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5/8/2006 1:54:00 PM -0400

Newstrack: The European Union is willing to have limited contact with Hamas through its member states, a report says. Taxes for foreign oil firms operating in Venezuela will be nearly doubled, said President Hugo Chavez. A British psychologist says girls are better bullies than boys. A Zogby Interactive poll shows that immigration has joined terrorism and the war in Iraq as one of U.S. voters' top concerns. The Harris Poll finds that support for the Roe vs. Wade decision is at its lowest level since the U.S. Supreme Court declared a right to abortion in 1973. The Vatican says it wants to stop politicians from using visits with Pope Benedict XVI for their personal political gain. Russia is reportedly considering canceling benefits to Georgia and Ukraine if the two countries withdraw from the Commonwealth of Independent States. Almost all of the married couples in the small Chinese village of Renhe have divorced in the hope of getting an extra apartment from the government. A Gallup poll finds that more than half of U.S. voters do not see corruption as a serious problem. Spanish officials are investigating a euthanasia case after a paralyzed man who turned to the Internet for help was found dead, EFE news agency said Monday.

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Analysis: Congress battle looms on Hayden

By RICHARD TOMKINS
UPI White House Correspondent
5/8/2006 3:53:00 PM -0400

The nomination of Air Force Gen. Michael Hayden to head the CIA looks certain to set off a major conflict in Congress.

U.K.: Blair refuses to name departure date

By HANNAH K. STRANGE
UPI U.K. Correspondent
5/8/2006 3:29:00 PM -0400

British PM Tony Blair Monday refused to set a date for his departure, amid claims from internal critics that his leadership is destabilizing the party.

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Health Business

Medco settles mail-fraud suit with feds

NEW YORK, May 8 (UPI) -- Medco Health Solutions has reached a settlement with the Justice Department over the government's mail-order fraud charges.

According to a report in the Wall Street Journal, the pharmacy benefit manager has agreed to take a pretax charge of \$163 million to cover the settlement and related legal costs, but the agreement has not been finalized and "nonfinancial terms remain undetermined," the report said.

The suit was based on mail-order prescriptions sent to members of the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, in which two former company employees alleged that Medco "canceled prescriptions, switched prescriptions without physician consent, did not fill prescriptions completely and failed to inform physicians about adverse medication interactions," the WSJ said.

Justice Department officials had also charged Medco paid illegal kickbacks to major clients in return for business.

The newspaper quoted Medco saying, "We have every expectation that the final agreement will include no admission of

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liability or wrongdoing."

According to the WSJ, Medco's settlement deal averts a "high-profile courtroom trial against the government in June."



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