# **Annex B.** Chronology 2005

#### NENNE BODELL

For the convenience of the reader, key words are indicated in the right-hand column, opposite each entry. Definitions of the abbreviations can be found on page xviii. The dates are according to local time.

3 Jan.	The US Special Representative of the President and Secretary of State for Mine Action, Lincoln P. Bloomfield, Jr, announces that the USA will terminate its use of any landmines that cannot be located with standard metal detectors, following the US landmine policy announced in Feb. 2004.	USA; Mines
4 Jan.	The Governor of Baghdad, Ali al-Haidri, is killed in a roadside ambush. The violence in Iraq escalates before the parliamentary elections to be held on 30 Jan.	Iraq
9 Jan.	Meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, representatives of the Sudanese Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) sign the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, providing for a sharing of revenues from natural resources and for partial autonomy for the south of Sudan.	Sudan
9 Jan.	Mahmoud Abbas (also known as Abu Mazen) wins the Palestinian presidential elections, and on 15 Jan. he is inaugurated as the new Palestinian President in Ramallah, the West Bank.	

26 Jan. Israeli officials state that Israel has stopped targeted killings Israel/ of Palestinian militants, following the announcement made Palestinians on 25 Jan. by two Palestinian militant groups, the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya (Hamas) and the Islamic Jihad, that they will suspend their attacks on Israel. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon decides to lift a ban on diplomatic contacts with the new Palestinian President.

30 Jan The first multi-party parliamentary elections in Iraq for more Iraq than 50 years are held.

Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, the Assembly of the African Union AU 31 Jan. (AU) adopts the African Union Non-aggression and Common Defence Pact, to reinforce cooperation among the AU member states in the areas of defence and security and to strengthen the Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution.

1 Feb. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolu- Côte d'Ivoire; tion 1584, strengthening the arms embargo imposed on Côte UN; Arms d'Ivoire in Nov. 2004; calling on the warring parties to establish comprehensive lists of the armaments they possess and their locations; and authorizing the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI), and the French forces supporting it, to monitor the implementation of the embargo.

28 Feb.

8 Feb. Meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Palestinian President Israel/ Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Palestinians announce a mutual ceasefire and a pledge to break the fouryear cycle of bloodshed and to restart the peace talks. 9 Feb. The second round of Asian Senior-level Talks on Non- Asia; Non-Proliferation (ASTOP) is held in Tokyo, Japan, to discuss proliferation strengthened non-proliferation measures. 10 Feb. The North Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs issues a state- North Korea; ment for the first time officially admitting that North Korea has Nuclear manufactured nuclear weapons 'for self-defence' and stating its weapons refusal to participate, for an indefinite period, in the continuation of the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) on its nuclear programme. 10 Feb. The NATO defence ministers decide at an informal meeting in Afghanistan; Nice, France, to extend the International Security Assistance NATO Force (ISAF) into the western regions of Afghanistan. 14 Feb. Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri is killed together Lebanon; Syria with some 15 people, and about 120 more are injured, in a car bomb attack in Beirut, Lebanon. The Lebanese Army is put on high alert after the attack. Syria is blamed for the assassination of Hariri. His death causes massive demonstrations in the streets of Beirut. 21–23 Feb. Under the auspices of the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI), Indonesia/Aceh led by former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, representatives of the Government of Indonesia and the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh Movement) meet in Helsinki, Finland. Discussions are held on a peaceful comprehensive settlement of the conflict in the Aceh province, including selfgovernment for Aceh. 24 Feb. The Government of Syria announces its decision to redeploy its Syria; Lebanon; troops stationed in Lebanon to the eastern Bekaa Valley, closer UN to the Syrian border. The redeployment will be carried out in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1559 of 2 Sep. 2004. 24 Feb. Meeting in Bratislava, Slovakia, US President George W. Bush USA; Russia; and Russian President Vladimir Putin issue a Joint Statement Terrorism on Nuclear Security Cooperation, on the enhancement of their bilateral cooperation aimed at combating nuclear terrorism. 27 Feb. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon threatens to freeze peace Israel/ efforts with the Palestinians following a suicide bomb attack in Palestinians Tel Aviv on 25 Feb. The Israeli Cabinet decides to suspend the plan to hand over control of five West Bank towns to the Palestinian Authority and to free 400 more prisoners.

