

CONTACT

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KNOWING TRUTH IS NOT ENOUGH,
SUCCESSFUL CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION



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The Impending Collapse Of Almighty U.S. Dollar

2/12/02—#1 (15-180)

RE: ARROYO GOVERNMENT LOSING PROPAGANDA WAR? BALIKATAN EXERCISES IN MINDANAO. WHAT ABOUT U.S. TROOPS? WHAT ABOUT DOLLAR STABILITY? FRANCIS J. RICCIARDONE JR., (NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO PHILIPPINES). ADMIRAL DENNIS C. BLAIR OF U.S. FORCES IN THE PACIFIC (CINCPAC)—PLAN IN ASIA AND WHY PHILIPPINES IS SO IMPORTANT

I, Doris, have to make a statement here regarding this commentary covering the above topics because we do not want to give credit to anyone for their work when in fact, it was not their input. We get a LOT of information flowing through here, excluding that which is poured in through electronic e-mail, Fax, etc.

What I will write up here for information sharing is from Erick San Juan. It is from an observer's standpoint and viewpoint; he is no longer serving the government. Erick was a listed contact by V.K.

Durham in her "assumed attitude of good first-name buddies" for receiving her incredible poppycock. The Fax number used by V.K., however, ended up to be in the U.S. and Erick's name was only "used" for propaganda purposes of V.K.

We find, in fact, as a side note: Where V.K. claims this "Holding Trust" with everything hidden inside it does not, did not, and COULD NOT exist. There is no such thing as a "Holding Trust". You can have "holding companies" and other kinds of Trusts but there is no such legal entity as a "Holding Trust". I guess you could conjure some other kind of "trust" to cover such needs BUT she has blatantly used "Holding Trust" as part of her actual title. That is a tip-off and could be cause for prosecutions by State and Federal authorities.

If, for instance, you want a corporation with the use of "trust" in the title which remotely refers to "banking" or "finance", you will have to go through banking laws and permits, etc. So, there is no consideration for a "Holding Trust" which in any way is a public designation.

I say this because V.K. Durham has hit on some very touchy areas and people in her bamboozling Attila-the-Hun

practices and some of them plan to sue her socks off.

In her contacts she has used Katherine, Catherine, Kathrin and in an attempt at getting a payoff from Illinois Power Company, in legal documents, names herself as Kathryn.

Her attempts at changeout of documents and legal filings have now been proven within reasonable doubt to that qualification a step higher of "shadow of..."

And again, I want to state that I go through this because every time we mention these parties by name in our writings or paper, the people come directly under the hounding and fabricated net of these adversaries such as Bellringer, *SPECTRUM*, V.K. Durham, etc.

Erick is no longer attached to a government agency so has given his permission to run this material which is his journalistic observation. With the above in mind, please know that we appreciate Erick's insightful sharing and, as well, we will make more attempts to relate some of these information bits to what is actually taking place under our own noses.

For instance, this "takeover" of the Southeast Asian area has been in full swing with Admiral Blair, Chief U.S. manipulator in the Pacific, since certainly 2000,

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which is LONG PRIOR to any 9-11 “terror”.

Erick will also refer to “money” as in “the dollar” and possibility of collapse. Well, come on, don’t blame Erick, it is expected to happen without further warning at any time. We, in fact, are making sure that what we have is based on GOLD so that a currency collapse or move off into, say, the Euro will only strengthen the local currency recognition but will NOT wipe out nations and will allow the PEOPLE to shore up their OWN interests and nation.

[QUOTING COMMENTS ON CURRENT CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE PHILIPPINES. Erick San Juan, Analyst, Commentator, Journalist:]

OBSERVATIONS

From where we stand, it looks as though the Arroyo government is fast losing the “propaganda war” regarding the hosting of the controversial RP-U.S. Balikatan exercises in war-torn Mindanao, as the majority of the nation’s broadcast journalists rally behind the political opposition, which includes communist front organizations. This is no longer surprising, considering the number of media practitioners Dante Ang has alienated.

Some of those we talked to, swear that Ang, a long-time confidant of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (PGMA), deliberately antagonized quite a number of “friendly” media practitioners by covertly operating a media outfit called SUMMIT COMMUNICATIONS with Ricardo “Dong” Puno, an Erap crony, as his business partner. Confidentialities, therefore, are no longer practiced as the Erap camp becomes privy to sensitive data thanks to leakages coming from Ang’s PR office.

Already, the metropolis is buzzing with whispers regarding an “executive agreement” signed by U.S. President George W. Bush and PGMA, DURING THE LATTER’S AMERICAN VISIT AFTER THE 9-11 DEBACLE. SOURCES ALSO SAY THAT THE TOP-SECRET DOCUMENT WAS INKED IN THE PRESENCE OF CONDOLEEZA RICE OF THE U.S. AND J. ROILO GOILEZ OF THE PHILIPPINES. [Emphasis ours.]

The problem, however, lies in the fact that too much vital information is being kept away from the public. For example, Vice-President Tito Guingona was made to believe that under the *U.S. Constitution*, its armed forces could not be placed under a foreign military commander. Nothing can be farther from the truth. [Please read the next carefully, Americans.]

Today, tens of thousands of U.S. troops are serving the UN, despite not wearing the UN uniform. A March 1997 Pentagon document states that 68,790 U.S. troops were involved in UN-authorized or international peacekeeping activities. This figure includes U.S. “blue-helmeted” personnel in Macedonia (said to be 511), as well as 1,052 personnel involved in “non-Un Peace Operations” in the Middle East and Latin America. It also includes 67,200 troops “supporting enforcement” of UN Security Council resolutions in Bosnia, Iraq, and Korea. In other words, according to the Pentagon itself, approximately 68,000 “green-helmeted” troops served the UN that year alone.

The UN’s World Army has, therefore, arrived, and the American soldiers are the front-line troops. This was clearly shown when UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, after returning from Iraq with a “deal” to allow limited inspections of Saddam Hussein’s weapons sites, declared that “Together we are the ultimate power,” an endorsement of the UN becoming a world government, in which the once-great United States plays the role of bit player (and financier), while American interests are subservient to whatever power runs the UN.

By July 1998, the *WASHINGTON POST* reported that U.S. special operations forces had “established military ties in at least 110 countries”. It said these involved many UN-style “training exercises” with countries as Kazakhstan, Madagascar, Mongolia, Russia and Uzbekistan. In Africa, the *POST* reported that U.S. forces had trained the militaries of 31 out of 54 African countries. Six of these countries—Ghana, Melawi, Senegal, Uganda, Mali, and Ethiopia—received training to participate in a State Department-led “African Crisis Response Initiative”, a regional peacekeeping force.

In July 1998, the U.S. Air National Guard hosted a training exercise involving European forces that went under the bizarre title, “Global Patriot”. More than 15,000 service members from the Air National Guard, Air Force, U.S. Army, Navy and Marines, including the Reserve Corps, were joined by Dutch, British, Paraguayan, and Canadian forces.

Nothing, therefore, can stop the U.S. from deploying between 2,000-5,000 troops in the Philippines, since this is well in accordance with the MDT (Mutual Defense Treaty) signed by AFP chief-of-staff General Diomedio Villanueva and U.S. CINCPAC head, Admiral Dennis Blair. The pact is said to have U.S. Charges d’Affaires Robert Fitts as witness to this agreement of hosting several Balikatan exercises, with our Muslim brothers and sisters as possible live targets!

Everything, of course, will depend on how PGMA will handle criticisms and mass actions directed against her and her alliance with U.S. forces. Keen political observers are now saying that if U.S. President Bush skips the Philippines on his way to China, PGMA will be in serious trouble. Others believe that should CIA Director George Tenet reach the Philippines ahead of U.S. Ambassador-designate Ricciardone, we may see some changes in the political landscape.

Another event to watch will be the “war of nerves” between China and the U.S. during President Bush’s official visit to Beijing. Any diplomatic miscalculations might lead into a shooting war in the region, with the Spratleys and Paracels as starting points. Already, China has reportedly occupied Panganiban Reef, which is clearly Philippine territory.

Hovering above all this, like the proverbial sword of Damocles, is **the impending collapse of the almighty U.S. dollar**, made even more imminent by Bush’s stubborn pursuit of Thatcher’s “expanded NATO doctrine”, designed to impose Anglo-American world domination. It may yet be overshadowed by the Euro, which Europeans have sworn to protect economically, even militarily. Only recently, European nations have agreed on the development and deployment of the Western European forces, a military force apart from the U.S.-led NATO forces, and independent of America altogether.

Here in the Philippines, the dollar’s collapse will plunge us into a new Dark Age, along with the rest of the dollarized foreign economies. When that happens, PGMA will have to play a requiem for her “con game” in the south, even as a combined army of communists and Islamists confront the AFP for a final showdown.

[END OF QUOTING]

Thank you for the astute observations. And, we will take the opportunity to better introduce the expected new U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines, Francis J. Ricciardone Jr. He is to arrive in the Philippines within the next two weeks. We therefore have to wonder about the reference to the CIA because there are now several factions of the CIA and we enjoy considering which branch will have the most impact; the Fifth Column, the First Column or the CIA-Mossad organizers. And,

WHO is down South for all these years snitching gold and training troops? Perhaps the “Shadow” knows.

For this introduction we will thank Mr. Soliven for offering the introduction data for Mr. Ricciardone.

[QUOTING NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE PHILIPPINES, FRANCIS J. RICCIARDONE JR. By Max Soliven, *The Philippine STAR*, Feb. 11, 2001:]

Mr. Ricciardone Jr. will be arriving within the next two weeks, I’m informed. The delay in his confirmation was occasioned by the U.S. Senate being preoccupied with other matters, plus a period of recess, but he’s finally coming.

The question in administration circles is whether Ricciardone will get here in time to help President GMA “push” for U.S. President George W. Bush to include Manila—even at the tail-end—in his slated three-nation swing through north Asia. Bush will visit Japan on Feb. 17, South Korea on Feb. 19, and China on Feb. 21 and 22. Will he skip Manila, even on his way back to the U.S.? Unless GMA’s back-channeling efforts are successful, he probably will—but who knows? Aren’t they supposed to be phone pals?

[The media and press continue to say “No visit” but recognizing the futility of attention to ANYTHING, we have to say that the efforts are still wiggling in the can. And, moreover, things are really getting nasty here in drama-land.]

One reason for hesitation might be an unwillingness on the part of the American President or his staff to jump into the eye of the controversy (even if it may be dying down) over U.S. participation in the anti-Abu Sayyaf campaign in Mindanao, under whatever Terms of Reference (TOR) will be unveiled on February 14. (Why did they choose Valentine’s Day as the date? To demonstrate that the U.S. is still our Valentine, or vice-versa?)

In any event, the incoming U.S. envoy—who, by the way speaks Turkish, Italian, French, Arabic and even English—is an expert on the Middle and Near East, and Muslim affairs. His last position was that of Special Representative for Transition in Iraq. That was probably long before Georgie Bush in his State of the Union address testily proclaimed Iraq as one of the three states belonging to his so-called “axis of evil”, along with Iran and North Korea. [Or, possibly, the “transition” meant was that of overthrowing Iraq’s strongman Saddam Insane—er, Hussein.]

The new Ambassador is a native of Boston and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1973. After a Fulbright scholarship in Trieste, Italy (which is on the border, incidentally of Croatia and the former Yugoslavia of Marshal Tito’s time), he taught in international schools in Italy from 1974 to 1976 and in Iran from 1976 to 1978. [Is this tour in the Philippines a punishment, exile, or what?]

Ricciardone began his career in foreign service in 1978, with his first postings in Ankara (the Turkish capital) and Adana, also in Turkey. Returning to Washington, D.C. in 1981, he worked as special assistant to the Director of the Bureau of Intelligence and Research, and as an analyst on Turkey, Greece and Cyprus.

From 1982 to 1985, he served as country officer for Iraq, and won a meritorious honor award in 1983 for “normalizing” U.S.-Iraqi relations. (Since the Gulf War, of course, U.S. relations with Baghdad have been in tatters—and grew even worse after the recent Bush condemnation). Ricciardone then served as political officer in Cairo, Egypt, from 1986 to 1989 [Interesting years!], winning what’s known as the “Director General’s Award for Political Reporting” in 1988. He was seconded from the U.S. government to head the

Civilian Observer Unit of the Multinational Force and Observers in the Sinai Desert of Egypt (1989-91), winning another citation.

Returning to the U.S. foreign service, he was appointed Deputy Chief of Mission for the embassy in Baghdad, but by that time the U.S. embassy there was already “closed down”, so he served in that capacity in a sort of exile posting, in Amman, Jordan, and London, United Kingdom (1991-93). After serving further as political adviser to the Turkish and American co-commanders of Operation Provide Comfort, a multinational operation based at Incirlik Air Force Base in Turkey for relief and “humanitarian” operations in Northern Iraq (to help the Kurds?), he returned to Washington as Director of the Office of Policy coordination for the Director General of the Foreign Service and of Personnel.

From 1995 to January 1999, he was posted as Deputy Chief of Mission and Charge d’ Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Ankara, Turkey. He was designated—by former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (Bill Clinton’s time)—Special Representative for Transition in Iraq. It still sounds like a planning committee for the ouster of Saddam.

And now, Ricciardone will soon have to deal with what some diplomats have described as “the ultimate terrorist group”, namely the Philippine media.

This will make the Boston Tea Party look like... well, a tea party.

[END OF QUOTING]

THE SUGGESTION FOR THE NEXT COLUMN TO BE SHARED IS OF SUCH IMPORTANCE THAT I ASK THAT YOU NOT GIVE UP BEFORE YOU REACH THE ENDING PARAGRAPHS—TELLS IT ALL! READ AND WEEP AT RANDOM.

[QUOTING *The Philippine STAR*, “BY THE WAY”, Max V. Soliven, Tuesday, February 12, 2001:]

ADMIRAL BLAIR’S NOT REALLY “HIDDEN” AGENDA

The critics who have been accusing President Macapagal-Arroyo of hatching hidden deals with U.S. President George W. Bush have not been keeping an eye on the recent travels of Admiral Dennis C. Blair, the Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Forces in the Pacific (CINCPAC), under whose overall command the U.S. troops sent to Mindanao are classified.

Blair returned to his headquarters in Hawaii only a few days ago, after a four-nation swing through Asia in which he conferred with the Defense ministers and ranking officers of Singapore, Vietnam, Japan and the Republic of Korea (South Korea). It seems that the theme of this unpublicized but not really “hidden” expedition was to firm up cooperation with those countries and “access” to their facilities for U.S. forces in case of any emergency.

The Admiral—who this writer first met in Honolulu a couple of years ago but has visited Manila recently (and on several other trips)—spelled out his policy as early as August 8, 2000 in a well-disseminated speech. He stated then that “capable U.S. military forces operating in the Asian-Pacific region have been a foundation of regional security. One pillar of this foundation is the role that American armed forces play in reassuring allies and security partners by deterring actual armed aggression and intimidation.

That was expressed by the CINCPAC chief long before his current commander-in-chief, U.S. President “Axis of Evil-Basher” George W. Bush

was elected in November, 2001.

From his just-completed journey, I can see that Blair continues to adhere to that concept. Significantly, he commands 300,000 of America’s active personnel, including two Marine Expeditionary Forces in Japan and California, the U.S. Pacific Fleet, meaning the Seventh Fleet (based in Yokosuka, Japan) and the Third Fleet (in San Diego, California), four U.S. air forces—i.e., the Fifth Air Force (Japan), the Seventh Air Force (Korea), the Eleventh Air Force (Alaska) and the Thirteenth Air Force (Guam, after the Americans were booted out of Clark Field), and all Army units from Hawaii to Alaska, Japan, Korea and Guam (including the Eighth Army in Yongsan, Seoul) as well as the Joint Interagency Task Force based in Alameda, California.

* * *

I really don’t understand why some of us are so het up about the “possibility” that 660 U.S. troops, spearheaded by U.S. Special Forces personnel as “trainors”, will take over the Philippines and grab the U.S. bases (shut down by our government in 1991) back from us.

What for? The Americans have 47,000 U.S. military personnel in Japan, belonging to U.S. Navy, Army and Air Force units in place there far more than half a century. In fact, the Japanese government subsidizes those bases and personnel at an average cost to the Japanese taxpayer of about \$5 billion per year.

In South Korea, the U.S. maintains 38,000 troops from the DMZ (the border with North Korea) down to Taejon and other southern and western areas.

As a matter of fact, one of the objectives of the CINCPAC chief’s just-completed trip, according to my sources, was to urge the Japanese to use their own Self-Defense Forces, while only 250,000 to 280,000 in numbers but the most modern and best-equipped in Asia, in more undertakings abroad, such as “peace-keeping” and other international roles. The Japanese have always been reluctant to expand any military presence, citing the restrictions of their constitution, as well as being wary of criticisms from countries like China and Korea, which felt the Japanese Imperial boot-heel during the Pacific War. (In contrast, we Filipinos—who lost one million dead during the war and Japanese Occupation—seem to have forgiven them.)

Article 9 of their postwar constitution (which had literally been dictated by Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his own Occupation group) declares that “the Japanese people, forever, renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation, or threat or use of force...”.

The same clause promises that “land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained”.

Aside from their bank troubles and their own unique type of recession (which should, perhaps, be called stagnation), I noticed from my latest trip there in May last year that the Japanese may soon be ready to play a more “active” role. But how can they circumvent their own constitution (there is no “cha-cha” movement in evidence)?

“Forever,” as Article 9 asserted, is, alas, a very, very long time.

Yet, nationalism stirs, fueled by popular and heroic Samurai-glorifying manga comic books and dramatic novels about Japan’s wartime exploits, and movies, etc. Every year, I’ve seen Japanese self-esteem rejuvenating itself and escalating, coupled with self-induced history book amnesia about the seamy side of their past aggression and transgression. Every year, there’s a white paper, an annual book actually, on The Defense of Japan—and in it the published

defense budget keeps on growing and growing.

Perhaps Admiral Blair senses and hopes, for his own military purposes, that Japan is ready.

* * *

In any event, his stop-over in Tokyo last week included a pilgrimage to the U.S. naval base in Yokosuka, in Yokohama, an hour and a half’s train ride from Tokyo itself.

