

## Mid-East envoy

The Quartet of Middle East mediators – the EU, Russia, UN and U.S. – is expected to appoint outgoing British Prime Minister Tony Blair its envoy to the region at a meeting in Jerusalem



■ **In favour:** President Bush and United Nations strongly support Blair. Israeli officials enthusiastic about his experience

■ **Opposed:** Russia – but Kremlin not expected to block Blair's appointment

■ **Unhappy:** Britain's Gordon Brown, who will succeed Blair as prime minister, and EU foreign policy envoy Javier Solana oppose idea because it may draw attention away from their efforts in the region

■ **Palestinians:** Sceptical that Blair will make any lasting difference – seen as too pro-U.S. and pro-Israeli