Over 125 people are killed and more than 140 are wounded in a Iraq; Terrorism

massive car bomb attack in Hillah, south of Baghdad. This is the worst single attack in Iraq since the invasion of Mar. 2003. Meeting in Damascus, Syria, the Lebanese and Syrian pres- Lebanon; Syria idents, Emile Lahoud and Bashar al-Assad, respectively, sign an agreement formally approving the two-phase redeployment to the Bekaa Valley of Syrian troops stationed on Lebanese territory that was announced by Syria on 24 Feb.

8 Mar.

The Prime Minister of Kosovo and former commander of the Kosovo; ICTY Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), Ramush Haradinaj, resigns after being charged with war crimes in the 1998-99 Kosovo conflict by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) in The Hague, the Netherlands. Haradinaj states that he will cooperate fully with the ICTY.

8 Mar.

Chechen rebel leader Aslan Maskhadov is killed in a raid by Russian Army Special Forces in Tolstoy-Yurt, Chechnya.

Russia/ Chechnya

15 Mar.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1587, requesting Secretary-General Kofi Annan to re-establish the Monitoring Group to investigate the violations of the 1992 arms embargo in Somalia, including 'transfers of ammunition, single-use weapons and small arms'. On 11 Apr. the Secretary-General appoints four experts to the group.

Somalia: UN: Arms embargo

16 Mar.

Israel begins to withdraw its troops from Jericho, the West Israel/ Bank, following the plan presented in Feb. 2004 by Israeli Palestinians Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

20–24 Mar.

Following the disputed parliamentary elections in Feb. and in Kyrgyzstan Mar., opposition demonstrators take to the streets in Jalal-Abad and in several other cities in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan. On 24 Mar. pro-government forces clash with several thousand opposition protesters in Bishkek.

21 Mar.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan presents the report on UN UN reforms In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security and Human Rights for All to the General Assembly (see 14-16 Sep. and 20 Dec.).

24 Mar.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolution 1590, establishing the UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) for an initial period of six months. The mandate of UNMIS is to liaise and coordinate with the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS); to monitor and verify the ceasefire agreement; to set up a programme for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants; and to promote national reconciliation and human rights.

Sudan; UN; AU

29 Mar.

The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 12-0, with Sudan; UN; 3 abstentions (Algeria, China and Russia), Resolution 1591, Sanctions imposing sanctions on individuals committing atrocities in Darfur and strengthening the arms embargo on Sudan.

31 Mar.

The Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United USA; WMD States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction presents its report, offering 74 recommendations for improving the US intelligence community after the failure regarding the judgements about Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction.

31 Mar. The UN Security Council adopts, by a vote of 11-0, with Sudan; UN; 4 abstentions (Algeria, Brazil, China and the USA), Resolution 1593, deciding to refer any war crimes suspects from the Darfur region of Sudan to the International Criminal Court (ICC). The withdrawal of the US opposition to sending cases to the ICC represents a significant diplomatic change in the US policy. On 6 Apr. UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan hands to the ICC a list of 51 people who are allegedly involved in war crimes in Darfur.

ICC; USA

6 Apr. Meeting in Pretoria, South Africa, under the auspices of the Côte d'Ivoire; African Union (AU), representatives of the government and the rebel groups of Côte d'Ivoire sign a ceasefire agreement (the Pretoria Accord), agreeing to end hostilities, to start immediate disarmament and to hold elections during 2005.

13 Apr. The UN General Assembly unanimously adopts the Inter- UN; Terrorism national Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, criminalizing the possession by non-state actors of nuclear weapons and the threat of use by non-state actors of such weapons; and strengthening the international legal framework against terrorism. The convention will be open for signature at the UN from 14 Sep. 2005 until 31 Dec. 2006 and will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the 22nd ratification.

16 Apr. Meeting in Bouake, army chief Philippe Mangou and the chief Côte d'Ivoire of staff of the New Forces rebel group, Soumaila Bakayoko, agree on a provisional timetable for disarmament, to take place between 14 May and 31 July (see also 14 May). On 15 Apr. two ministers from the rebel groups return to the power-sharing government after a five-month absence.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolu- DRC; UN; 18 Apr. tion 1596, condemning the continued illicit flow of weapons Arms embargo into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and widening the existing arms embargo to include, for violators of the embargo, a travel ban and a freeze of assets.

20 Apr. The Israeli Army begins moving equipment and infrastructure Israel/ from its bases in the Gaza Strip in preparation for the troop Palestinians withdrawal from the Palestinian territory (see 13-20 July).

