support the SRTRC campaign and its anti-racism message. We actively encourage people to come together to ensure that football welcomes all people to participate, regardless of creed, colour or religion."

At grassroots level, ethnic minority teams such as Glasgow Ansar are also working with SRTRC to ensure there is a truly level playing field for all in society:

Zubeir Malik, player-manager of Glasgow Ansar: "Ansar are proud to be an integral part of the SRTRC initiative. The need to break down cultural, religious and ethnic barriers in football and society is a core prerogative of our organization. The only way in which this can be achieved is through constructive dialogue, education at grassroots level and promotion of fair-play in sports."

Roddy McNulty, Campaign Coordinator for Scotland, Show Racism the Red Card said: "Today shows the level of support there is for the campaign at all levels of football. Over the last two weeks in October, there were anti-racist actions involving all 42 professional clubs in Scotland. Scores of ongoing grassroots community projects will be launched, involving ethnic minorities, football clubs, and supporters at the heart of their communities."

"This is the goal SRTRC are working towards - ongoing anti-racist projects at every Scottish football club, turning words into action to stamp racism out of the game in Scotland, and to harness the high profile of professional footballers to combat the rising levels of racism in Scottish society."

Did you visit a SRTRC event over the FARE fortnight and helped to Show Racism the Red Card?"

For more information on SRTRC and the resources available visit www.theredcard.org or email rodstrc@btconnect.com.

Contact: Roddy McNulty, Campaign Coordinator for Scotland, Show Racism the Red Card 0141 3328566 or 07930 287616

Scotland women's team, and a Scottish women's premierleague select all available for free. The SRTRC annual schools competition continues to grow with over 10% of schools taking part last year. Schools can register at www.eis.org.uk.

Fans organisations from several clubs have been proactive in launching their own anti-racist projects over the October fortnight sending out a clear message that racists aren't welcome within their ranks. James Proctor of Supporters Direct, the Supporters Trusts Initiative, commented on his organisation's support for the SRTRC campaign:

"Supporters' Trusts are democratic and community based organisations and the people who are involved in them care deeply about the health of their local community. Individually and collectively



the progress that has been made since the first SPL Weekend of Action in January:

SPL Secretary Ian Blair said: "All of our member clubs are tackling the problem of racism on a number of levels. Strategies such as community programmes, supporters' charters and inclusive marketing campaigns are being used to install the values of equality and tolerance among Scottish football fans on one hand, while on the other hand our safety officers are working hard behind the scenes with the police and stewards to eradicate racism on the terraces."

Last month's SRTRC campaign builds upon the SPL's involvement last season and we believe that this co-ordinated approach will help break down some of the barriers that remain in football and society in general."

PAKISTANI AMBASSADOR IN INTERNATIONAL DEADLY CAT AND MOUSE GAME - HE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT!

Alarm bells are ringing in Pakistan's corridors of powers, to the extent that the country has filed a protest with the US Embassy in Islamabad.

So what is this fuss all about? International intrigue out of a Robert Ludlum book became a reality.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation used dubious tactics to trap two men assumed to have terrorist links.

The unbelievable operation involved a sinister plot to assassinate Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations in New York, Munir Akram, by importing a shoulder fired missile launcher and using it on him!!!!

An FBI informer was to purchase the weapon and the two suspects were to launder the money from the profit of the sale of the weapon.

Since the 9/11 atrocity, Pakistan, for either the better or the worse, has been a very zealous and ambitious US partner in the war on terror. It's leader, who took over the country during a bloodless coup-General Pervez Musharraf or President as

he likes to be called or "Busharafi" by some critics, has survived at least three assassination attempts.

Thus the country has been a target of threats from extremists across the world.



Munir Akram, Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations

The two suspects targeted by the FBI were two leading figures of an Albany Mosque- Mohammed Hossain and Imam Yassim Aref.

The men were told that the attack would take place within a week and were paid \$50,000 of which Hossain was going to guise by writing out cheques - from his property business, giving them to the FBI informer.

Both men were charged with conspiring with a 'man' who claimed to have ties to terrorists in laundering the FBI's \$50,000 for a foreign missile that both men were shown as evidence of the planned assassination of Mr Akram. albeit it- was enabled.

It was earlier this year, that the FBI informant introduced himself as a member of the outlawed extremist group- Jaish-e-Mohammed to both men.

continued on page 8

GOVERNMENT LEADERSHIP ON ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE: MARGARET BECKETT

Behavioural changes so far by people and businesses to help tackle climate change and achieve sustainability are just the tip of the iceberg, Environment Secretary Margaret Beckett said today.

In a speech to the Environment Agency's annual meeting in Birmingham, Mrs Beckett said that changing behaviour, providing environmental leadership and embedding sustainability will be central to Defra's Five Year Strategy to be launched next month.

She said: "I believe that sustainable development depends on long-term changes in the behaviour of individuals, companies, communities and the public sector in relation to energy use, travel, consumption and production, waste, and health."

"Some of these changes are happening already. The best businesses recognise that they can maximise their long-term returns to shareholders by minimising their negative environment impacts; that through responsible action they can become more competitive, not less. Individuals buy fair trade goods, organic products and invest their savings sustainably. But this is clearly not sufficient."

"The Government has been successful in providing catalysts for behaviour changes. By working in partnership with business, we have shown that fairly simple changes in business practices can produce substantial reductions in costs and environmental impacts. On average businesses have made savings in the order of £1,000 per employee using advice and support available from Government funded support programmes such as Envirowise."

"But this is just the tip of the long-term behaviour changes we envisage. As much as 80% water consumption can be saved through very simple and low cost measures. By adopting best practice waste minimisation, business could save between £2-3billion each year."

"I firmly believe that these are measures that business should be taking anyway. Saving billions of pounds makes business sense. But I also believe there is a role for Government in helping to catalyse these behaviour changes."

"We have already announced that the increases in the Landfill Tax will be revenue neutral to business. I expect to announce shortly a programme of measures that will recycle these Landfill Tax revenues - £284 million over three years - by providing new support to business that specifically targets waste minimisation, diversion away from landfill, and a marked improvement in resource efficiency."

"Under this Programme, up to £20 million a year by 2007/08 will be used to fund a Technology Strategy aimed at waste minimisation and energy efficiency, and at least £40 million by 2007/08 will be used to expand the Carbon Trust's energy efficiency programmes. We will also be looking at introducing a new enhanced capital allowance scheme to target waste and resource efficiency technologies."

"It is not just in businesses that we are aiming to catalyse these changes. Environmental impacts from business are themselves driven by the purchases and choices we make in our everyday lives. Each of us can do some simple things, such as cutting energy use with the help and advice of the Energy Saving Trust. We can be more demanding in our shopping - I challenge supermarkets to raise their game by only selling products that minimise environmental damage in their production and use."

"This is not a hairshirt agenda. But how to reduce these impacts requires radical thinking. I am looking to the Sustainable Consumption Round Table, which we are funding jointly through the National Consumer Council and the Sustainable Development Commission, to help us find the answers."

"Nor is this just a UK agenda. The EU is a positive force for doing things differently. As the EU, we have set ourselves a series of ambitious targets, for 2010 and beyond, for virtually every major environmental issue. There are the Kyoto targets on climate change; the Landfill Directive has set targets for reducing landfill; the Water Framework Directive for improving water quality; we've agreed to halt the decline in biodiversity. These are challenging targets and we need to accelerate action now to meet them."

www.defra.gov.uk

continued on page 11

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TELL TALE by Hamid Shami

Talha: See George Bush won the elections.

Yoosuf: He had to. I mean after taking Afghanistan and Iraq, there was too much riding on him not to win it.

Talha: How do you mean?

Yoosuf: Well, Afghanistan, Iraq along with Syria and Iran were on the agenda long before. I mean there was that leaked document back in late nineties from the White House about wanting to create a New World Order. It had something about building a pipeline supplying Israel with oil and that this pipeline would run through these countries.

Talha: You don't really believe that do you?

Yoosuf: What's there to believe the document was written way back then and all the events so far are going that way.

Talha: So you're saying: Osama Bin Laden, Sep 11, Afghanistan, Al Qaeda, Saddam Hussein and the weapons of mass destruction are all linked?

Yoosuf: I'm not saying anything but we got everyone believing that the war on terror is so real. My money is on Iran next.

Talha: You can't be serious!

Yoosuf: What's there to be serious about, Israel has already said it sees countries harbouring terrorists and terrorist organisations as a threat. I won't be surprised if they say Iran's got the capability of building weapons of mass destruction.

