An Abrupt Climate Change Scenario and Its Implications for United States National Security; Peter Schwartz and Doug Randall, Global Business Network

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**Turnabout Is Fair Play**

In February the State Department released its annual report on human-rights abuses in 196 countries and regions; a 50,000-word report on China documented extra-judicial killings, religious persecution, torture, and the detention of 250,000 Chinese in "reeducation-through-labor" camps. Not to be outdone, China's State Council a week later released "The Human Rights Record of the United States in 2003." The report, reproduced in full in the ruling party's official *People's Daily*, begins, "As in previous years, the United States once again acted as 'the world human rights police' by distorting and censoring... the human rights situations across more than 190 countries and regions in the world, including China. And just as usual, the United States once again 'omitted' its own long-standing malpractice and problems of human rights in the 'reports.' Therefore, we have to, as before, help the United States keep its human rights record:"

With a smattering of items drawn from U.S. news reports and Web sites, China highlights America's chronic problems—a high murder rate, a huge and rapidly growing prison population, increases in child poverty, and a rising number of people without health insurance—and fleshes out the story with anecdotes of Patriot Act abuses, school shootings, and police brutality. Political freedom is said to be a sham: "The presidential election, often symbolized as U.S. democracy, in fact is the game and competition for the rich people." As for the First Amendment, "the so-called 'freedom of press'... speech and expression of opinion in the United States is amid a crisis," exemplified by the Jayson Blair scandal and NBC's decision to fire Peter Arnett for comments unsympathetic to the U.S. on Iraqi state television. The report accuses the United States of "sabre-rattling and launching wars," and lavishes particular attention on civilian deaths in Iraq and Afghanistan.

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**An Iraqi Jerusalem?**

For a preview of the ethnic wrangling that may await post-occupation Iraq, consider the northern Iraqi city of Kirkuk, where three people were killed and thirty-one injured in December when 2,000 Arabs took to the streets to protest not American but, rather, Kurdish rule. As a new survey compiled by the Norwegian Refugee Council points out, for twenty years northern Iraq's Kurds were the victims of Saddam Hussein—first in a 1970s program of "Arabisation," which forced Kurds and other non-Arabs to either sign a form "correcting their nationality" or be evicted from the region (their homes were given to Shia Arabs from central and southern Iraq), and then in the 1988 Al-Anfal campaign, in which...