

NIE TIMELINE, TAKE THREE

A timeline of the drafting of the NIE and related items.

THE NIE AND ISRAEL

It sure looks like the withdraw of support for a UN statement supporting the Annapolis peace plan relates to the release of the NIE.

I DUNNO. IT LOOKS LIKE A BANANA REPUBLIC TO ME.

Zalmai Khalilzad schools Condi on what it means to run a bureaucracy in a Banana Republic.

INTELLIGENCE PUTS A CRIMP IN DICK'S WAR-MONGERING

After telling us they wouldn't release key judgments of the NIE on Iran, DNI did just that. More on why they did so.

THE MONDAY BEFORE TUESDAY

I don't believe we're going to wake up at the end of tomorrow, after the Annapolis conference, and discover peace has broken out across the Middle East. I'm not developing some newfound faith in Condi's ability to negotiate real diplomatic deals. But I am intrigued by the degree to which pieces are falling into place, just on the eve of tomorrow's conference.

First there was the news that Syria will attend the

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

Where have we seen this before: a Bush Administration gives vague guidance to our favored military dictator in a turbulent neighborhood, and the dictator takes a step that might destabilize the whole region.

The Bush Administration knew that Pakistani strongman Pervez Musharraf planned to institute emergency rule but did not act or speak out about the plan, according to officials with knowledge of the discussion who spoke anonymously in Friday's Wall Street Journal.

"In the days

PUTIN CAPTURES OPPONENT'S BISHOP

THE SAUDIS HAVE BEEN BUSY

The Saudis appear to be moving three chess pieces at once. I won't pretend to know what the moves mean. But I'd suggest that the coincidence of the three moves might suggest they're taking an upper hand in the US policy-making in the Middle East.

Nawaz Sharif

First data point: after preventing former Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif from returning to Pakistan several weeks ago, the Saudis now appear to be forcing his

NO, PAKISTAN WAS THE LAST BIG TEST. AND WE FAILED IT.

"Serious Person" Michael O'Hanlon and escalation surge architect Fred Kagan end their op-ed with the following words.

There was a time when volatility in places like Pakistan was mostly a humanitarian worry; today it is as much a threat to our basic security as Soviet tanks once were. We must be militarily and diplomatically prepared to keep ourselves safe in such a world.

OIL BUCKS

I'm a determined skeptic about broadcast "accidents." But for the life of me, I can't understand the precise goal of allowing a discussion about not discussing the falling dollar at the OPEC summit to be caught on tape. Here's the Financial Times' version of events—which depicts it as disagreement about the underlying issue.