

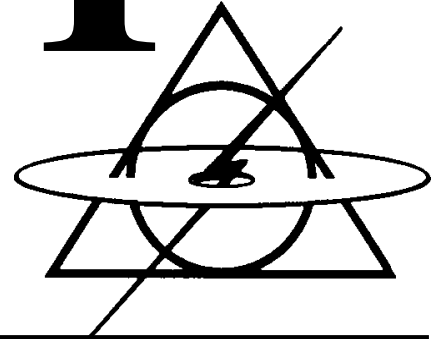


CONTACT

THE PHOENIX JOURNAL

Y2K—THE NEW MILLENNIUM

*KNOWING TRUTH IS NOT ENOUGH,
SUCCESSFUL CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION*



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The New Ideology For A New Century

1/1/01—#1 (14-138)

RE: THE YEAR OF OUR LORD, 2001

LET'S CONSIDER THE WAYS

First, I will briefly comment on "focus". Because we "here" focus on that which is the Philippines does NOT mean that there is nothing "of GOD" taking place elsewhere. THAT IS NUMBER ONE TO CONSIDER. "We" focus on the Philippines because that is where THIS team is experiencing. Human has limited ability to evaluate ALL of the "parts" even if he can comprehend the overall need as is scattered outside his personal PHYSICAL ability to perform.

THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT GOD IS LACKING IN "TEAMS" AROUND THE GLOBE—BUT THE TEAMS IN ANY GIVEN AREA MUST FOCUS ON THAT WHICH IS "THEIR" SECTOR (for lack of better description). SOULS GATHER TO CONFER AND THUS BECOMES THE REALIZATION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

AND, YES, INDIVIDUAL "PURPOSE".

E.J. got out of bed this morning and his first realization expressed was: THIS IS GOD'S YEAR!

Therefore, the next conclusion is: MAKE IT SO, PLEASE!

When "we" together make it so, all the rest shall take its rightful place of "learning experiences" upon which can be built the millennium of LIGHT.

Does this mean that the "Darkside" will stop assaulting? No. Does it mean that things will be easy? Yes, they CAN be. Does it mean that suddenly in the blink of an eye all things will find perfection? No, because YOU must work TOWARD perfection and that CAN ONLY BE—TOWARD GODNESS.

Our point in sharing is to ask that you BE INFORMED but do not be DISTRACTED.

Furthermore, if you think there are no people to fill major roles toward a better way but only the same old politicians with the same old structured laws made for themselves—YOU ARE INCORRECT.

Will these people who walk onto the stage of our consciousness have THE answers? No, because that which they will

have presented would have been suppressed and the perfection rests in the achievement of putting plans and hopes and dreams to print and strategy and then building better avenues atop that foundation—flexibly. It is when we put the pieces together to form the picture that we can evaluate the best "service" we can individually bring forward to accomplish our goals WITHIN God's laws. We each must reach within individual self to realize contribution possibilities.

What I am going to ask of "Fingers" is that we turn our attention to our new friend and start laying a background through simply offering a series of writings from his book copyrighted in 1998.

The focus is, of course, the author himself. And wouldn't you know that the irony of this book is that the author, for goodness sakes, is an attorney. He is a member: New York-Philippine Bars, Supreme Court of the Philippines and Supreme Court of the United States of America.

He came to visit stating that he did not KNOW why he was here but that he "had to come home" (from the U.S.) to help do "something" for his people. Now,

(Continued on page 2)

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THAT is worthy of note, when someone actually HEARS and responds.

This writer's name is ELLY VELEZ LAO PAMATONG.

He has since youth worked on a better "system" which is expressed as "MERITOCRACY".

We have no way to share all the photographs and frankly, I do not wish to do so because we want you to get the book when it is available. At present it is in need of republication along with another volume more currently assembled but not yet published at all.

Again, is perfection offered in this plan? No, but it IS a base for ability to move forward in the Philippines.

Now President "Joseph Estrada" (a stage name) is pictured on the front of the book itself, for there had been a commitment to accomplish this honorable form of government under his leadership. I quote: "I intend to head a government that is based on Meritocracy; the best and the brightest will help me run the government."—Estrada

Well, we now know that hasn't worked out so very well, has it?

Ah, but—is the author somewhat a Pollyanna rather than an "Honest Abe (Lincoln)"? Perhaps, but he does call his method as expressed in the book: *MERITocracy of the Masses, A New Ideology for a New Century!* A TOTALLY HONEST system of government for the masses, by the masses, and of the masses!" Sounds to me awfully like: "For the people, by the people, and of the people".

Worthy of note: "Human-Rights lawyer Elly Velez Pamatong spearheading the longest Filipino civil Rights March, and the biggest Filipino prayer rally, in Washington, D.C., on August 8, (Interesting date), 1998. The purpose of the rally was to assert the rights of all undocumented Filipinos working as economic slaves in America as well as in other parts of the world." **[H: Now you may better understand my need to build a Filipino audience IN THE U.S. FOR CONTACT. The "masses" and/or "people" cannot help themselves if they know not what to do for themselves.]**

PAMATONG: "For as long as there is a single Filipino begging in the streets, the government has failed. For as long as there is a single prostitute in our land, the government has failed. For as long as there is a homeless Filipino, the government has failed. And for as long as there is a single Flor Contemplacion working as an ECONOMIC SLAVE in a foreign land, no leader—indeed, no government—can claim success in the governance of our people."

On the same page (from Sanskrit): "For today well-lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope..."

I WANT YOU INFORMED, PLEASE. Therefore, I ask you read through Dr. Rolando A. Carbonell, Ph.D.'s "Profile: The Man With a Vision".

[QUOTING:]

PROFILE: THE MAN WITH A VISION

By Dr. Rolando A. Carbonell, Ph.D.

[Regarding: Attorney Elly Velez Lao Pamatong]

It was almost the end of a long winter in New York, when I was introduced for the first time to this rather extraordinary looking man. He walks with a great deal of dignity as a king would among his people and, indeed, he strikes me as a royalty from southern Philippines. Looking very much like the classical oriental sage, but with a sultan's cap crowning his head, he moves regally with the decisiveness of a man righteously obsessed with

a novel idea. And when he speaks about his vision of a new society, he can readily impress you not so much by his riveting eloquence alone, but more by the spirit and passion with which he articulates and presents the cause.

The cause, a truly courageous one with compelling appeal, suddenly grips the listener until he is enwrapped in the process. For this confident crusader makes you feel that it is not only his CAUSE, but also that it is inwardly and intuitively your own as well. Perhaps, this is something which eventually may lend universal appeal to it, if properly designed, actualized, manifested, and incorporated in our individual and collective existence.

The cause here is: **MERITOCRACY**. The pioneering proponent and crusader is an intense-looking, deeply sincere, and multifaceted man with a mission: **ATTORNEY ELLY VELEZ LAO PAMATONG**. This fearless-looking gentleman, who instantaneously gave me the indelible impression of a cause-oriented knight, also fascinated me with his photographic memory when—with a deep baritone voice—he recited a few lines of my poem *Beyond Forgetting*. Why, I said to myself silently, this man has the heart of a poet! But then, again, he shifts his tone in an almost reverential, though oratorical manner, this time with a stentorian sound. He suddenly assumes a different stance: speaking with fire in his heart, waving his hands in the air as he stresses a point, and outlining his vision and master plan for a new government.

Suddenly, the atmosphere shifts. Everyone in the group, including my bosom friend, Joe Mari Mercader, the be-moustached Latin-looking Filipino, who is one of the country's most popular and dynamic broadcasters, is caught under his spell. We were slowly being engulfed by this new concept, Meritocracy. New, in the sense, that nobody in living memory in the political scene has really thought about it. New in its vision for a truly renaissance Philippines, or Maharlika.

Hearing the crusader expound on the multidimensional features of Meritocracy reminds me of Lau Tzu, the Taoist mystic, political strategist, utopian architect, clairvoyant poet, and meditative yogin. This man—with a strange sounding family name—is sincere and serious. He is aware of the extent and implications of his Cause. And—given his spiritual and professional background—he possesses both material and psychopolitical resources, the inner intelligence and merit, to launch forth this ambitious program.

Since this is not meant to be a mini-biography for Atty. Pamatong—but a first impression insight—let it suffice that he seems to be the living embodiment of what he is currently espousing. And I can only pray to the Lord that he be guided accordingly.

There is a saying I remember way back in college that may be appropriate in measuring "**Sultan**" **Elly Velez Pamatong**: "An institution is but the lengthened shadow of one man."

[END OF QUOTING]

Next: [QUOTING from the book *MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES*:]

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ELLY VELEZ PAMATONG is a human-rights lawyer based in San Francisco, California and in the City of New York. He has written nine books, five (5) of which have already been published in the United States. He is also the owner and publisher of the *Asian American Voice*, an ethnic newspaper published in New York and California.

As a lawyer, he practiced his profession both in the Philippines and in the United States for more than 20 years. While in California, he filed a lawsuit against the United States in order to obtain American citizenship for

all Filipinos born during the territorial period under the Citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment. He presented his oral arguments before a 3-man judicial panel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on August 8, 1992 but missed victory by one vote on September 20, 1994. **IN THIS CASE, JUDGE HARRY PREGERSON RULED THAT FILIPINOS ARE STILL CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES.**

[H: Now for my team undergoing harassment by the Federal lawyers as instigated by our adversaries, I believe we will have some pretty interesting LEGAL BACKUP WHEN WE ARE CALLED TO TRIAL! We will be working constantly WITH this man and I suggest that we will be able to accomplish gathering of quite a team to confront these miscreants who accuse my people of "money laundering", "drug involvement", interstate drug shipping, etc. THE BEST THING THAT CAN HAPPEN TO US IS TO PUBLICLY TRY THIS CASE WITHOUT STANDING NAKED IN THE COURT. INDEED, GOD DOES WORK IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS HIS WONDERS TO PERFORM. FIRST, HOWEVER, WE MUST GET THIS JOB OFF AND WORKING.]

He obtained his Bachelor of Arts Degree from Silliman University in 1965, and graduated from the College of Law of the University of the Philippines in 1970. Among his extracurricular achievements are the following: Official Debater, University of the Philippines, 1967; Orator of the Year awardee, Silliman, 1965; champion Impromptu Speaker, Silliman University, 1965; and Champion Spanish Declaimer, Silliman University, 1965.

As a lawyer, he is a member of the Supreme Court of the United States, Supreme Court of the Philippines, Supreme Court of the State of New York, American Trial Lawyers' Association, American Bar Association, and a lifetime member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

When President Marcos declared martial law in 1972, he fled from the Philippines through the southern back-door. In 1994, he was accorded a U.N. Refugee Mandate Status by the United Nations' High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) through the assistance of the Catholic Migration Commission and the United States Mission in Geneva, Switzerland. Subsequently, the UNHCR obtained a Canadian immigrant status for Elly Velez Pamatong. However, when he reached New York in 1974, he abandoned that status and sought political asylum in the United States.

[END OF QUOTING]

I am not, no, wasting print on these tidbit insights, for you will be hearing more and more of and from this man in point. It is far more important than the distractions of this day. We must start BUILDING now while the blocks of this nation, the Philippines, are ripped asunder through the greedy, blind eyes of political thieves.

The final two paragraph of the book itself read: "**The very heart of Meritocracy is total honest and sincerity in public service wherein the best, the brightest and the most honest—no matter how poor and powerless—are given the maximum participatory measure of responsibility in nation building.**

"Today, we are at the gloomiest chapter of our history. Yet, it has been said that the darkest part of the night is just before the break of dawn. That dawn is Meritocracy, and it shall cast a divinely redeeming light to dispel the dark and deepening shadows of our despair and guide us to our grandest day."

When we realize that this concept in book publication was first published in 1985 with subsequent updates, we might well note that THIS book itself is copyrighted in

1998—AND THUS THE DARKNESS GREW AS MR. ESTRADA LOST HIS WAY. AH, BUT—

THIS IS “THE DAWN” AS REFERRED TO ABOVE WHEN THE “SUN COMES UP TODAY” AND WE STOP PUTTING OFF UNTIL TOMORROW THE VERY FUTURE OF YOUR CHILDREN AND THE WORLD AS YOU KNOW IT TO BE.

WHEN YOU PRAY FOR “SOLUTIONS” TO YOUR PROBLEMS—WATCH OUT, THE RESPONSE WILL COME, SO DON’T MISS IT. WE HAVE “THE WAY” AND ARE OFFERING TO SIMPLY SHARE IT.

We shall see how it goes, won’t we? The first two pictures in the book are of Elly with now President Estrada in Estrada’s home in San Juan, Metro Manila in 1997. The second is taken with Mayor Jinggoy Estrada (Erap’s son) in Jinggoy’s office in San Juan City, Metro Manila in 1998.

GAIA’s POTENTIAL PLAN rests in the hands of all three of these people as we write here today. HOW DARK DOES IT GET BEFORE MAN RECOGNIZES, THROUGH THE SMOKE AND GUNPOWDER, THE DAWN OF A NEW POSSIBILITY?

I choose to skip the Acknowledgements pages in order to save time and offer them at the close. However, I would offer the final paragraph of those pages: “Finally, I thank Allah or God Almighty for the privilege of being born in this planet and the opportunity to serve humanity, especially the suffering masses.”

You’re quite welcome, son, just take care to NOT LOSE YOUR VISION AND TRUTH IN THE DISTRACTIONS AHEAD. SALU!

[QUOTING:]

INTRODUCTION

“Where there is no vision, the people perish.”—The Bible, Proverbs 29:18

The primary purpose of this manifesto is to explore a new ideological frontier for a **totally honest system of government** aimed at reshaping our current societal structure thereby making it more satisfactorily responsive to the ever-changing need of our people. As such, any political proposal raised in its succeeding pages deserves to be either affirmed—or thoroughly reviewed and **constructively revised**—rather than **destructively criticized**.

Meritocracy is the very essence—indeed, the quintessence—of a genuine democracy. The heart of our present system of government is money or materialism. This manifesto seeks to change that heart with MERIT. In short, our current “democracy” needs a “heart transplant”. That NEW HEART is Meritocracy.

With regards to President Joseph E. Estrada, it has to be emphasized here that, so far, he has merely endorsed the term “Meritocracy” itself without drawing or defining the specific political coverage of his commitment, save that which relates to the proposal requiring the president to spend a period of time in the Visayas and Mindanao so that he will be accessible to the common people as well.

Additionally, President Estrada has promised to utilize the services of the **“best and brightest”** in running the government but, given the moral high grounds, ideals, and essence of Meritocracy, such commitment needs a greater measure of Meritocratic quality and vitality and should include the term **“the most honest”** as one of the criteria for the selection and appointment of public employees or officials.

To set the record straight, and to avoid misleading the public, the reader is, therefore, hereby informed that most of the ideas and ideals contained in this

book have not been as yet directly or indirectly adopted by President Estrada or any member of his cabinet.

On the other hand, I wish to inform the readers that this manifesto appears to be the **only book on the subject of Meritocracy**. So far, the records of the U.S. Library of Congress do not show any significant volume of research on a **Merit System** of government.

The word **“Meritocracy”** first dawned upon me at the revolutionary campus of the University of the Philippines sometime in 1965. Since then, and through the years, I joined—and, sometimes, spearheaded—more or less 34 major public demonstrations in Cebu and Manila in order to help bring about the establishment of a **Merit System of government** in our country.

When Marcos declared martial law in 1972, I escaped from the Philippines through the southern back-door but, unfortunately, the Malaysian authorities dumped me into a torture chamber at the Tawau Detention and Lockup Facility in Sabah, North Borneo for 100 days. However, it was there—in a dark, lonely, secluded prison cell—where I started the first draft of this book, as well as several other books.

Eventually, after brief sojourns in Brunei and Japan, I was rescued by the United Nations through the help of the Catholic Migration commission and the United States’ Mission in Geneva, Switzerland. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees subsequently helped me obtain a permanent residence status in Canada but on my way to that country—and upon the advice of the late Raoul Beloso, former Chairman of the Small Farmers’ Commission, and Mrs. Loida Nicolas Lewis [Beatrix Foods]—I abandoned my Canadian residence and decided to seek political asylum in the United States where I published the first and second editions of this book.

Sometime in 1992, I returned to the Philippines and, through the assistance of Commodore Mike Appari, distributed copies of this book to all Congressmen, Senators, and members of the Ramos cabinet, including Mr. Fidel Ramos himself. Five years later, Sultan Macapanton Y. Abbas, Jr. sent me a facsimile of a speech by then-Vice President Joseph E. Estrada wherein, among others, the latter unilaterally entered into a **morally binding covenant with the people**. Said he:

“I intend to head a government that is based on Meritocracy; the best and the brightest will help me run the government.”

While the inclusion of the term **“the most honest”** would have unequivocally defined the borders of Pres. Estrada’s position on Meritocracy, I was nevertheless immeasurably emboldened by this morally supportive declaration coming as it did from one of the highest officials of the country. Consequently, I visited President Estrada at his residence in San Juan, Rizal, where he personally reiterated his commitment to a meritocratic form of government.

That was the only reason behind my all-out support for Estrada’s campaign for the Presidency in 1998. More than using the fullest power of my paper, the *Asian American Voice*, I set up the only 24-hour pro-Estrada, pro-Meritocracy, 4-minute message in New York City. And, considering the prevailing attitude towards President Estrada’s political capability and the not-so-laughable jokes associated with and tolerated by him, I did so at the risk of my professional career only because of our shared vision on Meritocracy.

Unfortunately, when I read the 8-point program of government prepared by President Estrada’s proposed cabinet, I could not find the word **“meritocracy”** anywhere in that document. To think that Meritocracy

was—and still is—supposed to be the centerpiece of Pres. Estrada’s administration, I found it difficult to understand why there was no mention of Meritocracy in that 8-point program of government. Thus, during an open forum in the New York Plaza Hotel, which was sponsored by the Philippine Chamber of Commerce, I asked for an explanation. Secretary of Defense Orly Mercado, then a member of the proposed cabinet, explained that Meritocracy is something I should personally present and promote to our people. **“That is why we have been waiting for you to return to our country,”** he said.

Previously, I heard the same comment from Senator Aquilino Pimentel whom I met at a meeting at Hayward, California, during his campaign for clean and honest elections, a couple of years earlier. Like Sec. Mercado, Sen. Pimentel had also advised me to return to our country and spread the gospel of Meritocracy. But, despite the absence of the term Meritocracy in that 8-point program, President Estrada has continued to wave the banner of Meritocracy as the **centerpiece** of his crusade to uplift the living conditions of the poor people of our country. And—needless to say—that is one of the reasons for revising this book for the third time.

Unbeknownst to me, the word **“Meritocracy”** was reportedly invented by a British Sociologist named Michael Young in 1958. This word was cobbled together from a Latin prefix, meaning **worth**, and a Greek suffix, meaning **rule**. Nevertheless, beyond inventing the word **“Meritocracy”**, Mr. Young did not come out with concrete and specific guidelines on how Meritocracy shall be used as a basis for a new democratic form of government. Perhaps this was partly because he knew that some ancient mystics, adepts, theologians, and Greek philosophers of long ago espoused Meritocracy as the soul of every human society.

In the United States, Meritocracy took on a different shape. According to Nicolas Ledmann, author of a forthcoming book on Meritocracy in the United States: **“The American Meritocracy... totally focused on the question of who possesses merit and doesn’t pay nearly enough attention to the overall good.”** In a word, the founders of American Meritocracy—the most prominent of whom was James Bryant Conant, President of Harvard University—wanted to apply Meritocratic principles solely to improve the educational system of the United States.

More specifically, he wanted **to use the educational system to empower the very brightest to guard the people and maintain the strength of the nation**. The university, in particular, was assumed to be morally and spiritually purer than the outside world. As a 1935 report from the Carnegie Foundation put it, **“The democracy of merit** on the campus, though far from perfect, is finer than that of the street.”

Obviously, the ideological dimension of Meritocracy in this book is, so far, different from the **“democracy of merit”** proposed for the American educational system. For one thing, it focuses on a comprehensive and drastic overhaul of the Philippine **“money-talk-cratic”** or oligarchic system of government, including its educational system. For another, it aims at giving every citizen the fullest enjoyment of all rights and privileges that our country can reasonably offer through the instrumentality of (a) **the best**, (b) **the brightest** and (c) **the most honest** among both the elite and the masses. In other words, the Meritocratic societal order proposed in this book has a wiser and more expansive coverage than the **“democracy of merit”** introduced in some universities and colleges in the United States of America.

They say that the pen is mightier than the sword. I say that America has the power of both the pen and the sword and—secured in the glow of her global military supremacy—she thinks she is on top of the world. But there is a weapon far greater than pen and sword, **Meritocracy: a genuine weapon of mass salvation, of love and the will to live! As such, and if mankind hopes to preserve itself, Meritocracy must, and ought to be, a way of life.**

To understand the spiritual dimension of the contents of the succeeding pages, the readers are advised to bear in mind that **Meritocracy—as the term is used in this book—is the art and science of warriorship against any form of evil in a human society; and, to a political warrior, it is a genuine moral and political weapon of mass salvation, not mass destruction.** In a word, any corrupt leader—or any leader who tolerates corruption—has no moral authority to hold the banner of Meritocracy as a system of government for the people in our country.

[H: I suggest all of you go right back and reread the latter part of that paragraph above—for on day one of year 2001 you have exactly that very combination in the seats of power.]

Someday, in some distant future, it is hoped that a new form of social science shall emerge from the heart of the masses: the **Science of Meritology.**

[END OF QUOTING]

I hope you will not accept this, readers, as just some more gobble-de-goop of play on words. We live with that kind of “new” language constantly. However, we are talking here about bringing about some form of improvement in your living styles and methods so that you might SURVIVE while moving back into some balanced structures of economics, civilization and leadership. **This is more what Socrates had in mind a very long time ago—rather than enduring something simply called “democracy”, which has become rule by mob, rather than through good governance.**

As to our “projects” in play and in potential for better societies? We must work TOGETHER and bring these people-oriented programs into coalescence. You must go BACK to a way to bring strength from the masses at the basic community level of tribe or village—or you CANNOT have government for the people, of the people and by the people.

Can this be accomplished? Of course, and not only can it—but it must be accomplished. Remember something else you tend to constantly forget: **“IF IT CAN BE CONCEIVED IN THE MIND OF MAN—IT CAN BE ACHIEVED!”** It is called “creating a better way”. It has to start somewhere and through someone—WHY NOT YOU?

We will leave this here and take up with the “Foreword” of this book when we return.

People, please, let us give the children a better chance for, as you are headed, they have no chance at all for freedom.

GCH
dharma

1/2/01—#1 (14-139)

RE: MERITOCRACY, PAMATONG

Hatonn—For better ease of filing we will make an effort to set up our files relative to “Meritocracy” with a prefix of “MER” and refer to our own writings as “PART”-(1,2,3, etc.)

I have no wish to insert anything other than relative comments “in” the presentation. Any comments can be outside the copied text. As people share with us it is quite obvious that they are perfectly capable of speaking for themselves. If, however, we see that a point has been overlooked or has actually changed in circumstances, we are free to make comments.

If Mr. Pamatong has a mailing list from his prior paper we would be pleased to send notice of *CONTACT* in that his material is being utilized. This might serve him well, since there is also need of reprinting.

This is an opportunity to have audience in that our focus at the moment is on the community of Southeast Asia and the Philippines more specifically. Everything from politics to economies is in a rubble heap and the people must help themselves. We come not to run anything, only to support the collapsing structures as established while repairs are underway.

We can present ideas of selected “working potential” while we recognize our limitations and inability to do otherwise than offer that which we hold—that it can be used in a positive and honorable manner. The changes MUST be up to the people—for it is the time in which the PEOPLE “can” regain sovereignty as given forth by God. **God offers “the way” and sends his messengers and gifts. After that, it is up to MAN to make his choices.**

Will Man grow enough to accept responsibility of his own freedom? Well, we obviously think it an evolving probability, for our intent is not to simply make another losing drama.

Our intent right now is to get information to you while other life is taking place, i.e. the impeachment trial of Estrada resumes today and it must be attended, please.

So, at every opportunity we will set the book to type and see if there is time or energy to bring reference to the trial itself. THIS is far more “IMPORTANT” but the ongoing happenings are presenting the reasons WHY THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT.

CORRUPTION IS RAMPANT AND MILITARY INTERVENTION IS CONSIDERED AS AN OPTION NOW. MR. BUSH SAYS THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE MILITARY INTERVENTION HERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, SO YOU KNOW THE GAME IS, INDEED, SERIOUS. THE US. “ANONYMOUS” ORCHESTRATORS ARE ON SITE HERE AND NOW.

A BIG QUESTION

“How did the U.S. come to have such control over the Philippines?” Readers, like the other purchases so well recognized from the Native American standpoint—THEY (THE U.S.) BOUGHT IT—FOR \$20 million, AND IT GOT WORSE FROM THERE.

This is not a Philippine history study but a lot of the information will be forthcoming here—so let us please just be patient so Dharma can type, I can review, and make this a very good start in educating the public to possibilities.

That means that our own people are going to have to make special efforts to get the information scattered. Therefore, since we have lost some of our own subscribers to the adversary who took our mailing lists, we must work a bit more diligently at recovery. Note, however, that we have no funds with which to enlarge anything—so I ask for some creative networking for we will NOT “pay” for advertising, although we will exchange value as we can do so. Then as we get into better circumstances we may well need to rerun many of our paper’s more important volumes. Let us cross that bridge when we get to the river it crosses.

(PART 2)

MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES

By Elly Velez Pamatong, Esq.

“I have the consolation of having added nothing to my private fortune during my public service, and of retiring with hands as clean as they are empty.—Thomas Jefferson, 1807

FOREWORD

By Rolando A. Carbonell, Ph.D.

Meritocracy is an idea whose time has come. **It is a gospel of inspired action.** And rightfully so. For as we move on towards the 21st Century, there is also a movement in the field of our consciousness. This is a determining factor in our present-day existence. A shift in our consciousness necessitates the re-configuration of our minds, our life-style, our ways of doing things, and along with it, on a larger plane, the issue of governance.

First of all, what is Meritocracy? Quite simply, it is the principle of fulfilling one’s goals, desires, or vision through **merit.** Meaning, the people should be rewarded for what they know based on honest service. This is also based on the ancient law of *karma*: We reap what we sow. It is based on truth, justice, and compassion. With this all-encompassing philosophy as the basis for our thoughts, actions, motivations, and noble aspirations—we will experience a major shift in every field of human endeavor.

Meritocracy is based on reverence for life. Of inspiring ourselves and others to pursue, with loving kindness, and passion, the path of enlightened service, creativity, and excellence. With this as the universal basis for achievement, everyone is given an opportunity to maximize one’s creative potential. In the process, the whole structure of government, in fact, all dimensional areas of human endeavor will undergo tremendous transformation. It is the return to our primal innocence and greatness: the realization of the best in us—our own true Self.

Meritocracy is not a quixotic dream of some wool-over-the-eyes idealist, but a solidly practical concept awaiting expression. For it to find fulfillment in our day and age, it is important for us to view the whole context of our geopolitical situation, our socioeconomic sphere, and psycho-spiritual aspiration from the standpoint of holism. The application of Meritocracy must be total, all-encompassing, and positive—covering the entire range of our individual and collective existence. In fact, as we move towards the third millennium, we need to project this way of life, globally!

It is not important to define in detail the complex ramifications of the Meritocratic form of self-management and political government. What is significant at this point of the evolutionary process is to fully understand our motives, our inner agenda, so to speak, our own secret desires, ambitions, and transcendental goals. It must unify both our human and divine aspirations. It is this wholeness, this integral approach to overall prosperity, peace, and harmony that Meritocracy assumes a much deeper meaning and significance.