Talha: No way?

Yoosuf: Yes way, whatever Israel says America does and Britain's got to do it too 'cause they're standing shoulder to shoulder with them too.

Talha: But what threat could Iran and Syria ever pose?

Yoosuf: Didn't say they posed a threat, but we'll all soon be believing that they will pose a threat. Only yesterday I went to the cinema and saw this advert telling everyone the monies made from film pirate copies goes to supporting terrorist organisations.

Talha: What you saying, the money I gave for that pirate copy of "Kiska Dil Kis Chabee" (whose heart whose key) will go to Al Qaeda?

Yoosuf: I didn't say that but it gets you thinking doesn't it? What time is it?

Talha: Quarter to.

Yoosuf: Right we better start... "Good afternoon can I speak to Ms Elizabeth M Francis please....Good afternoon my name is...."

DTI, continued from page 11

helping an extra 20,000 firms in the next five years. Working closely with unions and

business groups to deliver on the Government's Manufacturing Strategy.

Action on regulation

- Reduce the regulatory burdens on business arising from DTI regulations by more than £1 billion over the lifetime of this Five Year Programme.
- Limit the introduction by DTI of all new domestic regulations to two common dates per year and introduce this model across Whitehall within the lifetime of the Programme.
- Pilot a one-stop shop on enforcement, with trials in the retail sector. Promoting enterprise
- Deliver easier access to business support for small businesses. RDAs will take on responsibility for the network and Business Link will help over half a million existing small businesses every year over the next five years.
- Launch an automated service through www.businesslink.gov.uk to notify businesses about changes to regulations that affect them.
- Establish a new 'Award for Phoenix Entrepreneurs' to encourage positive public recognition for individuals whose first business did not succeed but who have come back, worked hard, and built successful enterprises.
- Establish a new Women's Enterprise Panel to help the Government achieve its target of increasing the proportion of women-owned businesses to 20% by 2006.
- Complete the national roll-out of Consumer Direct by the end of 2006 to provide consumers with advice and information via the phone or web. Boosting skills and helping employees
- Work with employers and unions to raise significantly the proportion of UK young people under 30 achieving skill Level 3 (A levels or the vocational equivalent).
- Develop new proposals to attract global entrepreneurial talent and academic expertise to the UK and establish a comprehensive policy towards the recognition of foreign credentials, while continuing to monitor all our migration schemes to ensure they are robust against abuse.
- Develop new policies to attract and retain foreign students who successfully complete a PhD in a shortage subject at an accredited UK university.
- Ensure that the enterprise society is open to all - raising the self-employment rate of ethnic minorities and action to tackle employer racial discrimination. We will introduce legislation to outlaw age discrimination in the workplace and give people more choice about when they retire, including the option of combining part-time retirement with part-time work.
- Encourage best work organisation practice to produce more high-performance workplaces by implementing new information and consultation rights from Spring 2005 through the Union Modernisation Fund. We will also work to extend the numbers of trade union learning representatives in the workplace.
- Work through the Women and Work Commission to improve the labour market position of women and achieve measurable improvements in gender equality across a range of indicators, including a further reduction in the gender pay gap.
- Build on our successful flexible working policies to help parents and carers combine their work and caring role more easily. We will look at:
 - the length and remuneration of maternity, paternity, adoptive and parental leave
 - the extension of the right to request flexible working to carers of adults
- Establish a new website, employee direct, due to launch in 2005, to provide employees with comprehensive, tailored information on the full range of their employment rights. Driving forward reform in Europe
- Improve the operation of the single market by pressing for continued market opening through the Services Directive and by promoting the proactive use of competition policy to ensure that the economic benefits of market integration are realised.
- Push for phased implementation of EC directives (sunrise clauses), wherever appropriate.
- Promote the further liberalisation of international energy markets and the use of sustainable energy to secure a diverse range of future energy supplies.
- Step up our role as a leading advocate for free and fair trade and use the UK Presidencies of the EU and the G8 to push for a successful completion of the Doha Development Round.

The Department of Trade and Industry five year programme, Creating Wealth from Knowledge is available from the DTI web site at:

www.dti.gov.uk/fiveyearprogramme.html

Waiting to Bomb Iran

By Aluf Benn Haaretz

While the debate in Israel focused on the disengagement plan, an entirely different discussion was developing in the international media. They have become convinced in recent weeks that Israel is planning an aerial attack on Iran's nuclear installations, should it conclude that Iran is proceeding apace toward the development of an atomic bomb, and the diplomatic effort to stop it has failed.

This discussion is not taking place on remote Internet sites, but in learned analyses by the most important newspapers in the world, which are describing the anticipated Israeli bombing as a political fact that is influencing decision makers in Washington and Europe. Everyone knows that Israel considers the Iranian bomb the most serious threat to its existence and its regional status.

The newspaper articles recall the destruction of the Iraqi nuclear reaction in 1981 as an example of what awaits the Iranians. They analyze the ability of the Israel Air Force to carry out such an operation, and warn that it will lead to terrible repercussions in the Middle East.

There is no question that the bombing of Iran will be much more complicated than the attack on the Iraqi reactor. The flight range is greater, the Iranian installations are scattered and protected, and Iran is capable of retaliating. But the interesting difference between Iraq and Iran is that at the time, the Iraqi operation was planned in secret and was carried out by surprise, and this time the ostensible preparations are being

conducted almost in the open.

The belief that Israel's patience is running out have increased since July, when the British Sunday Times reported - based on Israeli sources - on the advanced preparations for bombing the reactor in Bushehr. The article, which was widely quoted all over the world and aroused Iranian counter-threats, seems to be Israeli psychological warfare.

The British papers are a well-known target of such deliberate leaks, but no investigation was begun in Israel about presumed revelations of operational secrets, and at the time, Iran seemed to be evading diplomatic pressure. Afterward came the tests of the Israel Arrow missile and the Iranian Shihab, and more belligerent declarations from Teheran, and additional articles about the anticipated operation.

Judging by an analysis of the articles, Israel has decided to sharpen the sense of urgency in the international community, in order to increase diplomatic pressure on Teheran to cease its enrichment of uranium. This goal has been achieved, at least in the declarations being heard from the United States and Europe, and in the decisions of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

It is possible that factors in the West, doubtful about the success of the diplomatic effort, prefer to have Israel act in their place. There are signs of that: Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom, who met with many of his colleagues at the UN General Assembly, heard a great deal of understanding from them about the Iranian danger, and serious doubts as

to the chances of diplomacy. Nobody asked Israel to refrain from a belligerent act.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon says that Israel is not planning a military operation in Iran, and speaks of developing improved means of defense and deterrence. But the foreign media were more interested in the threats against the Iranians by senior members of the Israel Defense Forces. "We will not rely on others" (Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon), "We will rely on others until we have to rely on ourselves" (his deputy, Dan Halutz), "The operational capability of the air force has increased significantly since the bombing of the Iraqi reactor" (Commander of the Israel Air Force, Eliezer Shkedi).

Sharon is disturbed by the growing acceptance, particularly in Europe, of Iran's impending membership in the nuclear club. Meanwhile he is carefully walking on the edge, and is exploiting his tough-guy image to arouse international attention. But nor should we forget that the present political-military leadership - Sharon, Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz, Ya'alon, Halutz - has few inhibitions about exercising military might. Operations that were once considered taboo, such as attacks on Damascus and assassinations of Hamas leaders, now seem self evident.

A possible attack on Iran will be much more complex and risky, and therefore we would do well not to ignore the threats, and to conduct a public debate on the question of whether this course of action is desirable for Israel.

Iran Seeks to Avoid Security Council Action

By Maggie Farley and Tyler Marshall | The Los Angeles Times

Foreign minister urges Europeans to create alternative methods of verifying that his nation is not intent on building nuclear weapons.

New York - The Iranian government is urging European officials to establish "new mechanisms" for verifying that Tehran is not developing nuclear weapons, Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said in an interview Tuesday.

He said the goal of any agreement with key European countries was to prevent the Bush administration from taking the issue to the United Nations Security Council - a move that could lead to punitive measures, including sanctions or, conceivably, military action against Iran.

Kharrazi made it clear that he hoped to enlist the Europeans to "help the process to be continued inside" the International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. body responsible for monitoring compliance with the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Iran hopes the IAEA will eventually decide that it is in full compliance with the treaty and end concerns that the country is seeking to divert enriched uranium to build a nuclear weapon.

