

THE GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE MONITORING CENTER



AN ANALYTICAL INTELLIGENCE WIRE PREPARED BY THE STUDENTS OF EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRESCOTT, ARIZONA.

NUMBER 313
28 September 2018

In This Issue:

BRIEFS

BRITAIN: Releases Papers to Prepare Citizens for a No-Deal Brexit

DR CONGO: Violence Likely to Disrupt Ebola Containment

IRAN: Government Threatens Response to Terrorist Attack on Military Parade

JAPAN: PM Shinzo Abe Reelected for Historic Third Term Despite Mixed Public Support

INDIA: Violence in Kashmir Continues to Hinder Peace Negotiations

MALDIVES: Opposition Party Wins Presidential Election, Giving Way to New Relations

RUSSIA: Upgrades Air-Defenses in Syria, Inciting Wariness in Israel

RUSSIA: Voters Reject Pro-Kremlin Candidates in Regional Races

VENEZUELA: Chinese Financial and Medical Aid May Indicate an Economic Revolution

BRIEFS

BRITAIN: Releases Papers to Prepare Citizens for a No-Deal Brexit

Summary: Britain released documents preparing citizens and businesses in case Britain and the EU fail to reach a Brexit agreement, which will likely unnerve citizens and put more pressure on the government to avoid a no-deal Brexit scenario.

Development: On 24 September, the British government released a second round of documents that address various contingencies should Britain and the EU fail to reach a Brexit deal by 29 March 2019. The government released a first set of documents on 12 September, as the British government prepares for an exit from the EU without a formal deal in place, a scenario the government warns is possible given the stalled negotiations. The papers state that airlines would need a separate license to operate between the EU and UK, which would ground all flights between the two unless the governments agree to waive the requirement. Britain has also warned that food products made in Britain would become illegal for sale due to product labeling technicalities. The papers cover many other issues, including transferring pets from the EU to UK, vehicle insurance for British citizens in the EU, and copyright laws after Brexit.

Analysis: The very publishing of these documents indicates some in the government likely believe a Brexit deal will not happen. They may also create the perception that the government is now preparing for a no-deal as opposed to doubling down on negotiations with the EU, which would likely create more unease among British citizens. Given that these documents outline a largely negative future for Britain, their release will likely also bolster support for a second Brexit referendum. No matter the support however, a second referendum appears unlikely given British Prime Minister Theresa May's stated refusal to hold one, and the limited time before the Brexit deadline to organize, campaign for, and hold a vote. May will now likely face even more pressure to avoid a no-deal Brexit, as failure to do so will almost certainly ruin her administration's credibility and may even force her to resign as Prime Minister.

[Zach Coffee zach.coffee.ee@gmail.com]

DR CONGO: Violence Likely to Disrupt Ebola Containment

Summary: Recent increases of violence in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have temporarily halted humanitarian aid and Ebola outreach programs, damaging multiple efforts to contain Ebola, which threatens to spread to Uganda.

Development: On 22 September, the Allied Defense Force (ADF) killed 21 people in the city of Beni in eastern DRC. Since 2014, the ADF, a Ugandan rebel group, has caused over 1,500 deaths

and 800 kidnappings. Their most recent attack in Beni halted all Ebola outreach programs in the area, according to the World Health Organization (WHO), as well as other humanitarian aid agencies such as the Norwegian Refugee Council. The DRC's health ministry reports that the latest Ebola outbreak has infected at least 118 people and killed 69 in the last two months. Despite the growing threat of Ebola, some of the local population have fled treatment due to mistrust in both the government and international aid programs.

Analysis: The increased violence in the region will almost certainly hinder the ability of the WHO to contain the Ebola outbreak in eastern DRC, posing an imminent threat to neighboring nations. The ADF will not likely stop its militant actions against the DRC's government forces despite the danger the Ebola outbreak poses to DRC's population as well as the Ugandan population. The public's mistrust in the government and its desire to escape the violence from rebel forces will likely cause an increase in refugees fleeing the region rather than seeking government or international aid. As a result, Ebola will probably spread to neighboring Uganda with the influx of refugees if aid programs cannot continue working due to security concerns. If so, international aid programs may have to widen their reach of containment to prevent an Ebola epidemic from engulfing Africa.

[Robert B. Lundgren]

[IRAN: Government Threatens Response to Terrorist Attack on Military Parade](#)

Summary: Iran is attempting to unite the country by accusing a recent terrorist attack on adversary nations, shifting focus from its growing economic and social problems.