Meritocracy is not the exclusive property of any human being, howsoever great he may be. It belongs to the whole of humanity as a distinctive quality of life, a gift or a GRACE from God. It is a summons to greatness, to selflessness. **It is the call for the highest form of service guided by ethical and moral principles.** In sum, it is the expression of that fundamental law of Love.

With love as the incandescent energy resonating in all human activities, Meritocracy becomes the vehicle for expressing in various practical ways the universal principles of the true, the good, and the beautiful. These represent the totality of all human aspirations. Any deviation from these transcendental guidelines will fracture the essence of Meritocracy. Thus, Meritocracy encompasses all that is for the ultimate perfection of man. Perfection here means the continuum of all that is true, good, and beautiful in its highest possible manifestation. It is not a terminus. It is an ongoing process in human evolution, moving from one level of perfection to the next.

In this instance, we have to redefine much of what we have been previously programmed in many areas. We need to reexamine our postulates, restructure our assumptions, and with a clear and peaceful state of beingness contemplate on the new vision for the forthcoming golden age of spirit, the birth of the new man.

The homo universals, or the universal man. For, indeed, the universal or renaissance man is one of great merit, and noble character. He transcends all artificial and atavistic barriers of culture, color, race, economic status, socio-political, and religious affiliations. He is able to view the world from a splendid dimension of wholeness. The broad horizons of his mind can accommodate the entire culture and rich heritage of human civilization. He is able to dare and journey into the world of the unlimited.

[H: PLEASE WAKE UP NOW, READERS, AND REALLY LET THESE CONCEPTS SINK IN. YOU MUST COME TO KNOW THESE THINGS OR YOU ARE, BY YOUR OWN LACK OF REALIZATION, GOING TO PERISH YOURSELVES FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH.]

Since the ancient times, **merit** has been the touchstone for human progress and achievements. It is what made the Greeks, the early Romans, and all other great civilizations accomplish their glory and grandeur. **Meritocracy** resonates in the pages of human history, from the creation of the world to our present-day times. However, we must have suffered from spiritual amnesia, for we seem to have forgotten our divine origin and destiny. We are more concerned with our narrow domestic walls, our self-serving patterns of behavior, our political stratagems, our materialistic pursuits that we have forgotten the very primacy of life: That of benefiting from the fruits of our labor in an honest and simple manner, of reaping what we have sown, of serving others in the larger scheme of things.

Meritocracy is, in its unabashed form, the return to voluntary simplicity. The return to our Edenic state through practical, honest, and compassionate means. It is an ancient vision, a throbbing dream in the hearts of every peace-loving, decent, and morally-oriented being. It is a call to transcendence.

If we can only forego even for a moment our narrow prejudices, limited concepts, and contemplate on the miracle of Meritocracy, we may yet truly appreciate its infinite possibilities for the attainment not only of individual, or national goals but boldly enough, under the grace of God, global peace, prosperity, and harmony. If we may alliterate, Meritocracy is, indeed, an idea whose time has come. And whether we realize it or not, or even ignore and resist it, it will come to pass. **[H: READ IT AGAIN.]**

We have already reached a critical mass where people are tired of the “demo-crazy” form of government, or the “money-tocratic” way of doing business. As we are flowing towards the spiritual age, the age of enlightenment, of Oneness—where divine justice will finally have its ascendancy over our otherwise

corrupted ways of doing things—merit will be the basis for proclaiming and rewarding the gospel of inspired service.

Meritocracy will not only be a form of practical, just, and compassionate government. It will also be the life-style of everyone, a sacred pattern of action in all planes of human endeavor. It can happen now, if we have the humility to accept the new, the courage to confront the unknown, the faith and trust in the Fatherhood of God, a loving kindness towards the universal brotherhood of man.

We are just a moment away from enlightenment. Just a moment away towards the third millennium. We are just a moment away to unite, cooperate, harmonize, and love one another. For in sum, Meritocracy, in its poetic vision, is nothing more but the expression and manifestation of this greatest of all virtues—Love.—**By Rolando A. Carbonell, Ph.D.**

[END OF QUOTING]

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“We cannot solve the problems of today with the tools of yesterday. Meritocracy is our remedy for most, if not all, of the ills that plague our country. We must, therefore, use Meritocracy as the instrument to help the poor and the powerless because, without doubt, it is the best and the most effective means to build a great society.”—The Author, EVP

Since we have no capability to offer pictures we can, however, offer a few inserts of major importance and interest.

One such insertion might well be the partial listing of major controllers and owners of the Philippines. They are still around and they, or their holdings, are in the paper every day along with both mischief and manipulation tactics discussed.

Is there foul play afoot? Yes, indeed. But I think all of you had best realize that without the businesses and building of these people there would be NO livelihood jobs. It is truly the best you have here but the worst of worlds, for these are actually slave-masters but without them there would be no need for “workers”.

[QUOTING:]

SOME OF THE CURRENT OWNERS OF THE PHILIPPINES

These [following] are among the few who exercise proprietary control over the country while thousands of our people work as ECONOMIC SLAVES in different parts of the world like Japan, Hong Kong, Saipan, Singapore, and the Middle East. LUCIO TAN, HENRY SY, SR., J.G. GOKONGWEI, JR., TAN YU, ANDRES SORIANO III, PATRICIO LIM, GEORGE TY, CARLOS PALANCA, JR., JOSE CONJUANGCO, JR., A. GOTIANUN, SR., A.T. YUCHENGCO, SR.

[END OF QUOTING]

I have chosen to list these also because I ask you to note that they are not among the Elite names you are accustomed to seeing as the GLOBAL ORDER crowd. Yes, indeed, it IS “very” important. You can pretty much make some very drastic conclusions as to “players” in the BIG GAME just by looking at the names. These players, however, have also come to USE the very “products” of the New World Order-ELITE to further their own ends—so don’t go back to sleep and think there is some kind of “loving checkmate” in the air for the new year celebrations.

WE INTEND TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO STAY OUT OF THE LINE OF FIRE BETWEEN THE SIDES TAKING FORM. It is totally without reason to engage the wrath of such persons.

Note that the first listed is Lucio Tan (of Philippines Airlines, if you need example). He is also a fellow-

traveler with “the President”, even to places like the Pentagon and Washington to meet with the U.S. President. Here is where the deals are made and consummated—not over a mistress’s mansion in Wack Wack or Forbes Park, Manila.

These men are SHREWD and know what they are “about”. I have no wish nor intent of crossing anyone, especially these tycoons. Furthermore, I would hope that if there are outstanding payments (payoffs) pending to these men (or others) that it can be cleared in an appropriate payment program. If a man has gambled and owes to whom he placed bets and lost—then “due-and-owing” is still appropriate.

NOT OF GOD? Oh, indeed, it IS THE VERY BALANCE OF GOD. Man must want to change his ways and I have always told you, the adversary will help us achieve our ends if we but allow him to do so. However, KNOW that these are NOT my adversaries. Why, for instance, would I wish to shut down the only flag carrier in the Philippines, Philippines Airlines (PAL)? I don’t even have any wish to shut down the local brewery, for at least at present the quality of product is monitored and man would simply go forth and build himself another brewery. If you think we are just in some kind of business exchange, then YOU HAVE MISSED THE ENTIRE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE ON WHICH WE HAVE EMBARKED. I TRUST I HAVE CLEARED UP ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

I am confident that a good businessman in the construction business will see the advantage of building a zillion houses for the citizens and reap fair return while gladly offering guidance through their established building supervisors. Do YOU know how to build a housing subdivision? Then why would you object to good supervision and management? Brethren, it is CORRUPTION that is under confrontation—not production. I MUST REMIND YOU CONSTANTLY THAT THIS GOES BEYOND, BY FAR, RACE, COLOR, AND AT THIS POINT, EVEN CREED—ESPECIALLY RELIGIOUS DOGMAS AND DOCTRINES.

Freedom vs. Slavery might well be considered right here at this stage of presentation of this particular information. Please note the term used above: “Economic slaves”. There is no meaning in the terms *slavery* or *freedom* unless you can define it in the MIND OF MAN. A man working FOR another is NOT slavery—unless other defining elements are appropriate. For example, if a carpenter is working FOR a contractor, he is NOT master of other than himself which is “freedom”. However, if he is considered and treated as a “slave”, you have WRONG practices. Balanced exchange of VALUE is at point here and is beyond the concept of manipulation of “another” which comes back to the concept: God created all men as equal. The carpenter is just as essential and important (perhaps moreso) than the Supervisor who never touches a hammer or to the Funder who never attends the site—but without each there is NO PROJECT. **Take it further, into GAIA, if you will, and note that without funds to accomplish the project in the first place, you will have NO PROJECT! WE DO NOT BUILD THE HOUSES IN POINT—WE PROVIDE “THE POSSIBILITY”.**

I want to move on now and back to the book in use. However, I must make comments as we begin to merge IDEAS bringing forth possibilities of forming a better way without unduly confronting anyone. A better way NEVER is an outcome of WAR. That is truly only an accomplishment of whoever wins becoming the Master and the loser is damned into slavery. I remind

you of something else of great importance: Mr. Lucio Tan, for instance, also has to eat and breathe, for that is part of what “human” is all about.

Thank you for carefully considering these ideas presented so generously for sharing.

Salu, Gyeorgos Ceres hATONn

1/2/01—#2 (14-139)

(PART 3)

MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES

By Elly Velez Pamatong, Esq.

[QUOTING:]

CHAPTER 1

MERITOCRACY VS. MONEY-TALK-CRACY

“The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all.”—John F. Kennedy, 1963

Meritocracy seeks a **complete and drastic change** in our present oligarchic system of government. It calls for a massive, nationwide moral and political revolution aimed at permanently closing—or, at least, narrowing—the tragic and dehumanizing gap between the fortunate and the poorest of the poor. Peaceably, diplomatically, and lovingly, to the extent legally and democratically possible. Violently, if there is absolutely no other way.

More specifically, it aims at providing well-defined, strong ameliorating ideological guidelines against this inherent and damaging societal inequality which has driven tens of thousands of our people into foreign lands, and wherein they are forced to accept a life of **economic slavery**.

Contrary to the claims advanced by the ruling Elite, the most visible landmarks of the dismal failure of our present system of government are the thousands upon thousands of beggars and prostitutes in our poverty-ridden streets; the nauseating stench of a dead and poisoned river beside the Palace of the President; the thousands of prospective Flor Contemplacions queuing daily in front of the embassy of the United States and other countries; and, nay, the silent but real **proprietary control** of our airlines, shipping lines, land transportation industries, banking institutions, and other vital areas and arteries of commerce by greedy and insatiable foreigners who have not—directly or indirectly—shown any noticeable sign or kind of humanitarian concern towards their hosts: **the poor people of the Philippines who have become slaves and strangers in their own land**. In other words, these foreigners have not demonstrated even an iota—or a **simulacrum**, if you will—of gratitude to the poor Filipinos at whose expense they and their children have lived in a climate of material security, affluence, and comfort.

If the sole purpose of a government is to make the greatest number of people happy, then it can be said that the present government—which is based on Money-Talk-Cracy—has failed completely because most of our people are very very poor and very very unhappy.

Meritocracy recognizes that the **Filipino people have lost control over their own country**. It realizes that the Filipinos are very unhappy and discontented because they have become slaves in their own homeland. If at all, the Philippines has a democracy that works only for the privileged few and the fortunate, but never for the suffering masses.

The poor—who are in dire and desperate need of help from the government—are being scorned, neglected and forgotten by the very public servants who are supposed to

protect and serve them. Instead, the government is being used as the very instrument to rob the masses of the natural resources that rightfully belong to them, thereby depriving them of the ability and temporal authority to demand respect for their humanity and dignity.

To urge the undertaking of that which is right—after boldly pointing out what is wrong—is the primary purpose of this book. In short, Meritocracy demands that the Filipino masses be restored to that position of power where they truly belong: the proprietary ownership of the wealth and resources of their homeland, and the total political control over their collective destiny.

More than that, Meritocracy aims at giving stable employment to all willing citizens. Every citizen or resident—regardless of race, gender, color or creed—must have access to a full and rewarding life. No one should be allowed to go hungry **or live without a shelter**. Every human life is precious. *Bawat Isa Mahalaga!*

Meritocracy, therefore, does not want to see anyone in pain. Meritocracy seeks to cast a loving light upon those groping in the darkness of ignorance; and it envisions a society where one truly cares for all and where all have a deep compassion and empathy for everyone.

Expectedly, the most predictable reaction from the privileged few and the fortunate of this country is that Meritocracy is pure utopian. To brand an urgently needed redeeming action politically and socially impossible is the first—if not the only—line of defense against unwanted change. Since those who are fortunate are politically dominant, and since they are naturally predisposed to reject any change that would transfer a part of their wealth to the poor, Meritocracy cannot be popular among them. Needless to say, Meritocracy is a threat against their continued enjoyment of comfort at the expense of the poor, and their human nature dictates an all-out war against this new ideology.

The rich, who are caught up in the pride of their own power, are not prepared to listen to anyone. Thus, instead of trying to understand the essence of Meritocracy, they readily close their ears. People who are in the grip of this kind of pride and arrogance think themselves to be always right. Over time, this antisocial attitude becomes a triggering cause of discord and disharmony and, nay, even bloody civil war.

But this attitude on the part of the rich and the strong should not surprise us. In the long history of the world, the strong have always been right, even if wrong. Whereas the poor have always been wrong, even if right. And it is this oppressive historical reality that Meritocracy hopes to change.

The only way to achieve truly meaningful changes in our country today is to destroy the **old order** completely, and build upon its ruins a new system of government based on the moral and spiritual values of the past where corruption was not a way of life, and where every human being believed in total honesty in private or public service.

The old order may be compared to a 50-year-old, 50-passenger car now loaded with 1000 commuters. Given its outmoded and old engine, it cannot run faster than a mule no matter how good the driver may be. Hence, it goes without saying that the old engine of our society—which is based on Money-Talk-Cracy—must be changed.

“Money” is presently the sole basis of leadership in our country. **Money talks** more effectively than **Merit**. What we have, therefore, is “**Money-Talk-Cracy**”: An oligarchic system of government wherein only those who have the money—and regardless of competence—can be elected to any public office, and wherein the poorest, even if extremely qualified, are perpetually left in the cold and dehumanizing

shadows of powerlessness and indifference.

Where in the world can one find comedians elected to a country’s highest lawmaking body? Where in the world can one find basketball players elected as Congressmen or Senators? Where in the world can one find politically blind—but rich and popular—individuals elected to high offices in the government? Only in the Philippines.

This act of electing comedians and basketball players to high government positions is admittedly very abnormal—and ridiculous. It is a collective act of gross electoral irresponsibility. Yes, it is a direct assault—indeed, a warfare—against all conceivable forms of propriety and decency.

Why comedians? Why basketball players? Are the Filipino people—most of whom are highly literate but very very poor—collectively insane? Do they need a good psychiatrist instead of a strong, honest and competent President? The answer is no. Rather, the answer lies in the **very system of government** that we currently have in our country.

The truth is that not all elected and appointed government officials in our country are incompetent and corrupt. There are many who are good but—to use the words of former Senator Tom Hayden of the State of California, U.S.A.—“**These are good people in a bad system. It is the system that needs to be changed.**”

Our present system of government is inherently anti-poor. It is obsolete. It is useless. It does not serve the interest of the masses, except the oligarchs and the thieves. It breeds corruption which, in turn, feeds on itself. Unless we destroy this oppressive system, it will continue to dehumanize and oppress our suffering masses. Worse, it will eventually tear our country apart.

Presently, it appears there is not a single public official in our country who can step forward, face the bright lights of a thorough public scrutiny, and honestly claim he is clean, and that he has never directly or indirectly stolen money from our people. That is impossible. We all know that is impossible.

The very heart of Meritocracy is total honesty and sincerity in public service, wherein the best, the brightest and the most honest—no matter how poor and powerless—are given the optimal participatory measure of responsibility in nation building.

To change the system, we need a leader who is **unconditionally** committed to the policy of **total honesty and sincerity in public service**, and to the establishment of a truly democratic-meritocratic societal order. Without total honesty in public service, and without a genuine commitment towards the establishment of a truly Meritocratic social order, the ideals of genuine Democracy cannot be achieved.

The main thrust of Meritocracy is to allow the poorest but the most competent person to rise to the highest level—or any level—of leadership without buying votes or resorting to violence. In short, its goal is to establish the Democracy of Merit and Honesty and not the Democracy of Money and Popularity.

Then too—and in order to make the government a truly democratic participatory process—Meritocracy seeks to provide well-defined positions of responsibility in both the executive and legislative branches for important segments of society such as the following:

1. A non-voting legislative membership and cabinet position for the President of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines (IBP) and similar legal organizations;
2. A non-voting legislative membership or cabinet position for the President of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) and/or similar student

organizations; and

3. A non-voting legislative membership or cabinet position for other political or non-governmental organizations or ethnic groups whose participation and involvement in government activities are deemed extremely vital to the national interest.

For instance, the government should seriously consider and examine the causes represented by the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) and the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army). Instead of resorting to violence, sincere and honest efforts must be undertaken to satisfactorily address their respective grievances and, consequently, promote harmony among our people.

Moreover, and among others, a Meritocratic system of government is aimed at avoiding the duplication or overlapping of administrative functions which is currently among the primary causes of confusion and delay in the performance of public duties. In short, it is designed to simplify the relationship between the government and the people. **It is designed to make the people feel that T-H-E-Y are the GOVERNMENT. It is designed to make our political leaders realize that THEY are the S-E-R-V-A-N-T-S of the people.**

Today, honesty is a capital offense in almost all departments of our government. For instance, an employee can easily get murdered for being too honest in the Bureau of Customs or Bureau of Internal Revenue. In some police precincts, one would find it safer to be with the prisoners than in the company of police officers.

The culture of corruption in our country appears to compete with the presence of God. It is omnipresent. Meritocracy intends to correct this appalling human tragedy. Taking what is not rightfully earned by us is a serious crime for which we must pay.

On the other hand, Meritocracy aims at giving the Filipino people the right to effectively hold and control their common destiny. The fact is—as has been stated earlier—through the years, foreigners have been in reality exercising **proprietary control** over the vital arteries of our commerce and industry. **They control our airlines, shipping lines, land transportation industries, banking institutions, and other fields of business.** Worse, these foreigners blatantly and brazenly interfere with our electoral process in order to make sure that the elected political leaders are indebted and are loyal to them, thereby making them their puppets.

Politically, Meritocracy shall also give all the inhabitants of the country equal representation. Since the birth of our Republic, no Mindanaoan has been elected to the presidency, and only few Mindanaoans have been given high positions in the field of public service. And that is partly because the present “Money-Talk-Cratic” order has placed the three branches of government far from the reach of the Mindanaoan people.

Financially, under a Meritocratic system of government, most of our professionals, now working as **economic slaves** in different parts of the world—e.g. Japan, Saipan, Hong Kong, Singapore, the Middle East, etc.—will be given all the incentives to come home and serve our own country.

Truly, a government that cannot ensure the comfort and protection of the geniuses of the people does not have any reason to exist. Without them, it is a government without light, and it is doomed to perish in the fires of societal convulsion. For as long as there is a single Filipino working as an economic slave in a foreign land, no system of government can claim success in the performance of its duties and

responsibilities to our people.

Yet, needless to say, there are still thousands upon thousands of Flor Contemplacions scattered all over the Earth in search of a life which our “Money-Talk-Cratic” system of government cannot offer them or their children. In short, the Filipino people—and through no fault of their own—are going through a harsh “diasporic” experience triggered by unbridled corruption and incompetent leadership.

My own sister, Myrna, died in the hot sands of Libya in pursuit of a life which our corrupt government could not provide her and her own little children. Yet my sister was the most brilliant in my family: far more brilliant than the comedians who have been elected to high offices in our country.

It has been said that man proposes, God disposes. Meritocracy is my ideological proposal to God and our suffering masses—**especially to the uncorrupted youth who are the most reliable trustees of our future**—and I hereby place it upon His sacred altar in the hope that, by His Grace, it shall find fulfillment and bring about peace and happiness to our long-suffering people during our lifetime. [END OF CHAPTER 1]

[H: Next are a couple of excerpts from the author.]

“Under a Meritocratic system of government, the teachers are the highest paid public servants. This is because—of all government employees—they have the most serious responsibility. They are not just like ordinary artists whose materials are made of stones, canvas or clay. Theirs is the sacred duty to mold human souls created in the image of God and, as such, they deserve the highest compensation the government is capable of giving.”—The Author, 1973

“Keep the fires burning, and pray that the good Lord will make us worthy of our sufferings. Few have undergone what you have experienced, and that is something no one will ever be able to take away from you. Action—experience—speaks louder than words...”—Excerpt from the letter of Sen. Aquino to the Author, dated Sept. 22, 1980

* * * * *

CHAPTER 2

PROPOSED COVENANT WITH THE COUNTRY

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED BELIEVERS IN A MERIT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT, for and in consideration of the privilege of being born in our Motherland, and in return for all the blessings directly flowing therefrom, hereby sincerely and solemnly declare that all Filipinos are entitled to the enjoyment of the following inalienable rights:

1. *That every person has the right to total honesty in public service;*

2. *That every person has the right to a Meritocratic electoral system which allows the poorest but the most competent candidate to rise to the highest level of leadership without buying votes or resorting to fraud or violence;*

3. *That every person has the right to be provided with the best physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual environment.*

4. *That every person has the right to free speech, press, assembly and religion.*

5. *That every person has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.*

TO TRANSFORM THESE BELIEFS INTO REALITY, we believe that, among others, the following should be done immediately:

1. *Establish a Merit System of government—*

otherwise known as Meritocracy—which subscribes to the policy of total honesty in public service.

2. *Choose a native name for the Philippines through a national referendum.*

3. *Rewrite the history of the country, and present to the people a true image of themselves.*

4. *Uphold, preserve, and protect the dignity and legitimate rights of our people before the international community.*

IN PURSUIT OF THESE IDEALS, we believe that the people have the right to peaceably alter or abolish their existing government if it does not satisfactorily respond to the five (5) INALIENABLE RIGHTS stated herein above.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto affixed our signatures, our sacred honor, and our immortal souls, to this historic document.

(NOTE: To help ensure total honesty in public service, all elected and appointed public officials and public servants must sign this covenant before they assume their respective positions in the government.)

[End of Chapter 2]

Another excerpt from the Author:

“As we open our eyes to the light of the dawning millennium, we see before us vistas of new realities. The world we see before us has been vastly altered from that of yesterday. Dramatic changes brought about by technology are also changing our perception of the world and the vastness of the universe. Science has widened our vision to extend from the minutest subatomic particles to the brilliant light radiating from very distant quasars. The universe is no longer perceived as solid matter, but dancing packets of ever-whirling energy. Our view of the world has shifted from believing mainly in what one can perceive with the five senses to recognizing that there is more than what we see with our naked eyes. Indeed, so many things are quickly changing this dying and poisoned planet, especially in America. And, one day, man may even conquer the speed of light if only to save the human race.”—EVP

I can only suggest that any who wish to participate in our progressive mission had best keep up because the fact is: If you wish to participate, you **MUST** know what **IS** THE PROGRAM. If you are too bothered to study this or see what we are doing, then you will be on the outside looking in, for this is where **GOD** is headed, friends.

“Walk on, walk on, with hope in your heart and you’ll never walk alone—for where ye go, so shall I be.” (A friend). And know too that a “friend in need is a friend indeed”—that also shall I be.

Salu, hATONn

1/3/01—#1 (14-140)

(PART 4)

MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES

By Elly Velez Pamatong, Esq.

[QUOTING:]

CHAPTER 3A

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MERITOCRATIC ORDER

“Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it”.—Judge Learned Hand, Speech

in New York City, May 21, 1944

Meritocracy—a term derived from the word **merit**—is the only key to the future of any modern freedom-loving country. Generally, the political dynamics of Meritocracy are solidly anchored upon a democratically-based or republican-based governmental order which gives primacy to man's merits or the quality of his spiritual and intellectual performance. In a sense, it calls for a **completely honest merit system of government** by the masses, for the masses, and of the masses.

More particularly, it effectively provides maximum opportunity to all poor but qualified and competent citizens—the chance to reach the highest level of political leadership without buying votes, resorting to fraud or violence.

The surest way for the poor and helpless masses to take their country back—back from the hands of the Elite, back from the hands of alien control, back from all types of vested interests—is through the establishment of a genuine democratic Meritocratic order.

We must act now. Time is a luxury we cannot afford. We must seize this moment in history and return to the people what rightfully belongs to them.

If it be true that history repeats itself, then let it repeat that part where total and complete honesty in public service is a way of life, and where man thinks not only of his own interest but the welfare of others as well.

This is **not a UTOPIA**. The probability of its fulfillment breathes within the framework of reality.

If a line were to be drawn between what might be perfect and what is achievable, Meritocracy is definitely achievable. However, and understandably, our corrupt leaders will readily call it **utopian**. For it is in the nature of corrupt leadership that it develops its own justification.

Hence, we need a **new political attitude** on the part of the people—especially the youth—that would support and sustain Meritocracy.

As we open our eyes to the light of the dawning millennium, we see before us vistas of new realities. The world we see before us has been vastly altered from that of yesterday. Dramatic changes brought about by technology are also changing our perception of the world and the vastness of the universe. Science has widened our vision to extend from the minutest subatomic particles to the brilliant light radiating from very distant quasars. The universe is no longer perceived as solid matter, but dancing packets of ever-whirling energy.

Our view of the world has shifted from believing mainly in what one can perceive with the five senses to recognizing that there is more than what we see with our naked eyes. Indeed, so many things are quickly changing in this dying and poisoned planet, especially in America. And, one day, man may even conquer the speed of light if only to save the human race.

Unfortunately, and despite massive technological progress unfolding in scientifically advanced societies, the Philippines is still groping in a sad state of political blindness and economic deterioration. Morally, spiritually, ideologically and politically, it is doomed and dying.

As it was in the beginning, the central moral agony in our country lies in the fact that oligarchy has been the predominant character of our present system of government which, through the years, has demonstrably failed our people, especially the suffering masses.

Only the rich—meaning, the oligarchs—can realistically aspire for local and national leadership. Whereas the masses—the poor—have always been downtrodden, and taken for granted. They have been

treated like subhumans, and they will remain in a dehumanizing level of existence unless we change our present system of government completely.

The worse part of our oligarchic system of government is that it breathes corruption and breeds corruption; it cannot exist without corruption, and those who believe in total honesty in public service are eventually considered enemies of the state; branded subversives, weird or mentally deranged, and as such—condemned without fair trial and mercilessly destroyed.

Take, for example, the life of a policeman. Generally, his take-home pay is 2,500 pesos. But this amount is just barely enough for his apartment rental. Beyond this amount, he takes nothing. So, in effect, what has our present system of government been telling him to do? Mr. Policeman, since 2,500 pesos is barely enough to pay for the rental of your apartment, use your gun to meet your other needs—e.g., food, clothing, medicine, and education for your children.

In other words, since the system has impliedly allowed him to use his gun to meet his other basic needs, it is unjust to consider any policeman a thief. Why? Because, again, he has been authorized—however impliedly—by our oligarchic system to use his gun to supplement his income.

Hence, with this implied power to earn extra income by means of extortion, the policeman cannot be logically considered a crook. **To be fair, it should be the oligarchic system which should be considered a thief—because the system is impliedly allowing our policemen to use their guns to earn more than the amount of their salaries.**

The life of a policeman runs parallel with other government employees. The teachers are among them. With more or less 3,000 pesos monthly salary, they find it very difficult to support their respective families or send their own children to college. So, and for understandable reasons—some teachers are tempted, if not compelled, to sell anything—e.g., ilonganiza, candies, school supplies—to students just to supplement the family income and send their own children to school. Instead of spending their time in keeping abreast with modern developments in the field of education and writing good lesson plans, they use that time to prepare for items to be sold to their students and fellow teachers, or even to the public. To those who have young children going to public schools, this practice is of common knowledge.