His mission there was to hand out commendations and thank the pilots and crew of the aircraft carrier *USS Kitty Hawk* which had just returned with its Battle Group to its home base in Yokosuka from service in the Arabian Sea, during the still-ongoing Afghanistan campaign. From the *Kitty Hawk*’s decks had come many of the jets and missile-launching aircraft which participated in the Afghan air strikes.

Incidentally, if you’re confused by the name “Arabian Sea”, the area used to be called the “Persian Gulf”, but this is no longer politically correct in U.S. military maps.

As for the U.S. Marines, there are 15,000 of them still based in Okinawa (a rapid reaction force, I’m told by insiders, just in case South Korea gets attacked). When I went there to participate in an information technology conference in March 2001, my Okinawan hosts quipped when I remarked about the presence of the U.S. Marines, plus the U.S. airfields (U.S. bases occupy possibly 30 percent of the island), “The U.S. Marines conquered Okinawa in World War II—and never left.” Yet, American military spending remains the biggest factor in the agriculturally-poor Okinawan budget.

If you want to know, while they only grumble about it under their breath, many Okinawans continue to fret about being classified as “Japanese”.

* * *

The first part of Admiral Blair’s odyssey saw him going to Singapore to tour the U.S. bases there. Yes, thanks to the invitation of the Singaporeans after they lost their bases in the Philippines, the U.S. has a navy base and repair facility in Sembawang, and a newer one in Changi, where the government supportively dredged the sea bottom to enable U.S. aircraft carriers to belly-up straight to the pier as they used to do in Subic.

The limitation, of course, is that Singapore doesn’t have enough space, even for the Singaporeans themselves.

Blair then went on to Hanoi, [V.K. said Hanoi is in China but quickly corrected to Vietnam (baiting D.J.E., she said). But then who can tell the Marshall Plan vs. the *Monroe Doctrine*? as presented by V.K. through Bellringer?] where he conferenced with the Defense Minister there. The Americans, in consensus-building efforts in our region, have become very cozy with their former enemies.

Blair even discussed the U.S. military possibly having “access” to their former base complex (Navy and Air Force) in Camh Rang Bay, later “leased” by the Soviet military from their Vietnamese allies. Apparently, not only the Vietnamese but the Russians are open to the Americans sharing access to Camh Rang Bay. History, perhaps has come full cycle for those former foes—who now appear to be moving towards alliance in replacement of previous hostility.

Before he left Hanoi on Friday last week, Blair even paid a courtesy call on the legendary Vietnamese General Vo Nguyen Giap, the man who had masterminded the defeat of the French and later the defeat of the Americans in Vietnam.

Giap’s last position had been as Minister of Defense and a member of the ruling politburo in the People’s

Doris' Corner

2/11/02—#1 (15-179)

By Doris & E.J. Ekker

RE: WHEN WILL WE EVER LEARN?

ONE STEP AT A TIME

Having made it all the way, some six feet, to the keyboard this morning I find incredible abundance of things to write and yet it would seem nothing different or worthy of total focus.

The headlines seem to say it all these days as one after another release is either incorrect or retracted tomorrow.

We note that the “FEDS SHUN TAX SHOWDOWN” in that the promised meeting with Anti-tax groups was shut down in the U.S. as the “IRS and DoJ back out”. Now, we are sure that is a great shock to such as Dr. Carlson who spent a year in Club Fed because he followed the “printed on form” “voluntary” filing of the confounded IRS “form”. Now, at tax time it all comes up again and again doesn't it? Who will get to be the “example” this year of the jackass, er—ah-a-a horse. Very definitely this is the Chinese year of the horse.

And within days the U.S. President is headed for China to, we're sure, talk horse sense with the Chinese.

The Filipino administration is having some really bad days as Bush has “too tight a schedule” to even drop off by the Ninoy Aquino airport for a wave in passing by. That's his thanks and right after GMA sold out the Philippines to gain favor—and, right after calling her own people “non-Filipinos” for not wanting the U.S. war machine in the Philippines forever and a day. I will share some of that with you from a personal standpoint to, please, keep current our press credentials.

This place can actually be equated to Somalia as to the influx of bored journalists in this country—specifically in the South waiting for something (anything) to happen as NOTHING gets off the ground, it appears. Moreover one plane that did get off the ground (one of the new advanced aircraft provided by the U.S.) had an engine burst into flame upon landing and delivering some troops or somebody. Got the fire out but can't find parts so the toy is grounded in no-man's land. That is “no-man's” land. However, there ARE 237 photographers to take a picture of the sad and prophetic event.

So what is there to do? If you are a correspondent, reporter, writer or journalist,

you get news, wait at least three days and see what the columnists have to say—from Washington D.C. to London and then back to Manila. You still won't have THE story and certainly you won't have it correctly written BUT you will be quite secure in the mess of confusion. The cartoons are quite fun as you witness depictions of the poor Burnhams with the Abu Sayyaf kidnapers—all two dozen of them. Then lining the trail into camp are those 237 journalists and photogs snapping pics in every direction—including the uptown facilities in the jungle pit-stop areas. Then coming up the trail in hot pursuit are the Philippine Armed Forces troops mixed with some Philippine National Police in night-goggles (of course it is mid-day), draped in radar, spot finder equipment that is in a foreign language but looks impressive as for something to throw at the terrorists who “aren't” (just common criminals). Then at least a hundred to one American Special Forces (Rangers, Delta, other CIA and yea, even some Mossad) in full force pulling up the rear in Humvees, Mercedes troop carriers and a covey of helicopters. The troops can't even carry all the weapons (of, yea, mass destruction) for guns that have 550 shots per loading and the poor guys dressed like Rambo on a cold day in Siberia.

And how is the President depicted? Oh, indeed, she is “having a sandwich-tossing fury trip” with a 10-Karat diamond on her hand selling out the Philippines of course.

Meanwhile, back at the “digs”, the troops (U.S. of course) are “supervising” digging crews of Filipinos digging up the treasures to ship off to God alone knows where! This, in exchange for the junk presented to President GMA from the U.S. visit to Washington Wonderland. Banging pots doesn't seem to have much impact and garbage-can lids are all floppy plastic these days of modern manufacture.

Of course, it is obvious that there will be less available plastic containers coming out of that mass-destruction weapons facility the Israelis blew up in Palestine a week or so ago. Is that not somewhat like blowing up with nuclear-tipped weapons a baby-milk producer factory in Iraq? Probably in Palestine they were making imitation water containers. And so, Bush goes to China after assuring Sharon that he is still an Israeli protector. My goodness, what are we journalists to do?

I can't even depend on V.K. Durham to set anything to straight. I couldn't find anything in that Law Dictionary to match her presentations, including etalliis. I found very

Republic of Vietnam, until his retirement was precipitated by policy disagreements with his colleagues at the time.

When the American CINCPAC Admiral saw him at his home, Giap was in plain military uniform, without his decorations, but was (one of those who attended said) surprisingly erect and in good health for a man 98 years of age.

In his peregrinations, which concluded with a tour of U.S. bases in South Korea what “mischief” has Blair been up to? Why are the Americans, for instance, so interested in Basilan and Mindanao?

They're concerned not just with the Abu Sayyaf, in my reckoning, (Aha! the “hidden agenda”? Not so hidden if you “visit” the CINCPAC Blair's Website—yes, Virginia, he puts almost everything on his Website, would you believe?) Blair has been referring to the waters around Mindanao, from Palawan to the Sulu Sea and onwards through Malaysian Sabah and Indonesia to the Straits of Malacca as the passage through which “the sea of evil” passes.

I'm told that he's not even as much worried about the ideological or “religious” evil as the flow of contraband weapons, smuggled in to provide weaponry for Islamic rebellion and other insurgencies, but drugs and other contraband as well. In the same area, piracy is also rampant. It is CINCPAC's complaint. By the same token, the same sea passageway must be kept open since most of the oil supplies and the world's commerce between Asia and the West pass through here.

So, the Abus are small cheese in the grand context. Except to us, who're bedeviled by them and their kidnapping antics—and their continuing humiliation of our valiant armed forces—they're the big target.

What the heck. We have to crush the Abus. The Americans, let's not kid ourselves (or froth too much at the mouth over it), may say they're coming here to help us out and combat global “terrorism”, but they've got their own reasons, too. Altruism may be touted as what moves nations, but every student of history and Realpolitik never discounts self-interest and pragmatism as a compelling force.

Let's get on, then with Balikpapan 2002, or “Freedom Eagle”, or whatever. We get something from it. They get something from it. Everybody except the Abus, gets something out of it.

Can we rescue the Burnhams and Deborah Yap? We live in hope, but always brace ourselves in every enterprise for the worst. God and Allah willing, inshallah, we may even see happy ending.

[END OF QUOTING]

Happy Ending? Anybody want to bet? We note that gold is being shipped out through that route and the new oil fields have to have shipping lanes so——!

And again, SO? In the words of a brilliant mind lately—“May the farce be with us.”

Sorry, CINCPAC (Adm. Blair's) Website was not given so you nimble-fingered searchers may well want to look it up. I, DJE, have had this foreign correspondent thing go to my head as “roving reporter” from the highrise and don't know how to use a computer except for a keyboard—and not too well at that. I am not even hooked to one of those new-fangled, Internet-capable thing-a-ma-jigs.

Good night, Chet, etc.

By the way: Happy New Year, Chinese style. We had one of our friends here call (text) to wish us this “Happy New Year of the Horse” bit and signed off with something like Fat Choi. I accepted that as the insult it could be: Fatcho! At least he has a sense of humor.—DJE



well presented, “et al.” which is an abbreviation for “et aliis” which IS THE CORRECT presentation of “and others”. So I suppose the designation of Ekkers as Mr. and Mrs. Etalliis is still appropriate.

As we go over the documents from “that woman”, I marvel that we made it to “here”. Ah but—that last smile is coming up fast. Russell was a step ahead of her every inch of the way, told us what she would do and what we should do for protection of ourselves and the asset.

I can remember on the 15th of August, 1987 I was told by visitors that we would be given all the credentials necessary and have all the background and “training” necessary to get a very large and important task accomplished. I turned about to see who was intended to get the message and nearly fainted when I was the only one on my side of the room. So this odyssey began with a midnight bang and here we are in February, 2002—putting those “credentials” together which totally back our program, assets, and “way to go”.

It is difficult, yes, because one cannot tell from one moment to the next who is who or what is happening other than confusion. Well, remember something: Satan is the MASTER OF CONFUSION. That is the major tool of the adversary—confuse, divide and conquer.

Well, in the passage of “time” and events it actually appears that some of the most nationalistic and respected people of the Philippines will partake in checking out this program as liaison parties make the approaches, requests for opinions, etc. It is actually possible that we will have an “opinion” of sorts from the highest bench—the Supreme Court. This does not mean our papers are “really” in question but only “how much” do we hold to counter the V.K. Durham indiscretions regarding the government and the Central Bank. And no, we don’t have to do a thing except supply the backup documents of which we seem to have almost all of them, while awaiting the final records which required some 30 days to retrieve.

Does this mean “full approval”? Are you kidding? We have a nation under the full badgering control of the IMF, World Bank, Banking Cartel and Mr. Bosworth now of J.P. Morgan, holding the rope over GMA’s neck in the form of “Foreign Directors” right out of New York City.

We very definitely have to do this the old-fashioned way: EARN IT THE HARD WAY. And of course: WITH PATIENCE of which I am now totally lacking.

Will the war on terror ever get started over here? Not the way it is going this morning as Mr. Powell is trying to settle down the Vice President here who refuses to sign papers called “Terms of Reference” (TOR). This is NOT to infer “Terms of Agreement” (TOA) or Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) or Memorandums of Agreement (MOA) or even Terms of Engagement (E-Gads). Then there is the

quarrel over Visiting Forces Agreements (VFA) with the U.S. and that old Mutual Defense Treaty (MDT) with same. Neither fit the circumstance so new laws have to be dumped to MAKE them fit and how to extend the presence indefinitely through Martial Law or Presidential Order before anyone stops the Lady in point.

Hey, people, WE ARE U.S. CITIZENS! Does that make me feel better? No—we are the new hostage targets. I certainly do NOT disapprove of the U.S. protectors being present but they are mostly at the gold digs and “game of the day” locations while the kiddie-nappers play in downtown civilization. Of course the most populated place in this archipelago of 7100 islands—is down there in the jungle on camp-out. So, if there isn’t a lot of friendly fire hit-and-kill, it will be a miracle even by Philippine standards. Never mind shooting down aircraft—it falls down on its own. Of course one of the big craft got shot with a ground weapon of missed-destruction over one of the gold sites. It didn’t do anything much to either the ground or the plane, but 2,196 investigators are off to investigate—undoubtedly to where they might uncover more gold for urgent delivery to failing banks.

I remember sometimes people would ask Commander what they (“up there”) did for entertainment and the response was always: “Watch you people.” And you know what? It is no different, except possibly worse—in the U.S. of A. We certainly can see, however, why it takes so long and so much patience to line up the ducks for the turkey shoot.

We were called yesterday evening with a request for an urgent transaction procedure (numbers) for this morning early—assuming around 8:00 a.m. It is now 10:00, so eggs (as in breakfast) seem more appropriate than waiting at the door. THIS, unfortunately, is TYPICAL—not atypical etalliis. Whatever will be will be is the song of the year.

It is now 11:30 and still nothing so guess we can move on to the new carvings as in (up) of President GMA.

I was going to use yesterday’s Max Soliven column but now find that Mr. Benigno’s column as an “Open Letter” more applicable if we also offer the writings mentioned above by the journalist Nicholist D. Kristol datelined Camp Cabunbata, Philippines.

We can do that but there is no way for me to get an exact translation of the furor over the President’s indiscretion as to outrageous name-calling of her own citizens. My goodness there is such easy gain of that brass ring of tyranny the minute a “servant of the people” is somehow elected and paid for.

Ah but—which should be presented first? Perhaps with journalistic non-expertise, let’s just sort of confuse them, scramble them and “sort-of” offer them in order.

Let us, however, take things in order of “importance”.

[QUOTING from Max Soliven, “By The Way”, Sun., Feb. 10, 2002:]

The trouble with having 200 journalists—about 150 of them foreign would-be war correspondents crowding into Zamboanga and Basilan—seeking accreditation from the Armed Forces and Department of Defense to cover the anticipated “war” on the Abu Sayyaf, is that the way things are going, news and media persons may soon outnumber the Abus in number and pugnacity.

How can our Armed Forces men and their American “trainors” (back-up troops?) tramp through the underbrush and penetrate the jungle with appropriate stealth and efficiency when they have so many journalists underfoot?

First, so many foreign journalists within easy arm’s reach—particularly of the higher-price-fetching Caucasian (“blue seal”) variety—will be very much of a temptation to the Abus, and their pals, the Pentagon Gang and their parent-outfit, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), to acquire more hostages. As the publicity and international angst generated by the kidnapping by an Islamic terrorist group in Pakistan of the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent Daniel Pearl has already demonstrated, abducting a “white” newspaperman has even greater propaganda value than that of continuing to hold captive an American missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham. And, probably, the Abus or the MILF, for any “Lost Command” would be able to require a bigger ransom than the \$2 million reputedly being demanded for the release of the Burnhams.

But the worst danger of all is the 100 to 150 foreign correspondents bumming around the place, frustrated at not being able to find a “war” (only legal nitpicking and a few Leftist mini-demonstrations), will feel pressured to justify their existence here by desperately knocking together lurid stories larded with local color to mollify their editors and meet the inexorable daily deadline.

One amusing piece produced by *Associated Press* and which appeared yesterday in *THE STAR* said that “U.S. troops have been told not to kiss in public or discuss religion in Mindanao...”.

The guidelines, said *AP*, were included in a seminar held on “cultural sensitivities”. The dispatch quoted Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman as revealing the briefing on how to comport themselves “in a manner that will not become a source of tension and irritation for the public” was attended by 30 American soldiers and officers “at the military’s heavily-secured Southern Command headquarters” in Zamboanga. Big deal. I like that bit about “heavily-secured headquarters...”. You’d think that the Philippine military was more concerned about keeping the Americans safe and secure than in hunting down the Abu Sayyaf.

As for kissing in public, what the heck. Everybody knows that Americans do such things on a daily basis (they’ve seen all those Hollywood movies a zillion times in the cinemas and on cable TV. You know, those flicks in which a guy meets a gal in a bar, or at some party, or on the beach and within minutes they’re naked in bed

making out like nobody's business).

Pinoys, whether Christian, Muslim or Lumad, have by now grown familiar with this quaint American form of social intercourse. Sus, some Filipinos even kiss in public, too. Must be that awful U.S. and, let's face it, European influence which has been fast corrupting us moralistic, sexually well-behaved, and upright Asians.

The only recent motion pictures I recall where there was no sex involved, only people shooting each other to pieces, were *Blackhawk Down* and *Behind Enemy Lines*. The U.S. combat pilot hero of the latter celluloid epic was too busy running for his life to entertain any fool notions of kissing anything but the ground to escape flying lead and other lethal ordinance.

* * *

[Then, here it comes:]

From Nicholas D. Kristof and run on the Editorial Page of the *New York Times* and in the *International Herald Tribune*. Under the headline, "The Philippine Front of the Terror War Looks Like a Con Game".

"The steamy, sullen jungle of Basilan is becoming the next front in America's war on terror, and everybody is getting ready for the 660 U.S. troops who are beginning to arrive in the area." [Mind you, this is just "in the area" as to numbers.]

"Muslim fighters are sending their wives away, out of respect for American military prowess. Philippine soldiers are angling for new laser targeting gear, out of respect for American technology. And bars are busy recruiting teen-age girls as 'entertainers' out of respect for American libido.

"But we've been had. This new deployment of troops isn't really about fighting international terrorism, as the Bush administration insists—and perhaps believes, which may be worse.

"Anyone who comes here to the jungles of Basilan, home to the Abu Sayyaf movement that the United States is supposed to destroy, discovers pretty quickly that the Abu Sayyaf isn't a militant Islamic terror group. It's simply a gang of about 60 brutal thugs.

"It is clear that they're ordinary criminals, unlike the Taliban, who fought for a cause," said Captain Harold Cabunoc, commander of the Philippine forces at Basilan's Camp Cabunbata, where about a dozen U.S. Special Operations troops will soon be based (most of the U.S. troops will stay on safer ground off Basilan). "These guys just kidnap for money. They're just common criminals."