21 Apr. At the NATO-Russia Council Meeting in Vilnius, Lithuania, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov signs the Partnership for Peace Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), providing a legal framework for movements of military personnel and support staff to and from allied countries, partner countries and Russia. The agreement is based on the 1951 NATO Status of Forces Agreement.

Russia; NATO

22 Apr. Meeting in Chisinau, Moldova, the leaders of the GUAM GUAM; CIS; states—Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova—decide to Russia; revitalize the group (established in 1997) and use it as a vehicle Uzbekistan for integration with the Euro-Atlantic organizations outside the frameworks of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Russia. Uzbekistan does not participate in the meeting and on 5 May announces its withdrawal from the 'GUUAM' group, from which it had suspended its participation since 2002.

26 Apr. The last of the Syrian troops deployed in Lebanon since the Lebanon; Syria; civil war of 1976 are withdrawn. A formal ceremony marking UN the completion of the Syrian withdrawal is held at the Rayaq Air Base in the eastern Bekaa Valley. A UN mission is sent to Lebanon to verify the withdrawal of troops, military assets and intelligence. On 23 May the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, confirms that the withdrawal is completed.

26 Apr. The US Iraq Survey Group (ISG) is officially closed down Iraq; USA; after publishing an addendum to the Final Report on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (WMD), issued in Oct. 2004. The Head of the ISG, Charles Duelfer, states that inquiries into WMD in Iraq have 'gone as far as feasible'.

30 Apr. The EU Police Mission in Kinshasa in the Democratic Repub- DRC; EU; lic of the Congo (EUPOL Kinshasa) is launched. It is the first ESDP EU civil crisis management mission in Africa and comes under the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP).

2-27 May The seventh Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non- NPT; Nuclear Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is held in New York. The conference ends without having adopted any decision or recommendation for future nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

14 May Meeting in Yamoussoukro, representatives from the Côte Côte d'Ivoire d'Ivoire national armed forces and the New Forces rebel group sign an agreement on the process of disarmament and demobilization of the belligerents. On 13 June the political leaders of the opposition forces issue a statement that, owing to the lack of political and technical conditions for implementation of the agreement, the disarmament plan cannot proceed as planned.

26 May Taking part in the pledging conference on financial and Sudan; AU; logistical support for the AU Mission in Sudan (AMIS), held in EU; NATO Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the EU and NATO both pledge to support the mission with logistics and training. The conference raises pledges of \$291 million.

30 May Meeting in Moscow, the foreign ministers of Georgia and Georgia; Russia, Salome Zurabishvili and Sergei Lavrov, respectively, Russia; Military issue a joint statement on the closure of Russia's military bases bases in Akhalkalaki and Batumi, Georgia. The withdrawal of the Russian forces will be completed in 2008.

8 June The EU Advisory and Assistance Mission for DRC Security DRC; EU Sector Reform (EUSEC DR Congo) is launched.

18 June

Representatives of the Government of Sudan and the Sudan opposition group National Democratic Alliance (NDA) sign, in Cairo, Egypt, a national reconciliation agreement under which the NDA is granted a place in the power-sharing administration set up in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed by the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A) on 9 Jan. The Cairo Agreement does not include the conflict in the Darfur region (see 5 July).

18 June

Following the referendums in France and in the Netherlands, France; which resulted in no-votes to the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, the Brussels European Council adopts the Declaration by the Heads of State or Government of the Member States of the European Union on the Ratification of the Treaty Establishing a Constitution for Europe, agreeing on a period of reflection on the new situation. The ratification process is stalled and will be discussed again in 2006.

Netherlands:

5 July

Meeting in Abuja, Nigeria, under the auspices of the African Sudan; AU Union (AU), the Sudanese Government, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) sign the Declaration of Principles for the Resolution of the Sudanese Conflict in Darfur, including democracy and regional devolution. Further negotiations are held, but no decisive agreements are reached.

6–8 July

The leaders of the Group of Eight (G8) leading industrialized nations, meeting in Gleneagles, UK, issue a statement on nonproliferation, reaffirming that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and international terrorism remain the preeminent threats to international peace and security; and agree to provide extra resources for Africa's peacekeeping forces, and that all debts owed by eligible heavily indebted countries should be cancelled.

G8: Nonproliferation; WMD: Peacekeeping

7 July

In a series of coordinated attacks four bombs explode in the UK; Terrorism; underground network and on a bus in London, killing at least 38 people and wounding 700. On 14 July four suicide bombers are named after the finding in Leeds of explosives similar to those used in other attacks.

al-Oaeda

9 July

In accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement Sudan signed on 9 Jan., the Government of National Unity is inaugurated, with former rebel leader of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM), John Garang, as vice-president, and the new Sudanese constitution comes into force.

