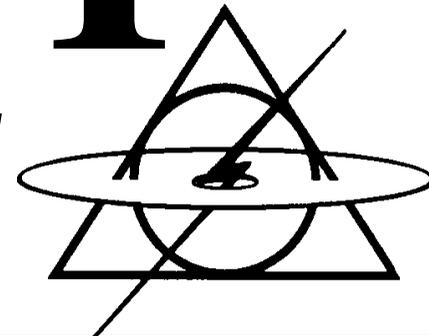


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Possible Considerations For The WAR On Iraq

THIS WAR IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY...

By Pepe Escobar, *Asia Times Online*, 03/20/03

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt—They've won. They got their war against Afghanistan (planned before September 11). They're getting their war against Iraq (planned slightly after September 11). After Iraq, they plan to get their wars against Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Saudi Arabia. Last Sunday, one of them, Vice President Dick Cheney, said that President George W. Bush would have to make "a very difficult decision" on Iraq. Not really. The decision had already been taken for him in the autumn of 2001.

As far as their "showdown Iraq" is concerned, it's not about "weapons of mass destruction", nor United Nations inspections, nor non-compliance, nor a virtual connection between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida, nor the liberation of the Iraqi people, nor a Middle East living in "democracy and liberty".

The American corporate media are not inclined to spell it out, and the absolute majority of American public

opinion is anesthetized non-stop by a barrage of technical, bureaucratic and totally peripheral aspects of the war against Iraq. For all the president's (sales)men, the whole game is about global preeminence, if not unilateral world domination—military, economic, political and cultural. This may be an early 21st-Century replay of the "White man's burden". Or this may be just megalomania. Either way, enshrined in a goal of the Bush administration, it cannot but frighten practically the whole world, from Asia to Africa, from "old Europe" to the conservative establishment within the U.S. itself.

During the Clinton years, they were an obscure bunch—almost a sect. Then they were all elevated to power—again: Most had worked for Ronald Reagan and Bush Senior. Now they have pushed America—and the world—to war because they want it. Period. An *Asia Times Online* investigation reveals this is no conspiracy theory: It's all about the implementation of a project.

The lexicon of the Bush doctrine of unilateral world domination is laid out in detail by the Project for a New American Century (PNAC), founded in Washington in 1997. The ideological, political, economic and military fundamentals of American

foreign policy—and uncontested world hegemony—for the 21st Century are there for all to see.

PNAC's credo is officially to muster "the resolve to shape a new century favorable to American principles and interests". PNAC states that the U.S. must be sure of "detering any potential competitors from even aspiring to a larger regional or global role"—without ever mentioning these competitors, the European Union, Russia or China, by name. The UN is predictably dismissed as "a forum for leftists, anti-Zionists and anti-imperialists". The UN is only as good as it supports American policy.

The PNAC mixes a peculiar brand of messianic internationalism with realpolitik founded over a stark analysis of American oil interests. Its key document, dated June 1997, reads like a manifesto. Horrified by the "debased" Bill Clinton, PNAC exponents lavishly praise "the essential elements of the Reagan administration's success: a military that is strong and ready to meet both present and future challenges; a foreign policy that boldly and purposefully promotes American principles abroad; and national leadership that

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accepts the United States' global responsibilities". These exponents include Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz, Richard Perle, chairman of the Defense Policy Board, an advisory panel to the Pentagon made up of leading figures in national security and defense, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and Reagan-era White House adviser Elliott Abrahms.

Already in 1997, the PNAC wanted to "increase defense spending significantly" to "challenge regimes hostile to our interests and values" and "to accept responsibility for America's unique role in preserving and extending an international order friendly to our security, our prosperity, and our principles". The deceptively bland language admitted, "Such a Reaganite policy of military strength and moral clarity may not be fashionable today. But it is necessary if the United States is to build on the successes of this past century and to ensure our security and our greatness in the next."

The signatories of this 1997 document read like a who's who of Washington power today: among them, in addition to those mentioned above, Eliot Cohen, Steve Forbes, Francis Fukuyama, Frank Gaffney, William Bennett, Donald Kagan, Zalmay Khalilzad, Lewis Libby, Norman Podhoretz and Dan Quayle.

The PNAC, now actively exercising power, is about to fulfill its dream of invading Iraq. In the PNAC's vision of Iraq, the only vector that matters is U.S. strategic interest. Nobody really cares about Saddam Hussein's "brutal dictatorship", nor his extensive catalogue of human-rights violations, nor "the suffering of the Iraqi people", nor his U.S.-supplied weapons of mass destruction, nor his alleged connection to terrorism.

Iraq counts only as the first strike in a high-tech replay of the domino theory: The next dominoes will be Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia. The idea is to carve up Syria; let Turkey invade northern Iraq; overthrow the Saudi royal family; restore the Hashemites to the Hijaz in Arabia. And dismember Iraq altogether and annex it to Jordan as a vassal kingdom to the U.S.: After all, Jordan's King Abdullah is a cousin of former Iraqi King Faisal, deposed in 1958. This would be one solution for the nagging question of who would have any legitimacy to be in power in Baghdad after Saddam.

Rumsfeld loves NATO, but he abhors the European Union. All PNAC members and most Pentagon civilians—but not the State Department—do: After all, they control NATO, not the EU. These things usually are not admitted in public. But Rumsfeld, the blunt Midwesterner, former fighter pilot and former servant of presidents Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, prefers John Wayne to Bismarck: Even Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, a staunch ally of Bush, complained out loud that diplomacy for Rumsfeld is an alien concept. Rumsfeld even has his own wacky axis of evil: Cuba, Libya and... Germany. If Rumsfeld barely manages to disguise his aversion for dovish Secretary of State Colin Powell's views, one imagines to what circle of hell he dispatches the pacifist couple of Jacques Chirac and Gerhard Schroeder.