This partly explains the reason why our teachers cannot focus on their chosen profession and are not in a position to improve the quality of our educational system.

Elected officials are no exception to this rule. For instance, a town mayor generally receives 5,000 pesos monthly salary. This amount is barely enough for his family. Yet, every morning, a mayor would expect someone waiting for him in his office or in his receiving room asking for rice, medicine, coffin for a dead member of his family, or anything in exchange for the vote he cast in favor of the mayor during the last elections.

[H: In the Philippines TODAY, 1/3/01, 5,000 pesos is \$100 (and dropping daily). Can YOU cut it on that? This does in no way indicate that there are lower prices—for the prices continue to climb in every facet of the economic network.]

Our Congressmen and Senators are also facing the same problems. With roughly 17,000 pesos monthly salary, a Congressman will also find it very difficult to support his family and keep in touch with his constituents. Thus, if he wants to get reelected, he must get money from outside sources and divide his income in the following order: one-third for reelection campaign; one-third as a fall-back in the event he loses a reelection bid; and one-third for his daily expenses like meeting the

needs of the members of his family, and the demands of his political followers and constituents.

Burdened with and tormented by these nagging concerns, a Congressman may find it difficult to have time to think of passing good laws in behalf of his people. Understandably, he will be consumed and occupied with the struggle for political survival. Accordingly, he will have to engage in moneymaking, not lawmaking activities.

The new Meritocratic Order will completely change the present system with one that effectively discourages corrupt practices by any appointed or elected official. Among others, Meritocracy will bring about changes in the following areas:

[H: Next you are going to get a list of at least 20 items which will first hit you as “impossible” and under the current system IS WITHOUT A CHANCE—UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU INJECT FUNDS IN AN HONORABLE WAY. GAIA CAN DO THAT INSTANTLY WHILE BASING THE ENTIRE PROGRAM STRUCTURES ON SOUND ECONOMICS. YOU MUST START AND MOVE SOMEWHERE, STUDENTS—WHY NOT MAKE IT BRING THE GIFTS GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR YOUR USE?]

1. Electoral reforms
2. Educational reforms
3. Legislative reforms
4. Executive reforms
5. Reforms on National Defense
6. Judicial and Penological reforms
7. Health and Welfare
8. Energy
9. Economic Reforms
10. Population control
11. Cultural Reforms
12. Foreign Affairs
13. Administrative Reforms
14. Revision or Change of the National Anthem
15. Total Honesty in Public Service
16. Department of Clean and Honest Government
17. Department of Christian-Muslim Affairs
18. Cooperation between the Church and the State
19. Department of Student Affairs
20. Dialogical Relations Between the Government and other Important Sectors of Society, including Dissident Organizations.

1. ELECTORAL REFORMS

The heart of a democratic system is a free and honest election. The cleaner the election the purer the heart. And the purest heart of an electoral system can only be found in a society where the poorest but the most competent are given equal opportunity to hold any elective public office and where the people can elect their leaders in a political climate that is totally free from any possibility of violence, vote-buying, and fraud.

Again, this is not UTOPIA. It may sound like one, but it is realistic and practical. In a word, it lies within the realm of probability and can be transformed into reality.

The truth is, we have a democracy without heart. Our current democratic oligarchic system has been, and will always be, incapable of a clean and honest process of elections. Therefore, it cannot have a heart. It is heartless. And, because it is heartless, it cannot feel the pulse of the suffering masses.

For as long as political candidates resort to buying votes and the electorate tolerates or consents to the idea of selling votes, a true democratic

system of government cannot thrive and flourish in our country. And since vote-buying is, in fact, an integral part of our electoral system, it can be said without exaggeration that **DEMOCRACY IS IN REALITY DEAD IN OUR COUNTRY.**

The very soul of our present system of government is MONEY. To make it readily understandable, it should be referred to as “Money-Talk-Cracy”. In this system, only those who have the money can lead our country. Only those who have the money—e.g., aliens and oligarchs alike—can have proprietary control over our society and guide our destiny.

Through the years, we never had pure and honest elections. Rather, we only had what may be aptly described as “money-pulation”. The collective will of the people has been continuously “money-pulated” by the “moneyed” people who end up “money-ging” the country.

The very act of buying votes should be considered a capital offense. It is an act of crucifying the life of every citizen, especially the poor and those who are forgotten in the slums and on the sides of the mountains. In short, vote-buying is an act of war against humanity itself.

Politicians who buy—or allow the buying of—votes have no moral or spiritual authority to lead our country. Rather, they deserve to be rehabilitated until they shall have fully realized the sanctity of the electoral process.

On the other hand, Meritocracy believes in both the weight and quality of a person’s v-o-t-e. It recognizes the fact that society must devise ways and means of giving more weight to the vote of a highly educated or a well-informed individual. The fact is: An educated man knows what he is voting for. He knows who and why he is choosing a particular person as his candidate. Whereas, the vote of an ignorant person is practically no vote at all. An ignorant person is electorally blind. An ignorant person does not vote for issues. Rather, he votes for those who are moneyed and popular. And, since he does not know or realize the sacredness of electoral process, an ignorant voter will most likely sell his vote, not knowing that it is an act of selling his, as well as his children’s, future.

Tragically, the present system of government does not have laws strictly imposing penalties on vote buying and vote selling. Perhaps this is because all lawmakers have been elected because of vote buying and they do not have the heart to destroy the very means that swept them to office and, in extreme cases, to the heights of political power.

Our present oligarchic system of government is unchristian. It is anti-poor; anti-masses; and, nay, godless. And, since our oligarchic democracy has been heartless and godless from its very inception, no one is surprised at the reality of millions of poor people weeping and crying at the back of the happiness and comfort of our homegrown oligarchs and insatiable aliens. No one has the heart to care at all. The poor can die. They can perish. Who cares? They can become prostitutes in Japan. In Germany. In Hong Kong. In the Middle East. Who cares? They are poor and powerless anyway.

A system that is heartless and godless is not capable of caring. It is a system that is antihuman; anti-God—nay, anti-Christ. It is a system that must be totally destroyed and replaced with one that is pro-poor; pro-freedom; pro-progress; pro-honest; and pro-human dignity.

To eliminate fraud and vote-buying in our electoral system, we must have one that is based on a Meritocratic process. Step by step, we must raise

the best, the brightest, and the most honest of the poorest citizens to any level of leadership—including the presidency. Consider the following:

A. THE BEST OF THE BARRIO [OR VILLAGE] ELECTORS AS BARANGAY CAPTAIN. To determine the most competent and honest leader, the Meritocratic order shall hold **DIRECT ELECTIONS** in all barrios. The best in that barrio will be elected as the Barangay Captain. The people in a barrio or village would know the best among them because of proximity and constant association with each other. The barrio captains, shall serve as the Municipal Board. This will eliminate the need to elect town or city councilors. The barangay election can be done in a few hours, and it can be counted immediately. Thus the possibility of fraud and vote-buying is very remote.

B. THE BEST OF THE BARANGAY [OR VILLAGE] CAPTAINS AS CITY OR TOWN MAYOR. The barangay [village] captains will elect the **best among them** as the city or town mayor. Generally, a mayor may be directly chosen from among 20 to 25 barangay captains. The election can be held in an hour. And the votes can be counted in a few minutes. In this situation, violence, vote-buying and fraud can be minimized, if not totally eliminated.

C. THE BEST OF THE MAYORS AS THE GOVERNOR. The mayors, in a province, should elect the best among themselves as the governor. The other town mayors shall serve as members of the Provincial Board. This will eliminate the need to elect Provincial Board Members. Besides, the mayors are more familiar with the problems of their towns and cities than persons elected in a province-wide basis.

D. THE BEST AMONG THE GOVERNORS AS PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES. The governors should then convene and elect the president from among themselves. This election can be done in one hour, and the results can be counted in a few minutes in the full view of the whole nation or the international community. The process will eliminate a long-winded and violent political campaign.

This method will also nullify the need to spend millions or billions of pesos to finance a nationwide campaign or to buy votes. **Most of all, it will give a barangay [or village] captain the chance to serve as mayor, then as a governor, and then as president of the Philippines.**

Indeed, this new electoral system will give the poorest but the most competent man in the Philippines a chance to lead our country.

This is what I call a democratic meritocratic order or a republican meritocratic order: A democratic system with a heart that beats for all: the masses and the rich alike. And this, to me, is the wave of the future for our country and—who knows?—the whole world.

To avoid the establishment of a dynasty, appropriate measures should be taken to prevent a public official—or any member of his family—from perpetuating himself in power.

Lastly, to prevent foreigners and other vested interests from reducing our political leaders into puppets, **strict rules shall be passed concerning political contributions.**

Also, to prevent abuse of authority, there must be a recall system for all elected public officials. Upon the vote of a certain percent of his constituents, a barangay captain or a mayor or a governor or a president must submit to another election.

2. EDUCATIONAL REFORMS

A citizen without proper education is a world without light; and, without knowledge, a person cannot have a real life.

For an ignorant person is subject to all sorts of exploitation and he cannot stay on top of his destiny because—in the darkness of ignorance—he does not know where he is going, much less know whom to follow. Indeed, an ignorant person is the greatest liability to Meritocracy or, for that matter, to any democratic institution.

Under a Meritocratic system of government, every life is important. **“Bawat isang buhay ay mahalaga.”** With this in mind, every person—no matter how poor—is, therefore, entitled to the best education, the best medical care, and the best protection the government can afford to offer.

To achieve this goal, the Meritocratic order shall establish a socialized system of education. Efforts shall be made to reduce the number of years that a student spends in school. And college education for all citizens or nationals or residents shall be a matter of constitutional right.

Moreover, under a Meritocratic system, the teachers are to be given the best and highest salary. This is because, of all government workers, the teachers alone have the most serious and sacred responsibility. Their materials are not merely made of metals, stones, canvass or clay. Theirs is the responsibility to train and mold human beings who are created in the image of God. Thus, if they are to make the best out of these human souls, they must be provided with the best incentives: They must be given the highest salary that the government is capable of giving.

With the guiding light of proper education, “Money-Talk-Cracy” or oligarchy in our country will surely fade away like the darkness at the dawn of day. For, indeed, all forces of evil cannot survive under the bright and redeeming light of knowledge.

[There will be more proposals relating to educational reforms later in the book.]

3. LEGISLATIVE REFORMS: CHANGE THE PRESENT LEGISLATIVE BODY

Our present legislative system is obsolete and is devoid of any capacity to pass laws that truly reflect the needs of the country and the people. Worse, it is graft-ridden, and admittedly unnecessary. In short, the country does not need our **present** legislative branch of government. It is useless. The country can democratically exist without it.

There is, therefore, a need to change the present Congress. As a consequence of the dismantling of our legislative system, our people can save the money earmarked for its operations. For instance, if it takes billions of pesos to maintain the present Congress, such an amount can be used to build housing projects for the poor and the homeless.

In its place, a similar bicameral or unicameral body shall be created but maintained by funds from local governments. The governors shall be convened as often as possible and they shall constitute as the new **Upper House or Senate—known as the House of Governors**—at the expense of part of the revenues raised from respective provinces.

During their absence, the vice governors will take over as provincial governors. This new Upper House is in a better position to know and solve the problems of the provinces.

On the other hand, the Mayors shall elect from among themselves those who shall serve in the **Lower House—which shall be known as House of Mayors**—and they shall convene as a legislative body as often as possible. During their absence, their vice

mayors shall take over as mayors.

This new Lower House shall be maintained at the expense of the towns and cities. Considering its composition, it is admittedly in a better position to understand the problems of the towns and rural areas in the Philippines.

This new legislative body shall have three places of operation: One legislative office in Luzon; one in the Visayas; and one in Mindanao. The members of this new legislative branch shall spend four months of their time in each of the legislative offices. Through this method, the Meritocratic order brings the new legislative body closer to the people.

[There will be more on legislative reforms farther in the book.]

4. EXECUTIVE REFORMS

To destroy the present network of corrupt personalities in Metro Manila, the President—who shall be elected by the House of Governors—shall hold office for four months in Mindanao; four months in the Visayas; and four months in Luzon. This method will also bring the President closer to the people.

This particular proposal has already been endorsed **BY PRESIDENT JOSEPH E. ESTRADA AND, HOPEFULLY, IT SHALL BE IMPLEMENTED DURING HIS TERM OF OFFICE.**

[H: Emphasis mine! What you see happening in the Philippines is not necessarily what you ultimately GET. Therefore, please realize that the upheaval taking place in the Philippines is an opening to join GAIA with structural change and accomplish that old “utopian” vision of long-standing desire.]

[There will be more proposals upcoming relating to executive reforms.]

5. REFORMS ON NATIONAL DEFENSE: THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CITIZENS' ARMY

The new Meritocratic order shall establish a **citizens' army**. Except for the Navy, the Air Force, the Presidential Guard Battalion, and the Engineering Battalion, the National Bureau of Investigation, and the Intelligence Service Agency of the Armed Forces—all other units of the Philippine Army and all police forces throughout the Philippines shall be dismantled or abolished.

The Navy, Air Force, and Engineering Battalion shall, however, be managed in such a way that they can help the economy of the country and promote closer ties with the people. For instance, in times of peace, naval personnel or officers shall be encouraged to engage in the business of fishing within our territorial waters, thereby making this military department self-supporting.

The same policy shall be adopted towards the Air Force and the Engineering Battalion. The Air Force shall be encouraged to coordinate with local airlines and help promote the air transportation industry. Whereas, the Engineering Battalion shall be operated in such a way that, during peace time, it can help build roads and bridges throughout the country.

To promote peace and order, **The Barangay [or village] Police shall be professionalized and made as efficient as the most elite military force in the world.**

All able-bodied members of a Barangay shall submit to a weekly military training and be made to serve as military officers in their own barrio, under the command of the Barangay Captain. All districts in cities and towns shall be converted into Barangays.

The sole responsibility for peace and order rests primarily in the Barangay Police. All Barangay Captains of a given town or city are under the command of the Mayor [who shall act and shall have the rank of a Major] and all town or city Majors shall be under the direct command of the Governor [who shall have the rank of a General]. The President shall remain the Commander-In-Chief of all military units.

This **barangay-based army** will effectively suppress the establishment of any subversive or criminal activity in that the Barangay Police is expected to be familiar with all the criminal or subversive elements within its jurisdiction. Also, this new army could mean saving billions of pesos currently earmarked for the present military establishment. The billions of pesos that can be saved through this reform **shall be invested on technological developments.**

This new military establishment is less expensive to maintain because most of the military officers do not have to relocate in other areas, and they do not need government-funded housing facilities anymore. Except for those who have to travel from one military unit to another, most of them are expected to remain in their respective localities.

Moreover, this new Meritocratic military system will place the Philippines in total military readiness; mobilized within minutes, and fully guarantee national security at all times.

6. JUDICIAL AND PENOLOGICAL REFORMS

MODIFIED JURY SYSTEM. It is of common knowledge that members of the judicial branch are subject to political pressure and/or bribery. To elevate the stature of this branch of government, a **modified** jury system shall be adopted as part of our judicial proceedings.

However, members of the jury shall be limited to persons who are at least college degree holders, preferably members of the bar. **[H: Well, it makes more sense than at first blush.]**

REHABILITATIVE, NOT PUNITIVE PENAL SYSTEM. On the other hand, our current penological system—which is based on the Judeo-Christian concept of *lex talionis* (or a tooth-for-a-tooth and an eye-for-an-eye policy)—shall be completely abolished. According to a comedian, this policy can lead us to a world that is toothless and blind.

We should have a system of justice that is rehabilitative and not punitive and we should provide treatment, not punishment, for all criminals. It follows that all detention facilities in the Philippines shall be abolished, too.

It is submitted that a criminal is basically a mentally sick person. To punish for being sick is to make him more sick, and the more he becomes sick, the more he becomes a hardened criminal. And the more he becomes a hardened criminal, the more he becomes a burden to society.

Worse, we seem to give a reward for mentally sick persons (known as criminals). We give them free board and lodging and security guards. Since they are idle behind bars, their mental state deteriorates beyond repair. After they are released from imprisonment, they go back to the mainstream of the same societal structure and become even more dangerous.

Looking back, England did the right thing when it placed some of its criminals in Australia. We can improvise on this approach by relocating all criminals in one of the major islands in the Philippines. In this island, we can establish

appropriate corrective and rehabilitation facilities. Those who are sane can be made to work for the duration of their term of isolation and the proceeds can be used to feed themselves and their families.

Moreover, those who have been found guilty of murder or homicide can be made to plow, farm or work for the rest of their lives, and a part of the fruits of the labor shall be used to support the family of the person(s) they murdered or killed.

This presupposes the abolition of the death penalty. And the death penalty should be abolished because—by his very nature—a human being has already been in a way condemned to die at the moment of birth.

To him, every day is a day closer to his grave. Besides, the death penalty is the worst form of punishment for a person who is mentally sick.

[More on penal reforms to come.]

7. HEALTH AND WELFARE

People's health is the greatest wealth of a nation. A nation can only be as healthy as its citizens. The new Meritocratic order shall provide free medicine and hospitalization for all citizens. People who are old must be well provided for by the government.

Physical education must be strictly imposed upon the people, especially the students.

For instance, no student shall be allowed to graduate from primary or elementary school without obtaining a black belt degree in martial arts; no student shall be allowed to graduate from high school without obtaining a 2nd-degree black belt; and no college student shall be allowed to graduate without obtaining 3rd-degree black belt in martial arts.

Of all creations, the human being is considered the highest form of life. He is the sacred temple of the living and loving God, and there is a divine purpose for every form of human life. That purpose is to continuously grow and evolve into a higher form of life until he becomes one with God.

Meritocracy intends to give every citizen all the incentives to build a healthy and strong body in order to achieve the purpose of life. For the reality is that within every body is a beating heart, and within a beating heart is a soul which is the very seat of man's evolutionary process and true happiness.

On the other hand, Meritocracy recognizes that the other purpose of life is to be happy. Every human heart throbs with a burning desire to be happy. From the cradle to the grave, every human being tries to avoid pain and suffering. Meritocracy intends to bring about the greatest measure of happiness in every heart and soul.

[More proposals relating to environment upcoming.]

[END OF QUOTING COPY PART 4, CHAPTER 3A]

Having overextended this writing, we will close for the convenience of those responsible for typing, editing and layout. Thank you for the interruption. Dharma: We will please start next with label of PART 5, CHAPTER 3B (8. ENERGY).

Thank you for attending this very closely. And, indeed, yes, we expect you to think through these things, for not necessarily are ALL concepts worked through. ALSO, please, remember that this is a tentative structure FOR THE PHILIPPINES WHICH IS NOW POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY IN ITS “WINDOW OF BEST OPPORTUNITY” IF PEOPLE ACT BEFORE THE WINDOW IS SLAMMED SHUT.

Hatomn

1/3/01—#2 (14-140)

(PART 5)

MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES

By Elly Velez Pamatong, Esq.

[QUOTING:]

CHAPTER 3B

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MERITOCRATIC ORDER

8. ENERGY

All sources of energy must be controlled by the government.

All efforts shall be exerted to liberate the country from any form of dependence on foreign sources of energy. Oil exploration within our borders shall be given the fullest support and cooperation. Moreover, solar and geothermal energy—including wind power—shall be harnessed as sources of energy.

[H: This one needs a LOT of help.]

9. ECONOMIC REFORMS

ROYALTY FOR THE POOR BY ALL FOREIGN CORPORATIONS. All foreign corporations must be required to donate a certain percent of their incomes as royalty for all the natives in the Philippines. The amount so donated shall be exclusively used for scholarship and housing purposes. This will provide a headstart for poor Filipinos.

NON-RELIANCE ON FOREIGN COMMERCE. For purposes of economic survival, the Meritocratic order shall exert every effort to make sure that the country will survive even if all import-export businesses are closed. All consumer and non-consumer products or items that can be locally produced must be manufactured within our borders. And the importation of unnecessary products shall be discouraged.

MASSIVE REFORESTATION. On the other hand, there must be total ban on logging for the next one thousand years. And a massive tree-planting campaign or reforestation activities shall be undertaken by the government and by all civic organizations.

MODERNIZATION OF FARMING FACILITIES. Towns shall be chartered and given quasi-corporate personalities and required or encouraged to purchase (even from foreign countries) farming tools, equipments or machineries necessary to cultivate all lands within its jurisdiction.

BARRIO AND MUNICIPAL COOPERATIVES. Barrio municipal cooperatives shall be organized.

WELL-DEFINED AND WELL-CIRCUMSCRIBED AREAS OF FREE ENTERPRISE. Under a Meritocratic system, free enterprise shall be allowed on well-defined areas of commerce.

BAN ON TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DRUGS. The production of harmful drugs and toxic items—such as cigars and cigarettes—shall be prohibited within the geographical borders of the country. All cigar and cigarette factories shall be closed.

[H: PLEASE REALIZE THAT THIS IS “NOT” MY PLAN, READERS, THIS IS THE AUTHOR’S PRESENTATION. I BELIEVE THAT THERE ARE BETTER WAYS TO MANAGE VARIOUS ITEMS WHICH NEED ATTENTION WITHOUT TRYING TO SLAP MORE AND MORE “BIG BROTHER” FORCE AND OPPRESSION. AGAIN, THIS IS “NOT” MY BOOK AND, THEREFORE, IMPLEMENTATION MUST BE

AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION OF ALL RAMIFICATIONS IF YOU ARE TO HAVE A FREE AND OPEN SOCIETY—IN SOVEREIGNTY OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS INCLUSIVE OF NATION.]

10. POPULATION CONTROL

Population growth shall be under reasonable control. Families shall be encouraged to have only three children. For instance, all children born after the third cannot be given free education. And parents may be required to perform government services for every child born after the third, such as planting a number of fruit trees.

[H: THIS, AGAIN, IS NOT MY PLAN. THERE ARE FAR BETTER AND MORE RESPONSIBLE WAYS TO EDUCATE THE POPULATION AS A WHOLE TO BETTER EXPERIENCE SO THAT THE OVERPOPULATION PROBLEM CEASES TO EXIST WITHOUT FORCE OR COERCION. THERE DOES, HOWEVER, HAVE TO BE A “STARTING PLACE” AND THESE INFRINGEMENTS BY GOVERNMENT BEGIN IN THIS TYPE OF PROGRAMMING TO BE MORE LIKE ORWELL’S 1984 THAN A FREE SOCIETY.]

11. CULTURAL REFORMS

We have been—for nearly 400 hundred years—programmed to be racially inferior to the Whites. Deliberately, the Whites made heroes out of Filipinos who were either tortured, captured, shot or killed by them in battle.

Rizal, Del Pilar, Miguel Malvar, Aquinaldo, and a host of many others—all of them lost at the hands of the Whites. But we—and our children—have been brainwashed into making these losers our role models.

The Meritocratic order will change this reality. It shall reject this culture of racial inferiority. Among others, it will make Lapu Lapu, Dagohoy and Kadarat our national heroes. These legendary warriors won over the whites. And—should these genuine and authentic heroes be made our role models—our children and their children’s children will definitely have a totally different attitude towards foreigners, regardless of color and creed.

[H: IF THIS SHOULD BECOME THE MODUS OPERANDI OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH SUCH ATTITUDES ABOUT WHITE PEOPLE, THEN I SHALL HAVE TO WITHDRAW THE GAIA PLAN—FOR IT SHALL BE OFFERED THROUGH “WHITE” ELEMENTS FOUNDED ON, FRANKLY, A U.S. BASE, AND SINCE IT SEEMS FROM THIS AUTHOR THAT SOMEHOW THE U.S. IS “WHITE”, THEN WE HAVE A REAL PROBLEM, DON’T WE. THE POINT IS TO RISE ABOVE AND BEYOND SUCH FOOLISH CONSCIOUSNESS. I UNDERSTAND WHAT THE AUTHOR “MEANS” AND WILL NOT FURTHER PURSUE THE SUBJECT AS PRESENTED—BUT BROTHERHOOD IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE THE “METHOD” AND WHEN WE ACCOMPLISH EQUALITY WE WILL HAVE EARNED THAT BROTHERHOOD. EQUALITY MUST BE EARNED IF IT IS TO BE ACCEPTABLE—AND NOT MANDATED. IF MANDATED YOU WILL PRODUCE THOSE WHO CHOOSE ATTITUDES OF “SUPERIORITY” AND THE PROGRAM WILL SIMPLY COLLAPSE ON ITSELF.

WE FIND THAT MANY FILIPINOS SPEND MANY YEARS AS VIRTUAL “CITIZENS” OF THE U.S. ONLY TO RETURN TO THE PHILIPPINES WITH A GIGANTIC CHIP ON THE SHOULDER

AND TREAT THE U.S. CITIZENS AS IF THEY ARE TO BE TRICKED, LIED TO, OR SCAMMED. THIS IS WRONG AND UNTIL THOSE IDEAS ARE BROKEN, YOU CANNOT HAVE EQUALITY IN ATTITUDE OR BROTHERHOOD.

I CAN BETTER EXAMPLE THROUGH THE GAIA PROJECT AND OFFERING. OUR PEOPLE ARE OPEN TO EVERY GAME IN TOWN (AND THERE ARE SO MANY AS TO BE STAGGERING IN THE PHILIPPINES); EVEN THIS AUTHOR WAS DUBIOUS AT FIRST MEETING. WE CANNOT HELP THE ATTITUDES WHICH HAVE BEEN BUILT—NOR THAT WHICH CAME BEFORE—BUT THE CORRUPTION STEMS FROM THE IMMEDIATE SYSTEM IN PLACE. TOGETHER WE CAN EVOLVE INTO A BETTER WAY—BUT NOT UNTIL SUPERIORITY-INFERIORITY ATTITUDES ARE PUT ASIDE AND OUR RESPECT, HUMAN-TO-HUMAN, CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED.]

They will look at all foreigners—especially the Whites—as equals, and their colonial mentality or feeling of inferiority will disappear forever. In other words, the new generation of Filipinos will have a new mindset: the positive mindset of achievers and winners.

On the other hand, efforts shall be made to reunite the country. Towards this end, the Christian majority shall take sincere fraternal steps to incorporate the finest aspects of the Moro culture into the fabric of our national life.

For instance, the Kris may be proclaimed the national sword: the Moslem Fez (Kupya) the national hat. Or, another ray may be added to the solar symbol in our national flag to validate and honor the Moros’ undefeated involvement in our collective resistance against foreign invaders.

Whether one belongs to a minority or majority group should not be determined on the basis of religious affiliation. The fact is, we are all predominantly Malays and our Malayan ancestry should be the primary basis for our struggle towards national reconciliation and unity.

12. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

We shall have a Department of Foreign Affairs that pays for itself. **All Philippine embassies and consulates shall, to the extent possible and feasible, earn money to pay the employees of the Department of Foreign Affairs and our foreign debts.** We must streamline the bureaucratic nature of this agency and cut red tapes.

13. ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

We shall restructure the present system of our administrative machinery. Duplication of functions and red tapes shall be abolished or minimized to a reasonable degree.

Unnecessary employees shall be laid off. Politicians shall be prohibited from recommending any of their colleagues or supporters for any appointive government position.

The appointments of public employees must be based solely on the merits of the applicants, which shall be determined through written exams and careful review of their academic backgrounds. **To repeat, as much as possible, the employment—including appointment—of all public servants shall be made through examinations, and not on the basis of political recommendations or political connections.**

To insure the appointment or promotion of competent employees, the Civil Service Commission shall be restructured and modernized to protect all career service employees.

14. TOTAL HONESTY IN PUBLIC SERVICE

Each citizen shall be constitutionally entitled to total honesty in public service. Every appointive or elective public official shall totally disclose all records about his or her life to any interested citizen, subject to legal requirements designed to protect public officials from oppressive treatment or harassments.

All public officials can, at anytime, be audited by any duly recognized religious or charitable organization at the expense of the government; provided, however, that no more than one audit can be made per year for a designated public official and provided, further, that regulations shall be passed protecting said public officials from acts that may constitute oppression or persecution.