9 July

Meeting in Yamoussoukro, Côte d'Ivoire, representatives of Côte d'Ivoire the Côte d'Ivoire national armed forces and the New Forces rebel group sign an agreement on a new timetable for disarmament, under which 40 500 rebels and 15 000 government troops are due to disarm before the presidential elections scheduled for 30 Oct. (The elections are later postponed by the UN Security Council owing to lack of cooperation from the New Forces and opposition parties, and President Gbagbo remains in office).

11–15 July The UN Second Biennal Meeting of States to Consider the UN; SALW Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects is held in New York.

13–20 July Ahead of the Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territory, Israel/
Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon orders the Gaza Strip closed and forbids entry to non-residents. This also applies to the four West Bank settlements from which Israel is due to withdraw in mid-Aug. Anti-withdrawal activists clash with the police and soldiers at a crossing point for Gaza settlers on the Israeli border.

Meeting in Washington, DC, US President George W. Bush USA; India; and Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announce the US— Nuclear energy India Civil Nuclear Cooperation Initiative. Under the agreement India will receive access to US civil nuclear technology; it will place its nuclear facilities under IAEA safeguards; and it will adhere to the guidelines of the Nuclear Suppliers Group and the Missile Technology Control Regime.

23 July Three bombs explode in the tourist resort Sharm al-Sheikh, Egypt; killing at least 80 people and injuring some 200. Several Terrorism Islamist groups claim responsibility for the bombings.

26 July–
 7 Aug.
 The Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, North Korea;
 7 Aug.
 South Korea, Russia and the USA) on the North Korean Nuclear nuclear programme is reopened in Beijing for the fourth round. weapons
 On 7 Aug., after 13 days of deadlocked negotiations, the talks go into recess until 13 Sep.

28 July The Irish Republican Army (IRA) issues a statement in which Northern it formally orders an end to its armed campaign and declares Ireland; IRA that it will pursue its goals exclusively through political means.

1 Aug. The Government of Sudan announces the death of Vice-President John Garang. On 30 July the helicopter he was travelling in when returning to Sudan after attending meetings in Rwakitura, Uganda, had crashed. Riots after the announcement are reported from Khartoum and from southern Sudan.

1 Aug. The Government of Iran states in a letter to the International Iran; IAEA; Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that it will break the seals on the Esfahan nuclear plant placed there by the IAEA in Nov. 2004 and resume its uranium conversion. On 10 Aug. all seals are removed under the supervision of the IAEA, which also installs equipment to monitor the activities.

11 Aug. At an emergency meeting, the International Atomic Energy Iran; IAEA; Agency (IAEA) adopts Resolution GOV/2005/64, calling on Iran to halt its nuclear fuel development. Iran resumed its uranium conversion at Esfahan on 10 Aug. (see 16 Nov.).

12 Aug. The Foreign Minister of Sri Lanka, Lakshman Kadirgamar, is Sri Lanka assassinated in a gun attack in Colombo. The government blames the separatist group the Liberation Tigers of the Tamil Eelam (LTTE) for the killing. The LTTE denies involvement. On 17 Aug. the government calls for a review of the 2002 ceasefire agreement.

15 Aug. Meeting in Helsinki, Finland, representatives of the Govern- Indonesia/ ment of Indonesia and the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh; ASEAN; Aceh Movement) sign a Memorandum of Understanding, con- EU firming the peace agreement agreed on 17 July. Under the agreement the Aceh province is to be governed by a new law; all non-local military and police forces are to be withdrawn; all hostilities are to cease and the GAM is to disarm; amnesty is to be granted to GAM members; a truth and reconciliation commission is to be established; and the Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM) is to be set up by ASEAN and the EU. Withdrawal of the government troops begins on 22 Aug. (see 29 Dec.).

15-23 Aug. The deadline for the withdrawal from the Israeli settlements in Israel/ the Gaza Strip issued by the Israeli Army on 9 Aug. expires. Palestinians On 17 Aug. Israeli forces begin an operation to evict settlers resisting the orders. On 23 Aug. the evacuation of settlers from the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, in line with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's withdrawal plan, is completed.

28 Aug. The draft constitution of Iraq is approved by the Iraqi interim Iraq parliament. On 15 Oct. a referendum approves the constitution and on 15 Dec. parliamentary elections are held (see 15 Dec.).