Strange, no journalist has stood up and ask Rumsfeld, in one of those cozy Pentagon spinning sessions, how was his 90-minute session with Saddam in Baghdad in December 20, 1983. The fuzzy photo of Rumsfeld shaking hands with Saddam, observed by Iraqi vice-premier Tarik Aziz, is now a collector's item. Rumsfeld was sent by Reagan to mend relations between the U.S. and Iraq only one month after Reagan had adopted a secret directive—still partly classified—to help Saddam fight Iran's Islamic

Revolution that had begun in 1979. This close cooperation led to nothing else than Washington selling loads of military equipment and also chemical precursors, insecticides, aluminum tubes, missile components and anthrax to Saddam, who in turn used the lot to gas Iranian soldiers and then civilian Kurds in Halabja, northern Iraq, in 1988. The selling of these chemical weapons was organized by Rumsfeld.

Washington was perfectly aware at the time that Saddam was using chemical weapons. After the Halabja massacre, the Pentagon engaged in a massive disinformation campaign, spinning that the massacre was caused by Iran. Cheney, as Pentagon chief from March 1989 onwards, continued to cooperate very closely with Saddam. The military aid—secretly organized by Rumsfeld—also enabled Saddam to invade Kuwait on August 2, 1990. Between 1991 and 1998, UN weapons inspectors conclusively established that the U.S.—as well as British, German and French firms—had sold missile parts and chemical and bacteriological material to Iraq. So much for the moral high ground defended by America and Britain in the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction controversy.

September 2002's National Security Strategy (NSS) document simply delighted the members of the PNAC. No wonder: It reproduced almost verbatim a September 2000 report by the PNAC, which in turn was based on the now famous 1992 draft Defense Policy Guidance (DPG), written under the supervision of Wolfowitz for then-secretary of defense Cheney. Already in 1992, the three key DPG objectives were to prevent any "hostile power" from dominating regions whose resources would allow it to become a great power; to dissuade any industrialized country from any attempt to defy U.S. leadership; and to prevent the future emergence of any global competitor. That's the thrust of the NSS document, which calls for a unipolar world in which Washington's military power is unrivalled.

In this context, the invasion and occupation of Iraq is just the first installment in an extended practical demonstration of what will happen to "rogue" states alleged to have or not have weapons of mass destruction, alleged to have or not have links to terrorism, and alleged connections to anyone or anything that might challenge U.S. supremacy. The European Union, China and Russia beware: the Shock and Awe demonstration that is about to be unleashed on Iraq is pure theatrical militarism, a concept already analyzed by *Asia Times Online*.

It's no surprise that Bush, on February 26, chose to unveil his vision of a new Middle Eastern order at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), a right-wing Washington think tank. The PNAC's office is nowhere else than on the 5th floor of the AEI building on 17th St., in downtown Washington. The AEI is the key node of a collection of neoconservative foreign policy experts and scholars, the most influential of whom are members of the PNAC.

The AEI is intimately connected to the Likud Party in Israel—which for all practical purposes has a deep impact on American foreign policy in the Middle East, thanks to the AEI's influence. In this mutually-beneficial environment, AEI stalwarts are known as Likudniks. It's no surprise, then, how unparalleled is the AEI's intellectual Islamophobia. Loathing and contempt for Islam as a religion and as a way of life leads to members of the AEI routinely bashing Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. They also oppose any negotiations with North Korea—another policy wholly adopted by the Bush administration. For the AEI, China is the ultimate enemy: not a peer competitor, but a monster strategic

threat. The AEI is viscerally anti-State Department (read Colin Powell). Recently, it has also displayed its innate Francophobia. And to try to dispel the idea that it is just another bunch of grumpy dull men, the AEI has been deploying to the BBC and CNN talk shows its own female weapon of mass regurgitation, one Danielle Pletka. Lynn Cheney, vice president Dick's wife, a historian and essayist, is also an AEI senior fellow.

The AEI's former executive vice president is John Bolton, one of the Bush administration's key operatives as undersecretary of state for arms control and international security. Largely thanks to Bolton, the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty. Bolton has also opposed the establishment of the new International Criminal Court (ICC), recently inaugurated in The Hague. The AEI only treasures raw power as established under the terms of neoliberal globalization: the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and the World Trade Organization. Its nemesis is everything really multilateral: the ABM treaty, the ICC, the Kyoto Protocol, the treaty on anti-personal mines, the protocol on biological weapons, the treaty on the total ban of nuclear weapons, and most spectacularly, in these past few days, the UN Security Council.

The AEI's foreign policy agenda is presided over by none other than Richard Perle. As Perle is a longtime friend and advisor to Rumsfeld, he was rewarded with the post of chairman of the Pentagon's Defense Policy Board: Its 30-odd very influential members include former national security advisers, secretaries of defense and heads of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Perle is also a very close friend of Pentagon number two Wolfowitz, since they were students at the University of Chicago in the late 1960s. Perle now reports to Wolfowitz.

On September 20, 2001, Perle went on overdrive, fully mobilizing the Defense Policy Board to forge a link between Saddam and al-Qaida. The PNAC sent an open letter to Bush detailing how a war on terrorism should be conducted. The letter says that Saddam has to go "even if evidence does not link him to the attack". The letter lists other policies that later were implemented—like the gigantic increase of the defense budget and the total isolation of the Palestinian Authority (PA), as well as others that may soon follow, like striking Hezbollah in Lebanon and yet-to-be-formulated attacks against Iran and especially Syria if they do not stop support for Hezbollah.

The Bush administration strategy in the past few months of totally isolating the PA's Yasser Arafat and allowing Israeli premier Ariel Sharon to refuse as much as a handshake, was formulated by the PNAC. Another PNAC letter states that "Israel's fight is our fight ... for reasons both moral and strategic, we need to stand with Israel in its fight against terrorism". The PNAC detested the Camp David accords between Israel and the Palestinians. For the PNAC, a simmering, undeclared state of war against Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Iran is a matter of policy.

Perle, a former assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs under Reagan, is also a member of the board of the *Jerusalem Post*. He wrote a chapter—"Iraq: Saddam Unbound"—in *Present Dangers*, a PNAC book. He is very close to ultra-hawk Douglas Feith, who was his special counsel under Reagan and is now assistant secretary of defense for policy (one of the Pentagon's four most senior posts) and also a partner in a small Washington law firm that represents Israeli suppliers of munitions seeking deals with American weapons manufacturers. It was thanks to Perle—who personally defended his candidate to

Rumsfeld—that Feith got his current job. He was one of the key people responsible for strategic planning in the war against the Taliban and is also heavily involved in planning the war against Iraq.