The Commission on Audit shall come out with a yearly report on the financial status or profile of all public officials and agencies. And the Commission On Audit itself shall also be regularly audited.

The performance of all prosecutorial agencies and their officers shall likewise be thoroughly audited and examined periodically. Audit reports and related records are available to all citizens of the Philippines.

With this, it is believed that the culture of corruption in which we live can be permanently reduced to humanly tolerable levels of acceptability, if not totally eradicated.

15. REVISION OR CHANGE OF THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

There is a need to revise or change our national anthem. For one thing, its lyrics are too general; it can refer to any country in the Far East. For another, it sends either conscious or subliminal masochistic messages to the effect that dying for our country is the crowning glory of every Filipino: “*Aming ligaya na pag may mang-a-api, ay mamatay ng dahil sa iyo.*” In substance it says, “*Our happiness is that when someone oppresses you, we readily die only because of you.*”

To die for a country is fine. It is the ultimate paradigm of patriotism at its pristine form of nobility and spirituality. It is one of the greatest expressions of love for our people. But I insist that to live for our Motherland is far better. In a word, *living for* is always preferable to *dying for* our people and country.

The above lyrics require no further explanation. It is, in fact, an act of brainwashing our people into believing that “*dying*”—rather than *living*—for our country is the noblest act of a Filipino. It underlines the negative and not the positive. And, for these reasons alone, our national anthem must—and should be—changed.

To what? To something that resonates in the heart and soul of every living Filipino. Something that inspires and makes us alive; something that glorifies our bravest heroes; something that brings back to mind the most beautiful events and landmarks of our history; oh, yes, something that makes us go forward and boldly and happily greet the dawn of each coming day!

16. DEPARTMENT OF CLEAN AND HONEST GOVERNMENT

Total honesty in public service is the very core and soul of Meritocracy. To ensure the fullest implementation of the policy of total honesty in public service, the new Meritocratic Order shall establish a

department aimed at strictly guiding the performance of each and every government servant through electronic monitoring devices and daily performance reports.

[H: RIGHT BACK TO THE 1984 BIG BROTHER?]

In the spirit of cooperation—rather than union—the government shall recruit the officers of this department from those recommended by the religious leaders and educators of the country.

[H: WHAT I HAVE NOTED IS THAT SOME OF THE MOST CORRUPT AND EVIL INDIVIDUALS (OR GROUPS) IN THIS COUNTRY OR ANY OTHER—ARE FROM THE RELIGIOUS SECTOR AND THE MOST CURRENTLY DOING A DISSERVICE TO MANKIND ARE AMONG THE EDUCATORS—SO, THIS ONE REALLY NEEDS TUNING.]

17. DEPARTMENT OF CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM AFFAIRS

To foster a greater sense of peace and promote domestic tranquillity, the government must stop, look, and listen intensely to the raging fraternal war in Mindanao.

The fact that more than 200,000 lives have thus far perished in the flame of Muslim resistance to the oppressive policies of the Manila-based oligarchic authority is more than enough to warrant the creation of a separate governmental department aimed at earnestly searching for a lasting solution to the Mindanao crisis. For us to live as one nation, the violent discord and disharmony in Mindanao must be diplomatically and satisfactorily resolved.

In the meantime, Christian political leaders should be discouraged from organizing movements that, by their nature, exclude Muslim participation.

18. COOPERATION BETWEEN THE CHURCH AND THE STATE

A Meritocratic system of government respects the traditional constitutional separation between the Church and the State. At all times, religious leaders are expected to refrain from endorsing any candidate for public office.

However, the observance of the doctrine of separation does not mean non-cooperation. Since religious leaders have—by the very nature of their status in society—high moral and spiritual ascendancy over the people, they must actively cooperate in the Meritocratic effort to promote total honesty in public service and in achieving other spiritually-oriented objectives of this new ideological system.

This simply means that, while actively pursuing their religious goals, our religious leaders are expected and encouraged to perform their nonreligious duties towards the country and the world, and they must do so tirelessly and to the best of their ability.

Some concerned Filipinos have suggested that the only way to save the Philippines is to kill everyone above 10 years of age. They believe that the present leaders, including the people, of this country are hopelessly corrupt. I beg to disagree.

Twice, God killed even the infants and innocent [sic] to cleanse the world from the dark forces of sin and immorality. During the “Flood”, God killed everyone by drowning and saving only the family of Noah. Also, God killed everyone in Sodom and Gomorrah, except one family. Yet, after all the killings made by God Himself, corruption surfaced.

[H: THAT IS BECAUSE GOD DID NO SUCH THING! THIS IS “MAN’S” STORY—NOT GOD’S

TRUTH. GOD CREATES; MAN DEVASTATES. THESE ARE NICE MYTHS BUT BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU BLAME UPON GOD.]

19. DEPARTMENT OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

To train the youth in the art of government, there should be a Department of Student Affairs under the office of the President to be headed by the president of the National Union of Students of the Philippines (NUSP) or the president of a similar student organization. Depending on the discretion of the President, the head of such a department may be given a cabinet position or rank and be allowed to participate in deliberations concerning governmental affairs.

At the same time, a student leader, duly elected by all college student councils throughout the country, may be given a non-voting membership in the lower house of Congress.

Through the years, the students’ only means of agitating for basic institutional reforms is to stage public demonstrations that are sometimes violent in nature.

Experience has shown that many students have been either maimed or killed for simply trying to express their sentiments concerning the affairs of the government. This tragic experience can be avoided by creating and institutionalizing a channel through which the students can have effective access to governmental proceedings and processes.

20. DIALOGICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND OTHER IMPORTANT SECTORS OF SOCIETY, INCLUDING DISSIDENT ORGANIZATIONS

As has been stated earlier, there is a need for the government to institutionalize channels of communications between important sectors of society, including dissident organizations. Absent an effective and continuing dialogue between these important segments of society and dissident forces, violence seems to be the only means to get the attention of—or effective response from—the national leadership.

Good faith efforts shall, therefore, be exerted to grant these unrepresented or under-represented groups—e.g., tribal highlanders, civic organizations, and dissident movements—well-defined positions in both the executive and legislative branches of government. Through this process, their respective concerns readily become identifiable and can be attended to promptly.

In sum, it should be stressed here, that the above proposed changes under a Meritocratic system of government do not cover all aspects that need to be altered in our societal order. As has been noted earlier, it should be emphasized here that all proposals contained in the pages of this book are merely proposals and, as such, they are, therefore, subject to revision, modification or change. Hence, they may be regarded or construed merely as “talking points” designed to stimulate the minds of our civic and political leaders—as well as the readers, especially the youth—on the concept of Meritocracy.

Indeed, the main motive behind these Meritocratic proposals is to provide our leaders—especially the youth—not with something to merely criticize, but with political ideas and social remedies to think about and improvise!

The fact is: We have to start somewhere, and the purpose of this book is precisely to provide our people with some ideas concerning Meritocracy.

If the dreams of yesterday are the realities of today, Meritocracy is one such beautiful dream of yesterday. It

should—and must—become the reality of today.

With this, we look forward to that daybreak of a golden age of peace and happiness in our country. Always, we shall pray for such a world, and hope that in our lifetime we see it become a living reality.

[END OF QUOTING PART 5, CHAPTER 3B]

1/4/01—#1 (14-141)

(PART 6)

MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES

By Elly Velez Pamatong, Esq.

[QUOTING:]

CHAPTER 4

MESSAGE FROM AN EXILE

“*They should rule who are able to rule best.*”—Aristotle—*Politics*, 343 B.C.

“*Meritokrasya Ng Masa*” was hatched in the warmth of a supreme conviction that the most reliable guardians of a true democracy are the well-informed men and women of the masses. This ideological belief, therefore, necessarily rejects the Western myth that a democratic system of government cannot exist or survive without a strong, well-educated *middle* class. Rather, it radically raises the stature of the men and women of the masses to the highest level of respect, dignity, humanity and true equality.

With this, I believe the time has come for us to destroy all other myths in our history: Myths imposed upon our people by those who stand to gain the most from the stage-managed adulation of incompetent leaders and fake heroes; myths written by foreigners to implant passivity the feeling of inferiority in colonial minds; incredible myths about Western intellectual and racial superiority over the Filipino people; and myths of ludicrous valor and sincerity notarized by political sycophants through the grant of undeserved honors.

“Democracy”—which disregards an effective and satisfactory participatory involvement of the masses—is also a myth eventually exposed by its own failings, resulting instead in the meteoric rise of Crony Capitalism and private dynasties at the expense of the suffering masses. As has been suggested earlier, Western “democracy” is based on a misleading idea that it can only survive and thrive in a country where there is a dominant and strong *middle* class.

The truth is that the seat of true democracy is the heart of every man and woman of the masses: their undying love for a democratic way of life, their unconditional adherence to the preservation of the inalienable rights of man, coupled with a total commitment to the final arbiters of their own destiny. When that love, adherence and commitment die there, no court, no law, no leader can save it. No court, no law, no leader can do much to rebuild the moral values needed to prepare the people to be politically born again.

Yes, it is high time we discard the myths so diligently circulated and promoted by vested interests and replaced by the supreme conviction that power emanates from each individual member of the masses acting and rising as one united body. Let neither political party nor foreign power dictate your choice of leadership. You and you alone should determine your future. Only you, with a united voice, can make Meritocracy of the masses a working reality.

Let your own belief in yourselves serve as the

ultimate source of power to overcome traditional party loyalties and dynastic pressures. Let no evil personality stand in your way in electing a spokesman—man or woman—when the time comes for you to vote in favor of *Meritokrasya Ng Masa*. Guard your ballots with your lives, and always remember that they represent the future of your children, and their children’s children.

But, in the event elections should be cast aside in favor of Martial Rule once more, let your courage outshine the will of darkened souls and, united, wrest control from the hands of an abusive dynasty through sheer force of numbers. **Violence need not be employed in liberating yourselves from the forces of evil. Violence can destroy not only the cause for which you stand, but also the humanistic dimension of your crusade.**

Evil forces can be destroyed by peaceful, non-provocative encirclement—until the very source of such evil forces dies. It can be done. It happened at EDSA. And it must be done again, if absolutely necessary, to save yourselves and your children.

Let no one forget God’s message of love at EDSA. The masses—although weak and weaponless and armed only with rosaries, statues, and wooden crosses—disarmed the will of men in uniform, whose fingers were firmly glued to the triggers of their killing machines. Truly, there was a miracle shown by God at EDSA. But that miracle shall fade into nothingness unless God’s divine message of salvation expressed through that historic event becomes a part of each and every living Filipino.

Let no one, therefore, suppress your will—not even the fear of being alone. For it is in the display of individual courage that each and every member of the greater mass can march onward, hand-in-hand, shoulder-to-shoulder until history becomes a witness to an awesome sea of humanity, ready to confront the power of evil, and prepared to be the seat of a truly Meritocratic-democratic form of government.

In a true Meritocratic-democracy, your vote is sacred. Again, it is as sacred as the lives of your children. Sell it—or let it be turned to shreds or blatantly substituted without protest—and your children will surely suffer, and even die. Guard it with your lives and you will feel the incredible surge of power within you. Indeed, the very seat of a divine, truly democratic power is your HEART, which is the temple of God, and not the hearts or minds of tyrants and oligarchs who have long betrayed your trust.

Before you can justly demand for the establishment of a truly democratic government, however, you must do one thing which you may never have done before: and that is—after a soul-searching introspection—you must admit that you have wittingly or unwittingly inflicted the present sufferings and ordeals upon yourselves: and, further, that to a large extent, you are to blame for most of the present evils in our government. **Until you shall have learned to humbly accept your own involvement in a nationwide “conspiracy” to subvert and sabotage the moral values and sacred traditions upon which the then Republic of the Philippines was founded, there is absolutely no hope for our country to be saved.**

A nation may be compared to a ship, and the people may also be referred to as the engine of that ship. If the engine—which is the sovereign people, does not want to move, no captain, however divine or ruthless or powerful, can move that ship. No captain, no oligarch, can repair the engine of that ship. No captain, no dictator, no oligarch, could ever hope to cross an ocean

of greed and reach the shore of long-lasting prosperity.

Once you shall have learned to accept that you are also to blame for all your present sorrows and sufferings, then and only then can you ever hope to deserve your freedom and happiness and prosperity again. Then and only then can you ever hope to see the rise of a country unheard of in the annals of our history.

My countrymen, this is not an empty promise. I am not a Politician. I am not an Oligarch. I am not anti- or pro-American. I am not a Communist. I am simply pro-Filipino. Like you, I come from the masses, and my loyalty is to you—the masses and the masses alone.

MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES—*MERITOKRASYA NG MASA*—is my gift to you from exile. It is totally up to you to reject or embrace it. I can only say as a lawyer and as a former student leader, who defied the oligarchs, that the salvation of our country lies in your hearts and minds. Reject your own potential for greatness. Give in once more to the oligarchs. Remain in silence. Sell your votes. And I tell you, we shall still be around to witness the tearful lowering of our flag by those who wish to supplant the present “Money-Talk-Cratic” form of government with their own brand of tyranny.

On the other hand, embrace *MERITOKRASYA NG MASA*, a truly Filipino concept of democracy, and you will surely participate in the building of a great nation. *MERITOKRASYA NG MASA* is your last channel of redemption. It is a sacred order which stands on its own. It does not belong to any traditional political party. It belongs to you. For you, the people, are the party. You are the “*Partido Ng Masa Ng Pilipinas*”. You must accept it as a gift from heaven at a time when the gods are clearly cursing the manner with which your government is being run: when the curtain of doom is about to fall upon all.

The eleventh hour has come. There is not much time left to unite traditional political parties or forces bristling with personal ambitions. But there is time to pour the fresh wine of true democracy into the new wineskin of the masses. And only you can make that change. Indeed, the future of our nation, the future of our children, is in your hands—not mine.

They say that the pen is mightier than the sword. The crooks in our country do not only control the pen but also the sword. The same thing is true with the United States of America. Admittedly, it has the power of both the pen and the sword, and that is why its people, the American people, think they are on top of the world. But there is a weapon far greater than pen and sword, **Meritocracy: a weapon of mass salvation**, of love and the will to live in a true climate of dignity and humanity.

Let us—you and I—unite and wield this weapon of mass salvation. Together, we shall descend upon the morally destructive forces of greed and evil that have for so long betrayed the oppressed and suffering masses. Let us do battle to the bitterest end. With the grace of God, we shall prevail.

Finally, let us always bear in mind that the main banner of our Meritocratic crusade is TOTAL HONESTY in public service. Only TOTAL HONESTY in public service can destroy the blighting forces of corruption, dispel the darkness of ignorance, and raise the living standard of the masses. Anything short of that quality of service is not enough. While the accommodation of unavoidable human frailties may be tolerable, any compromise with the forces of evil is totally unacceptable.

[END CHAPTER 4]

[TO CONTINUE PART 6, 1/4/01]

CHAPTER 5

THE MERITOCRATIC MANIFESTO

“A decent provision for the poor is the true test of civilization.”—Samuel Johnson, 1770

A climate of revolution calls for immediate reforms. The crumbling of a people's faith in the government calls for a sweeping change.

It is never too late. We, as a people, can still muster enough strength to pull ourselves from the abyss of despair and confusion into a new era of political, moral, social, and economic reconstruction.

The hope is within us. The solution is in us. The potential is there waiting to be tapped at the right moment despite the seeming helplessness of our people. Such a moment calls for untainted leadership and the pooling of untarnished talents which can explode into countless constructive and productive activities all drawing strength from the collective voice of the masses.

But, first, the masses must find or define that Messiah within each of us whom Ninoy had anointed in his prophecy, and destroy that self-serving myth that no one else is capable of leading the country except the establishment, including the oligarchy, which has dragged our people into a bottomless pit of despair and anarchy.

Indeed, there are many—far too many—more capable of dynamic leadership if given the chance to replace a dynastic and oligarchic system which must be rejected by the very masses it pretends to serve.

Where else should the people look for such totally honest and dynamic leadership if not from within the ranks of the masses which comprise the majority of our people. As Ninoy said before his ill-fated departure to his Motherland:

“The Messiah you are looking for will not come from our ranks... not from the oligarchs... He will come from the faceless masses.”

We need not look around us. The key is in our hearts and in our determination to act as one solid body: To rise as one resounding force. For, indeed, WE, the masses, are the Messiah.

Meritokrasya Ng Masa is our guide to a selfless and honest government: to a stable and progressive system of government wherein WE, the masses, are the King.

No bullet can destroy *Meritokrasya Ng Masa*. No bullet can kill a dream. No bullet can kill the masses—the NEW MESSIAH whose hour has come. And, with this, I want you all to rise and face with pride the dawn of a new tomorrow.

Meritokrasya Ng Masa is a government for the masses, by the masses, and of the masses. Power emanates from each individual. His voice must be heard—never to be stifled again. His dignity must be preserved, never to be trampled by the high and the mighty; his future must be secured, never to be threatened by the forces of greed; and his vote must be held sacred—never to be desecrated again and again by any form of tyranny.

Under *Meritokrasya Ng Masa*, the leadership must be committed to a total and an uncompromising honesty in public service. No man, no woman, can enrich himself or herself at the expense of the masses to whom he or she is under a solemn obligation to serve.

The establishment of a true democracy and the road to economic and spiritual prosperity rests solely in the individual—in you, the man or woman from the masses. No degree of dictatorial might can suppress the will of each member of the masses who values freedom, and prizes his vote. It is only when the individual sells his principles and his vote, as in the past, that tyranny can exist and suppress forever his dream for a better tomorrow.

Before searching for a selfless leader, who is committed to a total and absolute honesty in public or government service, we must face the reality that in the absence of press freedom we cannot depend on the media to help us point the way. There is no room for a Messiah to be heard in Herod's court. The search for a spokesman of the masses should commence through the most potent medium of all: the voice of the masses freely expressed by word of mouth, by way of chain letters passing through the hands of the masses, pulpit to pulpit, house to house, ear to ear, and heart to heart. Only then will that leader emerge from the ranks of the faceless masses.

When the day of reckoning comes, each individual must act on his own, asserting his right of free choice. He must guard and preserve the sanctity of the ballot—knowing that **it represents the lives and future of his children**. Only he and he alone is to blame if he surrenders his will to the dictates of the oligarchs and their goons. Or, if he sells his votes.

So, spare your children from the trauma of protracted oppression and **endless international debts** by pledging to yourself and to the Almighty that you will cast your vote, if elections should be held, in favor of any competent and honest leader who shall carry the banner of Meritocracy.

Through the years, most—if not all—of you have been selling your votes to the highest bidder. By so doing, you knew or should have known that you destroyed, or prostituted the very foundation of democracy you claimed to live for. Martial law—and all the murders and abuses flowing directly from its dark and evil forces—followed as logical consequences of your wanton act of crushing the very essence of a democratic way of life: free and honest elections. Thus, it could be said that your present sufferings are self-inflicted and you must, if you want to see a redeeming light through the darkness of the present, admit that you are to blame for the advent of martial law in this country, the tightening grip of corruption upon our souls, and the perpetuation of an oligarchical “Money-Talk-Cratic” social order.

The nation is like a **ship** with the President/Dictator and the masses playing the roles of a **captain** and an **engine**, respectively. If the ship of martial law survived for 20 years, it was, and still is, only because you, the ENGINE, have cooperated with the CAPTAIN. And if the god of corruption is still in control of your lives, it is because you have surrendered your dignity to the dehumanizing forces of “Money-Talk-Cracy”.

Not martial law, nor dictatorship, nor corruption, nor military abuses are the real problems. The main problem is YOU: Are you committed to a Meritocratic-democratic way of life? If so, are you prepared to pay the price? If the answer to these questions is “Yes”—then we can truly say: We are prepared to start anew.

In your hands, more than mine, rests the key to the salvation of this country. And the key is

MERITOKRASYA NG MASA. MERITOKRASYA NG MASA serves the rich and poor alike. Hence, in this regard, we must take into account the enlightened capitalist sector which must be made responsive to other needs of the masses, supportive of its truly democratic government, and ever mindful of its role in nation building.

For **MERITOKRASYA NG MASA** to survive, the government must first rid itself of dynastic and oligarchic influences, and cleanse itself of old habits. At the same time, it must develop the highest standard of morality and performance in public service.

Oligarchy, political patronage, and crony capitalism shall be a thing of the past. Integrity and merit—above everything else—shall be the primary measure of governmental appointments; and all appointees shall be held accountable to the people in the performance of their duties. In place of political patronage and influence peddling, a merit system of governmental machinery shall be implanted and strictly observed. **The rewards for honesty in government service must be made too attractive to forfeit for the sake of bribery. Recognition shall always be accorded to those who demonstrate a high degree of quality of service to the masses.**

Unquestionable honesty in leadership by example. The new leadership must set the finest example of honesty and moral integrity in public service. **The leader must not only be pure but also be above and beyond suspicion, including all those who work under him.** This type of leadership commands respect and creates confidence in the government.

To further encourage honesty in public service, any employee who can successfully prove any corrupt activity or wrongdoing, he or she will be given the opportunity to assume the position of the erring public servant or officer.

Ostentatious living by public officials or servants in the midst of massive poverty is inexcusable. It is even worse than a capital offense. Such lavish style of leadership or living must be uprooted by all means, and replaced by a selfless administration. **If at all existent, oligarchy and addiction to opulence must be confined to entrepreneurial ventures divorced from government service and free of politic.**

Public service will, therefore, become a seat of responsible and responsive service to the masses—a position of competent performance within the reach of the governing masses, and not a high pedestal of indifference and arrogance.

The masses will, indeed, become the masters of their own destiny. The people will no longer be subservient to the whims of traditional politicians, landlords and oligarchs. They must be served collectively and individually with utmost courtesy.

Since the government is FOR the masses, it must provide the best possible support and sustenance for all necessities: free medicine, education, and housing—if possible.

There is no reason for poverty in our midst. We are blessed with natural resources and unharnessed talents aimlessly wandering, if not migrating, for lack of enlightenment and inspiring leadership. We are blessed with fertile soil that can be further enriched and developed so that the people can receive unlimited benefits from the fruits of the land. We are also

blessed with even richer waters that can be explored to feed our people. With proper direction and incentives, and the establishment of faith in the government, the Filipino masses can rise to greater heights of economic stability and prosperity.

This is, indeed, a land of plenty, ravaged and betrayed by a god of corruption and depravity more concerned in building a dynasty than saving a nation. Extract such a deeply rooted decay from the nation's political system, and the rumblings of rebellion will cease to grip the countryside, and spare the lives of our soldiers and youth.

Yes, prosperity is well within our reach if we are willing to change or amend our lives, our outlooks, and our actions. And if we are willing to pay the price of progress: TOTAL HONESTY IN PUBLIC SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP BY EXAMPLE.

For as long as there is a single Filipino begging in the streets, the government has failed. For as long as there is a single prostitute in our land, the government has failed. For as long as there is a homeless Filipino, the government has failed. And for as long as there is a single Flor Contemplacion working as an ECONOMIC SLAVE in a foreign land, no leader—indeed, no government—can claim success in the governance of our people.

Meritokrasya Ng Masa cannot and will not fail. Because you, the people, are in control, and you will not—ever again—allow anyone to suppress your civil liberties.

Massive “agricultural revolution” shall be launched. With the political power now in the hands of the masses, a massive economic development program shall be initiated, along with vastly improved cooperative systems that shall increase the participation of the people in nation-building.

Meritokrasya Ng Masa shall, therefore, wage an all-out war against hunger and poverty. No stretch of idle soil shall be left untilled. No person shall be left jobless. Every person must be involved in the collective effort to increase food production, and the struggle to develop every form or source of energy. The scope and magnitude of productivity shall be such that even typhoons and other forms of natural calamity cannot adversely affect the basic needs of the people.

There must be employment opportunity for every living Filipino. The launching of labor-intensive programs shall be given top priority. Artificial improvements geared solely to impress foreigners shall be discarded in place of more meaningful plans for nation-building.

Moreover, *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* shall launch a massive entrepreneurial program that will result in the development of manpower, and the proliferation of varied industries. **The Filipino people must produce and manufacture whatever the nation's resources will allow.** We shall train every available hand in carving, molding, creating, assembling, and implementing feasible projects aimed at achieving economic independence.

Also, we shall educate, train, and retrain our people in varied skills and professions under the roof of excellence worthy of the reputation as the future Educational Center of Asia.

The masses can achieve anything. The people can do everything there is to be done for the betterment of all, and for the security of those yet unborn. Under a climate of freedom, we shall challenge each and every citizen to explore his

maximum potential for excellence in the area leadership. Towards this end, *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* shall provide all the opportunities for unlimited growth, and the ultimate beneficiaries shall be the Filipino masses.

The primary role of the government is to provide the necessary stimulus for programmed economic growth, providing capital to anyone with a viable project that meets the following criteria: the project must be labor intensive; it must be geared toward self-sufficiency; and must enhance regional, as well as national, development.

There shall be a massive economic development program based on a Master Plan to be formulated by “the best brains” available, and who have been tested in various fields of business enterprise. Such a Master Plan shall cover economic development throughout the country, pinpointing the regions best suited for whatever development projects that can best be implemented in those regions, and ensuring maximum participation by the masses.

Capital in the hands of entrepreneurs and large corporations shall be made to work for the benefit of the masses, while providing investors—both foreign and domestic—with the proper climate of growth and development. Entrepreneurial enrichment shall follow as a reward for honesty, diligence, and fairness. **However, as has been already suggested elsewhere in this book, foreign corporations will be required to share a certain portion of their income as royalty for all native Filipinos.**

To ensure effective and successful execution of the economic Master Plan, the government shall launch an extensive road-building program. Weatherproof highways and efficient transportation and communication systems must be constructed or established throughout the country. With effective transportation and communication systems, the wheels of commerce can turn to high speed and shorten the span of economic reconstruction.

Capital shall flow from the corrupt to the incorruptible. More than enough capital will surface and appear as soon as the investors will see total honesty and stability in the government. Capital will grow as soon as we change ourselves, and pay the price of progress.

To ensure total honesty in public service, and honesty in leadership by example, the government must seek **cooperation with religious institutions in order to protect the funds or revenues of the people.** With religious leaders temporarily—or, if circumstance will permit, permanently—guarding revenue-raising bureaus and departments of our government, we are sure that our domestic and foreign obligations can easily be met or satisfied. Admittedly, these religious leaders are generally the most spiritually disciplined and selfless people in our society, or so it seems. And in the midst of darkness, they shine like stars—guiding those who are lost and groping in the night of corruption and ignorance.

While respecting the separation of the Church and State, we must appeal to the patriotic sensibilities of the clergy in lending its clean hands in the temporary control or supervision of revenue collection agencies and service bureaus until such time as a new mode or culture of morality is completely ingrained into the system and internalized in the lives of our people.

To ensure the cleansing of the nation's corrupt

bureaucracy—psychological rehabilitation and spiritual renaissance—the participation of the clergy is extremely necessary. In a climate of culturalized suspicion and cynicism brought about by decades of corrupt practices, the most practical way of disposing bad habits in any system is through employment of professionally mature and honest personnel who must set an example for all to follow in the shortest period of time.

To ensure competence, an extensive retraining program shall be conducted to upgrade the performance of civil service personnel and prepare them for new challenges and opportunities.

In *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* (Meritocracy of the Masses), the Common Man is King. Public service must be courteous and efficient, and completely free of arrogance and bribery. The rewards for honesty in public service shall be such that only a fool would dare take a bribe and risk his job. The penalties for corruption shall be stiff enough to prevent anyone from stealing a single peso from the government.

With such reforms, reinforced further by competent and unquestionably honest and competent leadership, the nation will be able to forge ahead despite the mounting quagmire of international debts incurred by a series of corrupt leaderships.