Development: On 22 September, four gunmen attacked a military parade of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) in the city of Ahvaz killing 29 and wounding 70, including both IRGC members and civilians. The IRGC quickly responded to the attack, killing the gunmen on sight. The armed group al-Ahvaziya and the Islamic State have both claimed this attack, while other reports point to the Ahvaz National Resistance Group (ANRG). Iranian President Hassan Rouhani vowed a crushing response against those responsible for the attack while the Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, claimed the US, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have sponsored these terrorist attacks. Iran's government has stood firm in stating that it will retaliate against the guilty parties of the terror attack.

Analysis: The al-Ahvaziya group most likely carried out the attack with support from the ANRG due to their common goals and interests as an ethnic group. IS may have claimed the attack, but had little to gain from the attack and no evidence supports its involvement. Speculation that IS and al-Ahvaziya acted together appears ill-founded due to their differing ideals and extremism. Therefore, the IRGC and security forces may seek out radical members of ANRG and al-Ahvaziya in the coming weeks, which could potentially lead to a military offensive against the groups to discourage future attacks. The Iranian government will likely continue to push the blame for the attack on the US and its allies in the region to deflect from the growing turmoil

within Iran from economic struggles, social injustice, and the citizens' lack of faith in the government. This may prompt Iran to unite against a common enemy as thousands of Iranians attending the victim's funerals have been reportedly chanting for the fall of the US.

[Cassie Hettmansperger, cassie.hettmansperger.ee@gmail.com]

JAPAN: PM Shinzo Abe Reelected for Historic Third Term Despite Mixed Public Support

Summary: Japan's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) reelected Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to serve a historic third term as the prime minister of Japan, but Abe will likely have difficulty achieving his policy goals due to mixed public support.

Development: On 20 September, Japan's ruling LDP reelected Abe as its leader, making him the first Japanese prime minister to serve a third term. Abe's campaign focused on the continuation of his economic policies, as well as his plan to propose a constitutional amendment to allow for the creation of an offensive military unit. The current pacifist constitution only allows Japan to maintain a military for self-defense purposes. In a recent poll, the Japan Broadcasting Corporation found that only 18% of Japanese voters would support this type of amendment.

Analysis: Despite his historic reelection, Abe will likely have difficulty achieving his agenda due to a lack of support for his objectives. Many Japanese voters feel that they have not benefitted from the economic policies that Abe supports and likely wish to see a change in such policies. Very few voters support Abe's plan to amend the constitution to allow for the establishment of an offensive military unit, as such an amendment would go against the exclusively defense-oriented security policy Japan has upheld since the end of WWII. If Abe chooses to officially propose this amendment, its affirmation would require a majority in a referendum and approval from two-thirds of both houses of parliament. Currently, with only 18% of voters supporting a constitutional amendment, it seems very unlikely that the parliament would approve the proposal. If Abe wishes to fulfill his agenda, he will need to change the minds of many Japanese voters by earning back their trust and confidence in him as he takes on his historical third term.
[Brandon Nepute]

INDIA: Violence in Kashmir Continues to Hinder Peace Negotiations

Summary: India and Pakistan ceased negotiations after recent violence in Kashmir. Negotiations will not likely resume soon due to the persistence of violence and each country's push for its own policy in the region.

Development: On 21 September, an unknown militant group killed three Indian police officers in Kashmir. The Indian foreign ministry claimed that the militants were "Pakistan-based entities" that allegedly pressured the police officers to resign, and previously took family members of police personnel hostage until police released other militants in return. After the killings, India

rescinded its agreement to participate in peace talks with Pakistan stalled since 2015. India also criticized Pakistan for its malicious agenda and claimed that Islamabad glorifies terrorism. India and Pakistan have clashed over Kashmir since gaining their independence in 1947, with few successful attempts to negotiate or cooperate since. In 2003, India and Pakistan successfully negotiated a ceasefire in the region, however, more recent attempts to negotiate peace have failed, and violence in the region remains prevalent.

Analysis: Although India and Pakistan could both gain by mitigating border violence, their cooperation appears unlikely in the foreseeable future. Conflict on the border of the two countries continues to impede negotiations, which has created a paradoxical relationship between peace and violence in Kashmir: both countries need to negotiate to mitigate the violence as they did in 2003, yet both countries must first put an end to the violence to begin negotiations. Additionally, both countries probably are using this conflict to pursue their own interests despite their outspoken verbal intent to cooperate. India will almost certainly continue to pursue policies counter to China's One Belt One Road Initiative, along with more counter-terrorism policies for the region. Meanwhile Pakistan will likely gain more influence in Kashmir with the Muslim majority by pursuing policies counter to India's security-heavy anti-terror policy for the region. Regardless, cooperation will remain almost impossible unless one country can move past its own self-interests or the violence ensuing in Kashmir.

