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NEWS ROOM



press release

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NEWS ROOM REVEAL THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EVENTS
January 6 - 28, 2000 Noon - 9 PM Daily 501
Lexington (at 47th) <http://bbs.thing.net>

EuroBall, a soccer game of East vs. West, with midline in Berlin, Budapest and Belgrade, in cooperation with Leo Koenig, Inc., at the city-park soccer field on 27th Street and 10th Ave, Chelsea, Sunday, January 23, 2 - 5 PM. All able players welcome.

We of NEWS ROOM, when asked what would be covered in the operation at Roger Smith Gallery, on Lexington Avenue at 47th Street, NE corner, in January 2000, said, "That depends on what happens."

news room

News Room took place at the Roger Smith Gallery from January 6 - January 27, 2000, Noon to 9:00 PM Daily

The news, or what might be called daily truth, has usually been a domain of art. Only in the past several centuries, with the spinoff from High Culture of industrial techniques like photojournalism, video and newspaper production, has there been any gulf between art and news.

But what happens now if art gets back into the news business? What happens now, when professional artists assume the task of running a newsroom and produce authoritative reports, images and analyses?

Artists experienced with mass media can challenge the media professionals. They might sometimes be better. At least they're different, with new insights, largely due to their visual and spatial capabilities. One participating artist, when showing work at a gallery last winter, ended up making the biggest sale from that show to NBC News, as news. Another participant gets invited to international conferences on financial transparency. A third holds a patent in imaging, and has worked on numerous sales of sensitive-site analyses for TV networks worldwide. Still another has made a point of traveling to the hottest news spots - to get an independent "take" on events.

This show is a room in which to work. It is open-ended. All artists are welcome to try showing their discoveries-providing they're timely. The title says what we do with the space, qua four-walled gallery space: REVEAL THE RELATIONS BETWEEN EVENTS.

Based in midtown Manhattan, with correspondent sites elsewhere.

So far, what has happened, while predictable, has been a jolt.

(1) The New Year began, by January 2 at least, with summer temperatures.

(2) A tough guy has taken over the Kremlin, intent on regaining dominance in the Caspian.

Global warming has become a daily fact. Meantime, the global contest for control of petroleum-both fields and routes-turns sharp.

And meantime too, the US tries lining up Syria as somehow an ally, or at least a transit route, in that contest.

Against which clock are the great powers racing? A geopolitical one, or Mother Nature's?

So far, NEWS ROOM will likely portray the struggles thus:

- > Karen King's blow-up photos of top oil ministers
- > Mark Lombardi's map of Iraq, showing (mostly Western) military help, indicating who's vying for chunks of that pie
- > Jaqueline Humphries' no-nonsense comments on the global game
- > Taro Suzuki's theme piece: "Mine and Yours"
- > RAPID RESPONSE, a team of four, spreading out the facts, in simple charts, of global warming during December-January



Newsroom photos: John Kelsey

> Pie charts showing foreign control in the US, for example, of petroleum reserves, book publishing, water, engineering, freight railroads, fiber-optics cable links (for bulk flows) with Asia and Europe

> In the back, pending demand, a NEWSWORTHY CONFESSOR chamber, where bankers, diplomats and other power-players can... confess.

> Satellite surveys of crucial news sites, as they heat up.

NOTHING HERE IS FINAL. WE EXPECT MORE, WITHOUT KNOWING WHAT.