31 Aug. More than 600 people are killed in a stampede of Shia pilgrims Iraq; Terrorism in Baghdad after motar rounds are fired into the crowd and rumours spread that suicide bombers are in the crowd. No group claims responsibility for the attack, allegedly intended to foment sectarian tensions.

11 Sep. Israel declares a formal end to military rule in the Gaza Strip Israel/ and withdraws the remaining Israeli troops.

Palestinians

14 Sep. The UN Security Council, meeting at the level of Head of State UN; Terrorism; and Government, unanimously adopts Resolutions 1624 and Conflict 1625, calling for strengthened steps against terrorism and for a prevention stronger role for the UN in preventing conflict, particularly in Africa.

14 Sep. Over 150 people are killed and hundreds are injured in a series Iraq; Terrorism of bomb attacks and shootings across Iraq in one of the most severe outbreaks of violence since the invasion of Mar. 2003.

14-16 Sep. The 2005 World Summit, the High-level Plenary Meeting of UN the 60th UN General Assembly, is held in New York. The meeting is presented with the reform package drawn up by Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report of 21 Mar. The Summit decides to establish a UN Peacebuilding Commission and a Human Rights Council (see 20 Dec.). On the questions of non-proliferation and disarmament no decisions are taken.

18 Sep. The first parliamentary and local elections in more than Afghanistan 30 years are held in Afghanistan. The final results are accepted and published on 15 Nov.

19 Sep. Meeting in Beijing on 13-19 Sep., for the reopened fourth North Korea; round of the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Nuclear Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA), North Korea agrees weapons; NPT to abandon all its nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programmes and return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) at an early date; the USA affirms that it has no intention to attack or invade North Korea. The parties agree to hold the fifth round of the talks in early Nov. (see 9–11 Nov.)

20 Sep. North Korea states that it will not abandon its nuclear pro- North Korea; gramme or return to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Nuclear Weapons (NPT) unless it is given a light-water nuclear weapons; NPT reactor, thereby undermining the agreement of 19 Sep.

21-23 Sep. The fourth Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of CTBT the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) is held at the UN Headquarters, New York. A final declaration is adopted, reaffirming the international community's determination to continue to work towards early entry into force of the treaty.

24 Sep. Meeting in Vienna, Austria, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors adopts, by a vote of 22 in Safeguards favour, 1 against and 12 abstentions, Resolution GOV/2005/77 on the implementation of safeguards in Iran, stating that Iran's failures and breaches constitute non-compliance and calling on Iran to return to the negotiation process.

26 Sep. The Independent International Commission on Decommission- Northern Ireland; IRA ing (IICD) announces that the Irish Republican Army (IRA) has completed the arms decommissioning initiated in May 2000.

2 Oct. Three bomb attacks in the two tourist areas, Kuta and Indonesia; Jimbaran, in Bali, kill at least 26 people and injure over 50. No Terrorism group claims responsibility for the bombings. The attacks come almost exactly three years after the terrorist bombings of Oct. 2002.

3 Oct. Meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, the Indian and Pakistani India/Pakistan; foreign ministers sign the Agreement on Pre-notification of Missiles Flight Testing of Ballistic Missiles, aiming to reduce tension between the two countries.

4 Oct. The Eritrean Government imposes a ban on all helicopter Eritrea/ flights by the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). Ethiopia; UN On 14 Oct. further restrictions are imposed on the activities of UNMEE through limitations on night patrols.