As the nation moves on and prospers, more entrepreneurs and professionals will spring from the ranks of the masses to become leaders of government and industry; and they, in turn, shall deal with the masses from where they came with the same degree of commitment and dedication, humility, honesty and courtesy, as the public servants before them.

Then, as the government, labor, clergy, and private sectors collaborate and cooperate in nation-building, the government shall proceed to prepare the youth of the land for an exciting and dynamic future through quality education which shall be the best in Asia, if not in the world.

Our educational institutions, on the other hand, must do everything they can to make sure that every student will strive for academic excellence. And, for its part, the government must do everything it can to make college education a matter of constitutional right. For a system that does not promote and protect the genius of its people is one without a soul. It does not deserve to exist.

Along with the establishment of the best educational facilities throughout the land, **a massive recruitment program shall be undertaken to mobilize school teachers and professors, to be highly paid, who will serve as the backbone and spearhead of such a program for educational excellence and supremacy.**

Indeed, if human beings represent the image of God; if human beings are the walking temples of God; and if human beings are created equal before the eyes of God—then the Government must do everything possible to mold these divine images to the best it can, and using all educational tools and resources available.

In this struggle for academic supremacy and intellectual refinement, the teacher—the greatest artist of all—is King and, as such, he deserves the best incentives and the highest salary flowing directly from the heart and resources of the masses.

It is high time we recognize and reward that segment of our society which clearly comprises the first line of nation building. Again, I refer to the unheralded schoolteachers and professors without whom educational excellence becomes an impossibility.

Moreover, schoolteachers shall be encouraged to go through well-supervised modern retraining programs and advanced continuing courses in order to deserve their rightful place in a merit system of government. Additionally, they should participate in community development projects; aside from dedicated civic leaders, if not the teachers—who should be entrusted with the task of youth training and development in school?

Furthermore, no effort shall be spared to provide our schools with the best and most practical and applicable equipment and technologically advanced facilities to ensure the best quality of education.

Not a single Filipino shall be deprived of the constitutional right and opportunity to obtain first-class education for reasons of poverty. There shall be no poverty in a MERITOCRACY OF THE MASSES. Hence, quality education shall be available to everyone.

In a nutshell, agricultural and industrial development must first put food on everybody's table, and provide adequate shelter for every homeless Filipino. Mendicancy shall be a thing of the past. Prostitution and White slavery shall be relegated to the dark annals of dictatorship and oligarchy.

With full stomach and adequately provided with basic necessities of life, the youth of the land can now concentrate in learning all conceivable modern technological skills and developing themselves in the field of business or political leadership so that in the end of a short-term period, a mighty nation will rise from the rubbles of the past and never fall again.

To rediscover or to search for our true identity, the Government under *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* must launch a massive cultural revolution. The Filipino must be given all the tools and chances to rediscover his past; the Filipino must be encouraged to assert his true identity amid layers upon layers of alien influences coating his mind; and the Filipino must be given all the assistance he needs to write his own history in his own terms.

To understand the present, we must look at the past; and to see the future, we must fully understand the present. Thus, we must begin to explore our past and rewrite our history based on facts, untainted by colonial influences and impressions, sorting out the real heroes and martyrs, to include modern heroes among the youth, from the imposed heroes of the past and present.

We shall reexamine the merits and authenticity of our heroes with the end in view of providing our youth with genuine models of courage and conviction which are essential in the molding of a people truly proud of their heritage.

We must begin to define our national identity by accepting our roots and reconciling with our Moslem brothers and sisters in a spirit of mutual fraternal respect.

And we must all accept the fact that Christians and Moslems alike belong to one race: THE MALAY RACE. Too much bloodshed has been spilled in a fratricidal warfare with no end in sight, unless we begin to think as one nation—with one flag. *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* is for all Filipinos.

Hence, in the spirit of **cultural reconciliation**, we

must encourage sincere cooperation and peaceful coexistence among other racial, ethnic, and religious groups in order to develop a strong nation. Also, we must assist our people in asserting their rights before the international community, and within the sovereignty of other nations.

If there is anything at all to be added to a flag, let it be a ninth ray added to the Sun to reflect the Moslems' undefeated and uncompromising resistance against the forces of White invaders. Let it be the glowing tribute to the legendary leadership of Sultan Kudarat, Lapu-Lapu, and Dagohoy who won their battles and stunned their White enemies with their rare quality of courage and bravery. And if anyone among us should wear a hat, what would be more appropriate than the Kupaya (Moslem fez) as a symbol of cultural unification and pride in our Malay origin? Or, if anyone at all should carry a sword, what would be more appropriate than the Moslem Kris, which has been the most feared symbol of undying defiance to any form of tyranny and oppression?

If possible, let us do away with the words "cultural minorities". There are not cultural minorities in our country. We are all Filipinos under one God; under one flag; and we belong to the same race: the Malay Race.

Furthermore, let us embrace our Chinese friends. The granting of Filipino citizenship to all Chinese residents of the Philippines is another gesture of unity long overdue. The economic dominance of the Chinese community in the Philippines is of significant value and must be harnessed for the common good.

Thus, the Chinese community must be encouraged to join the mainstream of the Philippine society in order to enrich the racial blend of the Filipino; provided, however, that no foreigners shall attempt to reduce our country into a playground for their greed. When that happens, the erring foreigner shall be immediately rehabilitated.

The dissidents of our country must also be recognized, and their grievances should be heard by the people. Nobody goes to the jungle and fights without a cause. That cause must be pinpointed, and supported if not harmful to a truly democratic way of life. It is not enough that the government listens; it must satisfactorily—or, at least, reasonably—respond to their just demands.

Along with the maintenance, protection, and preservation of a free press, beholden only to the truth and the enlightenment of the masses, freedom of expression—which includes freedom of dissent—shall be duly respected provided such expression of opinion remains nonviolent. Such policy is based on the plain and simple fact that subversion will always exist wherever and whenever tyranny exists. *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* is for the masses. It cannot be a rebel against itself.

In fact, every rebel must defend the only program of government which respects his individuality, while recognizing the strength of a united people. *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* is for the law-abiding citizen who is determined to rid society of oppressors masquerading as "saviors of the people". It cannot masquerade to deceive itself. It can only be truthful and loyal to itself in its dual role as King and Servant.

Finally, *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* is based on the belief that the army must be made less dependent

on the people for support. It must be able to support itself, if possible. Of course, that which the army cannot provide must be supplied by the people it is constitutionally mandated to protect. If feasible—and except for the Air Force, the Navy, Presidential Guard Battalion, and the Engineering Corps—the whole Armed Forces of the Philippines must be restructured, including all police forces. Instead, the masses can professionalize the barrio police. This approach can save the government a huge sum of money, and the money saved can be used to advance technological programs.

The main function of the military is to protect the sovereignty of the nation; to defend the country against any form of external aggression.

To achieve this end, the military arm of the Republic must be upgraded and modernized. The Navy shall be expanded to ensure the protection of Philippine territorial waters from any piracy and exploitation.

Likewise, the Air Force shall be modernized in order to effectively protect our skies—so that the people, now freed from the shackles of corruption and misery, shall stand and salute it as yet another symbol of a truly free and sovereign nation.

The military must serve as the protectors and guardians of the masses. No one shall use his badge or uniform to intimidate, torture, demean, "salvage", or murder a countryman.

The military shall be a part of the masses as well. As such, the military arm of the masses cannot possibly inflict unpardonable crimes against itself. On the contrary, it shall pledge allegiance to the service of the masses of which it is an integral part.

Meritokrasya Ng Masa is a realistic dream—as real as the pride and talent in every Filipino; as real as the very existence of the masses; and as real and as certain as our trust in God. *Meritokrasya Ng Masa* is the ONLY road to a new tomorrow. **It is the poor man's weapon of mass salvation!**

[END PART 6, CHAPTER 5]

Thank you for your attention. We must now turn our attention to other things and trust that this input will be interesting in your ongoing possibilities of what CAN be done. If we all work together, we CAN do this, readers—but no man SHOULD have to do this alone.

Salu, Hatonn

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People Representation: Not Bought Politicians

1/6/01—#1 (14-143)

RE: MERITOCRACY DISCUSSION
PERTAINING TO CHINA

MERITOCRACY IS NOT A NEW IDEA

Hatonn—I find that when I choose a subject to give some focus to our own presentations it is somehow assumed that this is the “new gospel”. No, in fact, Meritocracy is a very old concept which runs all the way back to KNOWN historical entities such as Aristotle, Socrates, Plato and myriads since.

The reason we have worked almost around the clock recently to share the topic with *CONTACT* readers is because the concept can now begin to be presented as a solution to the all but irreversible chaos and corruption in the Philippines. This includes other nations but we have to focus on that which is within our “human” realization. In other words, can the uneducated, unknowledgeable fishfarmer from lower Borneo move into the presidency of his nation and run it well? No. He can, however, with experience in fish farming within a fishfarming community, do a better job of representation than any politician from downtown Paris in the same position. He WILL know, the hands-on way, the problems and needs of the fishfarmers and he can GROW up through the phases of **representation FOR THE PEOPLE—better than a “bought” politician.**

A part of that same reason for pushing the recent writings is that we have the author within our own circle of sharing recognition and he has but ONE book in Manila with him. Further, he needs to travel and he needs his book. He has graciously allowed us to utilize his work and we certainly appreciate the break from the chaos of political-military terrorism taking place here.

Pouring “money” into a corrupt and deteriorating society without note of use or WHO GETS CONTROL, is most certainly unworthy of our labors. The most of our presentations and offers are held by the very PEOPLE and businessmen with projects that would give instant growth and infrastructure to THIS nation. Yes, it would work anywhere but there has to be ability of the PEOPLE to gain—or the politicians simply snatch and steal it away and you end up right back in the cauldron with the same witches stirring the brew.

Our product IS TRANSPARENT from inception to full use. So, tell me what politician

wants that kind of visibility? I remind you that representatives from the second-highest-level politician in the Philippines asked E.J. if he was “prepared to make a large deposit to Mr. X’s bank account”. When the answer was “no”, that seemed to have ended the courting. Is this “somehow different”. No, it is the way of the game as in “everybody does it”. If we start in corruption, we can only grow more corruption and that is just the way it is, whether YOU might approve or not. We SHALL get “there”—but, **WE WILL DO IT RIGHT.**

I certainly DO know that it is oppressive to our own people struggling against the lack and the assaults by Federal agencies and unconscionable former “friends” who have stolen, lied and cheated you. They will undo themselves. Every encounter from Federal lawyers to international gossip is unfolding base players. Diane and lawyers met with Federal lawyers and one of the things revealed is that “they” used information off the *Spectrum-Contact* 10.com site. That got cleared up right fast—but that now rests ON THE RECORD as to “directed” use by “informers” of the lowest kind.

They threatened Diane with 3 to 5 years in prison for mislabeling a product of some kind. Can they do that? Of course, they can—that is where you ARE, America. Obviously, they don’t, however, want Diane; they want Me AND THUS, THE EKKERS, who have nothing whatsoever to do with any of the point in focus. They did, however, suggest that they would release Diane from charges if she would turn evidence against such as the *CONTACT* staff and her own parents. Wow, how far you have come, citizens! WE MUST BE DOING SOMETHING RIGHT!

What of Meritocracy? It is a pretty good possibility upon which to build “people strength”—but until we can give the necessary support in funding, it can’t “just up and work”. The point of the political controllers and One World Banksters was and is to disallow any way to financially allow recovery. This is so foolish a concept because if you have no industry capability in nations, you have nothing to rip-off after the ripping-off has killed the goose. However, the controllers are so deep in the muck as to be unable to dig out of their own game.

Since we have no interest at all in any kind of collapsing mechanisms, only in growth, we can work together for the people without interfering with the ongoing battles they are playing against one another. It is, though, that the ongoing delays and collapsing economy are

becoming seriously damaging to the players as well as the people.

Our deuterium people are off to get to one of the number-one Taipans here to see what can be done. The man owns a couple of major banks and pulls weight in the most important one element of all here—China.

Now, to go back to Meritocracy, for I would like to share something with you regarding China. The best way to do that is to simply copy an article from the Sept. 2000 journal called *Current History* with a focus on China.

Therefore, I ask Dharma to pull away from the book by Pamatong for a few days while we offer some other topics.

One of the messages I want to share is a speech by Fidel Ramos, former President of the Philippines—just prior to Erap Estrada.

And, frankly, I want to give you some information on MYTHS as over here, today is called the THREE KINGS day. This is KNOWN to be a myth—but this is what happens through years of acceptance as fact that which is but a fable. We can get through it all, so bear with us, please.

Death threats flow daily and those even to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Divide, who presides over the Presidential Impeachment Trial. Literally, there was a written threat, on the “letterhead” of the Vice President (an obvious clue as to undercover networking), to Justice Divide and his entire family.

This certainly doesn’t help the floundering President, so with bombs bursting everywhere, yea, even across the street from this place—there is a true realization that this is more than the TELENVELA taking place. Television has simply brought unreality into your living rooms and to your very sofa.

People here are out of work in large part, so they turn their attention to that idiot screen like superglue, and the only other thing they CAN do—go demonstrate. It is the “enjoyable” activity—except that now it is turning to bloodshed which is turning up the flame of anger and hatred.

How can it end? Well, all they have to do is USE OUR PROGRAM and within a couple of hours the solution would be ready to go. Funds would flow instantly into the people, the businesses, the infrastructure and, yes, secure the banks. Simple? Too simple? No, God always provides total simplicity in HIS PROPOSALS.

As you read this next article on “China” you will undoubtedly think it is possible as with “democracy”. Don’t be mislead because the WTO (World Trade Organization) and free trade with China and the U.S. are not as they are presented—ever. Just add it to your information storage, please, to further realize that there ARE some possible alternatives that can still work in this crumbling global society.

Then, before returning to finish the copy of the book in total, you need some attention to the expectations circulating through the more

intelligent circles of the present ongoing circumstance in the Philippines.

All this may take a few writings, so I suggest that the staff consider the interruptions but there is no need to enlarge the paper into overload—we will save that for later. One step at a time is my directive to attaining our goals. I remind you to seek and FIND the POSITIVE presentation in EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE and you will take those steps more surely.

[QUOTING *CURRENT HISTORY*, SEPT. 2000:]

GLOBAL CAPITALISM AND THE ROAD TO CHINESE DEMOCRACY

By Michael A. Santoro

American trade and investment in China is helping create a middle class with power and interests independent of the state. Will it be the fertile ground in which the seeds of democracy take root?

The human-rights case for expanding trade with China is simple and compelling. The greatest impact that the United States can have on human rights in China will come through trade and investment. Multinational corporations, particularly those based in the United States, are influencing four sets of factors—economic prosperity, merit-based hiring practices, information sharing and teamwork, and leadership and change—that are positively related to democracy and human rights. By trading with and investing in China, the United States will accelerate this “human-rights spin-off”, continue to fuel the dramatic social changes taking place, and hasten the day that democracy and human rights can flourish in China.

Not all economic activity by foreigners produces human-rights spin-off. The positive effects result from the profit-maximizing behavior of “market-building” multinational corporations that enter China in the hopes of capturing consumer and business markets. These companies, such as Motorola and General Motors, are world-class firms that are investing often huge sums of capital in China, paying wages far above the norm, and offering a high-quality working environment for their mostly young, skilled, and educated workforces. They are committed to long-term strategies in China.

Foreign companies have also been primarily attracted to China because of its bountiful supply of low-skilled, low-wage labor. Such “cost-minimizing” firms generally are global marketing companies that usually have a minimal physical presence and nominal direct investment within China. The goods manufactured by cost-minimizing firms—often toys, clothing, and basic electronics—require both skilled and semi-skilled labor. Subcontractors who perform work to the specifications of global marketing companies usually conduct the manufacturing operations for cost-minimizing firms.

Competition among developing countries to attract this kind of investment is keen, and the workers who are drawn to these jobs are often rural migrants with little education. Local governments are sometimes lax in enforcing existing labor regulations because manufacturers can easily shift their operations to more compliant locales whose governments turn a blind eye to labor abuses. Corruption and conflicts of interest involving local officials also contribute to the enforcement problem. The economic incentives at work in these circumstances and the vulnerability of the workers create the potential for severe worker abuses. (Of course, not all low-skill export-sector factories are abusive; many such firms provide important and empowering economic opportunities for workers.)

Although there is little systematically gathered evidence of the incidence and severity of labor abuses in China and other developing nations, credible reports by journalists and NGOs (Non Government Organizations) suggest that the sweatshop problem is serious. Compounding the problem are reports that the subcontractors of well-known global retailing firms employ children and prisoners. These labor abuses represent a side of economic globalization that rightly concerns and frightens many people. The attention paid to this phenomenon, however, has obscured some of globalization’s more positive aspects.

DEMOCRATIZATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Trade’s most obvious positive influence on democratization in China is economic. Although some argue that trading with China supports a corrupt regime, the opposite is true. Since Aristotle, political theorists have contended that democracy is much more sustainable when a country’s people have achieved a certain level of economic development. More recently, political scientists and economists have confirmed that, while isolated exceptions do exist (most notably India), economic prosperity generally is a precondition for a stable and sustainable democracy.

The most recent Taiwanese presidential election illustrates the relationship between economic development and democratization. Following several decades of robust economic development and the emergence of a strong middle class, the Taiwanese people demanded and received in the late 1980s and early 1990s a greater role in their country’s government and increasingly open and free elections. Mainland Chinese citizens and leaders are undoubtedly aware of Taiwan’s thriving democracy and understand that, as their own country becomes more prosperous, the possibilities for democracy increase.

Although serious and widespread poverty still exists in China (especially in rural areas),

average annual per capita income is nearly \$3,000 in terms of purchasing power parity, fast approaching the level that could sustain a democracy. By aiding China’s economic development, American trade and investment also helps create a middle class with power and interests independent of the state, the fertile ground in which the seeds of democracy can take a deep root.

THE RISE OF THE “MERITOCRACY CADRE”

Foreign trade and investment in China not only further prosperity but do so in the private sector under private-sector rules. By hiring, firing, and promoting on the basis of MERIT, multinational corporations are teaching their workers that individual performance and talent matter. This emphasis on individual worth is also creating a “meritocracy cadre”: an affluent and highly educated social class with power and interests separate and distinct from those of the state.

For decades, the traditional path to power and wealth in China has been membership in the Communist Party, employment in a state-owned enterprise (SOE), and establishment of good relations with superiors. Being well connected to the party and professing the party line have been the most important keys to career success. Multinational corporations are helping break down this equation by creating a new meritocracy cadre of Chinese citizens who are acquiring wealth, status, and power through individual merit and hard work rather than through Communist Party connections. **[H: Certainly, THIS concept is questionable—as with the part about multinational corporations of the BIG CABAL kind doing much more than utilizing the sweat shops. You must stay alert or the “side-trails” will “getcha”.]**

One member of this new meritocracy cadre is “Tom”. Tom is an engineer by training but has risen rapidly through the ranks of his American company in China. Upon introducing himself, Tom is careful to note that his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from a prestigious Chinese university was earned with honors. Although Tom appeared somewhat egotistical as he told me of his various credentials and accomplishments, I soon realized that Tom touts his achievements because he is proud of having attained his position through his talents rather than through personal connections. Tom is careful to contrast his own career with that of his father, who was, according to Tom, a “number-one boss” at a factory outside Beijing. Tom’s father rose to his position largely as a reward for being a People’s Liberation Army soldier at the time of the founding of the People’s Republic of China in 1949.

[H: I hesitate to let this slip by unnoticed. With most of the Chinese people, the Philippine people, and you name the country, including the U.S.A.—to be

able to go get such “credentials” is out of the question, for there is not even funding for grade-school and much the less opportunity to become a well-paid engineer without a family that can afford that support to its children. The blood has been sucked dry from the people and rendered them helpless. They make a little money and tuck it away in a bank, let us say, then come the disruptions to the system and the banks fold—without payback of funds (deposits) to the very people of which we speak. The bankers may lose “something” but it cannot be compared to the losses to the people themselves who already are suffering in abject poverty.]

Another member of this new meritocracy cadre is “Ling”, a business strategist for an American company. Originally from China’s northwest, Ling attended college in Shanghai and landed a job at an American company in the northeast after spending several unhappy years working at a state-owned enterprise. Ling told me that in her American company, “as long as you perform, you will get promoted; SOEs are large and old. You are behind a lot of people for a promotion.”

LESSONS OF THE FREE MARKET

The opportunity to have a successful career in an American company has ripple effects throughout the Chinese educational system. In China today, an MBA is replacing membership in the Communist Party as a qualification of success for young, talented, and ambitious men and women. Meritocratic hiring and promotion also impacts the educational system. As “Lourisa”, a Shanghai-based employee of an international consulting company observed, “simply knowing I would have that opportunity to find a job with a ‘politically insensitive’ multinational helped me to act more like an individual in college.”

Foreign companies pay Chinese workers according to merit not to advance human rights or democracy but because it makes good business sense. Companies that cannot attract and retain talented workers will not be in business long, a fact that is as true in Beijing or Shanghai as it is in Silicon Valley or Wall Street. This is how the free market works. As Chinese workers learn the lessons of the free market, they are also learning an important lesson about human rights and democracy. Once people grow accustomed to the idea that they deserve to be treated justly and on the merits of work performed, they are not likely to tolerate arbitrary treatment from the government in other aspects of their lives.

By providing an alternative avenue for social and economic mobility, multinational corporations in China are helping to create a middle class meritocracy with interests and ideas

that are quite distinct from those of the Chinese state. Within a generation the self-made men and women who have risen as entrepreneurs and employees in foreign-based corporations will occupy social and political space uneasily with managers of SOEs who have acquired their positions through the old “guanxi” or personal-connections system. By providing an alternative avenue for social and economic mobility, multinational corporations in China are helping to create a middle class meritocracy with interests and ideas quite distinct from those of the Chinese state. These self-made men and women are likely to have little patience for the shortcomings of those who have achieved material well being and power by demonstrating loyalty to the Communist Party line.

OPENNESS TO CHANGE

Foreign corporations are helping redefine power relationships within China; many of the most basic tenets of contemporary management theory and practice are inherently radical influences. According to the traditional Chinese cultural pattern, the good subordinate obeys and respects the boss. The boss gives orders and makes decisions. The boss looks after the subordinate. In contemporary Western management practice, more conversation, conflict, challenging of authority, and shared decision-making occurs between boss and subordinate. This is how Lourisa, the Shanghai-based consultant, describes the difference between working in a Chinese company and in an American company: “Relationships between colleagues and bosses are much better in American companies. Here, I can really open up and act on my opinions. The open environment allows me to be creative and work according to my instincts... Right now, my boss is driving me crazy. I can also tell her she doesn’t make any sense when she’s wrong about things. This is because the environment in American companies is more open. You make friends with your bosses; you don’t simply fear them. Everyone is equal.” Another young woman working for a European company in Shanghai told me that “we learn... to speak out and say what we think.”

When I asked workers in China what it takes to succeed in a foreign corporation, I frequently received the same response: “attitude”, the willingness to learn to do things differently. Ultimately, the most radical idea foreign corporations introduce in China may be the importance of change itself. To thrive, the contemporary corporation must continually reinvent and re-engineer itself. As a Hong Kong American executive in charge of regional training in Asia told me, “We change a lot and we change very quickly. We don’t do things the same every time. We improve. We bring people in and out on assignments. We’re not

focused on the past. We value open and direct communication.” The company for which this woman works is, of course, interested in profits, not politics, but receptivity to change is an idea that cannot be confined to the workplace. The values assimilated by Chinese workers in foreign companies will doubtless spill over into the broader society.

[H: Without losing appreciation for this author’s work, I will not finish the copy of the article itself. THERE IS A MAJOR ISSUE MISSED IN THIS PRESENTATION—WHAT ABOUT THE “VALUE” OF THE MONEY WITH WHICH ANYONE IS PAID—IN THE DEMOCRACY OR THE MERITOCRACY? IF THE VALUE IS BASELESS AND ONLY RELATIVE TO THE U.S. DOLLAR AS TO “VALUE”—YOU HAVE AN EMPTY FOUNDATION—DON’T YOU? WELL, THINK ABOUT IT CAREFULLY! THE BUBBLE IS GOING TO BURST ALL OVER EVERYBODY IF SOMETHING SOUND AND SECURE IS NOT ABLE TO SUPPORT THE ECONOMY. This is true whether it be in Borneo, Africa or China. The bankers have given you a jolly game while you have gone into the dumpster. So be it.]

[END OF QUOTING]

I would like, Dharma, to move to other topics. I merely wanted to present this Meritocracy to allow Mark to better realize his task of presenting the material. I don’t know when I will get back to the Meritocracy book relative to the Philippines and a workable structure to same but the world and life move right on ahead while we are drifted off into distractions. To have successful programs they must come together in some sequence which allows meshing of the gears within the mechanism, lest you have haphazard confusion.

I would like to turn to the more current topic of what is taking place in the Philippine circles as society struggles through this political morass. It does assault our sense and it does affect our ability to make headway as business and all industry come to a halt through the consideration of everything from collapse to military action.

I want to remind you readers that there is AS WE WRITE an effort to again set the Philippines into the 51st U.S. State.

The U.S. BOUGHT the Philippines for \$20 million the first time—but now they can pick it up for nothing except the very sovereignty of the people and the nation. Beware “Trojan Horses” bearing gifts, people—or you will lose your proverbial SHIRTS. The politicians are ready, willing and able to SELL YOU OUT RIGHT TO YOUR VERY CULTURAL INHERITANCE. OR, PERHAPS YOU HAVEN’T YET NOTICED THAT YOU ARE “FOREIGNERS” IN YOUR OWN COUNTRY!?

Salu, GCH

dharma

Chaotic Conditions In The Philippines

1/6/01—#2 (14-143)

RE: CHAOS IN THE PHILIPPINES AS THE
TAIL WAGS THE DOG

TIMELY UPDATE ON STATUS IN PHILIPPINES

Hatonn—We have a couple of things to share, one of which was forwarded from the Internet by J. Ray; however, it was published in Manila.

The other needs more attention, for it is far more important to our ongoing speculations as to “timing” if there should be any way to expect anything in such regards.

We will begin with the latter from “Domino” sent on 5 January 2001 (yesterday).

All things are “in” the whirlwind and when the debris hits the ground, we shall have a better perspective on where “we” stand or sit or lie—depending on events.

Our things are all under heavy consideration both inside and outside the powers in place. The consensus is that all, or any, would rather work “with” blessings of the U.S. (since the CIA seems to be wrapped up in everything taking place) and we are happy with that approach, for there is far more security and help if there is no “in-fighting”, and all programs which could affect so many people need to have cooperation if there is to be successful outcome. Economically, things are critical and that in turn is so critical to having inflow of funds from such as investors, but more specifically, such as the IMF, *et al.*

Ah, but—things are bad all over and a lot of the schemes that were enacted into law are actually so detrimental as to negate anything nice to say about them—specifically in the U.S. And who always suffers dearly from chaos or bombs? The PEOPLE, and so it seems to go into the hopeless eternal ethers.

CONTACT OR SPECTRUM?

I want to briefly respond to a most unusual question from a totally “out of the blue” person: “It appears *Spectrum* will fail, possibly close, so will you go back to writing for *CONTACT* or what?”

I have never stopped writing for *CONTACT* but I have NOT written, nor have my compatriots written for *Spectrum*. Tails wag a lot of dogs, my friends. Therefore, “or what” has no meaning.

Let us now turn to our topic, please.

[QUOTING material from “Domino” regarding the Philippine circumstances. January 5, 2001:]

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The next three months without President Joseph Estrada at the helm will be turbulent; with him around, it will be nothing short of disastrous. For no less than the Congressional Planning and Budget Office (CPBO), the prime think tank of the House of Representatives, has publicly admitted that the budget deficit this year will hit P161.3 billion!