Iran revealed two years ago that it had been secretly importing nuclear material and equipment over a period of 18 years, leading the Bush administration and many independent experts to assert that Iran is using its nuclear energy program as a cover for weapons development.

Iran denies such ambitions, and inspections by the U.N.'s nuclear energy agency have not provided conclusive evidence of an arms program, though IAEA officials say there is still "detective work to do to solve unanswered questions" about the origin of enriched uranium particles discovered in Iran.

Kharrazi said he had raised the possibility of negotiations for an inspection

Ambassador, continued from page 7

documents that named Imam Aref along with his Albany address and phone number - as a 'commander' of an extremist group called 'Ansar al-Islam'.

It was this evidence along with the transcripts of conversation between the FBI agent and the two suspects that brought about 19 count indictment charges against Imam Yassin Muhiddin Aref aged 34 and Mohammed Mosharref

"contract" during recent meetings with envoys from Europe, Russia, China and nonaligned countries at the United Nations, and that there was support for the idea of working outside the Security Council.

"We are looking for some contract or mechanism that lets us continue with our right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, including producing fuel for power plants, and on the other hand, to remove the concerns of others and assure them Iran is not going to divert [uranium] towards a nuclear weapons program," Kharrazi said. Tehran was willing to consider "any kind of verification mechanism ... to make sure there is no secret program," he added.

The foreign minister insisted that the IAEA was allowed to inspect any of Iran's facilities with 24 hours' notice and that Tehran was cooperating fully with inspectors.

Kharrazi did not specify what he wanted to see in the contract. But he said that he invited other foreign ministers to create an agreement in the same spirit as the pact Iran made with Britain, France and Germany last year in which Tehran agreed to suspend its enrichment activities in return for European technical assistance with peaceful nuclear technology. The agreement fell apart, however, after a string of revelations heightened suspicions within the Bush administration and among outside experts that Iran was seeking to produce a nuclear bomb.

After the IAEA's most recent demand that Iran stop its enrichment-related activities, Tehran immediately said it intended to resume preparing 37 tons of yellowcake uranium for enrichment.

Some of the conversational transcripts illustrated the need to teach Musharraf a lesson. The military leader was described as an 'idiot' and a 'b@#\$%^&d' accompanied by an array of disparaging colourful metaphors.

Seemingly it was important to use this particular line of approach in order to be

However, in an apparent attempt to maintain diplomatic leverage, Kharrazi emphasized that his government had yet to resume reprocessing precisely because of its earlier commitments to the Europeans.

Enrichment is not prohibited under the nonproliferation treaty, nor are the board's resolutions binding. But Iran's defiance bolsters American efforts to convince European countries that Tehran intends to develop weapons and must be stopped.

When asked what the difference between the current process and a new one would be, Kharrazi said he hoped to involve more countries in creating an alternative approach, thus broadening Iran's support.

"It's a question of confidence," Kharrazi said. "When countries are involved in developing some mechanism, they feel a part of it... Naturally, it brings them more confidence."

Kharrazi added that Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and nonaligned countries seemed to be open to the idea. "They are ready to negotiate on that," he said.

French and German diplomats confirmed that their ministers had discussed the issue with Kharrazi but said they wanted to see how the issue fared within the IAEA before committing to any alternative arrangement.

A senior State Department official said the Bush administration had no objection in principle to keeping the issue out of the Security Council.

"All Iran has to do is comply with the requirements of the [IAEA] board to cease enrichment," the official said.

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Hossain aged 49.

Some of the conversational transcripts illustrated the need to teach Musharraf a lesson. The military leader was described as an 'idiot' and a 'b@#\$%^&d' accompanied by an array of disparaging colourful metaphors.

Seemingly it was important to use this particular line of approach in order to be

continued on page 9



£140,000 TO SUPPORT EQUALITY IN SCOTLAND

Seven Scottish voluntary and community sector organisations will benefit from a £140,000 Department of Trade & Industry cash boost to tell people their rights under a new law to tackle workplace discrimination Deputy Women and Equality Minister Jacqui Smith announced recently.

The Scottish award winners include the Highlands and Islands Equality Forum, the Castlemilk Economic Development Agency, and Glasgow Homelessness Network. Stonewall Scotland received the single largest award for any organisation outside of London with a grant of £50,000.

The projects include using a wide range of initiatives from seminars and roadshows to guides and leaflets will be funded to help businesses and individuals understand their new rights and responsibilities under the Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation and Religion or Belief) Regulations.

Announcing the awards Jacqui Smith said: "No one should be discriminated against because of their religion or belief, or their sexual orientation. It is unacceptable in modern Britain. I want to see fair and equal treatment for everyone, that is why I am delighted we are able to fund these schemes. They are an important step in helping us reach that goal."

"These schemes are important. They deserve our support and I am pleased we have been able to fund so many across the UK. As a result of the high quality of the proposals we received and our desire to support the widest range of organisations possible, I am pleased to announce we have increased the total budget to £1.4m."

The Employment Equality (Sexual Orientation and Religion or Belief) Regulations aim to:

- outlaw discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation, religion or belief in employment and vocational training; and
- provide protection to all workers from unfair discrimination, harassment and

victimisation on these grounds.

Raising equality awareness will also help the Commission for Equality and Human Rights draw upon the experience of these organisations and deliver information, advice and guidance to individuals.

A full list of winning Scottish schemes with brief details of their planned activity follows

INFORMATION ON PROJECTS

YWCA Scotland

YWCA Scotland is receiving DTI funding to raise awareness of the Employment Equality Regulations at their Scotland National Conference, a annual 2-day training event for staff and volunteers, aimed at promoting and sharing best practice and improving the quality of their service delivery.

Joanne MacInnes tel 0131 225 7592

Amount offered: £1,249,000

The Highlands and Islands Equality Forum (HIEF)

The HIEF team are delivering a series of twenty-five Roadshows from November 2004 through to March 2005 across the length and breadth of the area. These awareness raising presentations walk through current Equality legislation, promote the business case benefits of banishing discrimination, and supply attendees with a complete 'DIY Equality Toolkit' to help them put in place a living plan that meets their responsibilities under law.

Catherine Munro on 01463 732 315
Email hief@scvo.org.uk.

Check out our calendar of Events at www.hief.org.uk

Amount offered: £20,000

Castlemilk Economic Development Agency / Castlemilk Law Centre

CEDA Consulting is the consultancy arm of CEDA, a not-for-profit organisation working on a wide range of regeneration and inclusion projects within the West of Scotland. CEDA Consulting has been working for over 5 years to support the ongoing development of

social economy organisations.

This project will be delivered in partnership with Castlemilk Law Centre, which was the first community Law Centre to be opened in Scotland in 1978.

This is a new project which will deliver 12 seminars at locations throughout Strathclyde Region. The seminars will cover details of the new legislation, delivered by legal staff at Castlemilk Law Centre and an interactive training session delivered by CEDA on 'what this will mean to your organisation and how to imbed this within your organisation's policies and procedures.'

Amount offered: £25,000

Glasgow Homelessness Network

Glasgow Homelessness Network are producing materials to raise awareness and understanding of the Employment Equality Regulations with a hard to reach community.

Amount offered - £2,390

Scottish Council of Minorities

Awareness raising activity including publicity materials on both sets of Regulations aimed at the local communities.

Funding offered - £15,000

Stonewall Scotland

Stonewall Scotland are concentrating on developing the knowledge and skills of trainers of the Employment Equality Regulations so that they are able to disseminate key messages to individuals and employers.

Amount offered - £50,000

Scottish Low Pay Unit

SLPU are working through local organisations, authorities, business and enterprise networks, advice centre and libraries to raise awareness. Their posters, leaflets and information cards will signpost to sources of further information and advice.

Amount offered - £26,000

www.dti.gov.uk

PRIVATE MOHSIN ALI MUGHAL IN THE ARMY

Quietly spoken, calm and unflappable, nothing seems too hard for the young private.

He talks about his job at the Tri-Service Defence Dental agency and life at the Royal Army Dental Corps with a zest. He is content with Army life, which most probably explains why he starts and finishes most of his answers to questions with a polite and genuine 'very nice'. He even regards his two and a half month stint in the Gulf earlier this year as a 'very nice experience'.