8 Oct.	The peace process between India and Pakistan is accelerated by the devastating earthquake that strikes the Kashmir region in Pakistan and results in a humanitarian catastrophe, killing over 55 000 people and making 3 million people homeless. After a formal request from the Government of Pakistan, on 11 Oct. NATO launches its second disaster relief operation.	
13 Oct.	At least 86 people are killed in a rebel attack targeting police stations and military installations in the city of Nalchik, Kabardino-Balkaria. On 17 Oct. Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev claims responsibility for the attack.	
19 Oct.	The trial against former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and seven other defendants opens at the Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST) in Baghdad. Hussein and his co-defendants plead not guilty to the charges of ordering the killing of 148 Shia men in Dujail in 1982.	Iraq; IST
26 Oct.	The US Director of National Intelligence releases the National Intelligence Strategy of the United States of America, establishing the strategic objectives for the US intelligence community.	USA
27 Oct.	The UN Independent Inquiry Committee (IIC), chaired by Paul A. Volcker, releases its final Report on the Manipulation of the Oil-for-Food Programme (the Volcker Report), finding instances of 'illicit, unethical and corrupt' behaviour and blaming UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan for mismanagement.	UN; Iraq
29 Oct.	Three explosions occurring in near succession in New Delhi kill over 60 people. The previously little-known group Inqilabi claims that it carried out the attacks.	India; Terrorism
9 Nov.	Three near-simultaneous suicide bomb attacks on foreign- owned hotels in Amman kill at least 56 people and injure about 100. Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of the al-Qaeda Organ- ization in Mesopotamia, claims responsibility for the attacks.	Jordan; Terrorism; al-Qaeda
9–11 Nov.	The fifth round of the Six-Party Talks (between China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) is held in Beijing. The meeting ends with no other progress than the reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to implement the agreement reached on 19 Sep.	
10 Nov.	UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appoints former Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari as the Special Envoy for the Future Status Process for Kosovo, to lead the political process to determine the future status of Kosovo in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999). Ahtisaari visits the region on 21–27 Nov.	UN; Kosovo
14 Nov.	Meeting in Brussels, the Council of the EU adopts Common Position 2005/792/CFSP concerning restrictive measures against Uzbekistan, including an arms embargo.	Uzbekistan; EU; Arms embargo
16 Nov.	Iran starts a second round of uranium conversion at the Esfahan plant despite heavy pressure from the USA and the E3 (France, Germany and the LIK) to goese all its nuclear activity.	Iran; Uranium; USA; E3

Germany and the UK) to cease all its nuclear activity.

23 Nov. The UN Security Council unanimously adopts Resolu- Eritrea/ tion 1640, demanding that both Ethiopia and Eritrea return to the 16 Dec. 2004 level of troop deployment; demanding that Ethiopia accept fully and without further delay the final and binding decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission; and demanding that Eritrea reverse its decisions from Oct. on the restrictions imposed on the UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE).

Ethiopia; UN

25 Nov. The Rafah crossing on the Gaza Strip border with Egypt is Israel/ reopened under Palestinian control and under the supervision Palestinians; of the EU Border Assistance Mission for the Rafah Crossing (EU BAM Rafah). The border station was closed by Israel on 7 Sep., shortly after withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, after holding it for almost 40 years.

6 Dec. The Government of Eritrea requests members of the UN Eritrea/ Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE) who are nationals of Ethiopia; UN the USA, Canada and Europe, including Russia, to leave the country within 10 days, without giving any reason. The UN Security Council and the UN Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, condemn the decision.

7 Dec. Former Croatian General Ante Gotovina is arrested on Croatia; ICTY Tenerife, Canary Islands, Spain. He is brought to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), The Hague, the Netherlands, on 10 Dec., indicted for the death of about 150 Serb civilians during a Croatian offensive in the Krajina region in 1995.

11 Dec. North Korea announces that the Six-Party Talks (between North Korea; China, Japan, North Korea, South Korea, Russia and the USA) Nuclear on its nuclear programme are suspended 'for an indefinite weapons; period' unless the USA lifts the financial sanctions it has Sanctions imposed on North Korea.

15 Dec. The EU Police Advisory Team in the Former Yugoslav Repub- EU; FYROM lic of Macedonia (EUPAT) replaces the EU Police Mission in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (EUPOL PROXIMA), launched in Dec. 2003.

15 Dec. The first full-term parliamentary elections to the National Iraq Assembly since the invasion of Mar. 2003 are held in Iraq. Election officials report a high turnout of all the ethnic groups. The voting takes place amid a massive security operation with around 150 000 Iraqi soldiers and police, backed by US forces.

20 Dec. The UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly UN unanimously adopt Resolutions 1645 and 1646, and Resolution A/RES/60/180, establishing the Peacebuilding Commission originally proposed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan in his report of 21 Mar. and decided by the 14-16 Sep. World Summit. The commission is to be an inter-governmental advisory body to help stabilize and rebuild countries emerging from war and prevent them from relapsing into conflict.

29 Dec.

In Lhokseumawe, Aceh, a ceremony takes place marking the Indonesia/Aceh final withdrawal of the Indonesian armed forces from Aceh. On 19 Dec. the Gerakan Aceh Merdeka (GAM, Free Aceh Movement) decommissioned the last of the 840 weapons referred to in the peace agreement reached between GAM and the Indonesian Government on 15 Aug.