

**Florian Galler**  
**Psychonomic Newsletter, Mar 17, 2008**

*A break down of rationality in foreign and domestic politics ...*



• [Insults taking hold of Democratic race](#) 

AP via Yahoo! News - Mar 13 03:47am

[Gaza Rockets Barrage Southern Israel](#) 

AP via Yahoo! Malaysia News - Mar 13 4:25 AM

The militant Islamic Jihad group in **Gaza** fired more than a dozen **rockets** at southern Israel early Thursday after Israeli undercover forces killed one of its West Bank leaders, shattering a recent lull in **Gaza** fighting.

*...might finally have been averted for the moment ...*

[Middle East News](#)

By MATTI FRIEDMAN, Associated Press Writer AP - **Saturday, March 15**

[US Mediates First Mideast Peace Meeting](#)

JERUSALEM - The Bush administration's Mideast envoy pushed Israel and the Palestinians to speed up peace negotiations Friday at the first meeting the U.S. has attended since talks resumed nearly four months ago.



• [Democratic rivals agree to play nicer](#) 

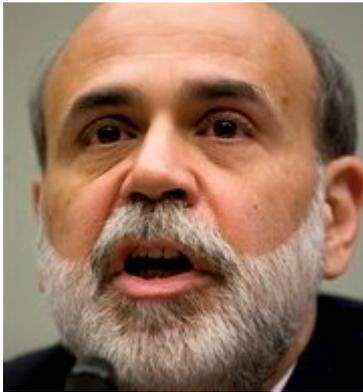
AP via Yahoo! News - Mar 14 05:11pm

On this presidential rivals Barack **Obama** and Hillary Rodham **Clinton** can agree: They sometimes disagree with their trash-talking supporters and will try to cool it. Advisers to the Democratic candidates shed some light Friday on the private chat the two candidates had Thursday on the Senate floor.

*... but the price of maintaining rationality seems to be high. Traumatic feelings of rage and anxiety which flow into the economy since they are still barred from being acted out in politics cause more and more panic in financial markets and urge the Fed to take “new steps to ease crisis”:*

YAHOO! NEWS Mar 17

### **Fed takes new steps to ease crisis**



AP Photo: Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testifies before the House Financial Services Committee about the latest...

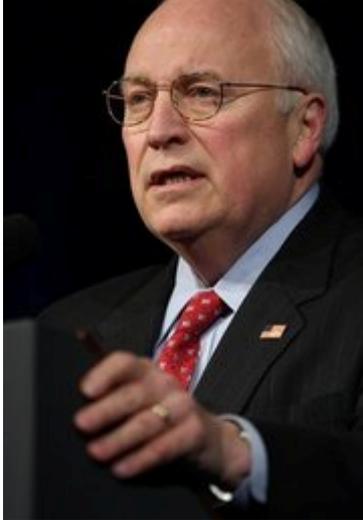
By JEANNINE AVERSA, AP Economics Writer 58 minutes ago

Worry about the damage a growing credit crisis is inflicting on an ailing U.S. economy led the Federal Reserve to make a rare weekend move, lowering a key lending rate before Wall Street opened Monday...

***Rational attitudes in politics therefore look endangered and might continue to erode and maybe even break down in the course of the next days or weeks. I suppose that such a rational breakdown could last a couple of weeks. During such a temporary phase of political irrationality instabilities in Turkey or in Pakistan could expand into a regional conflict. Vice President Cheney departed yesterday for a 10-day trip to the Mideast. This reminds me of Bush’s Mideast-trip in January. Bush visit started immediately after a (fake?) attack of Iranian speedboats against U.S. navy ships had been reported. Bush’s visit didn’t have the same stabilization effect as do the visits of Condoleeza Rice but in the contrary contributed to instability. I do not expect anything else from Cheney’s trip. Provocations, fake or not, by U.S. intelligence services or by radical Islamists are possible.***

YAHOO! NEWS Mar 16

## Cheney heading to Mideast



AP Photo: Vice President Dick Cheney speaks at a Heritage Foundation dinner commemorating the 25th Anniversary of...

By DEB RIECHMANN, Associated Press Writer 2 hours, 18 minutes ago

High gasoline prices and prospects for an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal headline Vice President Dick Cheney's trip to the Mideast, but fears about Iran's rising influence will be a key topic of his private talks at each stop.

Cheney was scheduled to leave Sunday on a 10-day trip that includes visits to Oman, Saudi Arabia, Israel, the Palestinian territories and Turkey...

***During a temporary break down of rationality in politics I would expect the credit crisis and the downward pressures in stock markets to ease.***