David Wurmser, former head of Middle Eastern projects at the AEI, is now special assistant to PNAC founder John Bolton, the undersecretary of state for arms control and a fierce enemy of multilateralism. Wurmser wrote *Tyranny's Ally: America's failure to defeat Saddam Hussein*, a book published by the AEI. The foreword is by none other than Perle. Meyrav Wurmser, David's wife, is a co-founder of the Middle East Media Research Institute.

In July 1996, Perle, Feith and the Wurmser couple wrote the notorious paper for an Israeli think tank charting a roadmap for Likud superhawk and then-incoming Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin "Bibi" Netanyahu. The paper is called "A Clean Break: A New Strategy for Securing the Realm". Perle, Feith and the Wurmser tell Bibi that Israel must shelve the Oslo Accords, the so-called peace process, the concept of "land for peace", go for it and permanently annex the entire West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The paper also recommends that Israel must insist on the elimination of Saddam, and the restoration of the Hashemite monarchy in Baghdad. This would be the first domino to fall, and then regime change would follow in Syria, Lebanon, Iran and Saudi Arabia. This 1996 blueprint is nothing else than Ariel Sharon's current agenda in action. In November last year, Sharon took the liberty to slightly modify the domino sequence by growling on the record that Iran should be next after Iraq.

Bush's speech on February 26 at the AEI claimed that the real reason for a war against Iraq is "to bring democracy". Cheney has endlessly repeated that Iraqis—like Germany and Japan in 1945—will welcome American soldiers with wine and roses. For Bush, Iraq is begging to be educated in the principles of democracy: "It's presumptuous and insulting to suggest that a whole region of the world, or the one-fifth of humanity that is Muslim, is somehow untouched by the most basic aspirations of life." But this very presumption is seemingly central to the intellectual Islamophobia of both the AEI and PNAC.

The AEI and the PNAC shaped the now official Bush policy of introducing democracy—by bombing Iraq—and then "successfully transforming the lives of millions of people throughout the Middle East", in the words of AEI scholar Michael Ledeen. At his AEI speech, Bush did nothing else but parrot the idea. Many a voice couldn't resist to point out the splendid American record of encouraging native democracy around the world by supporting great freedom fighters such as the Shah of Iran, Sese Seko Mubutu in the Congo, Augusto Pinochet in Chile, Suharto in Indonesia, the Somozas in Nicaragua, Zia ul-Haq in Pakistan and an array of 1960s and 1970s Latin American dictators. Among newfound American allies, Turkmenistan is nothing less than totalitarian and Uzbekistan is ultra-authoritarian, and among "old" allies, Egypt and Saudi Arabia have absolutely nothing to do with democracy.

Chalmers Johnson is president of the Japan Policy Research Institute, based in California, and author of *Blowback: The Costs and Consequences of American Empire*. A war veteran turned scholar, he could never be accused of anti-Americanism. His new book about American militarism, *The Sorrows of Empire: How the Americans lost their Country*, will be published in late 2003. Some of its insights are informative in confirming the role of the PNAC in setting American foreign policy.

Johnson is just one among many who suspect that "after being out of power with Clinton and back to power with Bush... the neocons were waiting for a 'catastrophic and catalyzing' event—like a new Pearl Harbor" that would mobilize the public and allow them to put their theories and plans into practice. September 11 was, of course, precisely what they needed. National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice called together members of the National Security Council and asked them "to think about how do you capitalize on these opportunities to fundamentally change American doctrine, and the shape of the world, in the wake of September 11th". She said, "I really think this period is analogous to 1945 to 1947 when fear and paranoia led the U.S. into its Cold War with the USSR."

Johnson continues: "The Bush administration could not just go to war with Iraq without tying it in some way to the September 11 attacks. So it first launched an easy war against Afghanistan. There was at least a visible connection between Osama bin Laden and the Taliban regime, even though the United States contributed more to Osama's development as a terrorist than Afghanistan ever did. Meanwhile, the White House launched one of the most extraordinary propaganda campaigns of modern times to convince the American public that an attack on Saddam Hussein should be a part of America's 'war on terrorism'. This attempt to whip up war fever, in turn, elicited an outpouring of speculation around the world on what were the true motives that lay behind President Bush's obsession with Iraq."

The Iraq war is above all Paul Wolfowitz's war. It's his holy mission. His cue was September 11. Slightly after Rumsfeld, on September 15, 2001 at Camp David, Wolfowitz was already advocating an attack on Iraq. There are at least three versions of what happened that day. As a reporter, the *Washington Post's* Bob Woodward (remember Watergate) used to bring down presidents; now he's a mere presidential public relations officer. In his book *Bush at War* he writes that Bush told Wolfowitz to shut up and let the number 1 (Rumsfeld) talk. The second version, defended by the *New York Times*, says that Bush listened attentively to Wolfowitz. But a third version relayed by diplomats holds that in Bush's executive order on September 17 authorizing war on Afghanistan, there's already a paragraph giving free reign to the Pentagon to draw plans for a war against Iraq.

Former CIA director James Woolsey, a certified five-star hawk, is a great friend of Wolfowitz. Woolsey is also the author of what could be dubbed the "high noon" theory that defines nothing less than Bush's vision of the world. According to the theory, Bush is not a six-shooter: He is the leader of a posse.

That's how Bush described himself in a conversation last year with then-Czech president Vaclav Havel. As film fans well remember, Gary Cooper in *High Noon* plays a village marshal who tries by all means to convince his friends to assemble a posse to face the Saddam of the times (a lean and mean Lee Marvin) who is supposed to arrive on the noon train. In the end, Cooper has to face "Saddam" Marvin all by himself.

It's fair to argue that the Bush administration today is enacting a larger-than-life replay of a high noon. The posse is the "coalition of the willing". The logic of the posse is crystal clear. The U.S. first defines a strategic objective (for example, regime change in Iraq). They propagate their steely determination to achieve this objective (an awesome worldwide propaganda and disinformation campaign combined with a major military

deployment). And finally they assemble a posse to help them: the coalition of the willing, or "coalition of the bribed and bludgeoned", as it was dubbed by democrats in Europe and the U.S. itself. A devastating report by the Institute for Policy Studies in Washington has detailed a "coalition of the coerced". Whatever its name, those who do not join the coalition (the absolute majority of UN member-states, as well as world public opinion) remain, as Bush says, "irrelevant".