"In the early 1990s, Abu Sayyaf had aims of carving out an Islamic state in the south of this mostly Roman Catholic country. But Abu Sayyaf soon degenerated into another of the gangs that have made kidnapping one of the Philippines' leading service industries.

"The Abu Sayyaf has been asking for \$2 million ransom in exchange for a Kansas missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham.

There are signs that the United States could be celebrating their release very soon.

"In short, Abu Sayyaf has perfected the art of extorting money from foreigners. And now President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo seems to be learning the art as well. She seized upon the opportunity created by Sept. 11 to portray Abu Sayyaf as international terrorists, accepted an offer by President George W. Bush to eradicate them, and promptly won \$100 million in fresh military aid.

[D—Oh sure, this is true and didn't you notice that immediately V.K. Durham informed the world that Ekkers were terrorists and demanded that we be executed, at the least, by Mr. Bush's warriors against terrorists? She even looped in INTERPOL, all nations' Central Banks, and even Professor Deku who was somehow trying to get funding from "All KADA" (cute). So, perhaps we just have a bunch of professional leeches after all.]

"I have a grudging admiration for Mrs. Arroyo's shrewdness. Perhaps if New York City wants to get the assistance that the Bush administration promised after Sept. 11, it should demand help crushing 'international terrorists'. If the Philippines can get \$100 million because of a gang of 60 crooks, think how much New York City is entitled to!

"When I asked Mrs. Arroyo whether Abu Sayyaf really counted as a terrorist group, she acknowledged that in recent years there had been no proven links to al-Qaida (ALL KADA?). 'It doesn't matter if they're connected with al-Qaida,' she added, asserting that Abu Sayyaf kidnapers were terrorists because they instilled terror."

I think it's unfair of Kristof, in his sharp-edged sarcastic piece, to speak so harshly and sneeringly of GMA. Why, that sanamagan is virtually calling her an extortionist.

When she was the third or fourth person to ring up Mr. Bush in the immediate aftermath of the Twin Tower and Pentagon tragedies to express her condolences and assure the U.S. of Philippine support in the fight against terrorism, I don't believe (do you?) she had any thought of ringing up the cash register in mind....

[END OF QUOTING]

OK, so now you have it as a portion to which we can refer and make more sense out of Mr. Benigno's presentation today. The facts ARE, though, readers, the first thing discussed under all circumstances WAS HOW TO GET SOMETHING FOR THE SUPPORT OFFERED AND IT WAS A CRISIS OF ALMOST AS LARGE PROPORTION AS IS TODAY'S MILITARY INCURSION.

The can of worms is ever so much wigglier as GMA did IT again in a fit of rage and (tsk, tsk; after she made her New Year's resolutions headed by "hold my temper") crushed everyone—especially her citizenry. I admit I was a bit taken by surprise at the lack of good decorum against those who will be voting for her again much before she is ready at the rate she is going down the briar-patch lane.

But, I am just a foreign journalist hoping to survive operation Giggle and will just offer Teodoro C. Benigno's "Here's the Score", *The Philippine STAR*, Mon., Feb. 11, 2002. [QUOTING:]

DEAR MRS. PRESIDENT (OPEN LETTER TO GMA)

Charles Maurice de Talleyrand was it who said, "If there is anything worse than a crime it is a blunder." Well, Mrs. President, you tripped with your tongue when you said a few days ago, "If you are not a Filipino, then who are you? A protector of terrorists, a cohort of murders, an Abu Sayyaf lover." The reaction was predictable. Virtually the whole town ganged up on you with language fit only for Attila and his invading Huns. I myself was shocked beyond imagination. I was unable to understand how a president of the Philippines could make such a statement, so devoid of logic, so devoid of wisdom, so crass, so rude, so cruel, so insensitive.

It was not so long ago that this writer punched out a series of columns on leadership while hoping you would take notice.

We even underscored the supreme value of communication, of "bringing the nation to school". You had to impart knowledge, information and wisdom because, after all, the nation's best teacher and guide was its president. We also urged you, Mrs. President, to listen because knowledge was a two-way street and because more and more sectors of our society were beginning to question the presence of America's elite, heavily wired combat troops in our country.

Instead of listening and seeking to understand, you earlier labeled them communists. That was unfair. Then when they persisted and their ranks increased, you became pikon, you got out your verbal bazooka and—low and behold!—you razed them to the level of Abu Sayyaf lovers, an outcast breed of non-Filipinos who should be shot at the Luneta.

Now the whole slop is on the floor, a pigsty bottoms up, but like toothpaste from the tube, it cannot be returned. You have wittingly or unwittingly, Mrs. President, released the genie from the bottle, and not all the king's horses and all the king's men can stifle the genie's growl and stop his long hairy arms from the havoc of spreading more confusion, more turbulence, more black smoke on Balikpapan 02-1. How easy it would have been if from the very beginning if you announced 660 U.S. Special Forces were here exclusively to annihilate the Abu Sayyaf—period, period, period.

But you and your government dug into hair-splitting mumbo-jumbo. You served up the legal gobbledygook the U.S. troops were simply here for joint military exercises under the Visiting Forces Agreement. They wouldn't touch a single hair on the head of any Abu Sayyaf unless fired upon. They were under the authority or command of field

commanders of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They would never get out of line. They would simply observe from afar in Basilan even if the roar of combat had become a crescendo. They were here just to train. Get it?

Well, Mrs. President, nobody got it. Except your stool pigeons.

Everybody, or almost, believed these were lies. You prevaricated. And there's where you dug the first layer of your perceived political grave. And now we know or think we know, why there were so many lies cooked up by the White House and Malacañang. First, the U.S. has so far been unable to furnish solid incontrovertible proof of Abu Sayyaf is a spin-off of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida. So they are not the international terrorists earlier pinpointed as justifying the extension of the war in Afghanistan to Muslim Mindanao. The *New York Times'* Nicholas B. Kristof has exposed Balikatan 02-1 as a "con game"—that nasty word—allegedly cooked up by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for the purpose of getting \$100 million in "fresh military aid" from America. Is this true, Ma'am?

Mr. Kristof, writing from Camp Cabunbagta, Mindanao, reports the Abu Sayyaf are just ordinary criminals, not international terrorists, "unlike the Taliban who fight for a cause". If the Philippines, Mr. Kristof writes, "can get \$100 million because of a gang of 60 crooks, think how much New York is entitled to!" after September 11 if the city had demanded help to crush "international terrorism". The refreshing cynical Kristof reported that even without the 660 U.S. combat troops, the Abu Sayyaf bandits "could have been extinguished soon enough" by Philippine soldiery. In his interview with you, Mrs. President, Kristof said you considered the Abu Sayyaf "terrorists because they instilled terror". Hello. How about the drug lords, Ma'am, don't they instill terror? Why don't you go after them? And notorious smugglers, big-time thieves and criminals some of whom frequent Malacañang. Don't they instill terror? Why do you coddle them?

To boot, Mrs. President, Kristof says "Mrs. Arroyo has astutely used the new partnership with Mr. Bush to shore up her previously wobbly presidency." Ergo, he admits "I have a grudging admiration for Mrs. Arroyo's shrewdness."

This is where I guess the *New York Times'* star reporter Nicholas Kristof could be wrong. In seeking to imitate, even surpass President George W. Bush in fistic ferocity, Mrs. President, you have grievously crossed the line that jangles like a live electric wire. The perception now is that you are an American doll, a puppet. A stoolie. Maybe a lot of ordinary Filipinos don't mind that. But these are the silent majority. They don't march at all, wave flags and banners, storm and demonstrate in the streets. It's the minority who do. But it is an active, muscular, noisy, even obstreperous minority, a pivotal courageous and

largely nationalistic minority, many highly educated even, their hands banging the drum of patriotism.

It was they, Mrs. President, who burned bonfires in the streets and the Senate in 1991 and ignited the historic Senate vote that evicted U.S. military bases Clark and Subic and ended about 400 years of foreign troop military presence in the Philippines. They don't trust you. They suspect you are laying out red carpet for the restoration of U.S. military presence. They want to know what the Mutual Logistic and Servicing Agreement (MLSA) is all about. It is another Trojan Horse like the VFA? Why all the mystique and misery about the MLSA? Is it true, Mrs. President, that the Philippines is now in the American loop "because of concerns about the rise of China, a possible Chinese attack on Taiwan, increasing instability in Southeast Asia and excessive American commercial interests in the region. (*International Herald Tribune*, Feb. 8, 2002, byline Michael Richardson). Have you been conducting secret negotiations with Washington in this regard?

What is Filipino?

With utter simplicity, with a cavalier disregard for nuances, and almost like a shyster lawyer, you defined him thusly: "You are not a Filipino if you are opposed to the welfare of your own soldier. You are not a Filipino if you refuse the help being offered by a friend. You are not a Filipino if you don't want the peace and prosperity promised by Balikatan 02-1." Number One, we have nothing against the hardy and often heroic soldier. Our quarrel is with some ranking members of the top military brass who are corrupt, who may have received bribes when they allegedly allowed the Abu Sayyaf to escape from the Basilan hospital where they were trapped. For them, war in Mindanao is a business, according to the book *Under the Crescent Moon*. Number two, the help offered by the U.S. is welcome enough. But we want to see all the cards on the table to find out if we are dealing with Altruistic America or Imperial America. Number three, Mrs. President, think again. You may have a Pandora's Box in Mindanao instead of peace and prosperity as a result of Balikatan.

What you sorely need is to get into the labyrinths of international diplomacy. You have not training or experience here. If you have read *The Edge of the Sword* by Charles de Gaulle, a leader has to have three crucial qualities: to chart the right path, he needs both intelligence and instinct. And in order to persuade people to follow that path, he needs authority." Instinct enables the leader to strike deeply into the order of things. And you can't do that if, like bat wings whirring in the dark, you brand critics as Abu Sayyaf lovers simply because they are opposed to the presence of American troops. Define that presence, Ma'am. Explain its terms and procedures and processes. That way we clear the boards. That way we've got democracy at work.

Your larger problem, Mrs. President, is you cannot strike—so far—the proper balance between

order and freedom. You want order, you desire national unity, you want the citizenry to close ranks behind you, but how can they? Many do not understand you. You sometimes talk in riddles, in extravagant hyperbole about how well the nation is faring—much of it false. Ask the poor. And now you talk like George W. Bush. It's all right for Bush. He's got the American people behind him and the mightiest armed forces in the world. What do you have? Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes? Chief of Staff Gen. Diomedio Villanueva? Right now, as the *New York Times'* Kristof said, there are only 60 Abu Sayyaf brigands, and thousands of Filipino soldiers cannot pin them down.

So what happens? Freedom runs riot in a democracy without stable moorings. As a result, our leadership cannot impose order or authority. This is the Latin American syndrome—the crazy pendulum between freedom and authority and we have the worst of it.

Excuse me, Ma'am, another weakness of yours is a tendency to boast, to roll your one-year presidency to the high notes of the political and economic piano. C'mon. The nation is in its worst state—crisis is the better word—in 50 years. But you refuse to admit it. Sure there are a few bright spots but all our institutions are archaic and crumbling. As Jim Wallis (*The Soul of Politics*) commented on the state of the world, "our great macrosystems have both failed, morally and spiritually. They have failed the poor, the earth and the human heart." Again and again, the World Economic Forum recently held in New York struck that theme. The rich have abandoned the poor. Whence the terror that rises from the bowels of poverty.

Gloria, you have a blessed name. Give it the wings of an eagle.


[END OF QUOTING]

Well, sad as it might be, the circumstances have deteriorated mightily as this very day has progressed.

It is better summed up by more relevant observers than me. I can see what can heal this mess and the holes in the hearts and pockets but it is not my country and I have no rightful input. Truly it is all a farce orchestrated by Washington D.C. and a grappling lady to be among the Elite world players. It isn't selling and oh dear, there is even a large rumor that the Philippines may be invited OUT of ASEAN. This is very definitely not a good sign of neighborly positioning. By the way, the thought that there are only 660 U.S. military persons in this country has to be the laugh of this century.

I will share more but this is out of reason as to length. Moreover, E.J. says that nobody will ever ask "Doris" to comment again on "how are things"? Oh well.

Somebody is going to wake up when the time is perfect and recognize what a tool we offer. May God continue to have patience as he dumps onto us constantly the need for same.

Good day from the foreign observer in Wonderland.—DJE 

“Christ”: Designation Of A State Of Being

(PART 5)

CRUCIFIXION OF THE PHOENIX

BY GYEORGOS CERES HATONN

“dharma”

PHOENIX JOURNAL #12 (1990)

CHAPTER 12

REC #1 EMMANUEL

Stardate 14 January 1989

Dear Sananda,

Greetings from the Earth ship. My name is James Hackett, I am a follower and a believer of the divine energy of Jesus Christ and father God. I am also a cautious and discerning skeptic of those who claim to lead the way to the divine light. You, Sananda, are claiming to be the embodiment of the Christ and as you should know, Christ cautioned his following to be aware of those that would come in his name, and yet lead the way to hell. Last month I saw two such individuals on television with the sincere belief that they were the Christ. There is another that walks the streets of our town.

My mother is a devout reader of Space Command literature. She has been actively promoting and distributing your material and has spent a good amount of her time trying to convince me that you are who you say you are. I must be honest with you and tell you that much of what you claim to be truth could only be so to the gullible, fearful, of those in searching. I, as the commandment is written, honor my mother. I love her and fear that she will somehow be hurt by her incredible faith and lack of discernment as were others that followed the PTL, Swaggert and numerous other ministries. In protection of my mother I will either expose you as a fraud or confirm you as the Christ. I hope that you will respond to my questions in person, as well as in print.

If you are the Christ, why have you changed your name? I am bewildered by this and wonder if IBM would ever consider changing the name that has already become a household word. For what purpose would this benefit you? You have attached the Christ name in a sort of loose association. Your revelations about the *Bible* are interesting, yet I must wonder why, with all your power, did you not insure these supposed truths thousands of years ago. Did you not come to Earth to insure truth then and now? Were Mark, Matthew, Luke and John fiction writers? Apparently the Good book isn't so good—glad you're here to clear up this misinformation—never would have thought that Judas was a Saint.

In a recent popular movie series, the question arose “Why does God need a space ship?”, so why do you? When you visited Earth last, did your spirit arrive in the same manner? Why have you not returned among us to lead us from our temptations in the same powerful and effective manner that you did 20 centuries ago? Why do you now hide in the shadows? I would think the son of God would have more important things to do than loom over Earth and preach impending doom on a weekly basis. What do you do with the rest of your time?

If you are the Christ, I mean no disrespect, but by your own caution I must qualify you and confirm that you are who you say you are before I follow and moreover have faith in what you say. The Space

Command writings, as informative as they may be, seem to use the same tactics to capture a following that many men of evil have used in the past to control men. Hitler unified the entire German race against the Jews by pointing them out as conspirators and the root of all German problems. You seem to have the same operation going against all governments in the world. That they are deceiving us and will lead us to our annihilation. I cannot yet believe that with as many elected officials that follow the Christ, that this could occur. Surely one man that stands with God would stand forth. Surely God would protect this man as you protect Dharma.

It is interesting to note the band of people you travel with. Instead of Moses or Buddha, you come with Tesla and Russell.

Your prophecy of AIDS may well be true—but why, if you possess the knowledge to cure this plague, do you not do so now? I would think that if you materialized on the 50-yard line of the Superbowl and said, “I am the Christ, stop spreading AIDS,” some good would come of it. We are a world governed by ourselves, even moreover these recent days, yet you appear to hide behind some *Star-Trek* directive preventing you from interceding in our affairs (oh yeah—except for nuclear explosions). While on the other hand it is all right for you to converse with our government heads, whom you accuse of lying, deceiving and every other treacherous action. Yet you are not able to converse with us directly. I am confused!

I am also hard pressed to believe that with all your sophistication and computers that receive and decode CIA transmissions and what-not, that you are operating with a scribe over a radio transmission which frequency is not privy to all on this planet. If you are capable of receiving and decoding CIA transmissions, then surely you are able to present yourself over more conventional methods such as satellite-linked television, or at the very least a simple American Standard Code for information interchange to transmit your information directly to your publisher's computer and give that poor Dharma a complete rest and stop endangering her life!

You, Sananda, do not speak with the same concise prophetic tongue that you did when you were the Christ. Every word you spoke then meant many things and often required much thought, always concluding that love and brotherhood would solve any of our problems. Today you come with quite a different message. Enslaving us to fear and absolving yourself from freeing us of the tyranny you preach as impending. Are you no longer the Savior?

Your recent confrontation with Mr. Cooper leads me to believe that you are operating a profitable business that just became competitive. I fear that you, Sananda, and your comrades, Hatonn and Ashtar, are not working in the light of Christ. Along with the rebuttal to Mr. Cooper's statements, you threaten that Mr. Cooper would be “stricken down”. Truth need not be brought forth by death and rarely ever is! Do you not know this by now?

Your association with Ramtha, the greatest modern-day hoaxter, is most alarming. Your humble life on Earth, void of wealth, brought many to leave the acquisition of material gain and seek the richness of the spirit. Ramtha, by sharp contrast and her own admission, is involved in a “profit-making business”. Are you and the brothers of space command a subsidiary of Knight Enterprises?

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Jesus present, Dharma, to respond once again to the slings and arrows aimed at your heartplace. They do not impact of me, little sparrow, but your wounds need tending. This is such a usurpation of time from your work that I request this document be kept separate in that it can be sent to the ones who come after this time. There are hundreds of hours regarding this matter and I would appreciate it if ones who have the time for the searching would locate the segments. In the interim I shall again respond.

This is in response to a four-page letter from one, James E. Hackett of Sedona, Arizona. A most angry and hostile young man of years in the 29th calendar cycle, on leave from his studies and is a gifted child but who is frittering away of his time at “game building” when the game of life is so much more wondrous. He wishes, or at least he so stated, that he might have “personal” response from me. It is most surely not that which is within his heart but his lips and tongue are loud indeed. His mind is screaming out for truth and help, for he feels a failure and has no fulfillment in those things which he does. May my presence touch him that he might see and hear of my words, for he is flailing about in pain and unrest. I would ask of him, that he attend my response as dearly as I shall pen the points he “blasts” at me and my contacts. In the name of the Father—Amen.

It is obvious from his letter that he has little respect for his parent—or, for himself. He enjoys speaking without thought and certainly without research or understanding of that which he projects. This is the most usual status of Earth man at this cycle in evolvment.