[Parker Labine]

MALDIVES: Opposition Party Wins Presidential Election, Giving Way to New Relations

Summary: The Maldives presidential election saw the ruling party, loyal to China, replaced by an opposition party open to the West, indicating a possible shift in the country's relations.

Development: On 24 September, Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) leader Ibrahim Mohamed Solih defeated former Maldives President Abdulla Yameen in the presidential election, which had a high voting turnout rate of 89%. The US and India welcomed Solih's win, as Yameen had built a close relationship with China during his presidency, allowing it to invest heavily in the country and increase its presence in the Indian Ocean (to India's discontent). Leading up to the election, Yameen's administration had jailed opposing politicians, stating that he would not accept any challenge to his rule. To this, India's Ministry of External Affairs commended Solih's win, as it marked a "triumph of democratic forces" in the Maldives.

Analysis: Solih's election to the presidency will probably cause a shift in relations away from China and towards the West and India. Given Solih's pro-democratic platform, the West and India will likely step in and create a closer bond with the Maldives to steer it away from China's influence—which Solih would probably welcome. Consequently, China likely fears it will lose its grip on the Maldives and on its strategic location in the Indian Ocean, which Beijing may have planned to use for its Belt and Road Initiative or for establishing a strong naval presence there, as it has in the South China Sea. Although past and current Chinese investments in the

Maldives will likely remain under Solih, his new administration will probably not further engage with China or allow future investments in the country, but instead look to the West or India. As for the new administration, this election will most likely pave the way for a future with free elections and an end to strong-man government, as the Maldivians' choice in their presidential elect reflects their desire for change and a more democratic leader and government.

[Tyler Wilkins, tyler.wilkins.ee@gmail.com]

RUSSIA: Upgrades Air-Defenses in Syria, Inciting Wariness in Israel

Summary: Russia's deployment of S-300s and other countermeasures in Syria signals an escalation of Russian involvement that may further strain Russian-Israeli relations. This move may likely inhibit Israeli operations targeting Iranian proxies in Syria and may also affect American led operations in the region.

Development: On 24 September, Russia announced that it would supply S-300 surface-to-air missile systems to Syria within two weeks. The announcement came after Russia blamed Israel for the 17 September downing of a Russian Il-20 reconnaissance plane by a Syrian launched S-200 SAM. The announcement also detailed plans to equip Syrian command posts and military air defense units with automated control systems. Russia has also planned to suppress satellite navigation, airborne radar, and communications systems electronics of aircraft over the Mediterranean Sea off Syria's coast.

Analysis: The deployment of the more reliable S-300s in Syria indicates a potential setback in Russian-Israeli relations as well as possible friction with the US, as the deployment also threatens US-led coalition air operations in Syria. The 250 km range of the S-300 will allow systems to cover northern Israel and Syria's western coastline, which will severely limit Israel's air capabilities and effectiveness against Hezbollah and other Iranian proxies in the region. Russia's decision to deploy the S-300s reverses a policy passed in April—at Israel's request—to delay the deployment of the S-300s in Syria. However, Russia almost certainly did not do this in retaliation for the downing of its plane, but instead deployed the S-300s and the additional installments to prevent another such calamity from recurring. Given that, Russia will unlikely further hinder Israeli operations against Iranian-backed targets in Syria, as it probably wishes to mend their strained relations from the recent incident.

[Nicholas Hughes]

RUSSIA: Voters Reject Pro-Kremlin Candidates in Regional Races

Summary: As Kremlin-backed candidates fail to win run-off elections amid widespread anger over pension reforms, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his United Russia party will likely need to recalibrate to secure its place among Russian voters and win over the Far East.

Development: As of 25 September, two opposition candidates defeated United Russia candidates backed by the Kremlin in gubernatorial run-offs in Russia's Far East regions after United Russia candidates failed to win first-round elections on 9 September. In the Far East Khabarovsk region, Sergei Furgal of the Liberal Democratic Party (LDPR) defeated governor Vyacheslav Shport of United Russia. Similarly, in Vladimir Oblast, LDPR candidate Vladimir Sipyagin secured victory over incumbent Svetlana Orlova of United Russia. Despite LDPR's name, the party espouses nationalism and undemocratic views with reported links to the mafia. Another Far East region, Primorsky Krai, saw a Communist party candidate poised to win until the United Russia candidate won at the end of the ballot count. Election observers and opposition candidates quickly spoke out against the win, claiming illegal interference with the results in favor of United Russia. Despite being categorized as opposition parties, critics view LDPR and the Communist Party as ultimately loyal to the United Russia-dominated Kremlin.