Decision-making is by the founding team of George Chaikin, Peter Fend, Gregory Lehmann. Internet linkups with correspondent sites, and other server functions, are provided by The Thing, headed by Wolfgang Staehle. Quite likely, when you see what we show, you won't know whether to laugh or cry. At least, pending someone proving to us otherwise, it's all true. Also, whatever visitors feel can be modified, by day with coffee, by night with some other drinks. This is a news room, after all.

tion of strength, like Germany

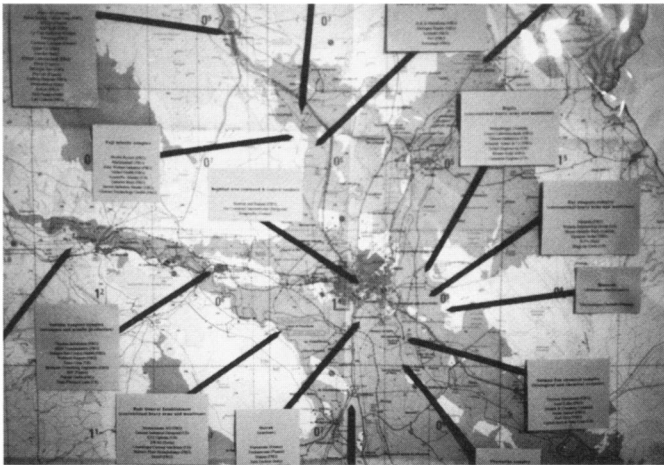
Chechnya terrain and tactical conditions: close study of detailed maps allows for clearer view of Russian prospects the hills surrounding Chechnya, useful against Russians? pathways of arms flows from Georgia; how easily blocked?

reports of likely Russian moves to outfeint NATO in Kosovo and to close the current rift between Montenegro and Serbia

impasse on oil & gas exports from the No. 2 reserves holder of the world, Iraq; the advantage France seeks, with pipelines through Syria to the Mediterranean; rationale for US attempts to befriend Syria by negotiating Golan Heights

secret weapons purchased by and still retained by Iraq, including the famed "river rifle" water weapon of 1981-7

Latin threat to the now-dominant Anglo-Dutch-American major in the Western oil industry:



2 the news jan. 24-28, 2000

Korea (both North and South) intentions in aiming for independent ballistic and orbital-satellite launch capacity:

> to become a prime power in East Asia, linking Japan with oil, gas and other minerals in Central Asia and Siberia (what infrastructure links in or near Nagato, Japan?)

> to build on its relations with Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, in tandem with Italy, which has a 50% stake in Kazakh oil

> to build on its dominant market position in Russia for appliances and other consumer goods; deals with Putin

> to break away from the US and the West generally, given its anger over the US "giving" it to Japan in 1905, with consequent turmoil and split-up into North and South to re-unify from a posi-

strategies of France's Totalfina, Italy's ENI, Spain's Repsol and the Germaninvested Venezuela national oil company, aiming to define "the [Western] hemisphere's energy integration"

what countries lead the way to zero-emissions, postpetroleum economies: e.g., Iceland

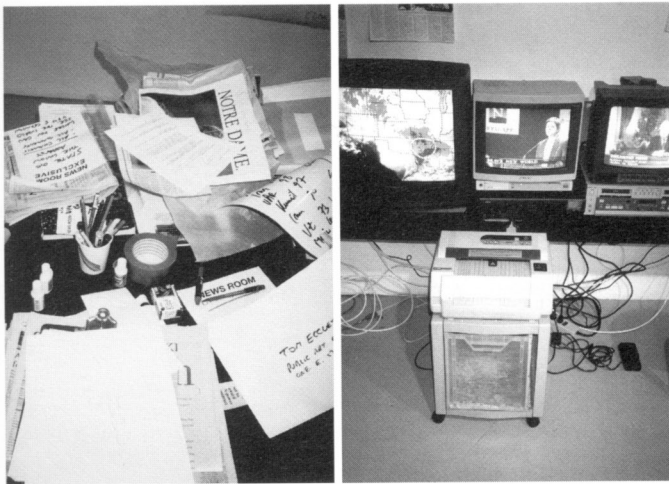
but Brazil, substantially based on renewable energy, now seeks \$33 bn in oil & gas expansion; from whom?

what geopolitical role of Norway, with its oil minister meeting Saudi Arabia's, and its Prime Minister present at from the Caspian?