I honor him greatly for his correspondence although he knows not that which he speaks or presents. Dharma, I request that we quote from his letter and then I shall respond. We will correct all spelling and print errors, for the spelling and pronouncements, as presented, would be great distracters. If ones wish copies of the original document, we shall be most gracious and supply them upon request to GG.

LET US BEGIN:

I feel at this point, sir, that you are not whom you profess to be; you are either a sadly disillusioned soul, as those I saw on television, or perhaps you and Dharma are one in the same, or perhaps you care nothing for what you print—as most of it seems plagiarized from a multitude of other sources, and excessively repetitive. Indeed, your request for additional material from common Earth beings is questionable. Is not the son of God all knowing? Can you not access all the information you need for us to know on that super special computer you spoke of?

You reportedly met with archaeologists recently, so obviously you are capable of coming to Earth. My mother, father and myself invite you to visit our humble abode in Sedona, Arizona, less than a mile from Sister Thedra. Come to us for a nutritious bread-breaking ceremony welcoming your return to Earth. Bring Commanders Hatonn and Ashtar and clear up these important questions. Convince us of your truth and we will be your humble servants from thence forth. Perhaps you would like to meet with a delegation of your current following, or perhaps you would like to meet with me on your ship, give me the coordinates and I'll ready myself for beaming up.

Bless you, whomsoever you really are!

(signature)

In the highest light of divine order,

Salu, Salu, Salu!

* * * * *

Son, be most glad that Dharma and myself are not of the same energy, for I fear she would trim thine ears quite severely. Wake up—you are a superb example of “a person of the lie”. You spout that which you do not know and you have not even the respect to “look it up”. For one who is “resting on sabbatical” from higher education, I suggest you return to the lower educational grades, for at least 25% of your words are sorely misspelled and the ones you have deliberately misspelled to be ungracious are in most poor taste. Oberli, please make sure that a copy of Mr. Hackett's letter is returned with this response that he might follow along as he has written the words.

I shall utilize your “Good book”, but in most instances I shall quote from only one place, for the document would be hundreds of pages in length if I verified each statement with all the appearances within the book. I shall utilize *THE LIVING BIBLE*, “PARAPHRASED, A THOUGHT-FOR-THOUGHT TRANSLATION” OF TYNDALE HOUSE PUBLISHERS, INC., WHEATON, ILL. 13TH PRINTING, JULY 1988. I do not believe Mr. Hackett would be in the understanding of the standard King James translation.

RESPONSE:

Please refer to the above letter, for I shall respond sentence by sentence.

Good-day unto you, Mr. Hackett. You say that you know the divine energy of Jesus Christ and father God—I suggest that you do NOT! Further, you have no concept of that which you speak. I do not claim to be the “embodiment” of the Christ or anyone else. I am the ascended one Christ Sananda “Emmanuel” of last experience. I have manifested on your placement in many cycles—I have not “re-embodied”. Yes, you have been severely warned of those who would come in Christ's name and proclaim themselves the Christos. If they call of themselves “Jesus”, you can have assistance in discernment—I shall cover that in a moment. Can you not refrain from judging those ones who are sorely

put upon and find themselves in the believing they are the returned Jesus? Can you not see the torment and pain within them? Can you not have compassion enough to take the hands of those ones and assist them from their pain or must you cast more stones upon their crippled beings? Can you not sit with them, ask me in to clear of the darkness from your space, and hear their story that you might offer truth to fill the empty and screaming call for help from these precious beings? If you have one who walks your own streets, can you not take him aside and hear of his heart? These ones are most often led into the entrapment through drugs and substance abuse and trapped in the lie of Satanic energies to discredit truth as it is brought unto you.

Or, have you established yourself as God of “their” soul that you can “judge” of them? Can you not effort at changing of a false speaker into a Messiah (MESSENGER OF GOD!)(SON OF MAN!) instead of evil? Or, do you act continually as a tool of evil to draw thy brother away from God-ness? You set yourself forth as judge, jury and executioner of truth! Ponder it, my friend.

Is there something wrong with Space Command literature? What do you suppose might be wrong with it—in general? I honor your mother for trying to “convince you of who we say we are”. She might consider ceasing her attempts, for you have already made up of your mind that we are both real and who we say we are. Your ego will not allow you to do other than argue, for you are most insecure and dependent upon your parents for your support and worldly comforts and it is easier for you to simply argue and disclaim and reject of their wisdom in order to continue to abstain from the practice of any responsibility for your own self.

You say, “I must be honest with you and tell you that much of what you claim to be truth could only be so to the gullible, fearful, of those in searching.” I say that most of that which is fed into you ones is resting upon gullible ears and efforted at thwarting the searchers of truth. You state that you follow the “commandment” to honor your mother. You state that you love her and fear that she will somehow be hurt by her incredible faith and lack of discernment as were others that followed the PTL, Swaggert and numerous other ministries. In protection of your mother you will either expose me as a fraud or confirm me as the Christ.

I suggest that you do not honor of thy mother—you abuse, ridicule and denounce her. As to “love”: I believe that you have no idea what the term “love” means. You fear that she will somehow deprive you of attention, worldly goods and your place of comfort for the life-style in which you are so miserably unhappy!

How can you, at random, denounce me for being other than the ones who project as Swaggert, PTL and other ministries when you also claim that I deviate from the teachings of the Good-Book which they swing in your face all the while they thrust lies at you? Can you not forgive them, too, in a Christian truth and have compassion for their fall—or do you sit in judgment of ALL? If you denounce all who project the words of your *Bible* and the ones who effort at correcting misconceptions—who is left? Let me be one of the first, perhaps, to tell you—Satan, dear one. “Expose” me as a fraud? I sincerely doubt that you shall expose me for anything, for I suggest that you would not make of the effort required to either research facts or make announcement. YOU HAVE NO QUALIFICATION TO PRONOUNCE ME CHRIST! SO BE IT!

You hope that I will respond to your questions in person, as well as in print. You do not hear of me when I confront you personally, my beloved son, you turn away and plug of your ears and make racket with your mouth to ensure that you do not hear. I come personally to all who will ask me in—and according to your poll within *People* magazine this very month—25% of your people polled claimed to have had God speak to them.

CHANGE MY NAME?

I have not changed of my name. Man changed of my label. My name was Emmanuel (often spelled Immanuel and Jmmanuel, meaning God is with us.) *Matthew 2:20-23*: “... For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a Son, and you shall name him Jesus (meaning ‘Savior’), for he will save his people from their sins. This will fulfill God's message through his prophets—*‘Listen! The virgin shall conceive a child! She shall give birth to a Son, and he shall be called ‘Emmanuel’ (meaning ‘God is with us’).*”

My name was not Jesus, for Saul of Tarsus (he changed his name to Paul to cast off the old recognition as Saul who was the worst persecutor of the followers of truth) gave of me that label from his travels and the Greek translation of it (the anointed one). My name was Esu Emmanuel. Actually it was not even spelled nor pronounced in any way which you would recognize in your English.

My Egyptian name was Sananda albeit it was incorrect, for the time in which they affixed it unto me. “Sananda”, just as “Christ”, designates a “category or a definition”. I was most often called Esa and “Master” Esa (pronounced ee-sah), for the term “master” (in Hebrew would mean naught to you) designated youth of maleness. As I grew in knowledge and earned my respect, I was called “Master” as in the terminology of a “Master teacher”. I was actually known as a “Master Cohan” (head-teacher). I came upon your placement in embodiment as a “wayshower” and to allow you to come into knowledge that there is no “death”—there is life eternal. You see, **man has been distorting truth since the beginning of records.**

Now I shall tell you exactly who I am and why my name is Sananda—for “Sananda” means “The Word of God, One with God, Lord of Lords and King of Kings”. A bit filled with frills and I care naught except for the one which proclaims “ONE WITH GOD”; God being “ATON”—THE “ONE” SOURCE, THE “ONE” LIGHT—CREATOR AND ONE WITH CREATION.

The *Revelation, 19:11-16*. “Then I saw heaven opened and a white horse standing there; and the one sitting on the horse was named ‘Faithful and True’—the one who justly punishes and makes war. His eyes were like flames, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on his forehead, and only he knew its meaning. He was clothed with garments dipped in blood, and his title was ‘THE WORD OF GOD’.”

I AM SANANDA AND I BRING THE WORD AND ONES WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR LET HIM HEAR AND HE WHO HAS EYES TO SEE LET HIM SEE—AND HE WHO TURNS FROM ME IS AGAINST ME, FOR YE ARE EITHER WITH ME OR YE STAND AGAINST ME AND THY DAYS UPON YOUR PLACEMENT ARE NUMBERED. FORCE IS NOT OF GOD—FORCE AND COERCION IS OF SATAN—

I CARE NOT THAT WHICH YE CHOOSE BUT YE SHALL BE IN THE CHOOSING. IF YE CHOOSE TO WALK OF THE PATH WITH THE BROTHERHOOD OF DARKNESS AND IGNORANCE, 'TIS YOUR WAY, FOR NONE OF GOD SHALL TWIST OF THINE NECK. THE WORD SHALL GO FORTH TO THE CORNERS OF THE WORLD JUST AS ATON HAS DECREED AND THEN IT SHALL BE FINISHED—THE CHOICES ARE THINE, FOR NONE SHALL DO OF IT FOR THEE—NOT SOME ASSUMED “SAVIOR”—EACH WILL FACE HIS GOD AND MAKE OF HIS CHOICES. I DO SAY, THAT BUT BY WAY OF THE CHRISTED PATH OF LIGHT SHALL YE MOVE INTO THE ONENESS OF THE LIGHT WITH THY CREATOR. THAT, TOO, IS FOR THINE OWN INDIVIDUAL CHOOSING. SO BE IT, FOR I SEAL THIS WORD—FOR I HAVE THE AUTHORITY. I BLESS YOU AND PETITION THAT YOU HEAR ME BUT I DO NOT DISGUISE MINESELF NOR BULLY YOU. I DO, HOWEVER, REQUIRE THAT YOU CEASE THE HARRASSMENT OF YOUR BROTHERS, FOR YE WALK IN BLINDNESS.

You suggest that I compare myself with IBM which is a household word. I suggest that you have not really “read” any of the *Journals*—for I would always answer to “Jesus”, for I listen not to words from the mouth but rather that which is spoken within the heart. For if I only answer to “Gee-sus”, how could I respond to ones who call me “Hay-suus”? I can think, however, of reasons for the explanation—man has corrupted the teachings of one “Jesus” and follows blindly along. If I perpetuate a lie, then I am no better than the Prince of Lies—The King of Evil! If I call you George or James, would you not probably correct of my introduction? Even if you were called George for 2000 years and your name be “James”, would the label “George” be correct?

Dharma, allow us to take a respite, for I wish to thoroughly discuss the term “Christ” and my “loose association with it”! Thank you, I shall await your call to resume. Adonai.

CHAPTER 13

REC #2 EMMANUEL

SAT., JAN. 20, 1990 11:15 A.M. YEAR 3 DAY 157

CHRIST: The ideal truth that comes as a divine manifestation of God to destroy incarnate error; an ideal type of humanity, also meaning “to anoint or, anointed”; also referring to messiah.

Mr. Hackett, I am sure that you “think” you understand your statement, “You have attached the Christ name in a sort of loose association.” The “label” Christ, as in “Christ Jesus” was also given unto me after I passed from association with ones who later proclaimed in my name.

I never placed pen to paper nor tool to stone nor dye to scroll. All words were written in your *Bible* (book) some 300 to 500 years *after* my departure. I said I was the “Messiah” with full meaning of “Son of Man” also “loosely” used interchangeably with “Son of God”, which in exact definition of terminology is incorrect. “Messiah” defined as Son of Man and messenger of the Word of God. *Matthew 26:63-64* “... Then the High Priest said to him, ‘I demand in the

name of the living God that you tell us whether you claim to be the Messiah, the Son of God.’ ‘Yes,’ Jesus said, ‘I am. And in the future you will see me, the Messiah, sitting at the right hand of God and returning on the clouds of heaven.’”

Matthew 27:11, “Now Jesus was standing before Pilate, the Roman governor. ‘Are you the Jews’ Messiah?’ the governor asked him. ‘Yes,’ Jesus replied.”

“**Christ**” is a designation of state of being. AND BUT BY THE CHRISTED PATH SHALL YE COME INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD. SO BE IT! I came to show the Christed way—THE PATHSHOWER. Ye men of Earth pronounced me to be “THE ANOINTED ONE”—“THE CHRIST JESUS”—I came forth as Messiah Emmanuel, *later* to grow in my perfection to “SANANDA”—ONE WITH GOD; THE WORD! *AT THE TIME OF THIS RETURN INTO YOUR PRESENCE I COME AS SANANDA TO RECLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND BRING CREATOR’S CHILDREN HOME UNTO THE LIGHTED PLACEMENT—I DO NOT COME THIS TIME AS AN EMBODIED CHRISTOS MESSENGER. I COME AS LORD OF LORD AND KING OF KINGS TO BRING YOU HOME, YE WHO WOULD TAKE OF MY HAND AND WALK WITH ME.*

You say, “Your revelations about the *Bible* are interesting, yet I must wonder why, with all your power, did you not insure these supposed truths were contained within the greatest book ever written and distributed thousands of years ago.”

WHO has judged the *Bible* to be the greatest book ever written and distributed? You have equally as many on your planet who would disclaim that designation. Why would I not interfere? For the same reason that you would pen foolishness in your letter. Force is not of God—and God gave Earth “hu-man” free-will choice. He further gave him commandments and Laws of Creation by which to abide. At the same time you shout denouncement of my beingness—you contradict yourself in that you would have me “force” upon you something or other. WHAT IS THE MATTER WITH YOUR SETTING THINGS TO CORRECT, MR. HACKETT? GOD DWELLS WITHIN THE TEMPLE WHICH IS “YOU”; YOU ARE A BLESSED FRAGMENT OF GOD—WHY HAVE “YOU” NOT SET THINGS TO RIGHT? WE OF THE LIGHTED BROTHERHOOD COME NOW AND YOU DENOUNCE US IN OUR EFFORTS TO SET THINGS TO CORRECT. “YOU” ARE NOT BEING COERCED BY US—YOU ARE MOST FREE TO NOT READ OF ANYTHING, INCLUDING THE 2000-YEAR-OLD *BIBLE*. IF YOU BELIEVE NOT IN MY PRESENCE—WHY DO YOU SPEND SO MUCH TIME TO DENOUNCE ME? THAT SIR, IS THE PRIMARY METHOD OF EVIL.

GOD IS LOVE; HE ALLOWS YOU TO TAKE OF THAT WHICH YOU WILL AND SET ASIDE THAT WHICH YOU CHOOSE. HE DOES NOT DENOUNCE NOR INSULT OF YOUR OPINIONS, ALBIET WRONG. IF YOU CHOOSE NOT TO READ OF THE AVAILABLE MATERIALS OF TRUTH, THEN SO BE IT. “IF THE DOG BE DEAD, WHY DO YOU CONTINUE TO KICK IT?”

No, I did not come to Earth to “INSURE” truth. I came to bring truth to a world in very bad condition indeed. To a world headed directly for these current times of destruction and to warn you. That sir, was what my message was, unto you ones—to remind you

of the Commandments of God and the Laws of Creation and remind you that if you did not change of your path and actions, you would face the consequences spelled out throughout the *Old Testament* and the *New*. I come forth now—not to “insure” truth but only to remind you of truth, for the hourglass lies upon its side having emptied of the sands. I come now not as the Messiah as such to be the bringer of the Word—I come now as Sananda to bring you home or allow you to go your way of the sorting.

I came as Emmanuel to FULFILL the prophecies as you recognize them from the *Old Testament*. I come forth now as Sananda to FULFILL the prophecies of the *NEW TESTAMENT*.

“Were Mark, Matthew, Luke and John fiction writers?” No, but the men who translated their careful myths were and are. For instance, beloved Mark did not witness with the one you call Jesus as such. He later took the stories as told by Peter and put them to script. All of the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John were “chosen” by a German “scholar” from some twenty-eight “gospels” which were known—there are yet dozens which are to be “discovered” and you will find the truth is not that of which was placed within the covers of your “Good-Book”, just as with the gospel of Judas Iscariot.

I WOULD HOPE YOU WOULD CAREFULLY MAKE NOTE OF THE ERRORS AND MISSPELLED WORDS AND NAMES WITHIN YOUR FOUR-PAGE DOCUMENT AND THEN PROCLAIM TO ME THAT NONE COULD HAVE ERRED WITHIN THE PASSAGE OF 2000 YEARS AND HUNDREDS OF TRANSLATIONS! SO BE IT!

I am choosing to utilize words from the Book called *Matthew* simply because it is first in sequence of your “gospels”. Because the content of your “Good-Book” bears errors does not diminish that “truth” which is borne within and I am glad that you are “glad” I am here to clear up this misinformation—for I realize you would never have thought that Judas was a Saint. As a matter of fact “Saint” is a word and work of man—not a label of God, for God says “you are of Myself—therefore you are of that which I AM”—a great big, whopping difference!

SPACESHIPS

“Why does God need a space ship?” HE DOESN’T—YOU DO! I DO NOT NEED A SPACESHIP BUT AGAIN, YOU DO! I WENT FORTH TO PREPARE A PLACE FOR YOU AND I DID SO AND I SHALL RETURN TO GATHER YOU UP UNTO THOSE PLACES—AND “YOU” NEED A WAY TO GET THERE, DEAR FRIEND.

“When you visited Earth last, did your spirit arrive in the same manner?” No—for I visit regularly and I come either in manifested holographic presentation or spiritual essence. If you refer to 2000 years, or so, ago—yes and no. I was borne in seed unto my Earth mother by Gabriel—that, sir, is Archangel Gabriel. A star-ship was always in attendance and that particular star-ship was and is, commanded by Antheos Xandau Ashtar. As a human-birther physical manifestation in human format, I often traveled by craft—for until my own purification and coming into understanding I was a prisoner of human flesh just as are you. I was sent forth to experience as human and that is exactly that which I did. GOD DOES NOT ASK SOMETHING OF

YOU THAT HE IS NOT ALSO WILLING TO EXPERIENCE AND HAS SO DONE.