Analysis: Although the LDPR and the Communist Party generally prove pliant for Putin and United Russia, regional rivalry and opposition victories are embarrassing for United Russia as the dominant party across Russia. The elections occurred during major discontent over proposed pension reforms revealed earlier in 2018, resulting in continued protests and a drop in Putin's approval ratings. Against this backdrop, Russian voters opposed the ruling party whenever possible, even turning in ballots for candidates from historically reviled parties like LDPR and the Communist Party. These events may signal a deeper rift forming between United Russia and Russian voters, and the Kremlin would need to recalibrate if voters continue rejecting the president's candidates. Additionally, United Russia losing its foothold in the Far East region affects the Kremlin's ability to maintain presence in the region. As Russia turns away from the West, the Far East region becomes increasingly important due to its proximity to China, Japan, and South Korea—Moscow's major prospective trade partners. Losing a central presence in the region could prove risky for Putin and United Russia as economic troubles continue to grow. The 8,000 miles of distance between Moscow and the Far East also point to the possibility of the Far East regions resisting further, as the region views itself on the fringe of the Kremlin's empire. Further attempts by United Russia to regain power in the Far East, as the election rigging in Primorsky Krai, will likely add to dissent, posing a threat to Putin's governance and economic hopes.

[Gianna Geiger, gianna.geiger.ee@gmail.com]

[VENEZUELA: Chinese Financial and Medical Aid May Indicate an Economic Revolution](#)

Summary: A Chinese naval hospital ship docked in a Venezuelan port to provide free medical care to civilians. President Maduro will likely accept all forms of aid to possibly strengthen an economic alliance with China.

Development: On 22 September, a Chinese naval hospital ship, the Peace Ark, docked in the Venezuelan port of La Guaira near the capital of Caracas. Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino stood on-site to greet the Chinese crew on behalf of Venezuela's government. The hospital vessel

will provide free medical care to the mass of civilians who struggle to survive amid Venezuela's humanitarian crisis. The ship's commander will meet with policy officials and military leaders to inspect local medical facilities. Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro visited Beijing last week to discuss the worsening crisis and to possibly seek new loans and investments from China. During the meeting, Maduro approved the arrival and one-week stay of the hospital ship. Reports claim that Chinese President Xi Jinping and Maduro signed 28 trade and investment deals to pave a path for an "economic revolution" under the influence of the Chinese economic system. Reports also claim that the two countries will invest up to \$5 billion to rebuild Venezuela's oil industry.

Analysis: Venezuela and China appear to share a close alliance, but Caracas probably intends the welcoming of the Chinese hospital ship to mask the severity of Venezuela's crisis. Although Xi Jinping has shown support for Maduro's regime, China will likely refrain from dumping money directly into Venezuela's economy outside from the investment deal to rebuild the country's oil production industry. While Maduro's administration accepts China's financial and humanitarian aid with open arms, China is likely exploiting the crisis in Venezuela to increase its own global influence and reap potential profits from the investments and loans. Regardless, Maduro will likely not decline further support because he will want to publicly show any progress that Venezuela makes toward recovery from its crisis. Therefore, the arrival of the Chinese hospital ship, in addition to Maduro's visit to Beijing, might foreshadow a path to a Chinese stronghold on Venezuela's recovery process, possibly including a great deal of influence over its oil industry. This alliance will probably gain strength in the coming years as Maduro just began his second 6-year term in office in May and China's support likely has the potential to bring about significant economic improvement in Venezuela—while benefiting China.

[Ashlee Boyle, ashlee.boyle.ee@gmail.com]

THIS IS A GLOBAL INTELLIGENCE BRIEFING PREPARED BY THE STUDENTS OF THE GLOBAL SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE STUDIES PROGRAM AT EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY IN PRESCOTT, ARIZONA. THE VIEWS EXPRESSED IN THIS BRIEFING ARE THOSE OF THE STUDENTS, NOT THE UNIVERSITY. FOR QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS, CONTACT DALE AVERY, (928) 777-4708 OR THE EAGLE EYE EDITING BOARD:

Gianna Geiger: gianna.geiger.ee@gmail.com
Bea Francia: bea.francia.ee@gmail.com
Caitlyn Aaron: caitlyn.aaron.ee@gmail.com
Cade Seely: cade.seely.ee@gmail.com
Zachary Coffee: zach.coffee.ee@gmail.com
Cassie Hettmansperger: cassie.hettmansperger.ee@gmail.com
Ashlee Boyle: ashlee.boyle.ee@gmail.com
Tyler Wilkins: tyler.wilkins.ee@gmail.com