According to Prof. Romulo Miral Jr., CPBO service director, the deficit will continue to be caused by (1) overshooting of the expenditure program, and (2) shortfall of revenue collection. With 65 more firms expected to close down during the first quarter of this

year, per announcement of Mr. Raul Concepcion, tax collections will definitely drop to critical levels. Last Year’s shortfall reached almost P60 billion.

“Financing this amount of deficit through additional borrowing could be unsustainable—with growth in outstanding debt outpacing economic growth—resulting in higher debt-to-GDP (gross domestic product) ratios,” the CPBO report reads. The problem is compounded by an almost free-falling peso, which may fall further, if we are to believe the London Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) analysis. As it is, the government’s debt stock already grew to P2.009 trillion in August 2000, meaning, “Every Juan, Pedro and Maria owed P26.009 each, assuming a population of 75 million based on the latest survey.” [Filipino arithmetic is challenging; our U.S. calculator shows P26,786.]

Despite the bleak economic future, Malacañang still insists in pressing for the passage of the Electricity Sector Restructuring and Privatization Bill. Energy Secretary Mario V. Tiaoqui insists that the bill should be immediately enacted, to avoid further delay of pipeline projects.

On July 18, 2000, Sens. Phil Gramm (R-Tex) and Charles Schumer (D-NY), introduced into the U.S. Congress, Federal legislation for extreme deregulation of the U.S. power grid. The Gramm-Schumer bill calls for the dissolution of the Public Utility Holding Company Act (PUHCA), which was passed by the U.S. Congress in August 1935. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who along with other American patriots had pushed for the Act, signed it into law on Aug. 26, 1935.

The PUHCA was passed—along with the Federal Power Act, which was also adopted in 1935—in one of the fiercest battles in that nation’s 225-year history. The Wall Street forces demanded that they be allowed to do as they pleased, and that Federal regulation “with teeth”—as opposed to the state “supervision” which existed at the time—was out of the question.

The Gramm-Schumer bill will take the American nation backwards, to the era of the 1920s, when very little electric power regulation existed, and the Wall Street/City of London financier oligarchs ran America’s electric utility policy, and a good part of its economic policy, as its own fiefdom. This contributed to the speculative orgy that culminated in the Great Depression.

During the 1920s, the **financier oligarchy**, led by J.P. Morgan Bank, employed speculative “holding companies”—such as the United Corp., and the General Electric Corp.—to buy up, through a large number of mergers, most of the nation’s electric power-generating and transmission-line capacity. It also bought up a lot of the natural resources that went into electricity generation, including coal and natural gas, and it even attempted to monopolize water sources for hydroelectric power. It obtained a hammerlock on America’s electric power generation that is indispensable to the nation’s advancement, or even continued survival.

But Mario V. Tiaoqui, who is clearly more Chinese than Filipino, ignores this painful lesson in history. He, along with President Estrada, whose daughter is married to MERALCO scion Beaver Lopez, would rather see this country plunge into a new Dark Age.

There are no ifs or buts about it. Estrada should go if we are to survive as a nation. The mad bombing

rampage of December 30, Rizal’s Day, happened because we have a corrupt and inept leader, whose close friends are hell-bent to transform our battered country into a narco-republic, just like Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru.

“The bombings have changed the complexion of the crisis completely. Violence has been introduced. Tensions have escalated,” says political analyst Alex Magno. Which, if we may add, virtually opens the floodgates of retaliation coming from pro-people mass organizations. In a word, the whole affair is reminiscent of South Vietnam’s last days, when even the luxurious Continental Hotel of Saigon was not spared from terrorist bombings.

From where we stand, it looks as though the December 30 series of bomb explosions are the handiwork of “politically motivated terrorists who generally operate at the level of violence sufficient to achieve their ends, while avoiding excessive or indiscriminate bloodshed that could alienate their supporters and provoke the full repressive power of government authorities.”

In contrast are the terrorists (mostly from the south) who are not motivated by a defined political agenda but by “amorphous religious, racial, or antigovernment belief systems”. These terrorists, who believe that large-scale violence is a fulfillment of apocalyptic prophecy, are mostly “brutalized ethnic minorities seeking revenge”, or “small cells driven by extremist ideologies or conspiracy theories”. They are more prone to indiscriminate attacks because they have “fluid objectives, fewer political or moral constraints on the scope of their actions, and are less easily deterred by threats of punishments.”

The inability of probers to determine even the motivation behind the bombings has driven even the saner people to despair, that some are actually hoping and praying that incoming U.S. President George W. Bush initiate a secret operation to rid the Philippines of Erap; perhaps something akin to the fate suffered by Panama’s General Manuel Noriega, who was kidnapped and imprisoned by the older Bush, because of money laundering and capital financing of the cocaine trade.

Should this happen, however, who can we expect to replace Estrada? Definitely not the blundering Vice-President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (GMA), whose recent display of ingratitude and uncouthness in front of her dwindling friends in tri-media, has caused her to political isolation. **[H: People, you really DON’T screw around with the tri-media and get away with it—DO YOU?]**

It has become the perception of many that GMA will not be able to bail this nation out of its socio-political and economic quagmire. Instead, many believe that, **once in power, she will accept each and every dictate of the IMF-World Bank globalist Mafia**, on the pretext of providing security for foreign investment, some of which are (1) Dollarization, which is the surrender of monetary sovereignty, as an aspect of total integration with the U.S. economy, (2) A tax reform with the intent of eliminating oil income from the government budget, and using it instead to pay the country’s foreign debt, (3) “Guarantees and more guarantees” to international investors, followed by the privatization of NAPOCOR, as a prelude to the ultimate looting scheme, and (4), Through “managerial” methods, she might even privatize the government.

On matters of state security, GMA tends to follow in the footsteps of Estrada. She, likewise, will find it difficult to resist the temptation of creating a super-agency like the PAOCTF, withdrawing those functions from both the PNP and NBI. She is also the type who will set up a “Transparency Commission”, tasked to carry out an “anti-corruption” circus like Cory Aquino’s PCGG. **This is the chosen method for getting rid of political enemies,**

while at the same time distracting the population from the implementation of economic measures, even more painful and cruel than those in place.

Of course, the circus' ultimate objective is to weaken the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) for supposed "human rights violations", as has been successfully carried out in Argentina, Colombia, and elsewhere. This, plus her "modus vivendi" with the CPP-NPA now aligned with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), will surely lead to the country's dismemberment, since the AFP is ill-equipped to fight three fronts at the same time.

A joint civilian-military junta, which will be tasked to rebuild the country's economy without interference from a noisy and anti-productive Congress, is preferred by many. One or two years of serious nation-building will definitely turn things around for the better. Furthermore, it will give the electorate ample time to reflect on their past mistakes of electing leaders only on the basis of popularity. The televised impeachment proceedings is one effective way of educating the voters.

Who are the possible junta members? In choosing the composition of the junta, the American factor must primarily be considered. We must learn from the "politically incorrect" Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who never prepared for a Bush presidency, always flaunting her Clinton or Democrat connection, because "he was a classmate". With the Democrats out of the Oval Office, a GMA presidency will not improve relations between Washington and Manila.

One thing is sure: The next leadership of this country must be adept in "biting the bullet". It must be prepared to politely put up a barbed fence against the "electricity deregulation" policy of President George W. Bush. Why? Because the Houston-based international conglomerate Enron Corp. happens to be the biggest contributor of money to Bush the Younger's entire political career. In many states, Enron has turned legislators' head to enact deregulation, then led the buy-up of capacity and the "gaming" of wholesale electricity prices up by 10 to a 100 times. This led the U.S. to enter the "Third World" domain of regular brownouts, blackouts, shutdowns, and hyperinflation in the cost of electricity and natural gas. In short, our post-Erap leaders must be pragmatic in their program of government, and must be updated with geopolitical developments. As a wise American says, "We must learn to survive this era of having Bush the Younger at the White House, while Bush the Older and his gang of global speculators takes charge of the international economy."

Recent developments in the oil industry show that there is an ongoing shift in the global geopolitical center of oil politics from the Middle East, northward into the volatile region between Russia, Central Asia, and China, giving the handful of giants enormous future power and economic leverage over the entire Eurasian land-mass. The 300% oil price increase of the past 12 months or so clearly helped finance the costs of these major new oilfields in the remote regions of the Caucasus.

According to the participants of the giant oil consortium (BP-Amoco-Arco in Azerbaijan and Exxon-Mobil-Chevron in Kazakhstan), the intent is to revive the theories of Sir Harold Mackinder, the father of British geopolitics, who, in a 1904 essay (*The Geographical Pivot of History*) argued that "control of the Eurasian Heartland, which includes the Caspian Sea region, would determine control of the planet."

Notwithstanding the forecast which Mark Moody-Stuart, chairman of Royal Dutch Shell, announced in Kuala Lumpur recently, that "oil price would soon fall between \$13 and \$17 in the year 2001", we still need a leader with foresight—one who would move swiftly to quietly break the economic power of the Anglo-American-led oil cartel by

circumventing the power of private companies and establishing a government purchasing agency to buy oil supplies directly, bankrupting the oil giants and the major banks behind their power. We need somebody who is a Mahathir and Lee Kwan Yu rolled into one.

[END OF QUOTING]

Since we have been asked to be patient a bit longer, I think we can do exactly that. We will, however, not withdraw one iota of our efforts—for what we do shall be the support of a renewal process and it MUST include the PEOPLE.

I repeat that we would far more like to work with than against any New World Order to accomplish our task at hand and yet, we must always strive to, in every possible way, protect the natural resources and sovereignty of any nation with whom we share.

Now let us turn to tail-wagging for this is the way it IS: [QUOTING *Business World-PH*, Manila, Philippines, January 5-6, 2001:]

WAG THE DOG II

Last year, as President Estrada's unpopularity grew and the initial calls for his resignation grew louder, the military hawks in government launched a series of offensives against the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mindanao.

That all-out war, which devastated Mindanao—leaving thousands dead and more than half a million homeless—had the effect of not only diverting public attention from Estrada's wrongdoing but of projecting him as a strong and dynamic President and Commander in Chief.

To justify the continuous killings, destruction of property and the drain it was causing the economy, these same military hawks reportedly arranged for a series of bombings, the most prominent being the ones at the Glorietta [H: OUCH!] and SM-Megamall. These bombings were immediately blamed on the MILF (Moro Islamic Liberation Front) after a raid at the Maharlika Village, a predominantly Muslim community in Taguig (in eastern Metropolitan Manila), where 26 suspects were arrested.

These suspects, to be tagged later as the Maharlika 26, were mostly construction workers, security guards and migrants who went to Manila to escape their war-torn villages in Mindanao.

Ironically, it was here where they faced the harsh might of the military. They allegedly underwent torture by elements of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) under its chief PNP (Philippine National Police) Director General Panfilo Lacson.

The Maharlika 26 remain at the PAOCTF detention center in Camp Crame.

Call it *deja vu*, but yesterday, at around 2 a.m., at least 30 operatives of the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) and PAOCTF swooped down on Bgy. Culiati in Quezon City and raided the homes of its Muslim residents. Armed with an arrest warrant containing names no one in the area knew, the soldiers broke down doors and dragged the men outside Gestapo-style.

They allegedly planted grenades, Armalite rifles and handguns under the beds and in closets. They beat up some of the men as their wives watched, guns pointed at their necks. So far, residents have identified at least 17 people who were arrested. It was a nightmare, but the nightmare was real.

[H: Reminds me of a Fed. FDA raid on a family home in Tehachapi, California for possibly mislabeling some silver colloid—with a mother washing her hair and two small children in their beds. The *SPECTRUM* kids said there were found hundreds of thousands of dollars, etc. NO, NOTHING OF THE SORT—BUT IT TELLS YOU WHO INVENTED THE STORY AND

TURNED-IN INNOCENT PEOPLE. Terrifying? Yes, indeed, but the ones in point had better start checking their own doors as the truth becomes known. This is not a good recommendation for the U.S., readers.]

The day before, armed men who identified themselves as police abducted taxi driver-operator Ismael Abbas, a cousin of Dr. Firdauso Abbas of the Bangsa Moro Islamic party (BMIP). A neighbor came to his rescue but was told, "Don't interfere, this is a police matter." The abduction happened at 9:30 a.m. in front of Mr. Abbas' house in Bgy. Pineda, Pasig City (also in eastern Metropolitan Manila).

As of this writing, Gen. Lacson and the PNP were all over the media announcing the arrest of the perpetrators of the December 30 bombings. At first glance, all these would seem as just another one of the PNP's fall-guy scenarios, in which they would round up the usual suspects to cover up for their incompetence. But it goes much, much deeper than that.

Friends in the military tell us the AFP is preparing for major offensives on Camp Abubakar and other MILF camps in the next two weeks. The bombings, and the subsequent arrest and framing up of the 20 or so Muslims (all of whom, but the way, are from Maguindanao where the MILF is strongest), will pave the public opinion for the renewed offensives.

[H: Ah, but... as things work out the arresting personnel arrested the WRONG people and had to release them. Now there is a battle going between the Armed Forces and the National Police. Can it get worse (or better) than this? Oh, very much worse, indeed.]

In other words, the Rizal Day bombings gives the police and military the pretext for launching another bloody offensive in Muslim Mindanao. Why would the Estrada regime want that? Because it worked last year. [H: Try on the Gulf War for comparison.]

In his desperation to save himself, Mr. Estrada and his handlers [H: A good old CIA term.] are escalating the all-out war in Mindanao. Once again they aim to divert public attention from the damning exposés against himself and his government. Once again, they want to scare the people into [not] criticizing Estrada and the authorities. Once again, they want Estrada to appear as a strong and dynamic President and Commander in Chief.

But this time there's an extra angle. By tagging the MILF as the brains behind the Dec. 30 bombing, they hope to drag in the National Democratic Front (NDF) as well, citing the tactical alliance which has been formed between the two revolutionary movements; Malacañang and the AFP want to drag in the Multisectorial opposition.

Last year's all-out offensives in Muslim Mindanao reminded many of the American film *Wag the Dog*, where a fictitious U.S. President facing reelection faked a war in Yugoslavia to rejuvenate his sagging image and bag him the presidency.

With this bombing, the Estrada camp hits three birds with one stone. One, they terrorize the people into not joining the mass actions against Estrada. Two, they are given the conditions to do a "wag the dog" scenario. Three, they discredit the Multisectorial opposition.

If Estrada wagged the dog last year, he's doing it again, this time to save his ass from the impeachment trial and the growing movement for his ouster. As in all sequels, this one is worse than the original. It sucks to the max.

[H: This came directly off the Internet! The world, including YOU, are in trouble, people.]

[END OF QUOTING]

Thank you, Fingers, we will attempt to get this sent on over "to the mainland" before the next paper goes to print.

Salu, GCH

dharna

Doris' Corner

12/31/00—#1 (14-137)

By Doris & E.J. Ekker

HAPPY NEW YEAR?

RE: OUT WITH A BANG

KEEPING SELF ALL TOGETHER— IN ONE PIECE

DJE—Sitting down to write on New Year's Eve day is about as one-focused as we can get this morning. Just when you think you are getting somewhere, the world blows up!

I suppose we can wait on the better tales of life in the pits until another day—Cmdr. always makes me work three times as long on holidays, while we turn our attention to this “overseas foreign correspondent” assignment.

The “Big Bangs” started at noon yesterday and ended at somewhere around 2:20 p.m., the last being, again, across the block from here in front of the Dusit Hotel. That hotel is frequented by a lot of Muslims. Where the bomb was discovered is unknown to me but two policemen had found it and taken it to a “closed” Petron (gas) station. It blew one defuser to bits and critically injured the other.

The impeached President gets on the line and says he will get the desperadoes—but nobody ever does—except, of course, incarcerating the WRONG people.

But wow, the National Police and Armed Forces chiefs say, “No martial law or national emergency.” THAT in response to the ones on the news last night saying it was the government giving cause to stage martial law.

Others ask, “What have we done to so anger God?” Now that's a real “good” one. My response would be: “What haven't we done to anger God?” Or, “Does God actually send professionally-made bombs?”

Are we frightened? Oh, no, just responding with a tad of terror and “oh, well”.

Will this damage “our” cause?

Perhaps, but it seems to me that it will assist us mightily as, frankly, where else is there to go next, without big assistance from “somewhere”.

What I really think is that Mr. Bush is going to have many problems. The first bulletin this morning read: “China to start civil war...” [meaning here].

Erick got E.J. a cellphone on his birthday and we have yet to find a way to make a phone call—but it does everything else including have a radio connection directly to Erick. Today I am hoping the rumor about a connection to the CIA (other than the phone taps) is correct. Where, oh where, are our Embassy boys?

By the way, don't misunderstand, at least the tappers are local, with or without intelligence, but don't interfere too much, for we print everything so they don't have to be inconvenienced. It certainly appears to us that it is the President's own men that are out to terminate him and/or his presidency. The Sicilian Mafia couldn't be more “crime family” oriented.

I have another side-comment here about Philippines' owners which would appear to be a

controlled shackling by the U.S.—but the biggest Lords are out of the Chinese element of Taipans. I suppose they are ruthless; however, they also are shrewd businessmen and I would have thought that prosperity would be the better way to go, businesswise. They don't need “us” but they do need the Philippines to be in better economic shape if they want to continue the treasure hunt. The longer we are here, the more uneasy becomes the “sides”-taking and neither “side” is comforting to those caught in the middle. I'm sure GCH will get into all of that when appropriate but I live in day-tight compartments and leave the seering to others with better vision.

It also seems that the U.S. and World are being prepared for something big to impact the U.S. DOLLAR and markets, which bodes well for the predictors of collapse and bottom-out of the currency. However, once again, OUR project is not based on any particular currency, other than a guideline of “the dollar”, which is the going basis of measure at present. But, gold values are truly flexible and undoubtedly that is why the U.S. is trying so hard to shore up with gold commodity in order to salvage the dollar itself or bring on a substitute for same.

I was going to give a bit of background in this ongoing daily soap opera called videodrama over here but bombs came and intent went. I would guess that as we move back into impeachment hearings on Tuesday that the weekend papers will give a refresher “where we are” summary of charges and current players which will save a lot of your time as well as mine. The REAL game, as is usual in political foolishness, is NOT surface-evident, but the game is easy to follow. And, as would be expected, the whole drama could be truly a comedy unfolding as the plot changes from hour to hour and the CLAIMS vary from one press deadline to the next. We surely would not have liked to have missed this eyes-on play in action. The bombs we could better live without.

I will share today's STAR editorial picture and writing: The picture shows train and bus devastation with buildings falling down and a lone little Filipino under his reed hat with a Happy New Year horn in tatters going “pffft”—. The editorial:

[QUOTING *The Philippine STAR*, Sun., Dec. 31, 2000:]

ACT OF DESPERATION

Terror came to Metro Manila at noon yesterday. Amid the holiday shopping rush, a bomb went off in a crowded coach of the Light Railway Transit as it slid to a stop at the Blumentritt terminal in Sta. Cruz, Manila. At least four passengers were instantly killed, with five others dying minutes later. At around the same time, nine people were injured when another bomb planted under a park bench exploded at the Plaza Ferguson in front of the U.S. Embassy on Roxas Boulevard in Manila. The blast shattered windowpanes in nearby buildings.

In Cubao, Quezon City [adjacent to Manila], a bomb ripped through a bus, killing a passenger who apparently absorbed much of the impact, and leaving more than a dozen others seriously injured. The blast

nearly tore off the roof of the bus. At the Ninoy Aquino International Airport [**D: Really makes you want to travel, doesn't it?**], explosives strapped to a car went off near the cargo-handling terminal, leaving three persons injured. Airport authorities said the apparent target WAS THE AVIATION FUEL DEPOT. A fifth bomb was found near a hotel in Makati. It exploded as it was being defused by police bomb experts, killing one of them.

You can deduce from the wreckage and the mangled victims that these were no ordinary homemade bombs. Police ordnance experts said the bombings bore the handprints of professionals. Who has the capability to make powerful bombs? Until last night, no one had come forward to claim responsibility for the attacks. The government said the Abu Sayyaf, communists, and rightist were likely suspect. [**D: They in turn say it was the government!**] But wasn't the arrest of a brother of the Abu Sayyaf leaders supposed to have foiled a bombing spree in Metro Manila? Leftist and Islamic groups denied involvement and joined the opposition in voicing suspicions that the government itself engineered the attacks to justify a crackdown on dissent. The government denied this and scored the opposition for making the accusations.

Whoever was behind these bombings should be quickly arrested then hanged upside down as live carrion feed. The arrests should not stop at the small fry—the brains behind these heinous attacks must be caught. And no fall guys, please. Addressing the people in a nationwide telecast, President Estrada said only the desperate would resort to such terror tactics. True enough. Now who's the most desperate in these turbulent times?

[END OF QUOTING]

Who is the most desperate? According to an Aussie who was in the Park by the U.S. Embassy—it is anyone foolish enough to be in Manila. He understated that this is going to finish-off tourism in a most effective way. He said, however, that he is more afraid of trying to leave the place than staying in a bunker here. Then he said he was still so “bloomin'” stunned he couldn't make a reasonable statement, since he was the closest person to the bomb itself—who walked away, that is.

The next I am going to copy to you is Max Soliven's column. This is because he gives the possible “players” and this is as much for our new Philippine readers as anyone else apart from here in Metro Manila—for you all need a reference guide to make heads or tails of the mess. Since this is our location of work, it pays for any who would even visit here (and there should and will be many of you as we move on forward)—to know the players. I promise you that local people will come to us for information—it already happens. We can set the stage and cast in the impeachment next week but these are THE characters and groups that are trying desperately to bring down civil war with no way out other than to bring in foreign troops.

[QUOTING *The Philippine STAR*, “By the Way”, Max V. Soliven (Publisher), Sun., December 31, 2000:]

IN THE HYSTERIA AFTER FIVE ‘BOMBINGS’,
THE FIRST CASUALTY IS TRUTH

[**D: My observation is to simply ask “What Truth?” We have found that so few, if any,**

truthspeakers are around these parts as to have to ask the above question. Sorry, Max. One of the interesting things that almost invariably happens with people coming to see us, especially E.J. in “business” matters, is they end up saying, “My God, you are telling the truth, aren’t you?” (!!!) Then the “games” seem to slow up considerably but it takes awhile and several return bouts to make sure. Interesting.]

The aim of terrorists is to sow terror. Yesterday, in a series of five random bombings around noontime, terrorists achieved just that.

As might have been expected, the explosions were followed by scores of telephone calls “warning” of bombs and explosive devices planted all over the place. Again, not discounting the gleeful cooperation of ghoulish pranksters with their crank calls, the telephone “terrorists” reaped maximum damage in terms of confusion and panic.

As one who, during years of reporting in several countries, encountered urban terrorism in various forms from Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Israel, the West Bank, Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt in the Middle East, London (UK) and Paris in Europe as well as here in Metro Manila, Central Luzon and Mindanao, I can only say that there is no *sure* weapon that can be employed against determined terrorists or assassins.

Nobody can be alert or vigilant 24 hours a day or stand guard everywhere. Terrorist plots can and have been frustrated here and there by relentless sleuthing, and through the efforts of deep-cover moles, paid informers (through a seduction and reward system), and other methods familiar to Robert Ludlum, John LeCarre, Tom Clancy, Ken Follet and Andy McNabb novels. But no means is perfect. Somewhere, somehow, a terrorist or even a mad “bomber” or schizo plane hijacker manages to sneak through.

The only thing clear—about the bombings in the LRT train near Blumentritt, the bus in Cubao, in Plaza Ferguson across Roxas avenue from the U.S. Embassy, the air cargo terminal in the NAIA (possibly failing, by happenstance, to blow up and ignite the airport’s fuel storage set-up) and near a 5-star hotel in Makati—is that *apparently* they were all orchestrated by the same group.

I invoke the term *apparently* because, once again with feeling, I maintain that in coping with terrorists nothing is certain. The factor that links the five blasts together is that they occurred on the same day, within a few minutes to two hours of each other.

Again, it’s useless to jump to the quite “reasonable” conclusion that the bombings were the work of the rebel (or bandit) Moro group, the Abu Sayyaf. By coincidence, Hector Janjalani alias Abu Escobar—a brother of the late Abu Sayyaf founder Abubakar Abdurajak Janjalani and another sibling, Khadafy Janjalani, who took over command of the Abus when the elder Janjalani was slain in a police sweep in Basilan in 1998—was nabbed a few days ago (about December 22) in the Muslim enclave in Quiapo, Manila. “Abu Escobar” Janjalani was seized along with another Abu comrade by police Special Action Force (SAF) team.

Who knows, Abu Escobar might, indeed, have been in Metro Manila to coordinate the planned bombing campaign. However, it’s still guessing

time. There are other suspects. For one, the New People’s Army, the National Democratic Front, the Alex Boncayao Brigade, and their opposite numbers in the breakaway Communist “proletarian army” faction could just as well be the culprits. They, too, have a terrorist agenda.

Then there’s the wild theory that rightwing elements, even “government-funded” elements (the paranoia dates back to the Marcos-engineered “bombings” that preceded martial law in 1972) might have set the blasts to deflect attention from the impeachment proceedings, the “explosive” witnesses lined up to testify, or to (here, what the heck, let’s get wilder still) give the Estrada administration the excuse to declare emergency measures or something like martial law. Somebody even mischievously quipped: “Must have been the Abu Sayyaf ‘Robot’ of Aventajado.” You can be sure the Opposition will trot out such a speculation, and you can bet your bottom peso—devalued or deteriorated, if you will—on the fact that the government will as indignantly or scornfully reject that “absurd” notion.

When bombs explode, “truth” is the first casualty.

Nobody forgets, though, that the Abu Sayyaf have the capability to make and detonate bombs. As everybody is well aware, the international terrorist Ramzi Yousef—the same man who almost succeeded in 1993 in blowing up the World Trade Center in New York City with a sophisticated bomb—spent several weeks in Basilan, visiting his old guerrilla pal Janjalani (who had fought alongside him in the Afghanistan War against the Soviets), and training more than 20 Abu “experts” both in the remote hills and in safehouses near Isabel, the Basilan capital. Moreover, Yousef and the Abus were financed by the Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden, the daddy of anti-Jewish, anti-American, “anti-Crusader” (meaning anti-Christian) terrorism who is still holed up in between the Pakistani border and Kabul, despite U.S. efforts and United Nations “sanctions” against the Afghan *Taliban* government to force his extradition for arrest and trial. (Osama bin Laden, whose family originally came from Yemen, is held to be the mastermind behind the horrible bombings of two U.S. Embassies in Africa in which hundreds died.)

It is evident: we’re not dealing with “amateur hour” here.

Yousef was assisted in his training program here by other Islamic fanatics, like his brother Adel Annon, who had also fought with the mujaheddin during the Afghan War, who, shortly after arriving bought and used to operate the Mindanao Meat Shop, which sold Arabic and *halal* food on M.H. del Pilar street in Ermita, where another militant named Mustafa Abu Zainab who purchased the Al-Tanor restaurant for similar undercover purposes after he got here. The two teamed up to found a terrorist cell in Manila a decade and a half ago called the *#Hezbul Dawah* Al Islamiah or “Islamic Preaching Group” or the “Ali Movement”.

Another Yousef associate named Javed Rana later got here too, and intermarried here.

So, you see, the terrorists have had their roots in Metro Manila as well as in Zamboanga, Basilan and Sulu for many years now. (Ramzi Yousef’s operations

here dated back to 1994. When he came up to Manila from Basilan that same year, he used the pseudonym “Adam Ali Qasim” and conducted many teach-ins around the Golden Mosque in Quiapo and in Paranaque and Pasay. He mobilized an inner “cell” of about 23 men in Manila alone during his travels back and forth, but also operated in Cebu and Mindanao. One of his henchmen, Wali Khan Amin Shah (from Pakistan), was the “terrorist” who planted one of his experimental bombs (called “Mark II”) under one of the seats in a Greenbelt theatre on December 1, 1994. When the bomb went off at 10:30 p.m. that night, however, luckily nobody was seated too close to the detonation. The only “damage” consisted of slight injuries to a necking couple some seats away, and a few other patrons.