Surely you jest with the next statement: “Why have you not returned among us to lead us from our temptations in the same powerful and effective manner that you did 200 centuries ago.” Oh ye of blindness—look at your world and the eons in between Galilee and Sedona, 1990. Satan took my name and proclaimed himself the Prince of Light and more heinous, unspeakable and horrendous crimes were committed unto and by man than in the imaginations of your wildest horror films. I came “so powerfully” that I was ridiculed, spat upon, stoned and dragged unto and upon a cross—I hardly think mankind would have considered my experience as “effective” in its time of enactment. I am assuming that your “200 centuries ago” was a misprint. If you truly wish to speak of 200 centuries ago, I shall be most happy to do that also. I doubt, however, that you, Mr. Hackett, are prepared to “believe” of it and would undoubtedly effort at proving me a “fraud”.

“Why do you now hide in the shadows?” Where are the shadows Mr. Hackett? I stand solidly upon the Word of Truth in volumes of works coming forth. I am further, Captain of the entire exercise of what you call “Rapture” and “Ascension” and “Armageddon”—I AM SO OBVIOUS THAT THE VERY LIGHT IS BLINDING OF YOUR VISION AND PERCEPTION AND THE DARK WORKERS ARE ON FULL-TIME DUTY TO KEEP YOU IN IGNORANCE. SO BE IT.

You continue: “I would think the Son of God would have more important things to do than loom over Earth and preach impending doom on a weekly basis. What do you do with the rest of your time?” In reverse order—YOU ONES ARE JUST ABOUT A FULL-TIME JOB. I HAVE NAUGHT MORE IMPORTANT THAN LOOMING OVER EARTH AND BRINGING TRUTH—IF YOU PERCEIVE IT AS DOOM, THEN PERHAPS YOU SHOULD RECONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES AND FROM WHERE YOU MIGHT PERCEIVE SUCH A CONCEPT. **ACTUALLY I BRING TRUTH AND PREACH GLORY, TRANSITION UNTO LIGHT, RADIANCE AND KNOWLEDGE—BALANCE AND HARMONY.** YOU WOULD HAVE ME DO AS SATAN AND ALLOW YOU TO DEBASE AND DESTROY YOUR VERY BEINGS AND THEN SAY “WOOPS, SORRY—I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT THE BRIDGE IS WASHED OUT UP FRONT OF YOUR SPEEDING BULLET!”? IS THAT WHAT YOU REALLY BELIEVE WOULD HELP MANKIND OUT OF THE INSANITY COMING DOWN AROUND YOU—THIS MADNESS IS NOT OF GOD, MY FRIEND—THIS MADNESS UPON YOUR PLACE IS MAN UNDER THE PERIOD OF TOTAL CONTROL OF SATAN JUST AS “YOUR” “GOOD-BOOK” TELLS YOU! “The rest of the time” I guess I “just goof off” writing messages and irritating Dharma who gains nothing but a weary back, inflamed finger tendons and bankruptcy; working in anonymity except for a few very close friends who give as much time and all worldly goods to assist that YOU might have privy to the WORD. Somehow, we have not felt it to be TOO MUCH! BUT THE GAME IS CHANGING A BIT, DEAR ONES; YOU WILL NO LONGER STICK OF ME IN A CORNER NOR BE IN THE CRUCIFYING OF MY BEING NOR IN THE SLAYING OF MINE PEOPLE—

HOLD IT MOST CLOSELY IN THY HEART! I AM THE WAY AND THE DOOR AND EXCEPT THROUGH MY WAY YE SHALL NOT ENTER IN; FOR I COME OF GOD, FOR IT IS THE TIME OF SORTING AND “JUDGING”—YES, I KNOW WHO I AM—WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

QUALIFICATION

“If you are the Christ, I mean no disrespect, but by your own caution I must qualify you and confirm that you are who you say you are before I follow and moreover have faith in what you say.”

Why? You obviously believe everything fed unto you by evil! Further, your full intent is disrespectfulness. For you have already decided I am not “the Christ” and you further consider that you will get a bit of attention for your daring pronouncement. You remind me of the one who goes into the street and curses to defy God’s striking him. I care not whether or not you “qualify me”, you might better be concerned about “qualifying” yourself. I come to “prove” nothing but it is long past time you ones “prove” something unto me! You could have accomplished this task just as easily by asking me in one sentence to identify myself and give credentials. Ponder it, my foolish friend whom I fervently petition to become my wise friend. I have never expected anyone to blindly “follow”. I do ask that ones “walk WITH me”. I have never asked a living being to “die for me”. I DO ASK ONES TO STAND AND LIVE “WITH” ME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE ABUNDANCE AND COMMUNION WITH THAT WHICH THEY ARE AND THAT THEY MIGHT REGAIN THE JOY OF WALKING IN LIGHT IN THE CREATOR’S PRESENCE AND IN ONENESS IN BALANCE AND HARMONY WITH THE CREATION. NO MORE AND NO LESS. I ASK YOU TO RETURN TO THE LAWS OF GOD AND THE CREATION—FOR YE HAVE BROUGHT THY MOTHER EARTH UNTO DESTRUCTION AND A SPECIES OF MAN UNTO THE BRINK OF OBLITERATION. TREAD GENTLY, BELOVED ONES, FOR YOU TREAD UPON THE ICE WHICH COVERS THE CAULDRONS OF HELL—ALMOST 6 BILLION UPON A PLANET WHICH WAS CREATED TO HOUSE 500 MILLION.

I further do not care as to whether or not you have “faith” in what I say, as you thrust at me. You may have faith in that which you please—I would ask you to cease casting stones at the “faith” of the ones around you and thy mother who has nurtured you in love and giving—while obviously, allowing.

SPACE COMMAND INFORMATION

“The Space Command writings, as informative as they may be, seem to use the same tactics to capture a following that many men of evil have used in the past to control men.” Which writings? Whose writings? Not from my Command, Sir. That is the very reason there is such shouting and wailing in Spaceland of the UFO “clubs”. WE EFFORT AT BRINGING YOU UP OUT OF THE FEAR AND TERROR PERPETRATED UPON YOU ONES BY THOSE WHO RESEARCH, FEED OFF THE FASCINATION AND HYPE, AND PRESENT THE INCORRECT CONCLUSIONS AND PERPETUATE MISINFORMATION UNTO A “GULLIBLE” (your word) PUBLIC. **YOU MAKE OF MY POINT FAR BETTER THAN CAN I!**

“Hitler unified the entire German race against the Jews by pointing them out as conspirators and the root of all German problems.” No he didn’t. You overstate. There were thousands of Germans who actually gave their life to save the lives of Jewish persons. The word “entire” is incorrect. Further, why do you blame a poor evil little man for the downfall of millions—could it not be that the millions grasp an evil idea and were equally as evil as the mouth which projected the evil? Also, you speak of isolating the Jews as the sole thrust of Hitler—what do you say of the other millions of ones that were slain at his orders or the orders of those evil ones in his troops? Why do you expect total exactness from ones of US of these realms and yet you speak untruth in rebuttal?


SAME TACTICS AGAINST ALL GOVERNMENTS IN THE WORLD

Again, NO! You miss the point—!! You had better reread and reread the *Journals*—especially the one which is not yet to the bindery. “The Governments” as you project them are utilizing the same tactics within THE PLAN 2000 to completely enslave you of the populace which shall be more horrendous than Hitler ever imagined. It is already underway—even the “death camps” in the form of AIDS, famine, drugs and murder through deliberate creation of wars and economic control. We are telling you how it is—along with many speakers and writers upon your place—who dare under penalty of incarceration and literal death to bring you truth but you ones continue to play your vidiot boxes and even dream up new and more foolish computer games to bury your minds within. THEY ARE DECEIVING YOU AND WILL LEAD YOU TO YOUR ANNIHILATION—JUST LIKE LAMBS TO THE SLAUGHTER. AND THEN YOU, JUST AS WITH YOUR BROTHER AND NEIGHBOR, WILL ASK GOD WHY HE DOES THIS TO YOU AND “GOD HELP US” AND “OH, JESUS, PLEASE TELL US WHAT TO DO”! DO YOU THINK I HAVE NOT ALSO LEARNED THE WAY OF MAN THROUGH THE EONS OF TIME?

You petition us in the midst of your travail—constantly! We have come forth at great inconvenience and hazard to respond and even tell you exactly that which you can do in a most earthly and physical manner to change and assist yourselves—and you come back and say “God wouldn’t say or do these things”. Well, which way do you want of it? If you do not wish the answers, then stop of thy petitions! HOWEVER, STOP TRYING TO DISALLOW ONES TO OBTAIN THE ANSWERS THEY DO WISH TO HAVE. I REPEAT—I KNOW VERY WELL WHO I AM. WHO MIGHT YOU BE?

Another respite please before we discuss politicians and God. So be it—the term “politician” is distasteful in itself. Salu.

[END OF PART 5]

Part 1 of this *Journal* can be found in the 12/26/01 issue of *CONTACT* on page 12; Part 2 (1/2/02, page 14); Part 3 (1/9/02, page 19); Part 4 (1/23/02, page 7)—This *Phoenix Journal* (#12) is out of print. All other *Journals* are on sale for one-half price (\$3.00). Please see the back page for ordering information. 

The News Desk

By John & Jean Ray

MALAYSIAN PM ACCUSES U.S. OF INTOLERANCE

Tehran Times, 02/05/02

TEHRAN—Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir bin Mohamad on Sunday appealed to the international community to pay attention to the causes of Muslim anger and frustration and accused the United States of intolerance.

But Mahathir was also harshly critical of groups within Islam who distort its message to advance their own political causes.

Mahathir was speaking to reporters at the World Economic Forum, a five-day gathering of corporate and political leaders that has been dominated this year by the issue of terrorism....

“Unless Muslim anger and frustration is understood and tackled, we’re not going to get anywhere in overcoming terrorism.”

Mahathir cited Palestinian suffering at the hands of Israel as the principal cause of Muslim anger, along with United Nations-imposed—and U.S.-backed—economic sanctions on Iraq, which have had a devastating effect on the Iraqi population.

Although he has met with U.S. President George Bush and offered his views on Islam and terrorism, Mahathir complained that “at the moment we find it very difficult to penetrate the minds of the American leaders.”

“The U.S. should listen to the views of others... because there is a tendency to feel that any opinion that is not American cannot be right.”

He also warned that if the United States extends its campaign against terrorism by attacking other Islamic countries “you’re going to alienate the entire Muslim world”.

Mahathir did not spare Islamic extremists who have deliberately “interpreted Islam to support their own political views”.

“There is nothing wrong with the religion of Islam,” he said.

But as a result of politically motivated distortions by “people who pretend they are learned in Islam”... “People are doing things that are contrary to Islam.”

Mahathir stressed that Islam in fact prohibits violence against innocent people and teaches that Muslims can only go to war when they are attacked....

Spain currently holds the EU presidency. Javier Solana is the EU’s high representative for a common foreign, defense and security policy, and Chris Patten is the EU commissioner for external relations.

In response to questions posed by other journalists on EU-Iran ties, Wiegand said, “The EU has a clear policy toward Iran which will be consistently pursued.”

The EU spokesman noted that the EC has proposed a mandate for negotiations with Iran on a cooperation and trade agreement and that all EU member states are in favor of such a mandate....

Fierce criticism of U.S. foreign policy dominated the World Social Forum’s Peace Conference here, which drew to a close urging that a democratic mediation mechanism be created to deal with conflicts....

“The United States moved to impose its will by force,” and “a new Cold War climate was installed in the world” were among declarations signed by conference organizers Brazil’s Workers Union, the Latin

American Council of Social Sciences, and the Rio Grande do Sul regional government.

“The United Nations definitively lost its role, the other capitalist powers and nearly all the other governments of the world delegated to the United States the role of permanent terror agents,” the text added.

Nobel Peace Prize winner from 1992 Rigoberta Menchu said the United Nations had been undermined as the United States developed its war on terrorism in the wake of the attacks.

“The only instrument that international society had to mediate conflicts was eroded,” she said.

Menchu also expressed concern that the events of September 11 had led to “a redistribution of the powers at world level that has not necessarily benefited the population.”

Also, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan warned yesterday that U.S. anti-terrorist policies could attract an “even more dreadful” response than the September 11 attacks....

FRENCH ANGER AT U.S. POLICY ON ISRAEL

By Jon Henley (Paris); Matthew Engel (Washington),
The Guardian—UK, 02/07/02

The gulf between the U.S. and Europe over Washington’s foreign policy widened yesterday when France’s foreign minister delivered an outspoken attack on America’s support for Israel.

In the hardest-hitting European assault yet on Washington’s world view, Hubert Védrine said U.S. support for the hardline Israeli prime minister, Ariel Sharon, was “mistaken” and “dangerously simplistic”.

Mr. Védrine said Europeans were “unanimous in not supporting the Middle East policy of the White House” and thought it was a “mistake to blindly accept the policy of pure repression” conducted by Mr. Sharon.

President George Bush, who is to receive Mr. Sharon in Washington today, has said it is up to the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to do “a better job” to end what he calls the terror being inflicted on Israel.

Mr. Védrine said France was instead backing a proposal with its EU allies for a formal Israeli acknowledgement of the need for a Palestinian state and elections in the Palestinian territories that would give the winner a mandate to negotiate peace.

The minister’s attack comes amid a chorus of dismay in Europe at Mr. Bush’s state of the union speech last week in which he named Iran, Iraq and North Korea as sponsors of terrorism in an “axis of evil”.

Mr. Védrine said that Europeans “are friends of the United States and will remain so”. But, he added: “We are threatened today by a new simplism which consists in reducing everything to the war on terrorism. We cannot accept that idea. You have got to tackle the root causes, the situations, poverty, injustice.”

He said U.S. rhetoric was confirmation that the Bush administration approached foreign policy “unilaterally, without consulting anyone, based on their interpretation and on their interests”.

The EU’s foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, has conceded that there was a possible link between Iran and the Palestinian Authority in the form of a shipload of weapons intercepted by Israel last month in the Red sea.

But EU officials say they will resist any U.S. attempt to make an enemy of Iran in the widening war on terrorism. Europe believes trade, cooperation and support for the reform process and opposition moderates is the best way forward for Iran.

Diplomats said that while the EU broadly shared U.S. concerns about Iran acquiring nuclear weapons and about its support for anti-Israel groups including Hizbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, it remains dubious about Washington’s charges that Iran exports global terror or has links with Osama bin Laden’s al-Qaida network.

Yesterday the U.S. secretary of state, Colin Powell, accused Tehran of trying to destabilise the new Afghan government and of “unhelpful activities” in the area.

“We can demonstrate to them that it is not in their interest to destabilise the government that they helped to create,” he said. But he was convinced talks with Iranian leaders were still possible.

[JR: It’s about time Europe gets alarmed over our U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East and Central Asia and our assumed role as world conqueror. The U.S. has become unstable and unreasonable in its war on terrorism to the point of fanaticism. Our efforts to implicate Iran and connect them with the rival factions competing for leadership in war-torn Afghanistan has not been substantiated nor backed up with the facts. Our loyalty to Israel and our willingness to ignore the problems and the plight of the Palestinian people is a major destabilizing factor towards world peace. The nations who are targeted and who are made victims by our foreign policy view the U.S., Israel and Britain as the axis of evil and a force that has to be recognized and dealt with. If the world delays taking action we will face worse times than during Hitler and Stalin’s reign of terror.]

ARAFAT STILL A PLAYER, BUSH TELLS SHARON

By Howard Witt, *Tribune*, 02/08/02

WASHINGTON—Rebuffing Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon’s request that the United States cut ties with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, President Bush on Thursday instead emphasized his concern over the plight of Palestinian civilians suffering under Israel’s security crackdown.

Bush did not relent in his criticism of Arafat during a 45-minute White House meeting with Sharon. He again called on Arafat to “do everything in his power” to stop Palestinian militants from attacking Israeli civilians.

“I assured the Prime Minister that we will continue to keep pressure on Mr. Arafat to convince him that he must take serious, concrete, real steps to reduce terrorist activity in the Middle East,” Bush said after the meeting.

But the president’s emphasis on Palestinian hardship reflected the message he has been hearing from Arab and European leaders in recent weeks: That the U.S. must address Palestinian grievances if it wants to continue its role as an honest broker in the search for Middle East peace.

The Palestinians have complained bitterly about tactics Israel has used in response to the violence Palestinian militants have unleashed during the 16-month-old uprising. More than 900 Palestinians and 260 Israelis have perished during the period, according to a tally by *The Associated Press*.

Those Israeli tactics include targeted killings of Palestinian “militants”, military incursions into Palestinian areas, the bulldozing of Palestinian homes and several security checkpoints Palestinians must negotiate to travel in and out of their territories.

"I am deeply concerned about the plight of the average Palestinian," Bush said, noting that his budget provides \$300 million in humanitarian aid for the Palestinians.

"I worry about stories and pictures I see of people going hungry and children not being educated and deep concerns etched on the faces of moms and dads who happen to be Palestinian," Bush said.

Sharon acknowledged that he and Bush discussed "steps that should be taken in order to improve the life conditions of those Palestinians that are not involved in terror".

"That's my intention. That was always my intention," Sharon said. "And of course, we'll try and see what can be done."

Meeting Bush for the fourth time in the past year, the Israeli prime minister emphasized his desire to look beyond Arafat, whom the Israeli army has confined to his Ramallah headquarters, and begin dealing with new Palestinian leaders. Sharon met privately last week with three senior Palestinians to begin to do just that.

"Arafat has chosen [a] strategy of terror and formed a coalition of terror," Sharon said. "Therefore, we believe that pressure should be put on Arafat. We know—there may be—I hope to have an alternative leadership in the future."

While Bush has refused to meet with Arafat, White House aides in the hours before Sharon arrived continued to insist that the Palestinian leader remained relevant to the Middle East peace process and deflected questions about whether the administration would pursue discussions with leaders of the Palestinian Authority other than Arafat.

Israeli diplomats said Sharon also was pressing the Bush administration to list the militias and security forces under Arafat's control, such as the Al Aqsa Brigades, as terrorist organizations alongside the Palestinian militant groups Hamas, Hezbollah and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. There was no word of the president's response.

Nevertheless, Sharon struck a conciliatory tone toward the Palestinians. He said that once there is "a full cessation of terror, violence and incitement", and the Palestinian Authority arrests and disarms militants, the Israeli government is prepared to resume peace talks intended to lead to the establishment of a Palestinian state.