With missionary fervor, Wolfowitz has been pursuing his Iraqi dream step by step. In late 2001, James Woolsey roamed all over Europe trying to find a connection between Saddam and al-Qaida. He couldn't find anything. But then in January 2002, Iraq was formally inducted in the "axis of evil" along with Iran and North Korea. Rumsfeld went on overdrive: He said that Saddam supported "terrorists" (in fact suicide martyrs in Palestine, who have nothing to do with al-Qaida). He said that Saddam promised U.S.\$25,000 to each of their families. The neocons embarked on a media blitzkrieg, and Wolfowitz's mission finally hit center stage.

During the Cold War in the 1970s, Wolfowitz learned the ropes laboring on nuclear treaties, the endless talks with the Soviets on nuclear armament limitations. At the time he also started a career for one of his better students, Lewis Libby—who today is Cheney's chief of staff. For three decades Wolfowitz has been involved in strategic thinking, military organization and political and diplomatic moves. Even former Jimmy Carter national security adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski, the author of *The Grand Chessboard*—or the roadmap for U.S. domination over Eurasia—allegedly allows Wolfowitz to figure alongside Henry Kissinger, McGeorge Bundy or Zbig himself: that select elite of academics who managed to cross over to high office and radiate intellectual authority and almost unlimited power by osmosis because of close contact with an American president.

Wolfowitz routinely talks about "freedom and democracy"—with no contextualization. His renditions always sound like a romantic ideal. But there's nothing romantic about him. During the first Gulf War, Wolfowitz was an undersecretary at the Pentagon formulating policy. Cheney was the Pentagon chief. It was Wolfowitz who prepared Desert Storm—and also got the money. The bill was roughly \$90 billion, 80 percent of it paid by the allies: a cool deal. It was Wolfowitz who convinced Israel not to enter the war even after the country was hit by Iraqi Scuds, so the key Arab partners of the 33-nation coalition would not run away.

But Saddam always remained his nemesis. When Bush senior lost his re-election, Wolfowitz became dean of the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore. Later, he was fully convinced that Iraq was behind the first attack against the World Trade Center in 1993.

Wolfowitz and Perle, though close, are not the same thing. Perle is virtually indistinguishable from the hardcore policies of the Likud Party in Israel. Perle thinks that the only possible way out for the U.S.—not the West, because he despises Europe as a political player—is a multi-faceted, long-term, vicious confrontation against the Arab and Muslim world. Wolfowitz is more sophisticated: He has already served as American ambassador to Indonesia. He definitely does not subscribe to the fallacious Samuel Huntington theory of a clash of civilizations. Wolfowitz even believes in an independent Palestine—something that for Perle is beyond anathema.

Wolfowitz, born in 1943 in New York, is the son of a Polish mathematician whose whole family died in Nazi concentration camps. It was Allan Bloom, the brilliant author of *The Closing of the American Mind* and professor at the University of Chicago, deceased in 1992, who steered Wolfowitz towards political science. Wolfowitz had the honor of being **cloned** by Saul Bellow in the novel *Ravelstein*: The Wolfowitz character shows up under a fictional name in the same role he occupied in 1991 at the Pentagon. Messianic, and a big fan of Abraham Lincoln, Wolfowitz is a walking contradiction: His fierce unilateralism is based on his faith in the universality of American values.

Wolfowitz and his protégé's are hardcore "Straussians"—after Leo Strauss, a Jewish intellectual who managed to escape the Nazis, died in 1999 as a 100-year-old and was totally anti-modern: For him, modernity was responsible for Nazism and Stalinism. Strauss was a lover of the classics—most of all Plato and Aristotle. His most notorious disciples were Chicago's Allan Bloom and also Harvey Mansfield—who translated both Machiavelli and Tocqueville and was the father of all things politically correct in Harvard.

Strauss believed in natural right and in an immutable measure of what is just and what is unjust. Thus the Wolfowitz credo that a vague "democracy and freedom" is a one-size-fits-all panacea to be served everywhere, even by force. Plenty of neo-hawks followed Bloom's courses at the University of Chicago: Wolfowitz of course, but also Francis Fukuyama of "end of history" fame, and John Podhoretz, who reigns over the editorial pages of the ultra-reactionary Rupert Murdoch-owned tabloid the *New York Post*. As to Mansfield, his most notorious student was probably William Kristol, the editor of the also Rupert Murdoch-financed magazine *Weekly Standard*. In Kristol's own formulation, all these Straussians are morally conservative, religiously inclined, anti-Utopian, anti-modern and skeptical towards the left but also towards the reactionary right.

Ronald Reagan, because of his "moral clarity" and his "virtue", is their supreme icon—not the devious realpolitik couple of Richard Nixon and Kissinger. This conceptual choice is absolutely essential to understand where the neocons are coming from. Take the crucial expression "regime change": There's nothing casual about it. Strauss used to say that "classic political philosophy was guided by the question of the best regime". Here Strauss was talking specifically about Aristotle and his notion of *politeia*. The "regime"—or *politeia*—designates not only government, but also institutions, education, morals and "the spirit of law". In the mind of these Straussians, to topple Saddam is a mere footnote. "Regime change" in Iraq means to implant a Western Utopia in the heart of the Middle East: a Western-built *politeia*. Many would argue this is no more than a replay of Rudyard Kipling's "White man's burden".

Perle, also a New Yorker, is much, much rougher than Wolfowitz. No Aristotle for him. A dull man with a psychopath gaze, he recently accused *New Yorker* reporter Seymour Hersh of being "a terrorist"—because Hersh, in a splendid piece, unveiled how Perle set up a company that will profit immensely from war in the Middle East. Perle has repeatedly declared on the record that the U.S. is prepared to attack Syria, Lebanon and Iran—all "enemies of Israel". One of his most notorious recent stunts was when he invited an obscure French scholar to the Defense Policy Board to bash the Saudi royal family. He casually noted that if the invasion of Iraq brings down another couple of "friendly"

Arab regimes, it's no big deal. At a recent seminar organized by a New York-based public relations firm and attended by Iraqi exiles and American Middle East and security officials, Perle proclaimed that France was no longer an ally of the U.S.; and that NATO "must develop a strategy to contain our erstwhile ally or we will not be talking about a NATO alliance". This hawk, though, is no fool, and loves *la vie en rose*: Richard Perle spends his holidays in his own house in the south of France.