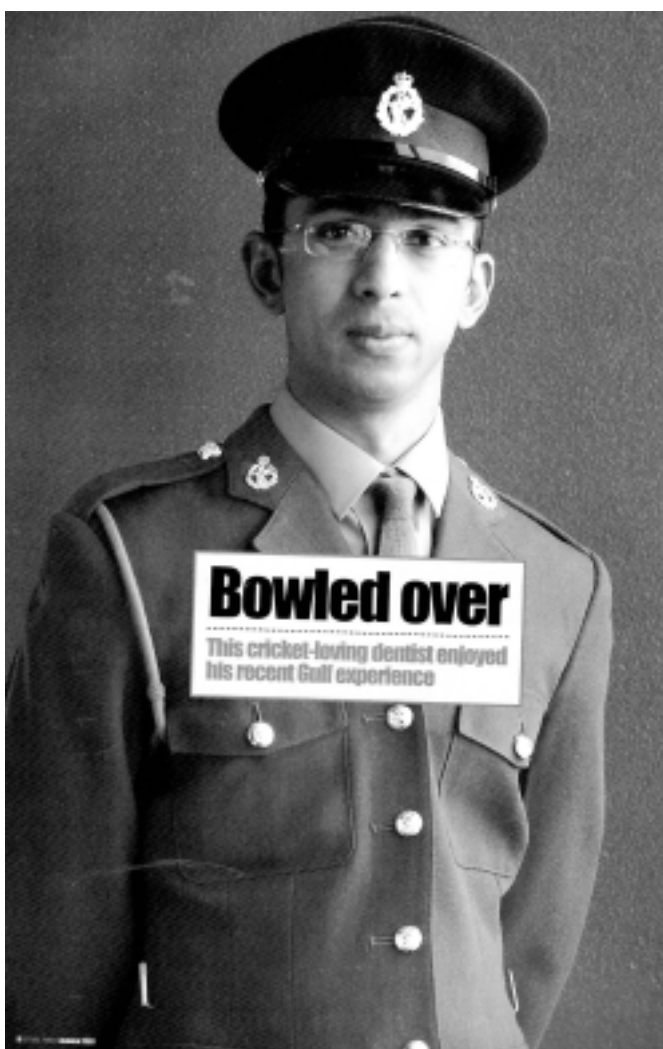
The only subject that has intervention rights on Army talk is cricket. He admits to being keen to try his bowling at a high level, so later on he will be going for trials with the Army under 25 team.

The legendary former Pakistan captain Wasim Akram who is his favourite cricketer would have grinned at the 4-18 bowling figures Mughal took in a match for the Army Medical Services team last season.

Life has been fast tracked for the 23 year old since he joined the army in January 2002, just two years after arriving in Britain from Pakistan.

Apart from his daunting trip to the Middle East, he also spent two months in Germany this summer on an attachment, assisting in dental services.

Such experiences were certainly not on his horizon when he decided to swap Rawalpindi for the damper realities of



the British army was prompted and then simplified by three small words- 'be the best'.

It was while on the internet at college a couple of years ago, that Mohsin read this banner that popped up on the screen- 'come and be the best'.

Out of curiosity he clicked onto this sentence and was lead into a recruitment advert for the British army. He was pleasantly surprised at all the career options and the chance to study to enhance one's promotion prospects throughout the service.

He decided there and then that this was a good way to make something of himself.

He had only been in the UK for a couple of years and noticed with great interest that people from the Commonwealth could apply and the fact that he was a foreign student with 'not a lot of money' to study.

At first impression, an outsider would think that the idea of joining an army would feel intimidating for Mohsin, but that was not the case, for he had already completed the national Cadet Course, voluntarily in Pakistan and was very much aware of the strict and

London. His original intention was to obtain a GNVQ in Computer Science and expand his already impressive command of English whilst staying with relatives in East London.

But he says that his decision to join

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Guantánamo Stonewall

The Los Angeles Times | Editorial

Last June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the 600 foreign terror suspects held at the Guantánamo Bay naval base were entitled to lawyers and the chance to challenge their imprisonment. But in the months since, Pentagon and Justice Department officials have simply acted as if the high court's decision didn't exist, blocking efforts by detainees to meet with their lawyers and insisting on onerous conditions for those meetings.

Some time ago, U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly spelled it out to the Bush administration - again. You must let detainees confer with their lawyers, she said, and you cannot monitor their conversations.

Kollar-Kotelly's decision could not be clearer. The government's foot-dragging, appeals and prevarication, she wrote, are "attempts to erode this bedrock principle" of attorney-client privacy with a "flimsy assemblage" of arguments.

The judge scoffed at administration claims that detainees can adequately represent themselves before military tribunals or rely on non-lawyer advisors. Many of these men need interpreters to communicate, she wrote, and certainly "can't grapple with the complexities of a foreign legal system" without a lawyer, access to a law library and English fluency.

The judge's rebuke is all the more stinging because she is a former federal prosecutor. The Justice Department's reaction should have been a humble, "Yes, your honor." Instead, a department spokesman mumbled, "We are reviewing the decision," a past signal for more stalling and appeals.

In some respects, the Supreme Court spawned this stalemate. The justices upheld the general principle that terror suspects are entitled to due process. But they were short on specifics, opening the way for challenge on every ambiguity and forcing lower courts to spell out exactly what sort of lawyer is acceptable and what conditions the Pentagon may impose on the proceedings.

Because President Bush insisted early on that detainees had virtually no rights, the administration now finds itself with no good options, even in the most troubling cases. Pentagon officials already have freed 200 or so men, concluding that they were wrongly arrested or had no further intelligence value.

But some former detainees have joined insurgent groups in Afghanistan and Iraq that are fighting U.S. troops. Holding the remaining men indefinitely is no solution either. The longer they stay penned in Guantánamo Bay, the higher the cost to taxpayers and the more radicalized the men become.

The opening proceedings last summer of the ad hoc military tribunals Bush ginned up to sort out who's dangerous and who's not proved a disaster. The interpreters were incompetent and even commission members were confused about the rules. The Pentagon is now scrambling to reorganize and restaff the panels in a doomed effort to salvage any credibility.

As the administration continues to stonewall judges doing what the founding fathers intended - ensuring that the president doesn't overstep his authority - it is not a stretch to say that Americans are witnessing the makings of a constitutional crisis.

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Ambassador, continued from page 8 convincing to the suspects.

Intelligence analysts (*hopefully not the Iraq 'weapons of mass destruction' analysts-Ed*) claim that the Ansar al-Islam group are linked to the Jordanian terror mastermind -Abu Musa al-Zarqawi.

Pakistan's foreign ministry spokesman was not amused. Masood Khan, completely flabbergasted by these events quizzed why couldn't FBI use the name of an American political pawn?

Pakistan was not informed of this 'sting' which could have backfired.

FBI officials unable to give a reason why they chose Pakistan's United Nations ambassador as the target of this incredulous 'sting' assassination plot said that their operation has indeed revealed these men were terrorists at an argument with the suspects lawyers at a detention hearing.

Incidentally Mohammed Hossain had been under FBI scrutiny since he tried to illegally purchase a New York driver's permit from an FBI informant previous summer.

Terry Kindlon-one of the alleged terrorist's lawyer insisted that the whole case was based on the government's wildly active imagination.

disciplined regime of the Armed services.

He was more fearful of breaking the news to his family.

At first they seemed perplexed, but soon accepted it and supported his decision with great joy.

The family were not unfamiliar to the 'soldier's life', for the young man's grandfather fought for Britain in the World War II (*as did many relatives of the Scots Indo-Pak immigrant community*). He was eventually captured and spent five years as a prisoner of war in a Japanese prison camp.

His move into the dentistry field came about after his studies in Pakistan where he took biology with the intention of going onto a medical career and dentistry was very appealing.

There is a substantial demand for dentistry in the Army, because if you're not dentally fit you cannot be chosen for operational tours etc, thus you have to be dentally fit to remain in the service.

Mohsin's typical day starts at 6am, he starts work at 7.45 am, finishing between 4.30 and 5 pm.

Rather than being nervous, he was quite excited when he was stationed in the Gulf just after a year in the service.

Because the Army consists of diverse operational processes, he was sent to help the Chemical De-Contamination team but since there was not a chemical war, he was moved onto a medical centre, where due to the fact that he spoke a little Arabic, he was asked to translate the needs of the Kuwaiti people.

His experience in the Middle East has made him a tougher and wiser person, with weather as hot as 50°C and deadly sandstorms, it was his Army training that helped him to cope with the harsh social, political environments.

He is very proud of his regiment and is accepted as one of the team despite his origins -not being of this country.

Mohsin plans to fulfil his maximum 22 years in the Army or at least 12 anyway, he has never regretted his decision.