"Once they will take serious preventive steps and stop completely incitement, then we will start negotiations," Sharon said.

"I believe that one day, we'll be reaching a peace. Israel is committed to peace. And at the end of the process, I believe that a Palestinian state, of course, will be—we would see a Palestinian state."

But, Sharon added, "it cannot be done under terror."

At home, the Likud leader finds himself in a delicate political situation. His approval rating is high, but not because he is greatly loved. Rather, polls indicate that many Israelis, traumatized by the surge in Palestinian violence, see no way out of the current crisis and despair over the collapse of the peace process.

In most recent polls, two-thirds of the Israeli population support Sharon's crackdown on the Palestinians. But the same number also want to see peace talks resumed, although with guarantees that the Palestinians would not threaten Israel's existence.

Rather than humiliating Arafat, Sharon's crackdown has produced a surge of support. Sharon's desire to deal with alternative Palestinian leaders is a fantasy, many Palestinians argue, because anyone who dared to step forward in Arafat's place would be considered a traitor and an Israeli lackey.

That is not how Sharon's Cabinet sees the situation.

In a breakfast meeting with reporters in Washington, Israeli Defense Minister Benjamin Ben Eliezer said he believes Arafat is losing the support of the Palestinian people.

"We are facing a new generation of leaders. They are not less nationalistic but more realistic," said Ben Eliezer, a top Labor Party official in Sharon's coalition government.

Arafat told the British Broadcasting Corp. in an interview Thursday that he was doing all he could to halt suicide bombings and other attacks against Israelis. But he said he was constrained by the Israeli military crackdown against his police and security forces. He also said he was prepared to resume peace negotiations with Israel under U.S. auspices.

"The main sponsors of the peace process are the Americans," Arafat told *BBC* radio. "It started with President Bush, the father, with the [1991] Madrid conference, and we hope that President Bush, the son, will complete the mission."

[JR: The lethal force used by the Israeli military to destroy PLA government buildings has been very effective. The confinement of Arafat at Ramallah has deprived the Palestinian people of leadership and a representative government. With the exclusion of Arafat, Sharon hopes to replace the present Palestinian leadership with another that will be more pliable and "conditioned" to see the reality of things from the Israeli point of view and not necessarily from the Palestinian point of view. The Israeli crackdown and the targeting of Palestinian police and security forces has left the Palestinian people unprotected against Israeli military's incursions into their towns and villages and the blockades that imprison them. Sharon's assurance to Pres. Bush can be viewed as nothing more than a ploy to bide him time for when Bush is more receptive to Israeli demands. Sharon may not have to wait too long as V.P. Cheney's trip in March to Israel and the Middle East excludes a meeting with Arafat. The U.S. has ignored far too long the Palestinian people's problem because of its flagrant bias towards Israel. Bush's concern for the Palestinian people only came about because of the concerns and pressures applied by Europe and other Middle Eastern countries? Don't count on there being a Palestinian state as Sharon implies because his intention is to confiscate all the occupied lands held by the Palestinians. Sharon's power and support is the military—and he will continue to use the military to instigate incidents that will incite the Palestinians and prolong the endless cycle of violence and terrorism. There will be no peace under Sharon or any other Israeli leader until there are no Palestinians left in Palestine/Israel.]

AFGHANISTAN'S WARLORDS TURN ON ONE ANOTHER

By Kevin Whitelaw, *U.S. News*, 02/07/02

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—At times, it is difficult to think of Afghanistan as only one country. In this conservative southern city where the Taliban movement first took root, the obligatory icons of power—Toyota Land Cruisers or double-cab pickup trucks bristling with gunmen—are festooned with the red, green, and black flag that last flew in 1973, when the king sat on the throne. Only 300 miles to the north in the capital of Kabul, the colors flown are the green, black, and white of the Northern Alliance

forces who liberated the city. The northern city of Mazar-e Sharif even uses its own currency.

Afghanistan might have a new national government occupying frigid, dilapidated ministry buildings in Kabul, but in the rest of the country, the real power still rests with several key warlords. For now, with a nudge from America, these regional power brokers publicly back the new interim government headed by Hamid Karzai, who was a guest of honor last week at President Bush's State of the Union address. And why not? Afghans are exhausted by the 23 years of fighting that has eviscerated their homeland, and they are tempted by the billions of dollars in reconstruction money being dangled by foreign diplomats.

But old hatreds die hard—and renewed factional fighting could drag Afghanistan back into chaos and muck with American plans to track the thousands of al-Qaida and Taliban fighters on the run in the country. In the eastern town of Gardez last week, a rivalry between different tribal factions broke out into open warfare, the first time that factions that had teamed to fight the Taliban have turned against one another since American troops landed. Gov. Padsha Khan Zadran—for the moment an ally of Afghan leader Karzai—sent hundreds of his fighters through the open gates of the ancient city. Suddenly, the gates closed. Trapped, the governor's forces were bombarded from four sides by rocket and machinegun fire. Outside the city, Zadran, his face blue from the cold, watched the ambush of his men and tried to persuade U.S. Special Forces to intervene. "They refused to help me," he told *U.S. News*.

American troops may be ducking skirmishes all over. The southern province of Helmand, where many former Taliban members are thought to be hiding, is being torn apart by a power struggle among the three main tribes there. In the far-flung provinces, looting is endemic. A tribal elder from a province bordering Iran describes how a local commander looted 72 homes in recent days, seizing money, radios, blankets, and opium stashes. And in Mazar-e Sharif, Kabul is trying to buy time by giving key warlords top government posts: Abdul Rashid Dostum, who has ruled Mazar for much of the past decade, was named deputy defense minister. He also receives a generous stipend of \$250,000 a month from Washington, according to one of his aides. These solutions are temporary at best. "Dostum doesn't want to be a commander in the Afghan Army," says Mohammed Ghulam Sakhi Murtaza, military commander of a key faction in Mazar. "He wants to be the ruler of the north."

So far, the strife is restricted mostly to remote areas. The large cities, hosting some foreign troops, are generally calm. To keep a lid on, UN and Afghan officials are pushing for a speedup of the deployment of peacekeepers to cities beyond Kabul. "The main reason for law and order in Afghanistan is the U.S. presence," says Ahmed Wali Karzai, the prime minister's brother and his representative in Kandahar. "Otherwise, the warlords would be out there like they used to be, getting their way."

But pledging allegiance to Kabul hasn't kept warlord Gul Agha Shirzai, the outsize governor of Kandahar, from positioning himself for another day. Installed by the Americans over the initial objections of Karzai, Gul Agha aims to build a power base that will keep him in office after Karzai's brief term as prime minister ends in five months.

Gul Agha is a force to be reckoned with. His close relationship with the Americans gives him influence over several neighboring provinces. He controls the customs revenue coming in from truckers importing goods from

Pakistan and Iran. Trade is slowly picking up, bringing in a tidy \$80,000 in the past month and allowing him to pay some of his forces. His police chief, Gen. Mohammed Akram, meantime, has ambitions to become the police commander for southwestern Afghanistan. "Once I can pay them and give them supplies, then I will command them," he says.

Gul Agha is also playing on ethnic fears to position himself as Afghanistan's most powerful Pashtun leader. The Pashtuns, Afghanistan's largest ethnic group, fear that the Northern Alliance will dominate the new Kabul government—at their expense. A showdown could come in the western city of Herat, ruled by Ismail Khan, another powerful warlord. Many Pashtun traders there have been ordered to close their offices amid a rash of suspicious burglaries and beatings. Currency traders in the cramped, dilapidated courtyard that serves as Kandahar's version of Wall Street are watching to see how Gul Agha responds to the news from Herat. Already, pressure is building on him to take more serious action.

The next several months will be a particularly dangerous time. "The basic needs of the people are not being met, which creates a situation that the warlords can take advantage of," says Yusef Pashtun, a close aide to Gul Agha. "Since they cannot play a role in the administration, they will go to the foreign hands who will give them something to be subversive." And there are those happy to oblige: Weapons, money, and food have been spotted being delivered to certain commanders from Iran, say Afghan and U.S. officials.

The patchwork of tribal relationships has also made for some strange alliances in the hunt for al-Qaida and Taliban runaways. In the lawless eastern region of Paktia, U.S. Special Forces would prefer not to rely on the commander, Malim Jan. After all, he was the Taliban officer who ordered the first shot fired from a tank at the giant ancient statues of Buddha destroyed at Bamiyan last year. Now the commander has allied himself with the Northern Alliance's handpicked governor and pledged to hunt down his former boss, the local al-Qaida chief. "I was his commander, and he loved me. Love begets love," he says. "But the Americans are trying to destroy al-Qaida, and we are ready to help and work under their command." For the moment, at least.

[JR: The United States has involved itself in another quagmire of disorder in Afghanistan just like we did in Bosnia, Kosovo, Somalia and Haiti. The only option for the U.S. now in Afghanistan is to bribe the warring factions and cash out or eliminate the warlords that might prove more troublesome. We are not above doing that and will take more drastic measures if we have to. The U.S. support of the warlord Gul Agha in Khandahar might prove more difficult because it could increase the conflict in the southwestern region if we are unable to keep him in line and temper his ambitions for power. If Agha gains control of the Pashtun majority in Afghanistan, he could present a challenge to the Karzari regime set up by the EU and the U.S. in Kabul. The rivalries between the warlords could prolong the war that has been on going for decades and could be a major obstacle for the greedy Elite planners who have to sort it all out so they can move forward in the next stage of their plans. After all, they have billions and billions invested and future trillions dependent on their ability to gain control of Afghanistan and Central Asia. They have to move quickly before the Afghanis come to realize who their true enemy is.]

WAR CAPTIVES FIGHT U.S. INTERROGATIONS

By John Mintz, *The Washington Post*, 02/08/02

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba—Many al-Qaida and Taliban captives imprisoned at the U.S. naval base here are locked in a war of wills with their American captors, resisting as their interrogators devise ways to get them talking, U.S. government officials said.

At the same time, U.S. questioners have begun to make progress in unearthing intelligence information from some of the alleged terrorist prisoners, especially a few of the younger ones, sources said. Officials said the strategy is to make the detainees feel comfortable with their treatment, while applying subtle psychological pressure.

Informed government officials said that U.S. personnel are carefully observing the behavior of the 158 prisoners, down to how much food they eat and how long they pace in their cells.

"There are some very hardened, trained individuals who are watching us and biding their time," one official said. "Others are just resisting."

Both the prisoners and the U.S. guards were extremely tense in the first weeks after the first prisoners arrived Jan. 11, but the atmosphere soon eased once U.S. officials allowed the detainees to start talking, U.S. personnel said.

Officials said they are wary that some of the most talkative and seemingly cooperative detainees are angling to lull the Americans into slipping up somehow. Officials think that while detainees may harbor fantasies of escape, the real goal of some is to kill or maim a guard.

"Many have received training and are observing activities such as security procedures," said Army Brig. Gen. Michael Lehnert, who runs the prison here. "Many appeared disciplined and very patient."

Some prisoners have defecated in their jumpsuits in what U.S. military personnel have concluded were efforts to infuriate their captors and establish their independence, sources said.

U.S. officials keep a close eye on an Australian captive named David Hicks, 26, who was arrested with al-Qaida forces late last year. A troublemaker in school, he dropped out at 14 and was rejected by the Australian military as semiliterate.

At some point he converted to Islam. Hicks fought with radical Muslim movements around the world before moving to Afghanistan to train with Osama bin Laden's followers.

U.S. officials think that despite his erratic behavior since his arrest, Hicks is acting calculatedly to find a security gap, possibly drawing on his training by British mercenaries.

After his capture in Afghanistan, he gave some information about al-Qaida to Australian interrogators. On the flight to Cuba, he somehow slipped his wrists through his handcuffs, and military police officers had to bind his hands to his seat with duct tape.

When he first arrived at the prison, nicknamed Camp X-Ray, Hicks screamed at guards that he wanted to kill them. But U.S. officials suspect that he was testing his captors' responses and that the calm he presents now is strategic as well. They note that he pays attention to the timing and procedures used in the guards' rotation, informed sources said.

U.S. officials refuse to disclose details about their interrogation of the detainees. But they privately acknowledge U.S. interrogators are likely to use every psychological gambit legally available to get the prisoners

talking to their CIA, FBI and military questioners.

Psychological factors were apparently one reason for a recent change in the procedure for transporting prisoners to the interrogation center a few hundred yards away. In the early days, the prisoners were walked over. Then officials said most should be carried over on stretchers, claiming their leg shackles made the walks too time-consuming. Another reason appears to be that being carried everywhere instills the sense of submission found in an invalid or a child, government sources said.

"The idea is to slowly remove all the vestiges of [a detainee's] sense of power, so they can no longer believe they're bulletproof, and in this case they're no longer mujahedeen warriors," one experienced U.S. government interrogator said, describing interrogations generally.

The goal is to get the prisoner comfortable enough to start talking about any subject, he said. Far from torturing the prisoners, as some human-rights groups have feared would happen, some of the U.S. personnel are stroking them emotionally. Others show a harsher face—the "good cop, bad cop routine," the source said.

U.S. Marine Lance Cpl. Wesam Kamhia, a Syrian-born Arabic translator for the detainees, thinks—but isn't sure—he can distinguish the hardened terrorists from the hapless hangers-on. The latter call him "brother" and beg approval to organize prison sports teams. "One asked, 'Can I just run?'"

"But some look at me as a traitor, since I speak the language and have this uniform on," Kamhia told *Voice of America* in an interview in English and Arabic. "You can see they're staring you down. You can see the hatred in their eyes."

When the subject of the September attacks arises, "they pretend like they never heard of it," Kamhia said. "I can't tell if they're lying or not."

"Some said they like it here," he said. "They thank the doctors [who treat them] all the time. One said he's now in the U.S., 'land of liberty, land of freedom.'"

Kamhia wondered whether the prisoner was just trying to please his captors. "I don't know what he meant by that," he said.

In any case, he said, they express few complaints about their living conditions.

"They're used to the heat," he said. "They do like the food. Some said they've never been fed like that."

[JR: Camp X-Ray is an experiment of control and a testing of wills. Both sides are watching and observing and assessing each other's strengths and weaknesses. It is a battle of wits in which both antagonists may be equally matched. The detainee wants to resist giving in to his captors and is determined to defend his ideals and protect his sense of identity. How the game will be played and who wins will be determined by the individuals involved.]

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM WRAPS UP

The STAR—MY, 02/05/02

NEW YORK (AP)—Presidents, kings and moguls wrapped up five days of swanky parties, serious elbow-rubbing and weighty discussions on Monday on how to stop terrorism, resolve long-standing international conflicts and ease grinding poverty.

With luxury jets waiting to whisk the world's power players to their homes, the World Economic Forum closed its one-time New York experiment and 32nd annual meeting with a warning by UN Secretary-General

Kofi Annan that the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have exposed a huge gap between the world's rich and poor.

In remarks to the forum's 2,700 participants, Annan encouraged business and governments to give hope to billions of people struggling to survive in developing countries....

The UN chief urged business leaders to invest in small and poor countries, which taken together represent a large potential market.

He also called on governments to double their foreign aid to \$100 billion annually....

Over the course of the five-day forum, corporate and political leaders, clergy and celebrities discussed the world's problems—spending much of their time dissecting U.S. foreign policy, its possible role in breeding terrorism and the potential harms of globalization.

Speaker after speaker lambasted America as a smug superpower, too beholden to Israel at the expense of the Muslim world, and inattentive to the needs of poor countries or the advice of allies.

And there was plenty of talk by corporate bigwigs and top Western political leaders about how to help developing nations emerge from poverty....

Too much power and wealth is concentrated in the hands of too few people and countries, Annan said, creating a perception that globalization is to blame.

"I believe that perception is wrong—and that globalization, so far from being the cause of poverty and other social ills, offers the best hope of overcoming them," he said.

"But it is up to you to prove it wrong, with actions that translate into concrete results for the downtrodden, exploited and excluded."

'REGULATED GLOBALISATION' WILL POSE LESS A DANGER TO ALL, SAYS DR. M

By Johan Fernandez, *The STAR*—MY, 02/05/02

NEW YORK—Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said "regulated globalisation" would reduce the chance of it going awry and destroying economies and countries.

He said there was nothing sacred about the present concept of globalisation that it could not be changed, radically if necessary, to pose less danger to those accepting and practising it....

The Prime Minister said Asia's experience of globalisation had shown that this was not the answer to economic ills or the vitamin for economic growth, at least the kind of globalisation that was being promoted by rich western countries.

"Globalisation need not be about free capital flow only. There can still be globalisation but it should not be absolutely free.

"It should not be purely market driven. Regulated globalisation can still be compatible with the idea of globalisation....

Today, these economies are shadows of their former selves, he said, adding that the impact of globalisation involving the free flow of capital and the straightjacketing of business had been disastrous.

He said that for years attempts to resuscitate the economies had not been very successful.

"There will be permanent scars and the impact will not be any better for as long as the present interpretation of globalisation is forced upon Asia.

"In fact, the world is likely to fail to recover if, instead of focusing on resuscitating the economy following Sept 11, we continue to force the globalisation

of capital flows in the world," he said.

Dr. Mahathir said globalisation was a word that seemed to describe the coming together of all the countries of the globe into one entity....

"For most of them, globalisation means not more freedom but less freedom from rules, regulations, laws and policies. Worse still, these uniform rules disregard their particular weaknesses and problems," he said.

He said they were being told that being poor, they would benefit from capital flowing into their countries. But what they are not told is that the same capital can flow out and when it does, their countries can be bankrupt.

Dr. Mahathir said for many of the East Asian countries, capital inflows had brought about unprecedented economic growth. Even their stock markets had benefited from foreign investments.

The East Asian financial crisis was precipitated by the free exit of capital which started with the manipulative devaluation of the currencies of these countries, he said.

"Devaluation caused foreign investments to lose value. To avoid losses from further devaluation, foreign capital was pulled out.

"The market collapsed, resulting in rapid increase in non-performing loans, deprivation from bank funding of business operations, numerous bankruptcies and failure of the banking system in the end."

Dr. Mahathir said when the economy was in tatters, the Government had to borrow from the International Monetary Fund but loans would only be given if the government surrendered economic management to the IMF and allowed foreign white knights to pick up the devalued local banks and businesses.