If you are a Pentagon senior civilian adviser, saying all those things out loud, they pack a tremendous punch in Washington: It's practically official. As official as Perle musing out loud whether the U.S. should "subordinate vital national interests to a show of hands by nations who do not share our interests" by seeking the endorsement of the UN Security Council on a major issue of policy (that's exactly what happened on Monday). Perle has been saying all along that "Iraq is going to be liberated, by the United States and whoever wants to join us, whether we get the approbation of the UN or any other institution". And Bush repeated these words almost verbatim. As for the tremendous unpopularity of the U.S., "it's a real problem and it undoubtedly diminishes our ability to do the things that we think are important. I think that's bad for the world because if the United States, as the leader it has always been, has its authority and standing diminished, that can't be good for the Swiss or the Italians or the Germans. But I don't know how you deal with that problem ..."

Perle and Wolfowitz may shape policy, but that would not enhance their mundane status among the political chattering classes if they didn't have a bulldog to disseminate their clout in the media. That's where William Kristol, the chairman of the Project for a New American Century and the director of the magazine *Weekly Standard* comes in. Kristol's co-chairman at the PNAC is Robert Kagan, former deputy for policy in the State Department in the bureau for Inter-American affairs. Kagan is the author of *Of Paradise and Power: America vs. Europe in the New World Order*—where, according to a fallacious formula, Europeans living in a kind of peaceful, Utopian paradise will be forced to stomach unbridled American power. Robert is the son of Donald Kagan, ultra-conservative Yale professor and eminent historian. Kagan junior is a major apostle of nation-building, as in "the reconstruction of the Japanese politics and society to America's image". He cheerleads the fact that 60 years later there are still American troops in Japan. The same, according to him, should happen in Iraq. Any strategist would remind Kagan that in Japan in 1945 the emperor himself ordered the population to obey the Americans and in Germany the war devastation was so complete that the Germans had no other alternative.

William is the son of Irving Kristol and Gertrud Himmelfarb, classic New York Jewish intellectuals and ironically former Trotskyite who then made a sharp turn to the extreme right. Former Trotskyites have a tendency to believe that history will vindicate them in the end. Irving, at 82 a former neo-Marxist, neo-Trotskyite, neo-socialist and neo-liberal, today is officially a neoconservative and one of the AEI's stalwarts.

Kristol junior reportedly likes philosophy, opera, thrillers and is fond of—who else—Aristotle and Machiavelli, who not by accident were eminences behind the prince. Instead of rebelling against his parents, he sulked in his bedroom rebelling against his own generation—the anti-war, peace-and-love, Bob Dylan-addicted 1960s baby boomers.

Although admitting that Vietnam was a big mistake, William did not volunteer to go to war, a fact that qualifies him as the archetypal "chicken hawk"—armchair warmongers who know nothing about the horrors of war. William wants to erect conservatism to the level of an ideology of government. His great heroes include Reagan—for, what else, his "candor" and "moral clarity". A naked imperialist? No, he's not as crass as Rumsfeld: He prefers to be characterized as a partisan of "liberal imperialism".

As media hawk-in-chief, William is just following up daddy's work: Irving Kristol was the ultimate portable think tank of Reaganism. Today, Kristol junior is convinced that the Middle East is an irredeemable source of anti-Americanism, terrorism, weapons of mass destruction and an assorted basket of evils. Kristol of course is a very good friend of Wolfowitz, Kagan and former ex-CIA chief James Woolsey, who not by accident heaps lavish praise on *The War over Iraq: Saddam's tyranny and America's mission*, a book by Lawrence Kaplan and... William Kristol. Woolsey loves how the book goes against the "narrow realists" around Bush senior and the "wishful liberals" around Bill Clinton.

Under Bush senior, William Kristol was Dan Quayle's chief of staff. Under Clinton, he was in the wilderness until he finally managed to launch the *Weekly Standard*. Who financed it? None other than Rupert Murdoch, whose tabloidish *Fox News* is widely known as Bush TV. The *Weekly Standard* loses money in direct proportion to the expansion of its influence. It remains invaluable as the voice of "Hawk Central".

Hawks, or at least some neoconservatives, seem to understand the importance of a lighter touch as a key public relations strategy. That's where David Brooks comes in. Brooks, former University of Chicago, former *Wall Street Journal* and now a big fish at the *Weekly Standard*, was the one who came up with the concept of "bobos"—bourgeois bohemians, or "caviar left" as they are known in Latin countries. "Bobos", accuse the neocons, do absolutely nothing to change a social order that they seem to fight but from which they profit. Bobo-bashing is one of the neocon's ideological strategies to dismiss their critics out of hand.

In his conference at the World Social Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in January, Noam Chomsky demystified the mechanism through which these people, "most of them recycled from the Reagan administration", are implementing their agenda: "They are replaying a familiar script: drive the country into deficit so as to be able to undermine social programs, declare a 'war on terror' (as they did in 1981) and conjure up one devil after another to frighten the population into obedience. In the 1980s it was Libyan hit men prowling the streets of Washington to assassinate our leader, then the Nicaraguan army only two days march from Texas, a threat to survival so severe that Reagan had to declare a national emergency. Or an airfield in Grenada that the Russians were going to use to bomb us (if they could find it on a map); Arab terrorists seeking to kill Americans everywhere while Gaddafi plans to 'expel America from the world', so Reagan wailed. Or Hispanic narco-traffickers seeking to destroy our youth; and on, and on."

For both the AEI and the PNAC, the Middle East is a land without people, and oil without land—and this is something anyone will confirm in the streets or power corridors in Cairo, Amman, Beirut, Ramallah, Damascus or Baghdad. The image fits the AEI and PNAC's acute and indiscriminate loathing and contempt for Arabs. The implementation of the AEI's and the PNAC's policies has led to the transformation of Ariel Sharon into a

“man of peace”—Bush’s own words at the White House—and the semi-fascist Likud Party becoming the undisputed number one ally of American civilization. The occupied Palestinian territories—see never-complied, forever-spurned UN resolution 242 plus dozens of others—became “the so-called occupied territories” (in Rumsfeld’s own words). Jewish moderates, inside and outside Israel, are extremely alarmed.