STRATHCLYDE IN HARMONY 2005

LETS CELEBRATE DIVERSITY
GET YOUR APPLICATION NOW

Talented secondary school pupils from throughout Strathclyde will have the chance to showcase their singing talents and perhaps impress music industry representatives at an event run by Strathclyde Police.

Strathclyde in Harmony 2005 Lets Celebrate Diversity, which has the backing of a number of singers, songwriters and producers, offers the chance for budding stars to represent their school and perform songs with a diversity theme to an audience of over 700.

The winners will receive top prizes including music equipment for their school. As well as this, the top performers will also be asked to sing at other events during the forthcoming year, including the Choices For Life event which has a total audience of over 30,000 people.

This week Sergeant John McTear from Strathclyde Polices Community Safety Department urged eager performers to apply to join the show before it is too late. He said: Although space is limited, there are still one or two slots left for interested artists. Strathclyde In Harmony will see a number of acts perform to an audience of more than 700 people at the SECC centre in March of next year.

It doesn't matter if you are an individual, part of a band or a choir as long as you are representing your school your are welcome to attend the only stipulation is that you must perform a song which has diversity as the theme. Just remember to ask permission from your school.

Strathclyde in Harmony is a great event and backed by many from within the music industry it could be the event that launches the stars of the future.

If you are interested in receiving an application to take part in Strathclyde In Harmony 2005 please contact Sergeant John McTear on 0141 532 2002 or email john.mctear@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk

Health Secretary: Institutional racism "cop-out"

Institutional Racism is a cop-out that doesn't address the issue, according to the Health Secretary.

The remarks, in an interview with Blink, divided opinions about whether the term 'institutional racism' is still relevant. Health Secretary Dr John Reid has been under pressure since last December to admit the NHS is institutionally racist following publication of the public inquiry report into the death of mental patient David 'Rocky' Bennett.

A key recommendation of the inquiry, which was led by retired judge Sir John Blofeld, was a demand that ministers "acknowledge the presence" of institutional racism.

But speaking to Blink, Dr Reid rejected that view. He said: "I have always avoided that one because it's a cop-out in my view. What there are in the NHS are people. And some of those people have attitudes that are intolerable. Therefore the obligation in getting rid of this does not lie with some vague institution, it lies with ordinary people.

"That is why I have never fallen back on using the words institutional racism, because [while] I know they're well intended, actually what it does to me is it suggests that somehow this is not to do with me, it's to do with some institution. It's to do with me and the other people who work in the NHS and we need to face up to our obligations in getting rid of it."

Dr Reid's comments echo those of Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) chairman Trevor Phillips, who sparked controversy last September by claiming the term institutional racism was a "cop-out."

Phillips said at the time: "What they say is: 'We hold our hands up to institutional racism.' What they mean is: 'Somehow it is the system. But it is nothing to do with us. We don't actually have to do anything'. I think this is beginning to be a cop-out for people and I am rather worried about that."

In July this year Reid and Phillips co-wrote a Fabian Society pamphlet on race equality and the NHS. Some critics felt the booklet did not recognise institutional racism or raise concerns about the full extent of discrimination in the NHS, such as African-Caribbean people in the mental health system.

In February Blink revealed a backlash against health ministers by mental=20health experts who believed the government were sidelining the Rocky Bennett inquiry findings. Ministers ordered the inquiry after a five year campaign=20by Rocky's sister, Dr Joanna Bennett, into her brothers death by asphyxiation in a Norwich mental health unit in 1998.

Dr Richard Stone, a member of the Bennett inquiry panel, said he understood Reid's position, but believed it was still important to recognise the term institutional racism.

Dr Stone, who also served on the Stephen Lawrence inquiry which introduced the concept of institutional racism to mainstream society, said: "My own feeling is people like him and me, white men, actually have to have something to sign up to and acknowledge so they can move forward. If you don't then it sounds as if you're not really committed.

"At least he's saying it's up to individuals and the institution, which is what institutional racism is all about. Like he's saying, institutions are not abstract concepts. They are no more than the people who make them up. He does show a genuine commitment, that he wants to make changes."

Reid's refusal to admit the NHS is institutionally racist has been contrasted with the admission by former Home Secretary Jack Straw, in the wake of the publication of the Stephen Lawrence report, that the Home Office was institutionally racist.

Black mental health expert Melba Wilson said: "We know institutional racism exists within the health service, but I agree with the point that it's not helpful to use those terms all the time because it just makes people's eyes glaze over.

"They think it's nothing to do with them when really it's about individuals examining their prejudices and how it contributes to the institutions that are failing people. It's important to acknowledge that it exists but not to get stuck on it as something that's insurmountable, so I understand what John Reid is saying. I think you need to drill down beneath that phrase to really change things."

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By Dennis Jett Salon.com Monday 08 November 2004

Yes, the devastation will be extreme. The good news? He'll sow his own destruction.

At some point in the next four years there will be a great scandal that will make Watergate look like a fraternity prank. All the elements are already in place.

During its first term, the Bush administration took the approach that its policies were divinely inspired and above reproach even though George W. Bush had lost the popular vote in 2000 by over half a million votes. During the current election administration officials began to crow about Bush's having received more votes than any other president in history before the polls had closed. The fact that his opponent got the second highest number of votes of any candidate ever won't slow the incumbent down for a moment.

In his acceptance speech, Bush spoke of his "duty to serve all Americans." Vice President Cheney, however, noted that Bush ran on a clear agenda and the nation responded by giving him a mandate. Therefore Bush's statement that "a new term is a new opportunity to reach out to the whole nation" will last as long as the echo of those words did in the auditorium where he gave his victory speech. At one of his rare press conferences, a day later, Bush said: "I've earned capital in this election, and I'm going to spend it." It's clear Bush and Cheney see this mandate and their moral certainty as all they need to justify anything they do.

That mandate will be used to return to business as usual: using the resources of government to serve the core Republican constituencies and to enrich those in power politically and economically. More money will be funneled to the religious right and favored defense contractors. Forty percent of the Pentagon's budget already goes to Halliburton and other companies in no-bid contracts, and that percentage will increase as social programs are cut to spend more on the military.

Bush stressed in his speech that reforming the tax code and Social Security are his priorities for the next term for a reason. Shifting even more of the tax burden to the middle class is a way to reward the wealthy for their support. And better yet, it comes with no political cost, since Bush's moral masses apparently worry more about the sanctity of life in a petri dish than their economic self-interest. Privatizing Social Security will generate billions in commissions for the financial services industry. And a portion of those profits will be faithfully recycled as campaign contributions to those who made the windfall possible.

Subjecting people's retirement income to the vagaries of the marketplace will pale in comparison to subjecting people's freedoms to the vagaries of the government's security apparatus. Six months ago the Justice Department was arguing that Yaser Hamdi, who was born an American citizen, was so dangerous that he should be denied every one of his most basic civil liberties. When the Supreme Court said even Hamdi deserved his day in court, Justice shipped him back to Saudi Arabia and gave him his freedom rather than go before a judge to argue that someone who at best was a Taliban foot soldier was a grave threat to the republic.

But any abuse is permissible if the administration decrees someone an enemy of the state because we are at war - and we will be at war until Bush decrees otherwise. According to the White House's lawyers, the Geneva Conventions and other laws of war do not apply. Any obligation, be it law or international treaty, can be ignored if it is inconvenient. Torture can be outsourced and, even when done by Americans, is permissible as long as the intent is not to murder. Since the intent of torture is to extract information, murder is never the goal, and so the circular logic winds up back where it wanted to be. The ends justify any means and the ends can be defined to be whatever is most convenient for the government.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of

The Curse of Bush II



President Bush waves during a victory rally Wednesday in Washington. (Photo: Ron Edmonds / AP Photo)

the coming scandal, whether financial or merely moral, is that it may well go undetected and unreported. With solid majorities in both houses, a partisan Republican Congress will cease to provide a check or balance on the power of the executive branch. To call the Republicans in Congress the lap dogs of the White House is to insult Chihuahuas everywhere - they at least bark on occasion. It is no surprise that Bush has been the first president since the earliest days of the republic not to use his veto power. With ethically challenged Majority Leader Tom DeLay having an even larger majority in the House, there will be no challenge to the administration from that quarter.

Normally the judiciary could be counted upon to play its constitutional role and provide some brake on abuse of power by the White House. We are, however, only a couple of nominees away from an Antonin Scalia-Clarence Thomas majority that believes in the unchecked power of the executive branch.

