

WORLD AGENDA

APRIL 2008

1 Apr 8-9, Washington: The level of U.S. forces in *Iraq* will be shaped by a progress report delivered by the top military commander, General *David Petraeus*, and Ambassador *Ryan Crocker*. The focus will be on security and political reconciliation



2 April 16, Paris: A 65 million-year-old *Triceratops* skeleton is expected to fetch up to 500,000 euros when it goes under the hammer at Christie's. The skeleton is 7.5m long and weighs two tonnes

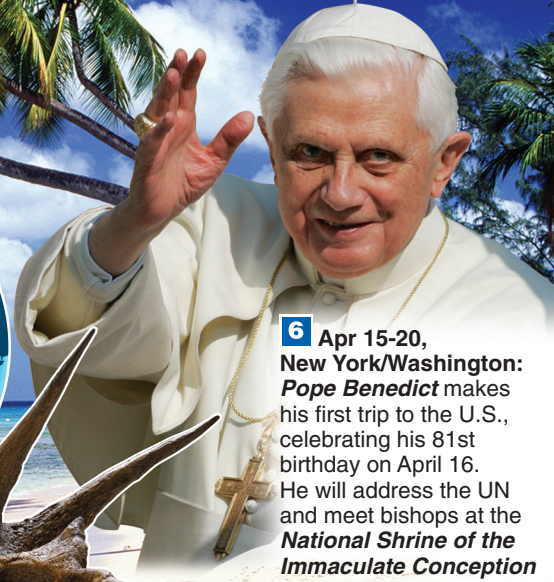
3 Apr 13/18, Italy: Former Prime Minister *Silvio Berlusconi* stands in parliamentary elections just days before the resumption of his trial on corruption charges relating to his business dealings. The leader of the centre-right opposition owns the country's biggest broadcaster, *Mediaset*



4 Apr 2-4, Bucharest: A NATO summit will put the strained relationship between the alliance and *Russia* to the test. Potential flashpoints are U.S. plans for a defence shield in *Poland* and the *Czech Republic*, *Kosovo* independence and *Georgia* and *Ukraine's* bid to join



5 Apr 7-11, Hanoi: Climate change reclaims the spotlight at *The Fourth Global Conference on Oceans, Coasts and Islands*. Progress made on advancing ecosystem management by 2010 will come under scrutiny



6 Apr 15-20, New York/Washington: *Pope Benedict* makes his first trip to the U.S., celebrating his 81st birthday on April 16. He will address the UN and meet bishops at the *National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception*



7 Apr 15, Sudan: A national census takes place in preparation for the war-ravaged country's first democratic election in 23 years, due in 2009. The north-south conflict lasted 21 years, claimed two million lives and displaced another four million people

8 Apr 9, Egypt: Local council elections take place amid growing unrest with members of the *Muslim Brotherhood*, the country's largest and most organised opposition group, protesting they have been blocked from standing. Hundreds have been detained in a police crackdown in the run-up to the ballot