One of the key excuses for the Iraq war sold by Washington was the elimination of the roots of terrorism by striking terrorists and the “axis of evil” that supports them. This is a total flaw. The excuse is undermined by the U.S. themselves. Not even Washington believes war is the way to fight terrorism, otherwise the Bush administration would not have adopted the AEI and PNAC agenda of promoting “democracy and liberty” in the Arab world. But neither the Arabs nor anyone else is convinced that the U.S. is committed to real democracy or to the “territorial integrity of Iraq” when key members of the administration, like Perle, signed “Clean Break” in 1996 advising Benjamin Netanyahu that Iraq and any other country which tried to defy Israel should be smashed. The message by the PNAC people to Netanyahu in 1996 and to Bush since 2001 has been the same: International law is against our interests; we fix our own objectives; we go for it and the rest will follow—or not. Even Zbig Brzezinski has recognized the American corporate press—unlike the European press—has not uttered a single word about the total similarity of the agendas. But concerned Americans have already realized the superpower has no attention span, no patience, no tact—and many would say no historical credibility—to engage in nation-building in the Middle East.

There’s not much democracy on the cards either. Iraqis and the whole Arab nation view as an unredeemable insult and injury the official American plan to enforce a de facto military occupation. Iraq is already carved up on paper into three sections (just like the British did in the 1920s). Two retired generals—including Arabic-speaking, Lebanese-origin John Abizaid—and a former ambassador to Yemen—will control the three interim “civil” administrations. Abizaid studied the history of the Middle East at Harvard—and this is as far as his democratic credentials go. Everything in Iraq will be under overseer supremo Jay Garner, a retired general very close to Ariel Sharon and until a few months ago the CEO of a weapons firm specialized in missile guidance systems. Iraqis, Palestinians and Arabs as a whole are stunned: Not only has the U.S. flaunted international legitimacy in its push to war, it will also install an Israeli proxy as governor of Iraq and will keep pretending to finally be committed to respect the never-complied dozens of UN resolutions concerning Palestine.

As much as Israel is widely regarded by most 1.3 billion Muslims as the de facto 51st American state [MM: **Wouldn’t it be more accurate to describe the 51 Israeli states?**], many responsible Americans denounce the Iraq war as Sharon’s war. Washington’s Likudniks—the AEI and PNAC people—allied with evangelical Christians—are running U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East. Since autumn 2002, they have managed to convince Bush to increase the tempo—with no consultation to Congress or to American public opinion—betting on a point-of-no-return scenario in Iraq. Meanwhile, Sharon, in a relentless campaign, managed to convince Bush that war on Palestine was equal to war against terrorism. But he went one step beyond: He convinced Bush that the Palestinian Intifada, al-Qaida and Saddam are all cats in the same bag, plotting a

concerted three-pronged offensive to destroy Judeo-Christian civilization. Thus the subsequent, overwhelming Bush administration campaign to try to convince public opinion that Saddam is an ally of bin Laden. Few fell into the trap. But European strategists got the drift: They are already working with the hypothesis that the geopolitical axis in the Middle East is about to switch from Cairo-Riyadh-Tehran to Tel Aviv-Ankara-Baghdad (post-Saddam).

In a recent hearing of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, undersecretary of state for political affairs Mark Grossman and undersecretary of defense for policy Douglas Feith talked for four hours and through 86 pages, apparently detailing how the U.S. will rebuild Iraq after liberation through massive bombing. Feith has been on record saying that this war of course “is not about oil”, while stating a few sentences later that “the U.S. will be the new OPEC”. A source confirms that it was clear at the Senate hearing both Feith and Grossman had absolutely no idea what the Arab world is all about. Senators asked how much the war would cost (Yale economist William Nordhaus said the occupation may cost between \$17 billion and \$45 billion a year): Nobody had an answer. Feith and Grossman said it was “unknowable”. Rumsfeld is also a major exponent of the “not knowable” school. The cost of war for American taxpayers—some estimates go as high as \$200 billion—is “not knowable”. The size of the occupation force—some estimates range as high as 400,000 troops—is “not knowable”. The duration of the occupation—former NATO supreme commander Wesley Clark has mentioned no less than eight years—is “not knowable”.

Arabs, Asians, Europeans—and a few Americans—warn of blowback: The whole Middle East may explode in a violent, vicious anti-imperialist struggle. As this correspondent has been hearing for months from Pakistan to Egypt and from Indonesia to the Gulf, “dozens of bin Ladens” are bound to emerge. The strategy advocated by the evangelic apostles of armed democratization—overwhelming military force, unilateral preemption, overthrow of governments, seizure of oil fields, recolonization, protectorates—is being roundly condemned by the same educated Arab elites which would be the natural leaders of a push for democratization. Many question not Washington’s objective, but the method: They simply cannot stomach the “imperial liberalism” version marketed by the hawks. The current absolute mess in Afghanistan is further demonstration that “democratization” via an American proconsul is doomed to failure. Moreover, 16 eminent British academic lawyers have certified the Bush doctrine of preemptive self-defense is illegal under international law.

Even a tragically surreal, zombie regime like North Korea’s has retained one essential lesson from this whole crisis: If you don’t want regime change, you’d better maximize your silence, speed and cunning to build your own arsenal of WMDs. Muslims for their part have understood that the unlikely Franco-German-Russian axis of peace was and still is trying to prevent what both al-Qaida and American fundamentalists want: a war of civilizations and a war of religion. And the world public opinion’s insight is that Washington may win the war without the UN—but it will lose peace by shooting the UN down. As a diplomat in Brussels put it, “The world has voted in unison: It does not want to be reordered by a posse in Washington.”

The men in the AEI and the PNAC galaxy may be accused of intolerance, arrogance of power, undisguised fascist tendencies, ignorance of history and cultural

parochialism—in various degrees. This is all open to debate. They may be “chicken hawks” like Kristol junior or attack dogs like Rumsfeld. But most of all what baffles educated publics across the world—especially the overwhelming majority of public opinion in Germany, France, the UK, Italy and Spain—is the current non-separation of Church and State in the U.S.