Given that the administration is so assured of its own virtue and correctness, it sees no need to share what it is doing with the American public. As a report by Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., recently pointed out, the administration has waged an unprecedented assault on the public's right to know. By restricting access to information and vastly expanding what is being classified, the administration has choked off public oversight of what the government is up to.

Some might think that whistleblowers will come forward and provide the information the public needs to know. They will only if they have a particularly strong desire to commit career suicide. FBI whistleblowers have been sent off to bureaucratic Siberias. And for those who can't be assaulted directly, there are other tactics, like attacking the person's family. When retired Ambassador Joseph Wilson pointed out that Bush was using a report, known to be false, that Iraq had sought to acquire uranium from Niger, the administration attempted to discredit him. When that didn't work it thought nothing of damaging national security by revealing that his wife, Valerie Plame, was an undercover CIA employee.

Meanwhile, the FBI has spent months investing Halliburton's contracts and years looking into the alleged leaking by Larry Franklin, a midlevel Pentagon intelligence analyst, of classified information to the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, a lobbying firm tied to Israel's far right.

Another Pentagon leak that has not been clarified is how its erstwhile favorite Iraqi exile, Ahmed Chalabi, learned the United States had broken Iran's diplomatic codes. He is said to have passed this information on to Iran in order to ingratiate himself to another patron.

Even when a leaker is identified, the damage done might never be made clear. A.Q. Khan, the Pakistani who helped his country develop nuclear weapons, admitted on television that he provided nuclear-related information to other countries. Bush claimed to have brought him to heel as an accomplishment of his war on terror. But Khan was pardoned immediately by Pakistani President Musharraf; he has been under house arrest and kept away from the press ever since.

The White House knows the press will

drop most stories after a couple of news cycles with nothing new and that stalling can stave off any lasting embarrassment. At most a couple of small fish wind up taking the fall - as has happened in the case of the prisoner abuse at Abu Ghraib. Apparently staff sergeants are the highest-ranking responsible officials in our armed forces.

Can the Washington press corps be depended upon to uncover any further administration wrongdoing? Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein used the Watergate scandal to vault from obscure reporters to media stars. Today's media, however, are largely either compromised or cowed. Corporate interests dictate what Fox News portrays as fair and balanced, which is why its viewers are far less well informed than those of competing networks. But it would be as much a mistake to think that people use the media to inform themselves as it would be to think that the media only seek to present the truth. The bottom line drives the latter effort. And many readers, viewers and listeners would rather have their worldview validated than be presented with conflicting information.

What's more, never tiring of screaming about the liberal bias of the press, the right has successfully beaten much of it into submission. And the right sees no inconsistency in using its domination of talk radio, cable television and pathetically predictable print outlets like the Wall Street Journal, Rupert Murdoch's tabloids and the Washington Times to do it. The press is now so timid that investigative reporting takes a back seat to providing an echo chamber for administration spokesmen in the name of balance.

And while its foreign policy has been a failure of monumental magnitude, the administration has been relentlessly successful at filling the airwaves with its alternative version of reality. When the New York Times reported that 380 tons of specialized high explosives, one pound of which was used to bring down Pan Am 103, had been left to be looted in the aftermath of the invasion of Iraq, the reaction by the administration's surrogates in the press was to attack. They said it was a liberal media October surprise and that Saddam Hussein or maybe the Russians had moved the explosives before the war. The Pentagon trotted out a couple of middle-grade officers to fill the air with smoke and claim they had not seen the explosives or had detonated several tons of them. That neither officer knew anything about the disposition of the 380 tons in question was irrelevant, as the press felt obliged in the interests of balance to aid in the obfuscation. By the time a Minnesota television station came up with videotape showing that the explosives were still under International Atomic Energy Agency seals after American troops had arrived, that incontrovertible proof was lost in the haze. So don't look to the press to provide clarity or truth about the coming scandals.

If there is any silver lining, it is that zealots without constraints will eventually hang themselves on their own excesses. While you can fool most of the people twice, you can't do it forever. This administration loves to talk about Saddam's mass graves even though the most recent ones date from the mid-1990s. They never mention the estimated 100,000 Iraqis, half of them women and children, who have been killed while being liberated. But parallel realities can be constructed and maintained for only so long.

Eventually more people will realize that the Republican morality has no more depth than Bush's intellectual curiosity. Then new ayatollahs will spring up and try to claim the mantle of the demolished majority, but they will also fail. Eventually the people will figure out that taxes are the price we pay for a safe and just society and that morality, like democracy, has to spring from within rather than be imposed from above.

Dennis Jett is a 28-year veteran of the U.S. State Department. The author of "Why Peacekeeping Fails," Jett is now the dean of the University of Florida International Center.

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A Blue City (Disconsolate, Even) Bewildered by a Red America

By Joseph Berger | The New York Times | Thursday 04 November 2004

Note | A centerpiece of the Bush campaign was their claim that Bush was the best man to keep America safe from another terrorist attack. It is worthwhile to note, therefore, the reaction of the city of New York to the election results on Tuesday 2nd November. This great city, which absorbed the horrific blow of 9/11, did not think Bush was the right man for the job.

Striking a characteristic New York pose near Lincoln Center yesterday, Beverly Camhe clutched three morning newspapers to her chest while balancing a large latte and talked about how disconsolate she was to realize that not only had her candidate, John Kerry, lost but that she and her city were so out of step with the rest of the country.

"Do you know how I described New York to my European friends?" she said. "New York is an island off the coast of Europe."

Like Ms. Camhe, a film producer, three of every four voters in New York City gave Mr. Kerry their vote, a starkly different choice from the rest of the nation. So they awoke yesterday with something of a woozy existential hangover and had to confront once again how much of a 51st State they are, different in their sensibilities, lifestyles and polyglot texture from most of America. The election seemed to reverse the perspective of the famous Saul Steinberg cartoon, with much of the land mass of America now in the foreground and New York a tiny, distant and irrelevant dot.

Some New Yorkers, like Meredith Hackett, a 25-year-old barmaid in Brooklyn, said they didn't even know any people who had voted for President Bush. (In both Manhattan and the Bronx, Mr. Bush received 16.7 percent of the vote.) Others spoke of a feeling of isolation from their fellow Americans, a sense that perhaps Middle America doesn't care as much about New York and its animating concerns as it seemed to in the weeks immediately after the attack on the World Trade Center.

"Everybody seems to hate us these days," said Zito Joseph, a 63-year-old retired psychiatrist. "None of the people who are likely to be hit by a terrorist attack voted for Bush. But the heartland people seemed to be saying, 'We're not affected by it if there would be another terrorist attack.'"

City residents talked about this chasm between outlooks with characteristic New York bluntness.

Dr. Joseph, a bearded, broad-shouldered man with silken gray hair, was sharing coffee and cigarettes with his fellow dog walker, Roberta Kimmel Cohn, at an outdoor table outside the hole-in-the-wall Breadsoul Cafe near Lincoln Center. The site was almost a cliché corner of cosmopolitan Manhattan, with a newsstand next door selling French and Italian newspapers and, a bit farther down, the Lincoln Plaza theater showing foreign movies.

"I'm saddened by what I feel is the obtuseness and shortsightedness of a good part of the country - the heartland," Dr. Joseph said. "This kind of redneck, shoot-from-the-hip mentality and a very concrete interpretation of religion is prevalent in Bush country - in the heartland."

"New Yorkers are more sophisticated and at a level of consciousness where we realize we have to think of globalization, of one mankind, that what's going to injure masses of people is not good for us," he said.

His friend, Ms. Cohn, a native of Wisconsin who deals in art, contended that New Yorkers were not as fooled by Mr. Bush's statements as other Americans might be. "New Yorkers are savvy," she said. "We have street smarts. Whereas people in the Midwest are more influenced by what their friends say."

"They're very 1950's," she said of Midwesterners. "When I go back there, I feel I'm in a time warp."

Dr. Joseph acknowledged that such attitudes could feed into the perception that New Yorkers are cultural elitists, but he didn't apologize for it.

"People who are more competitive and proficient at what they do tend to gravitate toward cities," he said.

Like those in the rest of the country, New Yorkers stayed up late watching the results, and some went to bed with a glimmer of hope that Mr. Kerry might yet find victory in some fortuitous combination of battleground states. But they awoke to reality. Some politically conscious children were disheartened - or sleepy - enough to ask parents if they could stay home. But even grownups were unnerved.