About the Caspian, serious doubts:

> does Azerbaijan discover enough new oil & gas deposits to warrant all the fuss? (So far, no)

> if geological reports of Russian scientists are correct, regarding the seismic and volcanic forces



seething beneath the Sea, accounting for its changes in sea level, is extensive drilling (even for exploration) raising the risk of a volcanic outburst?

> would Putin, given his experience in Germany, try to cut pipeline deals with German-speaking pathways into Western Europe, at the expense of the present oil majors? what prevents an Anglo-American befriending of Turkic nations, like Turkey, from leading to their making linkups between Europe and the Gulf, through the fabled Berlin-Baghdad corridor of World War I fame?

> any linkage with the Kashmir crisis: what happens if populous India (the future Silicon Power) can be adjacent to Tajikistan?

Central America: why was former CIA chief Stansfield Turner in Costa Rica, with his wife and others, and why did his plane crash? The country's friendly, but also a staging ground, particularly given concerns about Venezuela and Colombia, and attempts to dollarize neighboring Ecuador?

The European Union's Leonardo I and II training programs: are these the background for a shadowy French company called "Transasia" wiping out any use of the same name by a prestigious MIT journal and web site, called Leonardo?

Behind the scenes manoeuvres leading up to the AOL-Time Warner merger, evident in earlier moves to control UPI; what does this portend for AOL's existing content providers?

Presidential Race: what might prompt the powers that be in the GOP to pull the plug on Bush and nominate McCain? Perhaps fear of being undermined by the Reform Party; witness what they did to the last Bush candidacy. Who, of all the candidates, can be equal to Vladimir Putin?

Presidential Race also: when, if ever, will any of the candidates suggest that it's time to enforce antitrust laws—or even some of the Depression-spawned laws against meshing insurance or banking with stock-market speculation; how much, for example, was AOL jacked up in value by investors?

Was Time Warner's Levin right, saying that global

companies would be more powerful than our governments?

Meantime, loss of sovereignty by the US over strategic assets:

- > BP Amoco and Shell aim to control most of US oil & gas, including nearly all of Alaska's geopolitical clout
- > German companies own two-thirds of US "trade book" firms
- > Canada's Worldwide Fibre aims to control bulk-Internet traffic in and out of North America, and through the Midwest to Mexico, taking advantage of purchased railroad rights of way
- > Canadian decision-makers control the largest rail network in the US; what happens if Canada (Queen on dollar) and the US diverge on strategic-military priorities?
- > EU zero-tariff deal with Mexico, along with US meshing with Mexico in NAFTA, make Mexico a No. 1 portal for EU goods into the US, duty-free; DaimlerChrysler's Jurgen Schrempp vision of a trans-Atlantic EU (published by the Economist in 1999) is fulfilled; VW, anticipating this, commits one-third of its investments to Mexico; does the Maximilian I fantasy of Europe (let alone the Zimmermann telegram) become economic reality soon?; in any case, trade barriers with Europe may soon be useless
- > as brokerage houses report, London (Eurozone) is becoming more important than New York; does this not occur also in the pharmaceutical, energy and banking industries?

Temperature in New York during December and January, as monitored by the group named Rapid Response: signs of Global Warming? Or just greater oscillations?

The boom in post-petroleum stocks, particularly fuel-cell stocks. Will the Eco-wave come next, after the Internet?

If Hugo Chavez said No to US troops helping out in flooddamaged Venezuela, to whom did he say Yes? A shifting balance of power in oil-rich parts of Latin America?

Does the Vodafone ambition to acquire Mannesmann stem at all from Mannesmann's long-time capacity to build land-based pipelines, which would directly damage the maritime powers?

What countries were involved in the slush funds set up for Helmut Kohl's CDU? For example, Iraq?

How does Norway follow through on its vows to convert its ephemeral oil & gas wealth into renewable energy systems? Might that be a model for the US? Or the EU? Isolation (recently, from Sweden) may have its advantages.