George W. Bush is not ideologically a neoconservative. But he is certainly a man with a notorious lack of intellectual curiosity. Backed by his core American constituency of 60- to 70-million Bible-believing Christians, born-again Bush is setting out to do God’s will on a crusade to Babylon to “fight evil”—personified by Saddam. Martin Amis, Britain’s top contemporary novelist, argues that Bush, being intellectually null, had no other option than to adopt God as his foreign policy mentor. Amis wrote in the *Observer* that “Bush is more religious than Saddam: Of the two presidents, he is, in this respect, the more psychologically primitive. We hear about the successful ‘Texanization’ of the Republican Party. And doesn’t Texas seem to resemble a country like Saudi Arabia, with its great heat, its oil wealth, its brimming houses of worship, and its weekly executions.” For former weapons inspector Scott Ritter, Bush is “a fundamentalist who does not respect international law. The United States is becoming a crusader state.” For the absolute majority of 1.3 billion Muslims, a sinister crusader it is.

The endgame will reveal itself to be a cheap family farce: The Bush family delivers an ultimatum to the Hussein family. What Gore Vidal describes as “the Bush-Cheney junta” has won: Cheney, Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Perle, the AEI and PNAC stalwarts. Paul Wolfowitz, above all, has won his own personal crusade. Colin Powell has lost it all. It does not matter that the State Department’s classified report, “Iraq, the Middle East and change: no dominoes” was unveiled by the *Los Angeles Times*. Wolfowitz and Perle will play with their dominoes. By predictable mechanisms of power as old as mankind itself (and incidentally very common in the former USSR) it was Powell—the adversary of the new doctrine of preemption—who was charged to defend it in the face of the world. Sources in New York confirm he was told to get in line: His discourse, his body language, his whole demeanor changed. Seasoned American diplomats are appalled by the devastating political and diplomatic failure of the Bush administration. They know that by deciding to go to war unilaterally—and leaving the international system in shambles—the U.S. has squandered its biggest capital: its international legitimacy. And to make matters worse, there was absolutely no debate—in the Senate, or in the public opinion arena—about it.

Americans still have to wake up to the fact of how startlingly isolated they are in the world. The world, for its part, will keep deploying its weapons of mass democracy. There can be no “international community” as long as the popular perception lingers in so many parts of the world of a clash between the West and Islam. Always ready to recognize and love the best America has to offer, hundreds of millions of people would rather try to save it from the fatal unilateralism distilled by the American fundamentalists of the PNAC and the AEI. Everyone in Baghdad, the former great capital of Islam at its apex, is fond of saying how it has survived the Mongols, the barbarians at the gate. The evangelic apostles of armed democratization cannot even imagine the fury a new breed of barbarians may unleash at the gate of the new American century.— http://atimes.com/atimes/Middle_East/EC20Ak07.html

BATTLE OF THE CURRENCIES: **THE REAL REASONS** **FOR THE WAR ON IRAQ**

By W. Clark, *Guardian*—UK, 02/26/03

Despite over 300 unfettered UN inspections to date, there has been no evidence reported of a reconstituted Iraqi WMD program and despite Bush's rhetoric, the CIA has not found any links between Saddam Hussein and al-Qaida.

Although completely suppressed in the U.S. media, the answer to the Iraq enigma is simple yet shocking. The upcoming war in Iraq is mostly about how the U.S. ruling class and the Bush oligarchy view hydrocarbons at the geo-strategic level, and the overarching macroeconomic threats to the U.S. dollar from the euro.

The Real Reason for this upcoming war is this administration's goal of preventing further OPEC momentum towards the euro as an oil transaction currency standard. In order to pre-empt OPEC they need to gain geo-strategic control of Iraq along with its second largest proven oil reserves.

The following is how an astute and anonymous friend alluded to the unspoken truth about this upcoming war with Iraq...

"The Federal Reserve's greatest nightmare is that OPEC will switch its international transactions from a dollar standard to a euro standard. Iraq actually made this switch in Nov. 2000 (when the euro was worth around 80 cents), and has actually made off like a bandit considering the dollar's steady depreciation against the euro.

"Saddam sealed his fate when he decided to switch to the euro in late 2000 (and later converted his \$10 billion reserve fund at the UN to euros)—at that point, another manufactured Gulf War become inevitable under Bush II."

The steady depreciation of the dollar versus the euro since late 2001 means that Iraq has profited handsomely from the switch in their reserve and transaction currencies.

The euro has gained roughly 17 percent against the dollar in that time, which also applies to the \$10 billion in Iraq's UN "oil for food" reserve fund that was previously held in dollars has also gained that same percent value since the switch.

PERMANENT MILITARY PRESENCE

"The real reason the Bush administration wants a puppet government in Iraq, or more importantly, the reason why the corporate-military-industrial network conglomerate wants a puppet government in Iraq, is so that it will revert back to a dollar standard and stay that way." (It hopes to veto any wider OPEC momentum towards the euro, especially from Iran—the second largest OPEC producer who is actively discussing a switch to euros for its oil exports.)

Furthermore, despite Saudi Arabia being our "client state", the Saudi regime appears increasingly weak/threatened from massive civil unrest. Some analysts believe a "Saudi Revolution" might be plausible in the aftermath of an unpopular U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Undoubtedly, the Bush administration is acutely aware of these risks. Hence, the neo-conservative framework entails a large and permanent military presence in the Persian Gulf region in a post-Saddam era, just in case we need to surround and grab Saudi's oil fields in the event of a coup by an anti-Western group.

Everything else aside from the reserve currency and the Saudi/Iran oil issues is peripheral and of marginal consequence to this administration.

Further, the dollar-euro threat is powerful enough that they'll rather risk much of the economic backlash in the short-term to stave off the long-term dollar crash of an OPEC transaction standard change from dollars to euros.

All of this fits into the broader Great Game that encompasses Russia, India and China.

What would happen if OPEC made a sudden switch to euros, as opposed to a gradual transition?