The following December 9, Yousef most ambitiously planted a strong bomb on a Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight bound from Mactan, Cebu to Narita Airport (Tokyo). When the Boeing 747-200 was over Okinawa, the device exploded, killing a 24-year-old Japanese engineer, Haruki Ikegami, returning home after completing an industrial contract in Cebu—but failed to destroy the aircraft’s aileron cables underneath, which would have disabled the airplane’s flaps and sent it crashing to the earth. Yousef’s intent had been to kill all 272 passengers and 20 crewmembers on board. Fortunately, only the ill-starred Ikegami died, thanks to the PAL captain Ed Reyes, First Officer Jaime Herrera, and Flight Engineer Dexter Comendador, who wrestled the half-crippled aircraft safely to the ground at Okinawa’s Naha airport.

[D: At this point I cannot help but stop and remind all of our readers of what happened here in 1999 as Rick and Charles left (and prior) in response to the loose lips in Rick’s room and then with the plane carrying them back to the U.S. Then Rick, *et al.*, sent anonymous messages to the very Sultan of Brunei negating our work, etc., along with sending many copies of their hijacked newspapers to Davao and on and on it goes—even to “Watchers” and Internet trashing. I am astounded that in this world TODAY with bombs blowing up in mid Metro-Manila and the story just above, there could be denial of possibilities, probabilities and FACTS. Rick said he was returning to get back control of the paper (“straighten it out”) (CONTACT). It was hardly interpreted to mean that they would simply take over the paper as in “steal” it, hijack it, and also take funds out of the bank accounts. People, we are in trouble in this old world—and we PRETEND we just can’t locate our enemies. No, they even announce that they are our enemies and we “just can’t believe it”. Well, I CAN. I actually can NOW believe it. And, no, do Not try to sell me on “But he writes about angels and...”! SATAN WRITES ABOUT ANGELS AND CALLS HIMSELF GOD—SO WHAT IS WRONG WITH “US”? And, as we just now are moved into what we now recognize as the “bombing hour” (you know, like the “Witching Hour”), I am ever more cognizant of the seriousness of these games idiots play.]

In January 1995, Yousef was frustrated in his plan to assassinate Pope John Paul II, who was due to visit

Manila, only when his rented apartment in the Dona Josefa Apartment on Quirino Avenue near Taft caught fire from the bomb-making chemicals he had stored there, and when he and his confederate skipped, the Philippine National Police discovered and seized the laptop computer he had left behind in the confusion. When the Americans deciphered the encrypted “entries” in that fateful computer, they were able to trace the fugitive Yousef to his bolthole in Pakistan, where the informer (one of his own Muslim friends) pinpointed his hideout for a hefty “reward” bounty.

As Simon Reeve points out in his exciting book, *The New Jackals* (Northeastern University Press, Boston, 1999), Yousef was regarded by the Americans one of the most dangerous men, owing to his extraordinary bomb-making and technical skills, that he was isolated from the other prisoners, kept under 24-hour “watch” in jail, and all his personal possessions—wrist watch, shaving cream, toothpaste, coffee creamer, cup and spoon, even—were taken from him on the fear that he might be able to fashion a makeshift bomb from them!

He was finally sentenced, for the 11 counts against him, to 240 years of confinement in a federal prison in Colorado, without visiting privileges from relatives or friends (who might be used as terrorist conduits) and no hope of parole or pardon.

You bet. Yousef is gone—but his deadly “seeds” remain here in the Philippines and elsewhere. So, we cannot afford to relax our guard.

The Abus, other Moro rebels, and Arab “agents” in our parts have, by their past actions, already demonstrated that they won’t stop at mass murder.

Should we give in, then, to terror? What we should deny the “terrorists” in our midst is the thought that an entire population can be paralyzed with fear. Other countries have endured and even overcome far graver terrorist assaults than those of the past few months here. Take Spain, where the Basque terrorists have rebounded in full fury. Take England, where Irish Republican Army (IRA) terrorists, for years, conducted hundreds of bombings (many of them in London alone)—and even once blew Lord Louis Montbatten to smithereens aboard his own yacht. He was Prince Charles’ favorite uncle and the man, by the way, who had delivered “freedom at midnight” to India and Pakistan. Take France, where president Jacques Chirac—when Mayor of Paris—crushed a wave of Islamic terrorist bombings (including in the underground metro trains) with ruthless counter-action. The French, of course, were “terrorists” themselves on occasion, as when two French scuba-diving operatives—one a man and the other a woman—attached a bomb to the hull and sank the Greenpeace ship, *Rainbow Warrior* right in the harbor of Auckland, New Zealand. This “attack”, in 1985, caused the death of a news photographer who was on board at the time.

Connor Gearty of King’s College, London, and a consultant on terrorism for Television Channel 4 in England, once capsulized it in his 1991 book, *TERROR*:

“Political terror is the ugly wonder of the modern world. The explosion in the bar, the shoot-out in the airport lounge, and the mid-air blowing apart of the jumbo jet are typical examples of its carnage. In such indiscriminate attacks, the innocent are dispatched to immediate death or branded for life with physical or psychological

scars. The bloodshed is in the name of a political goal unknown to many victims and irrelevant to them all, but the purposefulness of such acts makes them chillingly different from the road accident or the natural catastrophe.”

The men, women, and little children—killed or maimed yesterday—are proof positive that Gearty, while he penned these lines 20 years ago, continues to be right.

[END OF QUOTING]

Methinks that Mr. Soliven might have a good proposal in that there should be no “paralysis with fear”; however, when a bomber kills somebody, it is 100% loss to such individual and attachments—even if it is only the attachments to the attachment lost.

As a U.S. citizen I OBJECT because I am really tired of being in a foreign country that lives from the very trough of the United States and I cannot feel safe even in my own Embassy. Nor, I remind readers, to travel anywhere—like even from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport—or to parts south where U.S. Citizens have “warnings out”. What has THAT to do with “Muslims”? The most gracious people we have met in the Philippines are Filipino MUSLIMS.

How too are you supposed to go on as usual, like on New Year’s, and blunder off into insane land after having been warned by the media to “stay home”—while OUR calls were far more PERSONAL.

Yes, there are terrorists running around loose scaring the daylights out of everybody—but so too, frankly, do the games the government plays with an “accused criminal” at the helm!

This is part of the world evolvment—one of the worst parts. However, the FACTS are that the antagonism against the U.S., as specifically pointed out by the Muslims and Arabs, is not because they are Christian but because they have BECOME ISRAELITES—AS IN JUDEO-CHRISTIAN—AND HAVE JOINED THE “BIG SATAN” IN FULL FLOW AND INTENT.

Is this true? Doesn’t matter much when the bombs start blowing—and remember something very serious, indeed—both Israel and the U.S. have enough nuclear weapons to blow away the landmass called Earth.

There is no stopping war by WAR bigger and worse—you STOP WAR BY REMOVING THE CAUSE OF THE WARRING IN THE FIRST PLACE.

I find it interesting that just since being in Manila, we found right through your paper, Mr. Soliven, that the CIA trained the Abu Sayyaf. Does anyone else feel insanity coming on? Furthermore, these antics are best known to be perfectly orchestrated through the Israeli MOSSAD. How, perchance, does this happen?

I, as a traveler and “citizen” of sorts, don’t care who or why. We offer to help solve the problems at core cause and get ignored by exactly such as you, Mr. Soliven. What I do care about is feeling comfortable to walk across the street to the adjacent mall without being “blown to smithereens” like Lord Louis Montbatten (referring to above column). I can’t say that looking at baby “parts”, be they from term-abortions to bomb separation, is a joy of the day.

I join with the Aussie man by the U.S.

Embassy yesterday when he said this will kill tourism “the rest of the way dead”.

I further wonder why in the world the OFWs would send a cent home to this confusion and chaos to go to the President’s mistress. And more especially, why, if their very own families left behind are going to possibly be BLOWN AWAY.

Oh, well, as we hear at least 10 times a day from late appointments to ten hours in traffic—OIP, OIP, OIP.

No it is NOT Only in the Philippines and that is why it remains so SICK.

Perhaps when we can find some “truth” otherwise, we will be more impressed with the suggestion that after bombings “the first casualty is ‘truth’”.

In view of Lawrence of Arabia, the “Crucifixion” of a hapless man 2000 years ago, I also suggest that had there been airports, bars, timing devices for camel-dung explosives, and jumbo jets—there would have been similar terrorist attacks even in OLD Bethlehem where no Christmas was held this year.

The old joke about “Is anybody out there?” is pretty sick these days—as surely the “higher intelligences” must be asking of even OIP, “Is anybody in there, down there or anywhere?”

“If you can live the life that you believe in, you will have everything you need to reach your dream.” Unfortunately, too many dream of naughty tricks and games. Oh, would it be wonderful if MAN’s dreams could truly be of Peace and Truth.

Amen, DJE

OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

There are many ways in which one can participate in the glorious unfolding of this once-in-many-eras opportunity to change around this planet. While some of us have the honor of participating directly, involved in it as we are with our day-to-day work, you, the reader of this newspaper, can join with the Mission in other ways: through your financial support of this effort and through your positive thoughts and prayers.

Know that it is **YOU** who sustain the Mission by all that you think and do. **YOU** are “the wind beneath our wings”.

Financial contributions will, as always, be treated as loans, with the promise of full return to the lenders.

Positive thoughts are promised an even greater return. So, if you thought this message wasn’t for you, simply because you cannot afford a monetary contribution—**THINK AGAIN!**

CREATE A Better World!

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for further information.**

The News Desk

By John & Jean Ray

SHAM SUMMIT PROMISED LITTLE FOR THE PALESTINIANS

By Robert Fisk, *The Independent*—UK, 12/29/00

In the end, it was the same old story. The Israelis would make “one last step for peace”. They would probably concede—according to a number of inaccurate Western newspaper reports—Palestinian “sovereignty” over the Temple Mount/ Haram al-Sharif mosques in Jerusalem. And Yasser Arafat would be blamed if he turned down the last chance he would ever get for a real peace in the Middle East. Thus was yesterday’s doomed summit at Sharm el-Sheikh promoted—and upon these factual untruths it died before it was ever held.

Of course, Ehud Barak pulled out. Of course, Mr. Arafat could not accept the terms, because Israel was offering the Palestinians “control” of the surface of the mosques, it never offered “sovereignty”. And by midday yesterday, Mr. Barak’s security adviser, Danny Yatom, was saying just that. Mr. Barak, he announced, “will not sign an accord which transfers sovereignty [over the Temple Mount/ Haram al-Sharif] to the Palestinians”. The result? The world believes that Mr. Arafat turned down what he had always demanded, and the cancellation of the Sharm el-Sheikh summit was entirely his fault.

Having claimed in the past that Israel was offering 92 percent of the West Bank—and then 94 percent—to the Palestinians, the Americans insisted that the latest Clinton proposals would give Mr. Arafat 95 percent. But a careful reading of the Clinton document proves this to be untrue. With the Dead Sea waters that would become Palestinian “territory”, with the Israeli army “buffer zones”, with the “rental” of the Kiryat Arba settlement land, with the exclusion of the West Bank land illegally annexed into Jerusalem by the Israelis (including the massive Male Adumim settlement), Arafat was still likely to get no more than 64 or 65 percent.

And the Palestinian Authority knows all too well what “control” would mean in Jerusalem. While Arafat’s men collected garbage, supplied the traffic cops and kept their own people in order, the Israelis would continue to hold sovereign power over all Jerusalem.

Palestinian “control” of Palestinian “neighbourhoods” of Jerusalem would recreate the insanity of West Bank areas A, B and C where Israelis and Palestinians variously “control” all of an area or share parts of it. One Jerusalem street would have Palestinian policemen, the next Israelis. And the Israelis, of course, could besiege a street just as they can currently besiege a town on the West Bank.

Then there was the “swap” of Palestinian land on the West Bank that Israel would keep in return for “some land outside the Gaza Strip in the south of our country”, as one Israeli journalist put it on Wednesday night. The only small detail about this piece of generosity that was not mentioned was that the “land” Israelis would hand over happens to be desert. In return for keeping settlements illegally built on occupied territory, Mr. Arafat would be the recipient of a patch of sand.

For Mr. Arafat’s millions of refugees, there would be

no more “right of return”—goodbye to UN General Assembly resolution 194—merely a profound hope that some could go to the new “Palestine” where they never had their home, or go to Israel as part of a family “reunion” agreement. In reality—and with tens of thousands of Palestinians in Lebanon or settled in northern Europe and America—this is probably what will, one day, happen.

But bundled in with the rest of the Clinton proposals, Mr. Arafat and Mr. Barak were never going to make a deal. That much is certain. Along with the fact that the ever more humiliated Mr. Arafat is going to be blamed yet again for turning down that infamous “last chance for peace”.

[JR: No matter how it’s re-packaged and presented, the Palestinians will be the loser in these one-sided peace talks. The Israeli land grab has been going on since 1948, so what changes that? The Zionists will continue to control or own everything on the Arab lands and the Arabs know this. It’s time we all see the reality as the Arabs see it and stop pretending the Jews want to give up good lands for peace. For Jews, it’s all the land, then peace—maybe.]

PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY RELEASES CLINTON’S PEACE PLAN

YAHOO News, 12/30/00

JERUSALEM (AFP)—U.S. President Bill Clinton has called for Palestinians to have 94-96 percent of the West Bank, sovereignty over east Jerusalem’s Haram al-Sharif mosque compound and formal recognition by Israel of refugees’ right of return, the Palestinian Authority said Saturday.

Clinton’s proposals came in his peace initiative presented to Israeli and Palestinian delegations in Washington on December 23, according to the session’s minutes released by the Palestine Media Center.

The plan offered incentives to the Israelis including sovereignty over the Western Wall below the Haram al-Sharif, known to Jews as Temple Mount, a holy site to both Jews and Muslims, and guaranteed an Israeli military presence in the West Bank.

For the West Bank, Clinton said a peace deal should group 80 percent of Jewish settlers into blocks to minimise the number of areas annexed to Israel and the number of Palestinians affected.

The Palestinians would receive one to three percent of Israeli territory in exchange for land annexed by Israel as well as a guarantee of a “permanent safe passage” to connect the different Palestinian areas.

Clinton also advised the two sides to consider leasing land from one another as another potential remedy.

Highlighting Israel’s security worries, Clinton stated an international military force would be “the key”. It would not only patrol borders but monitor “the implementation of the agreement between both sides”.

The international force could only be withdrawn by mutual consent.

The initiative also provides for the Israeli military to remain at “fixed locations” in the Jordan Valley, the

border between the West Bank and Jordan, for three years.

Israel would also be granted three early-warning military stations in the West Bank, with Palestinian security liaison. The status of these facilities would come up for review every 10 years.

Clinton said the Palestinian state should have sovereignty over its air space but take into account Israeli security needs.

On Jerusalem, Clinton said he believed the two sides’ “gaps are not related to practical administration but to the symbolic issues of sovereignty and finding a way to accord respect to the religious beliefs of both sides.”

To overcome the differences, Clinton proposed Palestinian sovereignty over the Haram al-Sharif and Israeli sovereignty over the Western Wall. Both sides should agree to ban any excavations at the site.

Jews believe that excavations would desecrate the remains of the second Jewish temple destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD.

Arab areas in Jerusalem would also fall under Palestinian control, Clinton said.

On the issue of the 3.7 million Palestinian refugees living mainly in neighbouring countries, Clinton was quoted as saying, “I believe that Israel is prepared to acknowledge the moral and material suffering caused to the Palestinian people as a result of the 1948 War and the need to assist the international community in addressing the number.”

The issue of Palestinians who fled on the creation of the Jewish state and subsequent conflicts deeply divides the two sides. Israelis fear their mass return would cost the Jewish state its identity while it is central to the Palestinians in line with a UN Security Council resolution.

Clinton suggested both sides should either recognise the refugees’ right to return to “historic Palestine”, or “to their homeland”.

He listed five possible homes for the refugees: the Palestinian state, “areas in Israel being transferred to Palestine in the land swap”, the current “host country”, “resettlement in a third country” and “admission to Israel”.

Clinton emphasised that all refugees would have the right to migrate to the Palestinian state, but citizenship in Israel, a third country, or a refugee’s current state would depend upon those nations’ internal policies.

He added that “priority should be given to the refugee population in Lebanon”, which hosts 367,000 refugees. Beirut has said it will not grant citizenship to its Palestinian population and has accused Clinton of pressuring the Palestinian leadership to renounce the right of return.

Clinton also proposed the establishment of an international commission to resettle, “rehabilitate” and compensate Palestinian refugees.

An agreement on all these topics, in addition to the release of Palestinian prisoners, would be considered an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Clinton told the meeting.

[JR: Other than the issues of the mosques, the return of the Palestinian refugees and resettlement, control of the Golan and West Bank, Israeli settlements, sovereignty and an International military (peace) force, what’s new? Well the Arabs get some new vacant desert lands, the Jews get to stay in the Jordan Valley for 3 more years, citizenship for Arabs (somewhere) and three new early-warning military stations for Israel in the

West Bank. Will these new security stations be equipped with laser technology that blinds their enemy? In addition, Israel is seemingly absolved of reparations for the Palestinian refugees. The International community gets to deal with that dilemma. The tiny state of Israel can't be burdened with such issues. Arafat at this time has agreed to the basics of the proposal but with reservations for detailed discussions.]

CHINA, U.S. TRADE MAY HIT NEW HIGH

OIL & GAS JOURNAL News, 12/24/00

BEIJING (AP)—Trade between China and the United States should reach a record \$73.5 billion this year, with China racking up yet another enormous trade surplus, the government's *Xinhua News Agency* said Sunday.

The estimate was based on statistics for the first 10 months of the year, which showed the two countries exchanged goods and services worth \$61.3 billion—as much as all of last year, the report said.

That amounted to a 23.4 percent increase from the January-October period last year, the report said.

According to the statistics, the balance of trade still remains overwhelmingly in China's favor.

The United States bought \$43.4 billion worth of Chinese-made shoes, clothes, toys and other goods in the first 10 months of this year, up 27 percent from the same period last year.

During the same time, China spent \$18 billion on U.S. goods, mainly aircraft, farm products and electronics, 15 percent higher than last year, the report said.

China now appears poised to pass Japan as the country running up the largest trade surpluses with the United States.

Last week, the U.S. Commerce Department announced America's deficit with China rose 4 percent in October to a record \$9.1 billion, the biggest U.S. deficit ever with a single country.

Meanwhile, U.S. investment in China grew by \$7.3 billion in the first 11 months of this year, bringing total U.S. investments since China opened to the world two decades ago to \$59.7 billion, *Xinhua* said.

That makes the United States the largest foreign investor in China, the report said. But the statistics do not cover Hong Kong or Taiwan, which have invested heavily in China.

[JR: These trade deficits with China are debts that will be paid for by the U.S. taxpayers. Worse yet, American investments in China relocate American business and deprive Americans of jobs. The WTO Trade Agreement has dismantled (as intended) American manufacturing base, a skilled labor market and created a dependency on foreign goods. There are plenty enough displaced and laid-off workers who need to make themselves heard—why the silence?]

BRITAIN DEVELOPS SHELL TO DISABLE ELECTRONICS

By Michael Smith, *Telegraph*—UK, 12/27/00

A non-lethal artillery shell designed to disable all the enemy's electronic equipment without killing anybody has been developed at a secret site in south-west England.

The shell was designed following revelations that Russia was well ahead of the West in the development of so-called radio-frequency weapons. A paper given at a conference in Bordeaux in 1994 made it clear that the Russians believed it possible to use such weapons to disable all of an enemy's electronic equipment.

Written by Dr. A.B. Prishchipenko and entitled "Radio Frequency Weapons on the Future Battlefield", it described Soviet research dating back to the late '40s, provoking near panic among Western military planners. It gave credence to the nightmare scenario of a high-technology war in which all the radio, radar and computer systems on which their weapons depended would be disabled leaving them completely defenceless.

Then two years ago, it emerged that the Russians had developed an electro-magnetic device, a so-called E Bomb, capable of disabling electrical and electronic systems and which could be carried in a briefcase. Amid intelligence reports showing that the IRA had discussed the possibility of closing down the City of London with an E Bomb, British research into the technology was stepped up.

Matra BAe Dynamics set to work on producing a Western version, as well as a means of countering the Russian weapon, in its Novel Technology section. It has now persuaded the MoD that the weapon is feasible. As a result of "a highly successful demonstration", the team won the BAe Systems Chairman's Gold Award for 2000.

The announcement of the award made no mention of the type of weapon other than to say that it offered "a new capability for exerting force or the fear of force, a completely new war fighting capability to coerce and disable an adversary without inflicting lethal force". At the same time, the MoD published a summary of requirements for "Radio Frequency Munitions delivered by 155mm shell or rocket" as a possible future requirement, the first step in the procurement process.

The shell or rocket will follow the normal trajectory of a standard missile but contain only a few grammes of explosive used to open it up as it approaches the target. An array of aerials then spring out and a burst of radio frequency of less than a second's duration is transmitted, disabling all electronic equipment within a given range.

The weapon will allow commanders to disrupt completely the enemy's command and control systems. Computers on weapons, tanks and aircraft will crash and radios and radar systems will become useless. The weapon will also bring the civil structure to a standstill, causing national telephone, television and radio networks to go down and electrical grids to collapse.

Used properly, the weapon can be deployed even in areas of concentrated population without risk of civilian deaths. This makes it particularly useful where the enemy is deliberately concealing its military assets in civilian areas. The system is low cost and can be deployed rapidly and without warning, making it very difficult to counter.

One senior military officer said it was possible the new weapon might lead to the situation where an enemy could be conquered without fighting. "If you can take out the civilian economic infrastructure of a nation, then that nation, in addition to not being able to function internally, cannot deploy its military by air or sea, or supply them with any real effectiveness, if at all."

[JR: It's been 2 years (that we know of) since the U.S. used similar technology against the citizens of Yugoslavia to destroy their infrastructure. They effectively destroyed the power grids causing electrical outages and the rationing continues today.

It's a great psychological weapon as it raises the stress level of the people and adds to their hardships. The military is sure to develop technologies to override such assaults but the same can't be said for the civilians. Maybe we should create a people's army with a strong influential voice to even the odds of survival.]

CHINESE ESPIONAGE HANDBOOK
DETAILS EASE OF SWIPING SECRETS

By Bill Gertz, *THE WASHINGTON TIMES*, 12/26/00

China's government is engaged in large-scale science and technology spying targeted primarily on gaining U.S. defense secrets for military use, according to a translated Chinese government manual.

The spying handbook was obtained by the Pentagon earlier this year and reveals how Beijing gathers defense intelligence and has been doing so aggressively for more than 30 years.

"A common saying has it that there are no walls which completely block the wind, nor is absolute secrecy achievable," the book by two Chinese intelligence specialists states.

"...Through probability analysis, in foreign countries it is believed that 80 percent or more of intelligence can be gotten through public materials."

The 250-page book, *Sources and Techniques of Obtaining National Defense Science and Technology Intelligence*, is not classified. However, Pentagon officials said its contents provide new insights on how China's government obtains secrets and technology.

The book was written by Huo Zhongwen and Wang Zongxiao, 30-year spy veterans who now teach intelligence at the China National Defense, Science and Technology Information Center (DSTIC) in Beijing.

The center coordinates sharing of technology from some 4,000 Chinese intelligence organizations.

"The Chinese do not spy as God intended it," said Paul Moore, a former FBI intelligence analyst who specialized in Beijing spying activities.

China uses a variety of collectors—students, business people, scientists or visitors abroad—instead of relying on professional intelligence officers working for the Ministry of State Security or the People's Liberation Army Second Department, he said.

Most often, Beijing's intelligence services do not pay cash for secrets and expect people friendly to the Communist government, many of whom are ethnic Chinese, to provide it free of charge, Mr. Moore said during a recent speech.

The book describes Chinese information-gathering as a science.

"Consider information piece by piece; place an excessive, one-sided emphasis on the absolute amount of the information collected; gauge the quality of collection work solely on the basis of the amount of information collected," it states.

The book contradicts official Chinese claims that its high-technology weapons development is indigenous.

Beijing has dismissed U.S. government charges that its nuclear weapons modernization program is based on stolen U.S. nuclear weapons technology, most obtained from U.S. nuclear weapons laboratories.

According to the spying manual, more than 80 percent of all Chinese spying focuses on open-source material obtained from government and private-sector information. The remaining 20 percent is gathered

through illicit means, including eliciting information from scientists at meetings, through documents supplied by agents or through electronic eavesdropping.

Through negligence on the part of security review personnel, valuable secrets can be obtained.

The book states that a "Top Secret" scientific report known as "UCRL-4725 Weapons Development, June 1956" was mistakenly declassified by Los Alamos National Laboratory....

Among the best sources for national defense intelligence material, the book lists publications from Congress, the National Defense Technical Information Center and the National Technical Information Service.

As for numerous reports produced by the Energy Department, the Chinese view them as "a source of intelligence of great value"....

Through direct contacts with scientists and other spying targets, the report states that "this is the procedure commonly used for collecting verbal information, but it is not limited to verbal communications. Participation in consultative activities is also a person-to-person exchange procedure for collecting information."

The information is gathered from people and institutions, including government agencies, research offices, corporate enterprises, colleges and universities, libraries, and information offices.

A report produced by the National Counterintelligence Center, an interagency group based at CIA headquarters, called the Chinese military and defense industry's use of unclassified information "one of the most startling revelations" of the book.

The two-part report, issued in the center's June and September newsletters, suggests the release of the spying manual, first reported by *Far Eastern Economic Review* magazine, may have been a mistake on the part of the secretive Chinese national security bureaucracy....

The report described the book as extraordinary "detailed proof" of China's efforts to obtain foreign defense technology "by the people who helped build China's worldwide intelligence network".

"Incredible as it seems, this frank account of China's long-standing program to siphon off Western military science and technology, written as a textbook for PRC intelligence officers, was sold openly in China for years," the report said. "But you will not find the book in any bookstore or Chinese library today."

The book "represents the first public acknowledgment by PRC officials of China's program to collect secret and proprietary information on foreign military hardware, especially that of the United States," the report said....

Since 1978, high-technology spying grew sharply under China's national development plan.

I.C. Smith, a retired FBI agent who specialized in Chinese spying, said the FBI severely curtailed its counterspy efforts—Chinese counterspying in particular—during the Clinton administration....

"This view became dominant in the FBI and even to a large extent, the intelligence community, and this resulted in the FBI essentially de-emphasizing counterintelligence, in general, and the China [counterintelligence] program, in particular. This led directly to the debacle of the Wen Ho Lee investigation," Mr. Smith said.

Lee, the Los Alamos nuclear-weapons designer, was suspected of passing nuclear warhead secrets to China. Earlier this year, he pleaded guilty to lesser charges of mishandling classified data on computer tapes that are

missing and agreed to tell what he knew to the FBI.

As part of the Lee investigation, FBI agents recently dug up computer tapes from a Los Alamos landfill, but later determined the tapes did not contain the secrets Lee took from the laboratory.

[JR: The Chinese, like the Israeli Mossad, effectively use their citizens in foreign countries to spy for them. Ours usually seem to get caught. Why is it that so much of our technology is made available at conferences, Congressional book lists, Defense Dept. publications, and technical information services? Great damage was done because of lax security at critical sites, such as Los Alamos, under the watch of Richardson of the Energy Dept. No surprise here that the Clinton administration turned a blind eye to Chinese spying activities prior to China's admittance to the WTO. You have to ask, are we dumb, stupid, careless, delusional, overly confident or all of the above?]

CHINESE GANGS TARGET U.S. FROM CANADA

By August Gribbin, *The Washington Times*, 12/28/00

Chinese gangs from Hong Kong, Taiwan, China and Macao increasingly are using Canada as a base for operations in the United States and now constitute "a growing threat" to this nation.