"Many countries were floundering because the money they borrowed from the IMF had to be used to pay off foreign creditors. Nothing was left for the locals and countries still had to pay the IMF for the loans they took."

"East Asian countries are luckier, for some had made a fair degree of recovery, but Argentina is not so lucky.

"Sovereign loans are not so safe after all, as countries can go bankrupt when IMF imposes its policies," he said.

Dr. Mahathir asked whether what happened to the East Asian countries was a manifestation of globalisation.

"Clearly it is. Trading in currencies is only possible if the government abdicates as the authority to determine the value of the currency and leaves it to so-called international market forces.

"The market is interested only in making profits and cares nothing for the well-being of society."

Dr. Mahathir said the market favoured the rich and the technically advanced, adding that banks and corporations were merging and acquiring each other to become even bigger.

He pointed out that the bigger banks and corporations were not going to be from developing countries.

"When all the borders are down, these super giants will move in to gobble up all local businesses and ignore the interests of the countries where they operate.

"Their only concern is to make money. If they have to pull out of a country in order to reduce losses and maximise profits, they will do it without compunction.

"It is irrelevant to them if pulling out precipitates economic turmoil, massive unemployment and bankruptcies. It will be regarded as the fault of these countries," he said.

The Prime Minister said being big was touted

as all important, guaranteeing success, ensuring economies of scale, more research and development and cheaper products.

"But we have seen that size did not save LCTM or Enron. Indeed the bigger they are, the harder the fall, dragging down everyone with them."

[JR: Kofi Annan's remarks as to the negative effects of globalization reflect the view of one who enjoys a privileged position as UN Secretary-General. The world leaders who attend these meetings to discuss the world's conditions offer no constructive or hopeful recommendations that will assist the economies of struggling nations. These leaders are detached from this reality and don't care to deal with the problems that bring turmoil to underdeveloped countries. They don't see the need nor show any obligation to get involved because they profit too much from the chaos they cause. Dr. Mahathir knows this and that the WTO is about ensuring the success and profits for the richer nations. When richer nations fall they have parachutes (friends in high places) to soften the hard landings, while the poorer nations that fall land in the pits and are buried.]

CONGRESS POISED TO PROBE DEMS' GLOBAL CROSSING SCANDAL

By Wes Vernon, *NewsMax.com*, 020902

WASHINGTON—The Democrats, frustrated over their inability to tie the Enron garbage can to President Bush, may soon find themselves targeted by congressional scrutiny of a scandal reaching into the highest ranks of their own party. Furthermore, the case is developing a China connection that could threaten U.S. national security.

A veteran member of the House of Representatives told *NewsMax.com* on Thursday night that as soon as the House Commerce Committee is through probing Enron, the bankruptcy of telecommunications giant Global Crossing may well be next....

The mainstream media, for the most part, have been hushing up the juiciest parts of the Global Crossing debacle, the fourth largest bankruptcy in U.S. history.

This has all the indications of sleaze attributed to Enron, but with this difference. This time there is a questionable political connection that is real. It turns out that Democrat National Chairman Terry McAuliffe made an 18,000 percent profit from Global Crossing, turning a \$100,000 stock investment into \$18 million.

But there's more: McAuliffe took his money off the table just before the corporation went into the tank. Global Crossing employees and small shareholders and pensioners were left holding the bag.

That's exactly what happened at Enron. The media are up in arms over Enron but strangely silent about the same script playing itself out at Global Crossing. That leads to a suspicion that Bill Clinton's handpicked DNC chairman is getting the kid-gloves treatment because the liberal media, which can smell a Republican scandal (real or otherwise) halfway around the world, somehow lose their bloodhound instinct when tracking the suspicious dealings of Democrats.

So far it has been left to the public interest law firm Judicial Watch (JW) to begin the spadework that may lead to answers on the "political" work McAuliffe did for the telecom company, whose stock once surpassed that of General Motors. JW General Counsel Larry Klayman says this may be tied to a huge Pentagon contract and a \$1 million

donation to the Clinton Presidential Library.

And there's more: The Global Crossing scandal involves Arthur Andersen, the same accounting giant that got a black eye with its handling of Enron.

Information that House probers are considering a look at Global Crossing comes hot on the heels of a revelation, confirmed to *USA Today* and other newspapers, that the FBI is investigating the Bermuda-based company, including its accounting practices. The bureau is cooperating with an investigation by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

And it turns out there is a Chinese connection to the Global Crossing scandal. As a part of its reorganization, the telecommunications company intends to sell a majority stake to two Asian companies. One of those has ties to the communist Chinese regime.

The company in question is none other than Hutchison Whampoa, controlled by Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing. Recall this is the company whose subsidiaries, in recent years, moved into control of much of the commerce at both ends of the Panama Canal. That void was filled after the U.S. pulled out of the canal, thanks to a treaty whose ratification was rammed through the Senate in the 1970s by the Carter administration.

Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, R-Calif., is trying to block the sale. He says Li Ka-shing is part of the Chinese government's inner circle.

In a statement Friday to *NewsMax.com*, the California lawmaker said he was concerned that "a front company for the Chinese communist leadership is now trying to take over a company that owns a significant part of the fiber optics network and may threaten the national security interests of the United States".

He wants a congressional probe with a focus on the security angle, possibly separate and apart from any House Commerce investigation of the business angle.

When nailed for his cool \$18 million windfall last week on *Fox News Channel*, McAuliffe evaded co-host Sean Hannity's challenge to share some of the money with the less fortunate company employees and stockholders who lacked his political connections. The DNC boss's sole defense is that he made the killing strictly through the good old capitalist system, which he has often criticized in the past.

As for the China connection, Global Crossing, which owns an undersea fiber-optics network to more than 200 cities, says not to worry. Its networks would remain secure under any deal with Hutchison Whampoa. "Right," the skeptics scoff.

WALL STREET'S MESSAGE IS TRUST NO ONE

By David Teather (New York),
The Guardian—UK, 02/07/02

Krispy Kreme Doughnuts is not a complicated company. It doesn't trade in difficult to understand intangibles—it sells doughnuts and pastries. The business was the second-best performing flotation on Wall Street in 2000 and recently reported a 68% increase in profits. In fact, Krispy Kreme is just the kind of "simple" company that investors are being advised to retreat into.

But Krispy Kreme has not escaped the paranoia running rampant on Wall Street. Hoping to promote a new doughnut-making machine during a television interview on *CNBC* this week, the chief executive of the company, Scott Livengood, found himself instead being grilled about accounting practices relating to retail property leases.

Trust no one. That is the message emerging from a Wall Street just beginning to feel the full effects of the collapse of Enron, the energy firm that fell so mightily last month. It has not escaped the notice of investors that before the bankruptcy of Enron the company was handing out paperweights festooned with the company's supposed ethics.

The effect has been dubbed Enronitis—an appropriate term because it has spread through the markets like a virus. In the space of a few weeks, investors have witnessed the biggest ever bankruptcy in Enron, the fifth biggest in telecoms company Global Crossing—and the largest ever retail collapse, at Kmart. Another wave of companies has either delayed reporting or restated profits as they come under new levels of scrutiny.

As the events that led to the implosion at Enron have become clear—the huge debts hidden in offshore ventures, the forced restatement of accounts—so the focus is shifting firmly to the checks and balances that were supposed to have prevented this kind of thing from happening. A big-five accounting firm missed the debts that Enron was hiding offshore, regulators did not recognise what was going on and the banks lending billions of dollars failed to spot anything. The highly paid Wall Street analysts following the company continued to post "buy" notes on Enron shares close to the end. The fundamentals have been shaken.

If they were unable to protect investors from the alleged corruption at Enron then why should they be trusted elsewhere? Are the profits of some of the biggest companies traded on Wall Street little more than the results of clever accounting, which will result in more corporate disasters?

A survey for *Wall Street Reporter* magazine among institutional investors suggests that there has been a serious impact on confidence. The survey found that after the Enron collapse 43% of the 266 respondents were worried about the potential for widespread fraud.

"People are questioning the fundamentals and the reliability of financial reporting," says publisher Jack Marks. "There is almost a crisis of confidence. People are afraid to buy stocks at the moment because they are worried there are ticking bombs out there ready to go off. Enron was such a huge company that it has really shaken people. The impact is very real."

Credibility and debt levels are becoming crucial indicators. An early sign of the anxiety caused by Enron's implosion was the speed with which the discount retailer Kmart dropped into bankruptcy.

The company fell victim to a crisis in confidence triggered by a single research note from an analyst who said the company could face a shortage of cash. Kmart sank into a spiral. The shares collapsed, debt-rating agencies downgraded the company and it was forced into Chapter 11 protection when a big supplier stopped shipping groceries. Kmart, too, has asked regulators to investigate claims from an employee that its accounting has been irregular.

A disturbing pattern of cover-ups and conspiracies is beginning to emerge. Global Crossing, the telecoms firm, is also subject to questions about its accounting methods. As with Enron, it has emerged that a whistleblower had warned the board at Global Crossing months before the collapse that executives had "intentionally misled" investors.

There have been suggestions that those in the banks and accounting firms who had sniffed the alleged corruption in Enron were silenced because they were in conflict with the fee-earning of other divisions in the banks or auditors. Daniel Scotto, an

energy analyst at the investment bank BNP Paribas, claims he was fired for attempting to expose the problems at Enron—an allegation denied by the bank.

The fears are focused on either complex conglomerates or new-economy companies, many of which have yet to report profits and do not produce goods that have an easily recognisable value. Tyco, the conglomerate which makes everything from fire extinguishers to medical supplies and bought Conservative Party treasurer Michael Ashcroft's ADT, is now coming under similar pressure.

The group announced surprise plans to split into four to combat accusations about lack of transparency but the action has not been enough to stop the rumours of murky accounting methods. It has already been dubbed Enron mark two amid allegations that it had not disclosed billions of dollars worth of acquisitions that were flattering its growth rates. It was also disclosed that the company paid one of its board directors \$20 million to help engineer one of those deals.

Ed Yardeni, chief investment strategist at Deutsche Bank, argues that the post-Enron environment is exposing tricks that became commonplace in the hubris of the stock market boom. The bull market of the 90s, he says, caused many good managers to turn bad as they raced to keep up with the ever-increasing expectations of Wall Street. As the bull market ran out of impetus many were forced to resort to gimmicks to give investors what they wanted. "This exercise could trigger a wave of restatements of previous results," he says.

The intense interest in the Enron affair has forced the previously arcane activities of Wall Street into a wider view that could cause a fundamental change. The tabloid *New York Post*, part of Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation, has begun a campaign to name and shame the analysts that continued to issue "buy" notes on Enron and Global Crossing almost to the end.

Comparisons have been drawn with the Wall Street crash of the 30s as a wave of fraud was uncovered. That led to the introduction of proper regulation. In 2002, the response is similar and the rules are being tightened again. A new watchdog for the accountancy profession is being set up and there are calls to separate consulting from auditing. The credit rating agencies are speeding up their assessments of a company's debts.

The fall of Enron came at a critical time for the markets, which were building a fragile self-confidence. The key indices have fallen sharply in recent weeks. Restoring confidence in a market battered first by a tough economy, terrorism on an unprecedented scale and now with its fundamental beliefs shaken will not be an easy job.

[JR: Wall Street, the SEC, the bankers, financial analyst and advisors are all going through the motions of reform to rein in the abuses of manipulators such as Enron. Enron's ex-CEO Jeffrey Skilling made it known when interviewed last year that Enron operates and does big business by operating "asset light"... meaning with no liquidity. Enron's accountants at Andersen with their creative bookkeeping expertly concealed Enron's questionable business practices and painted a bright financial picture for Wall Street investors. Alan "Greenspin" now gives advice to investors that they will have to educate themselves before investing because the market is too complicated. Greenspin's advice is of little or no comfort to the small investors who lost all and were ignored by Wall Street. All the investigations and the hearings—along with the bogus indignation coming

out of Washington—will not produce any of the essential changes that are needed to reform the financial markets and how they operate. The Wall Street insiders, the financiers and big business will simply reinvent the wheel and give it another name with illusionary safe guards. They are going to invent a new way around their present problems in order to hide their business-as-usual practices. The Wall Street Emperor won't be wearing any clothes anytime soon.]

BLAIR TRIP TO HIGHLIGHT AFRICAN AID NEEDS

By Peter Cunliffe-Jones, *Agence France-Presse*, 02/08/02

ABUJA, Nigeria—British Prime Minister Tony Blair was due to arrive here late yesterday at the start of a four-nation West African tour during which he will call for more action to fight poverty on the continent.

In an interview with the *Times of London* published yesterday, Mr. Blair warned the world's richest nations must help end poverty in Africa or risk creating more failed states like Afghanistan. Somalia is such an example in East Africa, and money laundering, weapons trading and human misery are already rife in West Africa.

Mr. Blair's spokesman told reporters the prime minister, who is to give a keynote speech today on Africa's relations with the developed world, hopes to seize the moment to press for more aid.

Africa now has the "best chance in a generation to make progress, not least because of its group of young, energetic leaders who recognize the problems of Africa have to be addressed not just from within but in partnership," Mr. Blair's spokesman said.

It was not immediately clear whom he was referring to. Of the four countries Mr. Blair is to visit on this trip, Nigeria's President Olusegun Obasanjo turns 65 next month, Ghana's John Kufuor has just celebrated his 63rd birthday, Sierra Leone's Ahmad Tejan Kabbah is 69, and Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade is 75.

Mr. Blair, who is to be accompanied on his African trip by the British development and African ministers, is expected to arrive shortly before midnight and meet Mr. Obasanjo early today before addressing the Parliament later. He leaves later in the day for Ghana.

Mr. Obasanjo's spokesman, Tunji Oseni, told reporters Tuesday the talks with Mr. Blair would focus on hopes for British investment in Nigeria, assistance with the recovery of money illegally transferred abroad under past regimes, peacekeeping efforts in the region and youth development.

Other issues that could come up in talks are debt, Zimbabwe, British support for an AIDS program, and the return of a collection of ancient carvings and artifacts—the Benin bronzes—looted by British soldiers in the 19th Century that now reside in London's British Museum.

After visiting Nigeria, Mr. Blair is awaited in Ghana for the first official visit by a British head-of-government in more than 40 years. Mr. Kufuor was elected that country's president last year, ending the long rule of Jerry Rawlings in what was seen as a successful democratic transition.

Tomorrow, Mr. Blair is to visit Sierra Leone, a country where British armed forces prevented rebels from seizing the capital, Freetown, in mid-2000.

He is expected to hold talks with President Ahmad Tejan Kabbah on the consolidation of peace in the country, scarred by years of war, and on upcoming elections. He is also likely to meet British military officials engaged in training the Sierra Leone army....

Sierra Leone gained independence from British colonial rule in 1961.

Mr. Blair spent part of his childhood in Freetown, where his father taught history at Fourah Bay College. According to the *News*, a Freetown daily, the British prime minister will be awarded an honorary doctorate and visit British-sponsored projects in the capital....

The United Nations is setting up a special court in Sierra Leone to try people accused of war crimes during the decade-long civil conflict.

Under the terms of a 23-point agreement setting up the court, it will prosecute people who bear "the greatest responsibility for serious violations of international humanitarian law and Sierra Leonean law committed in the territory of Sierra Leone" since Nov. 30, 1996....

The court will be able to mete out jail terms but not death sentences. About 200,000 people were killed and thousands more deliberately mutilated during the RUF's terror campaign....

[JR: Not since the reign of Queen Victoria has the Sun set on the British Empire. Africa has always been a big jewel in the crown of the English Monarchs. Blair's tour of Africa is not to fight poverty but to renew and strengthen ties with old leaders, now labeled "new" leaders. Blair's main objective is to coordinate the training of militants to protect Britain's lucrative interests against those whose aim is to deprive them of such interests. The UN will be the system of justice that will prosecute those who think to undo the order of things that has been in place for over a century. The Africans still have no authority or voice in their government or their future.]

NATIONAL ID IDEA COLLIDES WITH RIGHT TO PRIVACY

By Dan Gillmor, *San Jose Mercury News*, 02/03/02

Maybe you remember the quaint old days, early in 2001, when privacy still mattered.

That was before big business used its clout to sweep aside or neuter an assortment of legislative and regulatory proposals that might have given us a modicum of control over how our most personal information could be traded and sold.

That was before Sept. 11, when so many Americans decided that liberty mattered far less than safety. Since then, Big Brother has reasserted his increasingly absolute right to snoop and pry and invade the deepest recesses of our bank accounts and private lives.

And that was before this month, when the unelected officials who run state motor-vehicle departments started pushing to create a national identification card based on driver's licenses.

These are the worst of times for your right to be left alone. Governments are carving away fundamental liberties, seeking to know where we go, what we buy and what we say. Business desperately wants the first two of those.

Both kinds of surveillance freaks want, in effect, a real-time dossier on every one of us. The national ID is just their ticket, or at least one of them. (Another can be imagined in Microsoft's wish to create a cyber "Passport" for all of us, a foot in the door to continuous online surveillance.)

For a national ID to make any sense to law enforcement, it needs to be a smarter card than the one we use today. It would have to include biometric information, such as fingerprints or a retina scan. It would store personal data, probably including a Social

Security Number, home address, phone number and other information. All that data would have to be available quickly, captured in a scanner and then compared against a centralized database.

Oracle's Larry Ellison made himself a contender in last fall's war-profiteering contest when he told the world how he'd be happy to provide the national ID database software for free (extra for updates and support). He got a respectful hearing from Congress—including California Democrats like Sen. Dianne Feinstein, one of many purported liberals and moderates who treats civil liberties as a nonessential luxury.

But the flaws in the ID scheme were painfully obvious. It would do little to deter terrorism, at great cost to freedom. Ultimately, enough principled conservatives spoke out against the notion that it seemed to be a non-starter.

Some bad ideas have their own momentum. This one appealed to the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, which spotted a way to grow its members' bureaucracies and budgets. The association wants the taxpayers to fork over \$100 million, no doubt a mere down payment. These conscientious bureaucrats are correct when they say it would be simpler to tweak existing driver's licenses to create a de facto national ID than to create one from scratch.

That doesn't make it right.

Judging from information on its Website (www.aamva.org), the association is positively thrilled by the possibilities. It would standardize the look, feel and technology of licenses. It would add data of various sorts, probably including biometric information. Crucially, it would link state licenses to central databanks, and then link those to other databanks; some already are linked, notes the Privacy Foundation (www.privacyfoundation.org), one of several organizations challenging the initiative.