"To paraphrase our current president, I'm in shock and awe," said Keith Sales, a 58-year-old former publishing administrator walking a dog near Central Park. He said he and friends shared a feeling of "disempowerment" as a result of the country's choice of President Bush. "There is a feeling of 'What do I have to do to get this man out of office?'"

In downtown Brooklyn, J.J. Murphy, 34, a teacher, said that Mr. Kerry's loss underscored the geographic divide between the Northeast and the rest of the country. He harked back to Reconstruction to help explain his point.

"One thing Clinton and Gore had going for them was they were from the South," he said. "There's a lot of resentment toward the Northeast carpetbagger stereotype, and Kerry fit right in to that."

Mr. Murphy said he understood why Mr. Bush appealed to Southerners in a way that he did not appeal to New Yorkers.

"Even though Bush isn't one of them - he's a son of privilege - he comes off as just a good old boy," Mr. Murphy said.

Pondering the disparity, Bret Adams (33), a computer network administrator in Rego Park, Queens, said, "I think a lot of the country sees New York as a wild and crazy place, where these things like the war protests happen."

Ms. Camhe, the film producer, frequents Elaine's restaurant with friends and spends many mornings on a bench in Central Park talking politics with homeless people with whom she's become acquainted. She spent part of Tuesday knocking on doors in Pennsylvania to rustle up Kerry votes then returned to Manhattan to attend an election-night party thrown by Miramax's chairman, Harvey Weinstein, at The Palm. Ms. Camhe was also up much of the night talking to a son in California who was depressed at the election results.

When it became clear yesterday morning that the outlook for a Kerry squeaker was a mirage, she was unable to eat breakfast. Her doorman on Central Park West gave her a consoling hug. Then a friend buying coffee along with her said she had just heard a report on television that Mr. Kerry had conceded and tears welled in Ms. Camhe's eyes.

Ms. Camhe explained the habits and beliefs of those dwelling in the heartland like an anthropologist.

"What's different about New York City is it tends to bring people together and so we can't ignore each others' dreams and values and it creates a much more inclusive consciousness," she said. "When you're in a more isolated environment, you're more susceptible to some ideology that's imposed on you."

As an example, Ms. Camhe offered the different attitudes New Yorkers may have about social issues like gay marriage.

"We live in this marvelous diversity where we actually have gay neighbors," she said. "They're not some vilified unknown. They're our neighbors."

But she said that a dichotomy of outlooks was bad for the country.

"If the heartland feels so alienated from us, then it behooves us to wrap our arms around the heartland," she said. "We need to bring our way of life, which is honoring diversity and having compassion for people with different lifestyles, on a trip around the country."

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UK WILL BE 'BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD FOR SCIENCE' - HEWITT

NEW INDUSTRIAL POLICY TO BOOST BRITISH BUSINESS

Science, innovation and technology will be the key to Britain's future industrial success the Prime Minister and Patricia Hewitt said as the Government published the DTI 5-year programme.

The programme maps out 'a new industrial policy' with a clear ambition to make Britain the most attractive place in the world for scientific research.

'Creating Wealth from Knowledge' states that Britain is winning in the global knowledge economy, but we need to do more to meet the challenge of rising economies such as China and India. We need greater exploitation of science and technology and a step-change in innovation in our economy, and our workplaces.

Secretary of State for Trade and Industry Patricia Hewitt MP said:

"The global economic map is being redrawn. China is becoming one of the world's largest economies; India is producing three million highly skilled graduates a year; and Central and Eastern European countries - with wages a fraction of ours - are joining the EU.

"But Britain is extremely well placed

to benefit from this transformation. Building on our strong economic foundations, we propose a new industrial policy built around the knowledge-based economy, high in skills, embracing innovation, science and technology.

"And today we're sending a strong signal to scientists around the world that the UK is the place to come to carry out research in leading edge areas - such as nanotechnology and stem cell research.

"Our new industrial policy needs a new DTI. We reject the command-and-control approach of the 1970s and the laissez-faire of the 1980s. Instead, we will be more flexible, and smarter - a DTI that knows when to help markets, and when to let business lead. In the next five years we will become as much the Department for Technology and Innovation as for Trade and Industry.

The programme puts forward a wide range of policies to help British business succeed in the global economy, these include:

- Strengthening science and boosting innovation
- Action to tackle animal rights extremism, with new proposals to

address the economic damage to research activities.

- Establish "Newton Awards" - a new multi-million pound fund for high-profile cross-disciplinary research with potential for breakthroughs in areas likely to help UK public policy and business priorities.
- Establish a new ideas portal, a new mechanism for firms, inventors and researchers to submit unsolicited, innovative proposals to the public sector.
- Appoint a leading business figure to work with the Office of Government Commerce to ensure the full implementation of the Kelly Review on public sector procurement, and help deal with the barriers that prevent innovative solutions being adopted in the public sector.
- Boost R&D from its current level of 1.9% of national income to 2.5% per year by 2014 and deliver greater departmental focus on R&D.
- Build on the success of the Manufacturing Advisory Service to strengthen British manufacturing -

continued on page 8

GOVERNMENT LAUNCHES DRIVE TO HELP POOREST CUT FUEL BILLS

Household fuel bills could be reduced by £1 billion a year through switching fuel suppliers and improving energy efficiency, Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt MP announced in a recent energy consumer summit in London.

Ms Hewitt and Energy Minister Mike O'Brien are launching a new drive to get consumers - particularly vulnerable consumers - to 'switch and save' and cut the cost of fuel bills this winter.

At the summit Ministers will outline specific annual savings for households with gas and electricity:

- First time switchers could save up to £100 a year on fuel bills.
- Changing payment method from standard credit (i.e. cheque/cash) to direct debit could save around £20 a year. Pre-payment meter users stand to save even more.
- Energy efficient measures such as cavity wall insulation alone could save £35 a year.

Ms Hewitt said: "We know that for many families fuel bills are a significant part of their weekly outgoings, and we need to do more to help the most vulnerable consumers benefit from big savings that are out there.

"Half of all households have never switched energy supplier, despite the fact that there are big savings still to be made. Our message today is simple - why pay more for your gas and electricity than you need to?"

Energy Minister Mr O'Brien said:

"This energy consumer summit is a call to action - government, regulators and industry together in a concerted drive to raise awareness of the savings available to consumers from shopping around, and the support available to vulnerable households.

"Improved winter benefits and energy efficiency grants since 1997 have helped cut by two-thirds the number of fuel poor homes. But as winter starts to bite we have to ensure that the poorest in particular know what steps they can take to reduce their fuel bills further."

The summit will launch the 'Energy Smart' awareness-raising campaign run by consumer watchdog Energywatch, industry regulator Ofgem and supported by the DTI. Representatives of vulnerable groups will also be at the summit to discuss how Energy Smart can reach those in greatest need of help in reducing fuel bills.

Allan Asher, Chief Executive of Energywatch, said: "Consumers have been hit hard this year by rocketing fuel bills but being energy smart can save money. The hike in energy bills is forcing vulnerable consumers into fuel debt and poverty this winter. Dumping expensive suppliers, being more energy efficient and changing payment method are all ways of saving lots of money."

Ofgem Chief Executive Alistair Buchanan said: "At a time of rising energy prices it is important that all energy customers, and especially the vulnerable, are fully aware of the choices available to them to help reduce their fuel costs. Underpinning these choices is the need for consumers to have confidence in the energy companies they are dealing with. Ofgem has a key role to play here to ensure that companies play by the rules, and where they don't, we take action."

Despite recent increases announced by suppliers, domestic prices are in real terms still cheaper than in 1997 (electricity 14% cheaper, gas 1%) and cheaper than before privatisation.

Since 1997 the Government has shown that it is serious about putting an end to fuel poverty. More than 11 million older people last year benefited from a total of £1.9 billion in Winter Fuel Payments. More than £600 million has been invested through the Warm Front initiative improving central heating and insulation in more than 900,000 households, with a further £140 million over the next three years.

Consumers wanting to switch energy suppliers can get advice from Energywatch on 08459 060708 or www.energywatch.org.uk.

www.arabnews.com | cartoon by amjad rasmi



Says it all really, doesn't it?

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HIDDEN GARDENS ANNOUNCE FESTIVALS OF LIGHT 2004 PROGRAMME

The Hidden Gardens, Scotland's first sanctuary garden dedicated to peace, have announced the programme for this year's Festivals of Light, a series of large scale events celebrating different cultural traditions.

Throughout November and December, the Gardens, based at the Tramway Pollokshields, Glasgow, will be brought to life through a series of stunning light installations, whilst visitors will be able to enjoy a variety of performances and activities reflecting the various cultures being celebrated.