The warning comes from the *International Crime Threat Assessment*, a recently released 128-page analysis of criminal activity around the world.

It was produced by the CIA, the National Security Council, the FBI and specialists from 10 other U.S. agencies.

The assessment provides a general description of the major criminal organizations operating globally, describes the kinds of crimes each group specializes in and discusses the danger that groups from various nations pose to the United States.

The report notes that Russian gangs and to a lesser extent Japanese criminal organizations increasingly are preying on U.S. citizens. But the federal agencies that produced the report tend to consider the ethnic Chinese crime associations a more formidable peril.

The agencies' report explains that the tough, sophisticated Chinese gangsters are exploiting Ottawa's comparatively loose immigration policies to enter Canada and become legal residents.

As Canadian residents, they can easily enter and leave the United States, where they run major enterprises.

The Chinese gangs are principally engaged in heroin trafficking, credit-card fraud, software piracy and assorted high-tech crimes. But they diligently pursue more traditional activities too and operate alien smuggling, vehicle theft, money laundering and gun-running rings.

"The international criminal threat posed by ethnic Chinese criminal networks has become more complex as crime groups originating in mainland China have joined the traditional triad societies of Hong Kong, Macao and Taiwan in expanding... beyond China's borders," the report states.

That change is seen as significant if only because the secret triads, or associations, are ancient, organized and powerful. They have established relationships with ethnic Chinese crime groups throughout the Pacific Rim and the Western Hemisphere and are adept at using what the report calls "traditional Chinese practices of networking"

to facilitate criminal activity.

The triads date from the 17th Century and constitute the largest of China's criminal alliances. Intelligence estimates put total membership in the triads at more than 100,000—a figure that includes "quasi-legitimate businessmen involved in an array of criminal enterprises", as the report puts it.

Hong Kong has produced two of the most powerful triads. One is called 14K. The other is the especially well-organized Sun Yee On triad.

Both groups have branches in Canada. The 14K is based in Toronto, maintains a chapter in New York, and operates in other U.S. cities. Sun Yee On members have settled in Toronto, Edmonton, Alberta, and Vancouver, British Columbia, and also operate in the United States.

But China's biggest, most expansive and successful triad is the Big Circle Gang. It has cells around the world, including Canada. Since first appearing in the United States in the early 1990s, it has set up cells in New York, Boston, Seattle, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"The Big Circle Gang is responsible for importing much of the Southeast Asian heroin entering Canada—much of which is then smuggled into the United States—and is the source for many of the counterfeit credit cards used in North America," the report states.

The more loosely organized Russian crooks in the United States primarily busy themselves with extortion, drug trafficking, auto theft, cigarette smuggling, and trafficking in stolen art and icons.

They are major providers of services like money laundering and work at securing drugs for the Russian market.

The assessment states:

"Russian criminal organizations in the United States are adept at moving funds through a global complex of front companies, offshore financial service centers, and crime-controlled banks to facilitate extraction of criminal proceeds originating in Russia, as well as to launder funds generated from U.S.-based criminal operations."

Money laundering is a favorite activity of Japanese outlaws, too. But in the United States, they tend to do it by investing in the stock market and U.S. financial institutions. They also invest heavily in Canadian and U.S. real estate, and are known to own golf courses and hotels, among other holdings.

They make considerable money through drug and arms trafficking, extortion and investment fraud and have purchased large swatches of West Coast and Hawaiian real estate.

None of the activity of these and other groups is likely to stop soon, the assessment notes.

It predicts that, "Globalization and technological innovation will continue to change the nature of organized crime... [and] law enforcement agencies probably will... be forced to cope with a very large number of highly skilled criminal entrepreneurs whose activities can have far-reaching impact."

[JR: These detailed reports by our CIA, FBI, NSC, INS, et al. on foreign gang activities in the U.S. reveal a great deal. We know who they are, where they are and how they operate. The question is how is it they are yet to be exposed and caught in their illicit acts? With so much competition among these groups, it could lead to international gang wars but I guess there is enough business for everyone in the game of ripping off Americans. In today's high tech and sophisticated crime operations, I guess crime does pay—big time.]

WOMEN TO FIGHT ON FRONT LINE

By Jason Burke, *The Guardian*—UK, 12/24/00

The last barriers to women taking frontline combat roles in the Army are set to be lifted after trials clouded in secrecy concluded that there was no reason they should not fight alongside men.

The controversial findings follow Ministry of Defence attempts to address the rule that women should not go into combat.

A document outlining the results of the trial is scheduled to arrive on the desk of Geoff Hoon, the Defence Secretary, next year, forcing the Government to make a difficult and potentially unpopular decision on the issue before the general election, expected in May.

Last week General Sir Charles Guthrie, Britain's Chief of Defence Staff, said that the Army's combat effectiveness should not be compromised by political correctness.

But MoD sources say that Hoon will find it hard to reject the evidence from the trials and will be forced to increase significantly the range of roles available to women.

The trials took place this autumn at the Army's training grounds on Salisbury plain.

Mixed-sex platoons completed a series of tasks in different settings designed to test female soldiers' aptitude—and their effect on their male colleagues—in everything from peacekeeping and public order situations to intensive combat. An all-male "control" platoon was also deployed as well as all-women tank crews and infantry units.

The trials were the second stage of an MoD study that is considered so sensitive that only a few senior officers and the specialists involved in it are aware of the results.

"They are so worried about it they have kept it hermetically sealed," said one military source.

But *The Observer* has learned that in the physical trials stage of the study, which is now complete, the two sexes interacted well in almost all situations, even in close environments such as tanks and bunkers and under heavy fire. The presence of women is seen as a significant advantage in the peace-keeping and aid operations that now comprise a high proportion of Britain's overseas deployments. Women already serve in artillery regiments and have been trained as helicopter and jet pilots.

The next phase of the "The Combat Effectiveness and Gender Study" is a survey of opinion among serving soldiers and their families. Thousands of questionnaires are being circulated to gauge feelings about the issue.

The results, and those of the physical trials, will be combined with other research from foreign armed forces on the issue and sent to generals for their opinion. Senior officers may be able to use the findings from the survey to block any change. Trials for women on submarines resulted in the ban being maintained.

The completed report will be given to a key committee chaired by Hoon for a final decision.

The army is almost unanimously against any further change. "There is no way that I would want anything other than a single-sex combat command," said one senior officer, a former commander of an elite infantry regiment. "It would be immensely destabilising and possibly demoralising. And my wife would go completely mad."

Others challenge the physical capability of women

soldiers. During the rescue of kidnapped British soldiers in Sierra Leone recently, soldiers jumped out of their helicopters and into a shoulder-deep swamp. "All our lads were big guys," another infantry officer said. "There's no point in having a 5ft.-2in. woman in a 5ft.-3in. swamp."

There is also scepticism about the trials themselves. Soldiers say that judging troops on exercise says little about their potential performance in actual combat. "It's camping with fireworks," the officer said. "It's got sod all to do with fighting."

Giving women combat roles would bring Britain into line with the armies of the U.S., Canada, Holland and Norway. It is likely, though, that the British forces, with the backing of Ministers, will use stringent testing of any potential recruits to combat units to limit the effect of the change.

[JR: The necessity for women fighting alongside men in physical combat doesn't promote the idea of peace for our future, especially when recruitment is down, many more senior personnel taking pensions or not re-enlisting and our military spread all over the world. I'm sure women can be trained to think and act aggressively as men but at what cost to society? How many women (or men) join the military just for the benefits or to gain direction in their lives and not really thinking they may have to actually face combat. Women should (in principle) be the defenders for peace but should not have to physically fight for it.]

U.S. MISSILE SYSTEM AIMED AT WORLD DOMINATION, NOT ROGUE STATES

Russia Today, 12/23/00

MOSCOW (AFP)—The only reason the United States is seeking to deploy a national missile defense system (NMD) is the country's desire to strategically dominate the world, Russian Defense Minister Igor Sergeev said Saturday.

The perceived threat to the United States of a missile attack from a "rogue" nation like Iran or North Korea was not realistic, Sergeev said in an interview published in the Russian daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star).

The deployment of the NMD would be "directed against Russia," he told the newspaper.

"Our position remains unchanged. Russia will not accept an alteration to the ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) Treaty, which would mean (the treaty's) destruction," Sergeev insisted.

Deployment of the NMD would involve modifying the ABM Treaty signed between Moscow and Washington in 1972.

Colin Powell, expected to be the new U.S. Secretary of State under president-elect George Bush, has said he favors deploying the NMD, but Moscow has repeatedly threatened that it will withdraw disarmament agreements if that happens.

Sergeev also said that Russian relations with NATO were marked by "a great lack of trust", and repeated his opposition to NATO enlargement to include former Soviet states.

Such a move would be "a grave political error," he said.

Russia has adopted a more positive attitude to its relations with NATO since May.

Prior to that, relations had been frozen following NATO'S bombardment of Yugoslavia, which began in March 1999.

"Russia and NATO are major players," both in

Europe and in the world as a whole, Sergeev said.

"They cannot ignore their respective interests."
[JR: Russia isn't a country the U.S. can buy off or bully to agree to our demands. She is a country who can force us into stepping back and rethinking our position on altering the ABM treaty with her. If Colin Powell continues to press Russia as the Clinton administration did, he will receive the same answer—NYET.]

JAPAN REELS UNDER ONSLAUGHT OF CHILDREN WHO 'SNAP' AND KILL

By Simon Rawles (Tokyo), *The Independent*—UK, 12/24/00

In the same month a schoolboy with a 12-inch knife hijacks a bus, holds 10 people hostage, then goes on a killing frenzy; a 16-year-old puts a sleeping commuter in a coma by striking him repeatedly with a hammer; a 17-year-old breaks into the house of an elderly woman and bludgeons her to death.

This is not New York or Saō Paolo, but suburban Tokyo. Long regarded as one of the safest countries in the world, Japan is reeling from a year of brutal murders and random violence by teenagers from the hitherto crime-free suburbs. Last weekend a 17-year-old high-school student was arrested after going on a rampage with a metal baseball bat in Tokyo's busy Shibuya ward. Eight people were injured, one seriously. A police source said the boy had been repeatedly beaten by his father since primary school. A few days earlier a 17-year-old boy detonated a home-made bomb in a video store in Tokyo's Shinjuku business district.

The number of murders by juveniles doubled—from 26 to 53—in the first six months of this year. Many cases involve teenagers from stable, affluent backgrounds and quiet neighbourhoods. Other offenders are victims of school bullying—now reaching crisis levels in Japan—such as the 17-year-old who earlier this year clubbed a schoolmate and his mother to death after being picked on.

"Our children are frustrated, emotionally suppressed and under too much pressure at school," warns Mr. Nobuto Hosaka, an opposition MP. "These are not problem kids rebelling, but ordinary well-behaved boys and girls suffering breakdowns—nobody can predict when they will explode."

The authorities are baffled and have labelled these random acts of violence *kireru*, meaning "to snap". Experts disagree over the reasons why young people are snapping. Some argue that Japan's gruelling work ethic has led to the breakdown of traditional family life and a lack of discipline in the home. Japan is a nation of commuters, and a government survey showed that Japanese fathers spend less time with their children than their counterparts in other countries. Child psychologists, however, talk about an isolated generation overdosing on violent video games, the internet and television.

Like most Japanese teen killers, the bus hijacker—who had no criminal past or apparent motive for his crime—was bad at communicating with others, and had become withdrawn through playing TV games all day. According to his psychiatrist, he had been bullied from an early age and was like a "Robinson Crusoe figure whose whole world began and ended in his room".

Worrying signs of isolation and neglect show up in a survey carried out by the research group Tokyo Institute of Life and Living. One in three children between the ages of 10 and 13 said they thought of video games as friends and spent most of their free time

alone in their rooms.

“Children believe video games serve their needs better than people because they can manipulate games more easily than they manage human relationships,” says Ms. Mariko Fujiwara, who conducted the survey. “They think ‘whoever doesn’t belong to my world I can attack or erase’—that is frightening.”

The government has commissioned a report on the causes of *kireru* and has promised reforms in the school system to ease exam pressure on students. For many Japanese, though, the government isn’t doing enough. Kenjiro and Tomoko Take’s lives were devastated when their 16-year-old son, Takemura, was attacked and killed by a schoolboy in their quiet, well-heeled suburb of Osaka. Frustrated by what they consider to be lenient and outdated juvenile laws, the Take family have set up Japan’s first victim support group and have launched a campaign for more openness in court and stiffer penalties for offenders.

The Takes are angry that they were excluded from the investigation into their son’s death and the subsequent court hearing. “We were never told how our son was killed. We were not even told what punishment the offender received,” says Mr. Take.

Under the current system, young offenders of even the most serious crimes receive on average 12 months in reform school. “We feel it is too easy for young people to kill; we need tougher laws and longer sentences,” adds Mr. Take.

Detective Jin Kato, head of juvenile crime at Tokyo police department, disagrees. Kato spent 20 years tracking down and convicting *yakuza* (adult gangsters). Today he catches teen killers and is convinced that stiffer penalties for minors will do little to curb this crime wave sweeping across suburbia.

In the aftermath of a *kireru* attack, explains Kato, newspapers receive handfuls of letters from children sympathising with the killers. “Children are losing the plot,” he says. “I’m afraid our whole way of life needs to change, before it’s too late.”

[JR: No one wants to look at the real cause of these violent teens. It doesn’t matter if they are in Japan, Europe or the U.S., they all have one thing in common. The key phrase, as in this and all other articles, is ‘According to HIS psychiatrist’. Every one of these teenagers that have committed these excessively violent or multi-murders have not only been under the ‘care’ of a psychiatrist but were also on mind-altering drugs to control their arbitrarily diagnosed anxieties. And too often the side effects for some of them on these drugs results in this type of violent behavior. It’s the psychiatrists that blame it all on society, never on their drug-treatment programs.]

SECRET MISSION

RESTORES TIBET’S LINKS WITH CHINA

By Calum MacLeod (Beijing), *Independent*—UK, 12/6/00

Beijing has grudgingly acknowledged that it has reopened contacts with the much vilified Dalai Lama.

China is long used to hosting secret missions from abroad. Henry Kissinger, the former U.S. secretary of state, faked illness in Pakistan to sneak into Beijing, thus paving the way for President Richard Nixon’s ground-breaking trip in 1972.

Since the same Communist Party remains in power, Beijing can still accommodate the privacy needs of any

guest. The North Korean leader, Kim Jong II, arrived by secret train in May this year, prior to his coming-out party with President Kim Dae-Jung of South Korea. And in October, the city received another secret visitor, but the implications of his undercover pilgrimage are harder to draw.

On Monday, the Dalai Lama, spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, revealed that his elder brother, Gyalo Thondup, visited Beijing in October at China’s invitation. After a two-year hiatus in informal contact, the trip marks a resumption of links between Beijing and Dharamsala, the Indian town where the Tibetan god-king has based his government-in-exile since his flight from Tibet in 1959 after a failed revolt against Chinese rule.

Mr. Thondup returned to India with a message, and the Dalai Lama said he responded with a request to send a delegation to Tibet. While he still awaits an answer, the Dalai Lama used Monday—the 50th anniversary of his assumption of power—to describe his hopes for future dialogue with China.

“What is essential is that we meet person to person,” he said. “One of the main obstacles between us is ignorance and wrong impressions.”

Yesterday, Beijing failed to dispel this ignorance by refusing to confirm or deny the secret trip, but the mainland government did offer a clear impression of what it believes the Tibetan ruler must do next.

According to Zhang Qiyue, a foreign ministry spokeswoman, China will begin negotiations once the Dalai Lama “truly gives up Tibetan independence, stops activities aiming at splitting China and openly declares that Tibet is an inalienable part of Chinese territory”.

The Dalai Lama has stressed that his “middle way” does not comprise outright independence, but he does want real autonomy, especially in matters of religion, for the Tibet Autonomous Region.

However, Beijing sees no reason to give ground; the authorities know that a concession on Tibet may prompt separatist movements among the Muslim inhabitants of China’s restive north-west. The Dalai Lama may be motivated by an increasing sense of his mortality. While death may bother him less than mortals—the doctrine of reincarnation means he is the 14th Dalai Lama—he is known to be anxious about how China may manipulate the selection process for his successor.

His choice for Tibet’s second holiest position, the Panchen Lama, is now the world’s youngest political prisoner after Beijing put the boy under house arrest and nominated its own candidate.

[JR: If China were to renew talks with the Dalai Lama, it would be to restate her claims to Tibet. China can’t concede that claim—given the unrest in her own country. Let us hope the Dalai Lama lives long enough to negotiate a future for Tibet and to ensure a true successor.]

NEW NASA PLAN AIMED AT SALVAGING MISSION TO PLUTO

From NASA, 12/21/00

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The on-again, off-again mission to faraway Pluto may be a go if NASA can do it on the cheap and without imposing long delays on a planned exploration of one of Jupiter’s moons.

Ed Weiler, the chief of space science, announced Wednesday that the agency is seeking proposals that would make it possible to send a robot craft to Pluto before the most distant of solar system planets sweeps

out of reach.

A launch planned in 2004 to Pluto, the only planet not yet visited by a robot probe, was canceled in June when costs spiraled.

Weiler said at the time that rising expenses for the Pluto-Kuiper Express were threatening the schedule for a higher-priority mission: sending a probe to Europa, a Jupiter moon that may harbor an ocean and possibly life.

The costs of the Europa and Pluto missions had risen from \$650 million to \$1.5 billion, said Weiler, who opted to stay within budget and preserve the Europa mission.

The decision prompted protests from space-oriented organizations.

Under the new plan, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration is soliciting proposals for a cheaper Pluto mission that would have only a modest impact on the Europa mission launch plans.

[JR: We earthlings should not get too enthused over these planned missions to Europa and Pluto because of the military and colonization plans of NASA. This is job security on the backs of the taxpayers. How many of the NASA scientists can truthfully analyze the data gathered from these probes into space or are allowed to make public their real findings? NASA has a cloud surrounding their credibility and it isn’t “swamp gas”.]

HOW SHALL WE DEFINE THE “RULE OF LAW”

By Tony Snow, *Town Hall*, 12/7/00

WASHINGTON—Al Gore has forced Americans to confront the most important political and philosophical question of the era: How shall we define “rule of law”?

Two schools of thought contend for supremacy. Under one—let’s call it the Simple Theory—the law means what it says. It employs simple words to govern public behavior, knowing that people are more likely to support and obey laws they understand than ones they don’t. By this standard, when it comes to statutory verbiage, less is more.

The theory presupposes a society filled with mature adults who have an obligation to take care of themselves without reliance on lawyers and regulators. It envisions a world that assigns an important role to custom and trust—a place where businessmen shake on deals, one’s word is one’s bond and people resolve petty disputes face-to-face.

The Simple School assumes that right and wrong exist not merely as abstract concepts, but as identifiable moral facts. It acknowledges that simple rules are easy to grasp and hard to follow. (Consider the *Ten Commandments* and the Golden Rule.) It regards citizens as the ultimate guardians of social order.

A competing theory—call it the Complex Theory—has taken hold in recent years. It claims that law changes with the slow march of history. It accommodates our shifting fads and fancies, forcing legislators to draft statutes in response to our evanescent concerns and needs. If a problem arises, pass a bill.

Our tax code provides a perfect example. It contains thousands of codicils and appendices, most of which address very specific needs. Some sentences, for instance, are written to help individual constituents, especially those who have donated generously to the statute’s drafters. The result is legal literature of unparalleled vastness and inscrutability.

Several years ago, I had dinner with a man who previously had run the Tax Division at the U.S. Department of the Treasury. He had agonized for months over a provision that had some bearing on his tax returns. He wanted to follow the law, but try as he might, he couldn't make heads or tails of it. He called his old colleagues at Treasury. They were baffled. So was the Internal Revenue Service. Evidently, nobody in America knew what the passage meant.

His experience demonstrated an important axiom: Complex laws are impossible to comprehend and easy to evade. The more "nuanced" they are, the bigger and more numerous their loopholes.

Loopholes abound because the Complex Theory also contends that language has no fixed meaning. Bill Clinton expressed this conviction when he told a judge, "It depends what the meaning of the word 'is' is." The Florida Supreme Court adopted this approach when it berated Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris for "hyper-technical reliance upon statutory provisions" when interpreting state law. The court then rewrote Florida's election code—with the full expectation that state officials would implement the change with "hyper-technical" precision.

This leads us to the crucial distinction between our two approaches to law. The Simple Theory relies on trust and responsibility. The Complex Theory inclines toward distrust and litigation.

Think of what happens when a society regards its citizens with suspicion. The government treats everybody as a suspect, and casts about for ways to prevent misbehavior. Mistrust breeds and justifies coercion. And mistrust erupts when people no longer can agree on such basics as right and wrong, and the meaning of common words. Legal simplicity, in contrast, invites consensus and depends on it.

This insight brings us full circle. The Gore-Bush battle is a Complex-Simple dispute. Gore has relied consistently on a Complex view of law. It inspired his promise to "fight" factions of the population he had identified as mean, venal or menacing. Since Election Day, he has invited courts to supplant legislatures. Why the courts? Because he says we can't trust anybody else.

In a Simple world, Gore would have followed convention and conceded—despite his misgivings about the outcome. In his Complex world, he seemed determined to litigate until death, penury or utter irrelevance. But one thing is for sure: If his view prevails, you can count on a society where lawyers rule as kings and the rest of us will have to duck for cover. **JJR: Our original Constitution was written under the simple and honest values of the "Rule of Law" but the reason its meaning is continually being violated is because the Clinton/Gore administration and today's liberal high courts are deliberately misinterpreting it under their Complex Theory of law which they apply in various ways to suit any particular purpose. The dumbing-down of the people has allowed the meaning of words to be changed to convey the opposite of the intent of our Founding Fathers. The "Esquires" of today are only trained under the Complex Theory of law where truth is irrelevant and the skill of manipulation, fabrication or selectively allowed evidence is the ultimate agenda now practiced in our courts. Clinton and Gore excel in these liberal judicial arenas that use the legal (not lawful) methods of "Truth is what I say it is" or "I will decide which truth is allowed in MY court."]**

FED MOVE RAISES EXPECTATIONS OF INTEREST RATE CUTS ACROSS ASIA

By Tracy Withers, *Bloomberg News*, 1/4/01

Sydney—Asian central banks may slash interest rates in coming weeks in response to the Federal Reserve's surprise half-point cut in its benchmark rate.

Hong Kong was the first to move, cutting its base rate by a half-percentage point to 7.5 percent. Australia's central bank could act as early as February while Singapore, South Korea and the Philippines are also likely to lower key rates. An expected rise in New Zealand is now seen as unlikely.

The Fed's cut to 6 percent, the first in two years, indicates it will move aggressively to avoid a recession in the world's biggest economy, which is also the major buyer of Asian exports, analysts said.

"I'd expect a whole series of rate cuts across Asia," said Chi Lo, a senior economist with Standard Chartered Bank Plc. in Hong Kong. "It's certainly going to be a positive for this region."

Asian stocks failed to match the rally in the U.S., where stocks soared, with the NASDAQ Composite Index gaining 14.2 percent and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index rising 5 percent.

Korea's Kospindex rose 6.2 percent; Japan's Nikkei 225 stock average rose 1.4 percent; Australia's S&P/ASX200 Index rose 1.7 percent, and New Zealand's Top 40 Index rose 1.4 percent.

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority cut its base rate today to 7.5 percent. The rate, which acts as a benchmark for banks getting funding from the central bank, is linked to the Fed funds target because of the Hong Kong dollar's peg to the U.S. dollar.

Hong Kong banks will likely cut lending and deposit rates by the same margin when they meet Friday.

The Philippine Central Bank's monetary board canceled a scheduled meeting, moving it to tomorrow. Central Bank Governor Rafael Bueneventura has said the bank will probably cut rates.

Japan, the world's second-biggest economy, has less room to move on interest rates. Having canceled its "zero-rate" policy when it raised rates to 0.25 percent last year, the Bank of Japan (BOJ) is unlikely to follow the Fed's lead, analysts said.

"We have always said the cancellation of the zero rate policy was a premature and that the BOJ choked the economy at its peak," said Toshio Tahara, a general manager at Sumisei Global Investment Trust Management Co., which manages \$385 million in Japanese equities.

Last week, Taiwan's central bank cut two key interest rates in a surprise move to spur flagging economic growth. The Central Bank of China lowered its rediscount rate, charged to commercial lenders for 10-day loans, to 4.625 percent from 4.74 percent. It also dropped the so-called accommodation rate to 5 percent from 5.1 percent.

In New Zealand, Reserve Bank Governor Don Brash may also be unable to justify the further rate rise he signaled in December, while the Reserve Bank of Australia may cut rates as early as February.

"I would be extraordinarily surprised if Brash went ahead with a rate rise," said John Norling, who oversees NZ\$850 million (U.S.\$375 million) of New Zealand shares at AXA New Zealand Funds Management Ltd. "A rate cut is more likely now." The New Zealand central bank's key rate is 6.5 percent.

Australian bonds posted the biggest one-day drop in 17 months as investors moved out of fixed-income securities to buy stocks.

The Australian dollar, meantime, fell 1 U.S. cent to 55.67 U.S. cents as the news prompted demand for U.S. stocks and the currency to buy them.

"While there is not the same urgency for rate cuts in Australia as there is in the U.S., last night's move by the Fed can certainly alter the timing of any move by the Reserve Bank," said Tony Meer, senior economist at Deutsche Bank in Sydney. "There is a window for the RBA to move as early as February."

The Reserve Bank of Australia raised rates four times last year to 6.25 percent. The overnight cash rate is now above the Fed's key rate for the first time since November 1998. The bank's policy-setting board next meets Feb. 6.

In New Zealand, most economists surveyed by *Bloomberg News* before Christmas expected at least a quarter-point rate rise in the first quarter. Still, most said their view was conditional on how the world economy began the new year.

"A number of players in the U.S. were starting to forecast a hard landing for the U.S., which would have had some implications for the growth rates of its trading partners, including Australia and New Zealand," said Stephen Walker, who manages NZ\$1.6 billion in New Zealand stocks at AMP Henderson Global Investors New Zealand Ltd.

"So to the extent that the U.S. is easing to try and stave off that situation, that's positive for economic activity here."

New Zealand's exports contribute about 30 percent of the nation's economic growth. Around 14.5 percent of exports go to the U.S. while more than one-third goes to Asia.

Fletcher Challenge Ltd.'s forests division exports logs and lumber to the U.S. and Asia.

"I was forming the impression that, although we hadn't seen a slowdown in (U.S.) sales, there was likely to be one" this year, said Chief Executive Terry McFadgen, who was in the U.S. prior to Christmas.

The big markets for Fletcher Forests are Taiwan, Korea, Japan and the Philippines, he said.

"A rate cut of this magnitude is very positive in terms of the outlook for those economies," and may support prices for logs and lumber.

CONTACT Staff

Margie Berndt

Mark Moore

John & Jean Ray

Rex Smith

Princeton Winton

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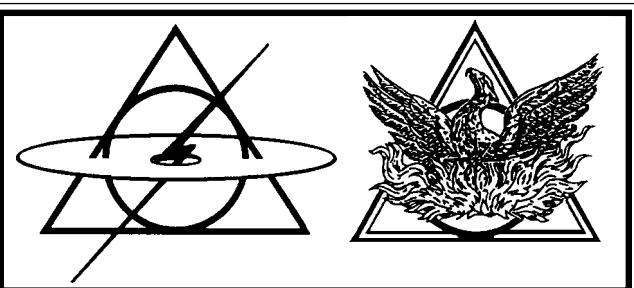
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I have never stopped writing for *CONTACT*—but I have NOT written, nor have my compatriots written for *Spectrum*. Tails wag a lot of dogs, my friends. Therefore, "or what" has no meaning.

January 6, 2001