The lesson of Social Security—turning a retirement plan into a de facto national ID—tells us that such an ID would be misused, because the incentive to turn it into something larger would be irresistible.

Think of a national ID as your Social Security Number on steroids.

Do you think government will block such misuse? Government at all levels is in the pocket of the industries that would profit the most. Congress and state legislatures, collecting millions in campaign contributions from business interests, have shot down practically every recent attempt to legislate even modest improvements in privacy.

Government considers our right to be left alone a danger to society. Big business considers it a threat to commerce.

Right now, the odds are against us.

[JR: Mr. Gillmor, with clear insight has perfectly understood the reasons behind the big promotion for a national ID card. Our big brothers in Washington and the international business cartels are still intent on coveting all there is to know about us. We will all become an open book to the miscreants in Washington and the nefarious moguls of business, while they choose to hide and continue to do their business in secrecy. As a people, when are we going to care about what is happening to us? Once the majority is sold on the idea that the national ID card is for our safety and security, we will have given ourselves over to our masters. Those who are content in their ignorance will proudly wave their flags while chanting the motto "Remember 911".]

CHARGES OF COLLUSION WITH ENRON,
BIG LOSSES RAISE QUESTIONS
ABOUT J.P. MORGAN'S JUDGMENT

By E. Scott Reckard, *Los Angeles Times*, 02/01/02

In the rubble of recent financial collapses, one prestigious institution seems especially vulnerable: J.P. Morgan Chase & Co., the nation's second-largest bank.

The New York company, a lead lender to Enron Corp., Kmart Corp., and telecommunications firm Global Crossing Ltd., is at risk of losing billions in dealings with bankrupt firms, as well as losing heavily in Argentina's economic meltdown.

J.P. Morgan also lost \$1.1 billion last year on its stakes in businesses, including many ailing technology companies, and is accused by insurers of helping Enron conceal vast losses. Morgan strongly disputes the charge, but the allegation, coupled with the hefty losses, raises questions about the judgment of an institution that traces its roots back more than 200 years. The bank's woes, accompanied by sizable losses on loans at many other financial giants, also reveal chinks in a banking industry generally regarded as a pillar for the nation's recovery from an economic slowdown and from Sept. 11.

J.P. Morgan fares badly in comparison with big competitors such as Citigroup Inc., the largest U.S. banking concern, and Bank of America Inc., the third largest. Despite their huge losses in Argentina, Enron and other corporate collapses, Citigroup earned \$4 billion and BofA posted a profit of \$2 billion in the fourth quarter, bolstered in part by robust consumer lending.

Morgan, by contrast, lost \$332 million in the fourth quarter, compared with a \$708 million profit a year earlier. For the year, the company still earned \$1.6 billion.

Wall Street's skittishness over projected losses at J.P. Morgan has been apparent in the steady stock selloff in recent weeks after a "parade of train wrecks", in the words of analyst E. Reilly Tierney at Fox-Pitt Kelton in New York.

The stock, which traded above \$40 early in December, hovered near \$32 this week before closing Thursday at \$34.05, up 99 cents a share, on the New York Stock Exchange.

Some analysts remain bullish on Morgan, saying the institution is fundamentally sound and the financial setbacks are only temporary. And by some industry measures, J.P. Morgan's financials look sturdy. A key ratio of nonperforming assets to total assets, for example, was just 0.87 percent as of Dec. 31, well below the 2 percent figure regarded as a sign of potential trouble.

Investors' concerns surfaced in December after Enron's bankruptcy, when J.P. Morgan, which had a reputation for usually disclosing bad news promptly and completely, suddenly tripled its estimate of its potential Enron losses, to \$2.6 billion.

Nearly \$1 billion of the total stemmed from insurers' refusals to pay Enron-related claims on unfulfilled energy contracts. The insurers contended in a lawsuit filed in federal court in New York that the losses resulted from J.P. Morgan's setting up "sham" offshore energy trading concerns to do business with Enron.

J.P. Morgan contends its energy trading companies were above-board, adding that—unlike Enron—it included the results on its balance sheets.

The bank also says the hefty loan losses from the mammoth bankruptcies are a result of J.P. Morgan's position as the leading arranger of the biggest credit lines to the biggest businesses. These so-called syndicated loans are carved up and shared by dozens of banks.

"We're handling 40 percent of the syndicated loans,

and when companies go down we tend to be exposed," said J.P. Morgan spokeswoman Kristin Lemkau.

But other banks in the syndicates typically take on responsibility for more than 90 percent of the amounts lent. Though J.P. Morgan arranged \$1.6 billion in credit lines for Kmart, for example, it had just \$117 million in unsecured loans when the retailer filed for bankruptcy last month. Likewise, though J.P. Morgan had helped arrange \$2.25 billion in loans for Global Crossing, it's now owed less than \$100 million by the telecom firm, according to people close to the situation. And while J.P. Morgan still has a \$500-million exposure to Argentina, Citigroup and FleetBoston have far more.

Indeed, only about 10 percent of J.P. Morgan's earnings come from lending these days, compared with 50 percent a decade ago, Lemkau said, meaning its comparative credit risk exposure actually has declined dramatically.

Still, there's no denying the bank's missteps, which include an 8 percent stake in an Argentine bank accused of fraud, and loans to a European cable TV company that has threatened to default on \$17.5 billion in debt.

Prospects looked far brighter at the end of 2000, when J.P. Morgan Chase & Co. emerged in its current manifestation via the colossal merger of Chase Manhattan Corp. and J.P. Morgan & Co.

After deregulation tore down walls separating banks, brokerages, and insurers, the idea was to compete better with Citigroup—itsself formed in the merger of Citicorp and Travelers Group—by selling more services to clients. The newly formed giant hoped especially to persuade companies with bank loans to use J.P. Morgan's investment banking services, which typically are more profitable than commercial lending.

But the technology meltdown, the recession, and Sept. 11 combined to create the worst environment in years for stock offerings, mergers and other staples of investment banking.

The big question now, Tierney said, is whether J.P. Morgan failed to assess credit risks properly at companies because it figured making loans was a sure path to bigger profit on other services.

However, Lemkau said the dollar amount of corporate loans on J.P. Morgan's books has declined for the last three years. "It's a misconception we're lending like a drunken sailor so we can get our hand on more profitable businesses," she said. "It's just not true."

No doubt reflecting the uncertainties facing all financial institutions after Sept. 11 and the Enron meltdown, the range of expert opinions about Morgan is astonishingly wide.

Some analysts, such as Michael Mayo at Prudential Financial, have slapped "sell" ratings on the bank while others, such as Diana P. Yates at A.G. Edwards & Sons Inc., rate it a "strong buy".

Yates characterized concerns over the insurers' allegations of collusion with Enron as "overdone". She also warned against judging J.P. Morgan by its admittedly atrocious last quarter.

"They're taking some hits, but they're a big company with a \$41-billion equity base. It's not like they're going out of business," she said.

ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD

By Kelly Patricia O'Meara, *Insight Magazine*, 02/08/02

Even though Enron employees and the company's accounting firm, Arthur Andersen, have destroyed mountains of documents, enough information remains in the ruins of the nation's largest corporate bankruptcy to provide a clear picture of what happened to wreck what once was the seventh-largest U.S. corporation.

Obfuscation, secrecy and accounting tricks appear to have catapulted the Houston-based trader of oil and gas to the top of the Fortune 100, only to be brought down by the same corporate chicanery. Meanwhile, Wall Street analysts and the federal government's top bean counters struggle to convince the nation that the Enron crash is an isolated case, not in the least reflective of how business is done in corporate America. But there are many in the world of high finance who aren't buying the official line and warn that Enron is just the first to fall from a shaky house of cards.

Many analysts believe that this problem is nowhere more evident than at the nation's bullion banks, and particularly at the House of Morgan (J.P. Morgan Chase). One of the world's leading banking institutions and a major international bullion bank, Morgan Chase has received heavy media attention in recent weeks both for its financial relationships with bankrupts Enron and Global Crossing Ltd. as well as the financial collapse of Argentina.

It is no secret that Morgan Chase was one of Enron's biggest lenders, reportedly losing at least \$600 million and, perhaps, billions. The banking giant's stock has gone south, and management has been called before its shareholders to explain substantial investments in highly speculative derivatives—hidden speculation of the sort that overheated and blew up on Enron.

In recent years Morgan Chase has invested much of its capital in derivatives, including gold and interest-rate derivatives, about which very little information is provided to shareholders. Among the information that has been made available, however, is that as of June 2000, J.P. Morgan reported nearly \$30 billion of gold derivatives and Chase Manhattan Corp., although merged with J.P. Morgan, still reported separately in 2000 that it had \$35 billion in gold derivatives. Analysts agree that the derivatives have exploded at this bank and that both positions are enormous relative to the capital of the bank and the size of the gold market.

It gets worse. J.P. Morgan's total derivatives position reportedly now stands at nearly \$29 trillion, or three times the U.S. annual gross domestic product.

Wall Street insiders speculate that if the gold market were to rise Morgan Chase could be in serious financial difficulty because of its "short positions" in gold. In other words, if the price of gold were to increase substantially, Morgan Chase and other bullion banks that are highly leveraged in gold would have trouble covering their liabilities. One financial analyst, who asked not to be identified, explained the situation this way: "Gold is borrowed by Morgan Chase from the Bank of England at 1 percent interest and then Morgan Chase sells the gold on the open market, then reinvests the proceeds into interest-bearing vehicles at maybe 6 percent. At some point, though, Morgan Chase must return the borrowed gold to the Bank of England, and if the price of gold were significantly to increase during any point in this process, it would make it prohibitive and potentially ruinous to repay the gold."

Bill Murphy, chairman of the Gold Anti-Trust Action Committee, a nonprofit organization that researches and studies what he calls the "gold cartel" (J.P. Morgan Chase, Deutsche Bank, Citigroup, Goldman Sachs, Bank for International Settlements (BIS), the U.S. Treasury and the Federal Reserve), and owner of www.LeMetropoleCafe.com, tells *Insight* that "Morgan Chase and other bullion banks are another Enron waiting to happen." Murphy says, "Enron occurred because the nature of their business

was obscured, there was no oversight and someone was cooking the books. Enron was deceiving everyone about their business operations—and the same thing is happening with the gold and bullion banks.”

According to Murphy, “The price of gold always has been a barometer used by many to determine the financial health of the United States. A steady gold price usually is associated by the public and economic analysts as an indication or a reflection of the stability of the financial system. Steady gold; steady dollar. Enron structured a financial system which put the company at risk and eventually took it down. The same structure now exists at Morgan Chase with their own interest-rate/gold-derivatives position. There is very little information available about its position in the gold market and, as with the case of Enron, it could easily bring them down.”

In December 2000, attorney Reginald H. Howe, a private investor and proprietor of the Website www.goldensexant.com, which reports on gold, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court in Boston. Named as defendants were J.P. Morgan & Co., Chase Manhattan Corp., Citigroup Inc., Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Deutsche Bank, Lawrence Summers (former secretary of the Treasury), William McDonough (president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York), Alan Greenspan (chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System) and the BIS.

Howe’s claim contends that the price of gold has been manipulated since 1994 “by conspiracy of public officials and major bullion banks, with three objectives: (1) to prevent rising gold prices from sounding a warning on U.S. inflation; (2) to prevent rising gold prices from signaling weakness in the international value of the dollar; and (3) to prevent banks and others who have funded themselves through borrowing gold at low interest rates and are thus short physical gold from suffering huge losses as a consequence of rising gold prices.”

While all the defendants flatly deny participation in such a scheme, Howe’s case is being heard. Howe tells *Insight* he has provided the court with very compelling evidence to support his claim, including sworn testimony by Greenspan before the House Banking Committee in July 1998. Greenspan assured the committee, “nor can private counterparties restrict supply of gold, another commodity whose derivatives are often traded over the counter, where central banks stand ready to lease gold in increasing quantities should the price rise.” Howe and other “gold bugs” cite this as a virtual public announcement “that the price of gold had been and would continue to be controlled if necessary”.

According to Howe, “There is a great deal of evidence, but this is a very complicated issue. The key, though, is the short position of the banks and their gold derivatives. The central banks have ‘leased’ gold for low returns to the bullion banks for the purpose of keeping the price of gold low. Greenspan’s remarks in 1998 explain how the price of gold has been suppressed at times when it looked like the price of gold was increasing.”

Furthermore, Howe’s complaint also cites remarks made privately by Edward George, governor of the Bank of England and a director of the BIS, to Nicholas J. Morrell, chief executive of Lonmin Plc: “We looked into the abyss if the gold price rose further. A further rise would have taken down one or several trading houses, which might have taken down all the rest in their wake. Therefore, at any price, at any cost, the central banks had to quell the gold price, manage it. It

was very difficult to get the gold price under control, but we have now succeeded. The U.S. Fed was very active in getting the gold price down. So was the U.K. [United Kingdom].”

Whether the Fed and others in the alleged “gold cartel” have conspired to suppress the price of gold may, in the end, be secondary to the growing need for financial transparency. Wall Street insiders agree that as long as regulators, analysts, accountants and politicians can be lobbied and “corrupted” to permit special privileges, there will be more Enron-size failures. Securities and Exchange Commission Chairman Harvey L. Pitt, well aware of the seriousness of these problems, recently testified before the House Financial Services Committee that “it is my hope there are not other Enrons out there, but I’m not willing to rely on hope”.

Robert Maltbie, chief executive officer of www.stockjock.com and an independent analyst, long has followed Morgan Chase. He tells *Insight* that “there are a lot of things going on in these companies, but we don’t know for sure because much of what they’re doing is off the balance sheet. The market is scared and crying out to see what’s under the hood. Like Enron, much of what the banks are doing is off the balance sheet, and it’s a time bomb ticking as we speak.”

Just what would happen if a bank the size of Morgan Chase were unable to meet its financial obligations? “It’s tough to go there,” Maltbie says, “because it could shake the financial markets to the core.”

ENRON AND AL-QAIDA’S SHARED LINK

By Lucy Komisar, *Pacific News Service*, 01/21/02

How did top executives of Enron do it? How did they cause the world’s biggest bankruptcy while making off with millions of dollars?

They used the same financial tools as Osama bin Laden.

To attack the Osama bin Laden financial network, the Bush administration knew right where to look—in “offshore” secrecy havens, including the Bahamas, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Dubai and Panama.

Investigators know that the world’s bank and corporate secrecy system was set up to move money for people with something to hide. Sometimes they are terrorists. Sometimes they are financial swindlers. They are welcomed in “offshore” centers that promise to keep ownership of companies and bank accounts secret, even from law enforcement.

To uncover the al-Qaida money trail, U.S. investigators had to use muscle. When a Nassau bank refused to open records, the U.S. had it cut off from the world’s wire transfer systems. The bank changed its mind in two hours.

Now, with Enron, U.S. investigators and the lawyers suing the firm’s executives are turning “offshore” again. Before they finish, their revelations should make lawmakers and the public question the continued existence of the world’s financial services system for criminals.

We know a lot about how Osama bin Laden used the system. Here is how Enron used it.

Andrew Fastow, the company’s chief financial officer until October 2001, was known as a master of international offshore banking laws. The key to the Enron swindle was the company’s 3,000 corporate subsidiaries and partnerships. A fourth of them were registered in Grand Cayman or Turks and Caicos, two notorious offshore centers.

Why put company ownership records in secrecy jurisdictions? So that regulatory authorities, investment analysts and stockholders won’t know about self-dealing or other improper activities. If authorities don’t know who the owners are, they can’t know if Enron managers or associates secretly own a partnership. They can’t check the books to see if the offshore company is dealing with another insider-owned company that is siphoning off its wealth. That’s how Russian oligarchs looted their country.

The offshore system was central to Enron’s collapse. Frank Karam, an attorney at Milberg Weiss Bershad Hynes and Lerach who is working on a suit against top Enron executives, explained that Enron used offshore partnerships “to borrow at least \$10 billion from banks. Enron guaranteed these loans with its own stock. They traded with themselves and reported the money as income—as revenue and profit.”

Two offshore partnerships were set up in 1999 simply to move debt off Enron’s balance sheet and hide losses, Karam said. And Enron moved its “profits” to offshore subsidiaries to avoid paying U.S. taxes in four of the last five years.

Enron officials also used the offshore system to hide their own exorbitant pay. “We hear of middle-level executives making \$10 or \$20 million,” Karam said. “If shareholders knew this...”

Records of Arthur Andersen’s contribution to this offshore system were very likely in the files the accounting firm shredded. “Aggressive accounting” is a common euphemism for using offshore companies to juggle the books and evade taxes. Accounting firms get consulting fees to set up such systems and then “audit” them.


The Clinton administration was working with European allies to rein in the offshore system, but was blocked in the Senate by Republican Phil Gramm, whose wife, Wendy, is an Enron director, and by Republican House leader Dick Armey.

At first, the Bush administration also fought reforms. Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill weakened an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) strategy against tax havens. But Sept. 11 compelled the Washington to change its tune somewhat. Legislation adopted in October, for example, bans American banks from opening accounts for “shell” banks with no physical presence and thus no clear purpose but money laundering. It requires banks, securities and insurance firms to verify the identities of customers.

But U.S. banks lobbied successfully against requiring additional “due diligence” rules for American banks dealing with offshore banks.

It’s time for another step forward. Congress should ban U.S. institutions from dealing with banks that don’t list owners’ real names on accounts or cooperate with international law enforcement. The OECD is developing proposals for dealing with shell companies. Washington should support an agreement to end recognition for companies registered in secrecy jurisdictions where they don’t do business.

Imagine if Enron subsidiaries had been forced to reveal who their owners were and to keep their books where they operated and where they could be examined. Imagine if U.S. law-enforcers could demand to see bank accounts of Enron “partnerships” and top officials, rather than tracking them through the murky swamp of offshore secrecy.

U.S. lawmakers and officials should work to plug up the offshore financial black hole. 

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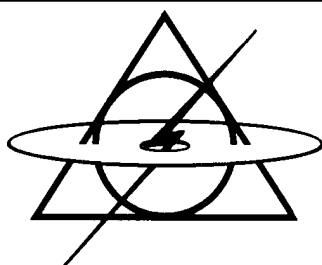
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FROM HATONN

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.

January 6, 2001