Following on from the success of last year's events, this year's programme will include celebrations of Diwali, Eid-al Fitr, Chanukah and Advent.

The programme kicks off with a bang on Saturday 20 November with **Diwali**. The Gardens will be filled with lights, music and fire, whilst inside Tramway there will be a bazaar offering a range of traditional Indian products, a chance to sample classic Indian cuisine and children's activities. Visitors will be treated to vibrant entertainment including performances of customary Kathak dancing before the evening is brought to a close with a spectacular firework finale!

Sunday 21 November will see the Gardens celebrate the Muslim festival of **Eid-al Fitr**, which celebrates the end of Ramadan. The evening will commence with the announcement of Magrib Adhan (*the traditional call to prayer*) across the Gardens and will conclude with a classical performance of Nasheeds (*spiritually uplifting songs*) in Arabic, English, Punjabi and Urdu.



Following the festival atmosphere of Diwali and Eid-al Fitr, Advent and Chanukah will offer a more contemplative atmosphere for visitors to the Gardens.

Throughout December, a special Advent installation, will mark the countdown to Christmas and will be visible from Tramway at night.

On the four Sundays during Advent (28 November, 5 December, 12 December and 19 December) the Gardens will be open after dark, between 4pm and 6pm to enable people to experience the installation up close. To enhance the festive atmosphere musicians from the prestigious Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama will perform a programme of seasonal music.

This year, the Hidden Gardens will be holding a **Chanukah** inspired event for the first time. A large scale Chanukia (*ceremonial Chanukah candles*) will be situated in the Gardens throughout Chanukah and on the closing evening of the festival (*Tuesday 14 December*), the

Gardens will be open between 6pm and 8pm for the final lighting of the Chanukia.

After the tremendous success of their designs for last year's Festivals of Light, Glasgow based design company <slight> will be creating the light installations for this year's events.

Linda Macdonald, Hidden Gardens resource manager said, "We are delighted to announce the 2004 Hidden Gardens Festivals of Light programme. With such a rich programme there really is something for everyone. Glasgow is fortunate in having such a diverse multi-cultural community and the Hidden Gardens is proud to be part of these celebrations. Everybody is welcome to participate in the festivities."

If you require further information on the Hidden Gardens visit www.thehiddengardens.org.uk or contact linda@nva.org.uk

LISTINGS INFORMATION:

• **Diwali:** Saturday 20 November, 4 - 7pm. TICKETS £2/£1 children

Dance and music performances, lighting display, fire procession, fireworks, children's activities and free food!

• **Eid-al Fitr:** Sunday 21 November, 4 - 7pm, TICKETS £2/£1 children
Nasheed performances from Birmingham based Aashiq Al - Rasul, fire procession, indoor market stalls, children's activities and free food!

• **Advent:** Sundays: 28 November, 5 December, 12 December, 19 December, 4-6pm, FREE EVENT
An alternative Christmas celebration. Enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the Winter Lights at the Hidden Gardens. Accompanied by festive music from students of the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama.

• **Chanukah:** Tuesday 14 December, 6 - 8pm, FREE EVENT
Choral performances accompany the lighting of the large scale, traditional Chanukia.

Take My Eyes (Te Doy Mis Ojos)

DIRECTED BY ICIAR BOLLAIN.



Synopsis: Pilar (Laia Marull) is leaving her husband Antonio (Luis Tosar) citing his violence against her. He begs her to return. Finally, against the advice from her sister, she does, but has he really changed?

"Take my Eyes" is a tale of domestic abuse with the stomach-tightening tension of a thriller despite its admirably non-sensational tone.

Quotes:
"a powerful drama... superb writing... excellent performances",

Dave Calhoun, *Time Out*
One of the most moving film you will see this year, *Empire* ****

Opening date & venues: 19 November at The Gate Cinema, UGC Haymarket,

Odeon Wardour Street in London, UGC Glasgow, Cornerhouse Manchester, IFC Dublin. It will play at the Filmhouse in Edinburgh from 10 to 16 December and other cities throughout December and January.

19 November Release For Iciar Bollain's

TAKE MY EYES
• Winner: 7 GOYA AWARDS
• Winner: Best Actress & Best Actor Awards at 51st San Sebastian International Film Festival

"Take my Eyes", which took seven awards at the Goyas, Spain's Oscars, is a touching love story, a tale of domestic abuse with the stomach-tightening tension of a thriller despite its admirably non-sensational tone. The film will open in the UK on 19 November through Swipe Films.

Iciar Bollain's third feature, although dealing with an important subject matter, domestic abuse, is quite different. The film opens with Pilar (*Laia Marull*), who has already suffered at her husband's hands, moving out of the family house with her son Juan; she is now living with her sister

while she tries to decide what to do.

Antonio (*Luis Tosar*) visits her there, banging on the locked door, begging her to return. When that fails, he demands it - and this, you realize, is his way: first tender, then furious. This time though he promises he will change, and to this end, he begins attending group therapy. Finally, against the advice from her sister, Pilar does take him back, appalling her sister and driving a rift between the two women. But has he really changed?

Iciar Bollain, Spanish actress and director, who lives in Madrid describes *Take my Eyes* as a love story: "A very damaging and very wrong one but a love story all the same." The film has won several prizes home and abroad and premiered in the UK at the Edinburgh International Film Festival this year.

Her debut film was the award-winning *Hola Estas Solo?* (1995) which she followed up with "Folores de otro Mundo" (*"Flower from another World"* 1999) which was awarded with Best Film at International Critics Week in Cannes in 1999. Iciar is also the author of the book titled "Ken Loach, un observador solidario", published in Spain.

"Take my Eyes" is directed by Iciar Bollain, written by Iciar Bollain and Alicia Luna, starring Laia Marull, Luis Tosar and Candela Peña. Produced by La-Iguana and Alta Production, Junta de Comunidades de Castilla-La Mancha with the participation of Televisión Española and Canal+ with support from the City Government of Toledo with financing from the Instituto de Crédito Oficial (ICO).

For further information please contact: Giorgia Lo Savio 07788 922540 e-mail: giorgia@gotadsl.co.uk

ADVANCE REVIEWS

Time Out- review not finished yet
Iciar Bollain's *Take My Eyes* is a powerful drama, getting right to the heart

of domestic abuse via superb writing and two excellent performances from the film's leads. It is a credible film because it is ambiguous and avoids clear cut, black-and-white answers to such a complex issue. In Spain, it help to drag violence in the home out from a veil of secrecy; it's a film with startling relevance to everyday life.
Dave Calhoun

EMPIRE

Take My Eyes
Starring: Laia Marull, Luis Tosar, Candela Peña

Domestic abuse is such a delicate subject that many filmmakers either gloss over it, or use it as a plot device to show a man's brutal side, never tackling its complexities and grey areas. However, Spanish director Iciar Bollain has bravely taken the topic as the focus of her film, as she examines the breakdown of the marriage between Pilar (Marull) and Antonio (Tosar), her troubled husband, struggling to express his love for her.

Far from being a depressing experience, it's romantic, frequently funny, and deeply inspirational. Bollain's direction is delicate throughout, her depiction of the abuse minimal yet powerful. The performances from Marull and Tosar, meanwhile, are superbly nuanced, carefully tweaking your emotions until they ensure that *Take My Eyes* is one of the most moving films you'll see this year.

Nick Dawson 4 stars

TOTAL FILM

TAKE MY EYES
Iciar Bollain's Goya-winning Spanish film tackles domestic abuse by humanising a story that could have been largely issues-driven. It is predictable, mind, even if necessarily so. When Pilar (Laia Marull) leaves her surly, cervesa-slugging spouse, Antonio (Luis Tosar), she shacks up with her sister, who learns of Pilar's repeated hospitalisations and begs her to ditch him. Instead, Antonio undergoes aggression therapy and woos Pilar back. But why would she go back? Can he really have changed?

Directing sparsely, Bollain lets the film rest on his cast, who explore their territory convincingly. While Marull turns from doormat to self-motivator, the implacably chin-heavy Tosar turns from brick-shithouse brutish to pathetic, Bollain implying that he could change - if he tries. Sure, Bollain backs himself into a dramatic corner with the persuasive but pat closing scenes. But by fleshing out its characters and leaving question marks, this is solid enough. ***

Kevin Harley



"Take My Eyes" | Certificate: 15 (TBC) | Running time 115 mins | Release date: 19 November 2004