"The effect of an OPEC switch to the euro would be that oil-consuming nations would have to flush dollars out of their (central bank) reserve funds and replace these with euros.

"The dollar would crash anywhere from 20-40% in value and the consequences would be those one could expect from any currency collapse and massive inflation (think Argentina currency crisis, for example).

"You'd have foreign funds stream out of the U.S. stock markets and dollar-denominated assets; there'd surely be a run on the banks much like the 1930s; the current account deficit would become unserviceable; the budget deficit would go into default, and so on. Your basic Third World economic crisis scenario." (Radio Free Europe/RL correspondent Charles Recknagel)

In the aftermath of toppling Saddam it is clear the U.S. will keep a large and permanent military force in the Persian Gulf. Indeed, there is no "exit strategy" in Iraq, as the military will be needed to protect the newly installed Iraqi regime—and perhaps send a message to other OPEC producers that they might receive "regime change" if they too move to euros for their oil exports.

"AXIS OF EVIL"

Another under-reported story from this summer regarding the other OPEC "Axis of Evil" country and their interest in selling oil in euros is Iran.

"Iran's proposal to receive payments for crude oil sales to Europe in euros instead of U.S. dollars is based primarily on economics, Iranian and industry sources said. But politics are still likely to be a factor in any decision, they said, as Iran uses the opportunity to hit back at the U.S. government, which recently labeled it part of an 'axis of evil.'" (Gutman, Roy & Barry, John, *Beyond Baghdad: Expanding Targeting List*)

Moreover and perhaps most telling, during 2002 the majority of reserve funds in Iran's central bank have been shifted to euros. It appears imminent that Iran intends to switch to euros for their oil currency.

After toppling Saddam, this administration may decide that Iran is the next target in the "war on terror".

"While still wrangling over how to overthrow Iraq's Saddam Hussein, the Bush administration is already looking for other targets. As one senior British official put it: 'Everyone wants to go to Baghdad. Real men want to go to Tehran'."

Aside from these political risks regarding Saudi Arabia and Iran, another risk factor is actually Japan. Perhaps the biggest gamble in a protracted Iraq war may be Japan's weak economy.

If the war creates prolonged high oil prices (\$45 per barrel over several months), or a short but massive oil price spike (\$80 to \$100 per barrel), some analysts believe Japan's fragile economy would collapse.

Japan is quite hypersensitive to oil prices, and if its banks default, the collapse of the second largest economy would set in motion a sequence of events that would prove devastating to the U.S. economy.

Indeed, Japan's fall in an Iraq war could create the economic dislocations that begin in the Pacific Rim but quickly spread to Europe and Russia. The Russian government lacks the controls to thwart a disorderly run on the dollar, and such an event could ultimately force an OPEC switch to euros.

Incidentally, the final "Axis of Evil" country, North Korea, recently decided to officially drop the dollar and begin using euros for trade, effective December 7, 2002. Unlike the OPEC-producers, their switch will have negligible economic impact, but it illustrates the geopolitical fallout of President Bush's harsh rhetoric.

Even more alarming, and completely unreported in the U.S. media, are some monetary shifts in the reserve funds of foreign governments away from the dollar with movements towards the euro (China, Venezuela, some OPEC producers and last week Russia flushed some of their dollars for euros).

It appears that the world community may lack faith in the Bush administration's economic policies, and along with OPEC, seems poised to respond with economic retribution if the U.S. government is regarded as an uncontrollable and dangerous superpower. The plausibility of abandoning the dollar standard for the euro is growing.

An interesting UK article outlines the dynamics and the potential outcomes: Henderson, Hazel, *Beyond Bush's Unilateralism: Another Bi-Polar World or A New Era of Win-Win?*

"The most likely end to U.S. hegemony may come about through a combination of high oil prices (brought about by U.S. foreign policies toward the Middle East) and deeper devaluation of the U.S. dollar (expected by many economists)."

As for the events currently taking place in Venezuela the Bush administration quickly endorsed the failed military-led coup of Hugo Chavez in April 2002. Although the coup collapsed after two days, various reports suggest the CIA and a rather embarrassed Bush administration approved and may have been actively involved with the civilian/military coup plotters.

"George W. Bush's administration was the failed coup's primary loser, underscoring its bankrupt hemispheric policy."

Interestingly, according to an article by Michael Ruppert, Venezuela's ambassador Francisco Mieres-Lopez apparently floated the idea of switching to the euro as their oil currency standard approximately one year before the failed coup attempt.

Venezuela is the fourth largest producer of oil.

Furthermore, the establishment might be concerned that Chavez's "barter deals" with 12 Latin American countries and Cuba are effectively cutting the U.S. dollar out of the vital oil transaction currency cycle.

Commodities are being traded among these countries in exchange for Venezuela's oil, thereby reducing reliance on fiat dollars. If these unique oil transactions proliferate, they could create more devaluation pressure on the dollar. Continuing attempts by the CIA to remove Hugo Chavez appear likely.

"World trade is now a game in which the U.S. produces dollars and the rest of the world produces things that dollars can buy. The world's interlinked economies no longer trade to capture a comparative advantage; they compete in exports to capture needed dollars to service dollar-denominated foreign debts and to accumulate dollar reserves to sustain the exchange value of their domestic currencies.

DOLLAR HEGEMONY

"This phenomenon is known as dollar hegemony, which is created by the geopolitically constructed peculiarity that critical commodities, most notably oil, are denominated in dollars. Everyone accepts dollars because dollars can buy oil. The recycling of petrodollars is the price the U.S. has extracted from oil-producing countries for U.S. tolerance of the oil-exporting cartel since 1973." (Liu, Henry C. K., "U.S. dollar hegemony has got to go", *Asia Times*, 11-04-02)

However, the introduction of the euro is a significant new factor—and appears to be the primary threat to U.S. economic hegemony.

Moreover, in December 2002 ten additional countries were approved for full membership into the EU. In 2004 this will result in an aggregate GDP of \$9.6 trillion and 450 million people, directly competing with the U.S. economy (\$10.5 trillion GDP, 280 million people).

Especially interesting is a speech given by Mr. Javad Yarjani, the Head of OPEC's Petroleum Market Analysis Department, in a visit to Spain (April 2002). He said: "The Euro-zone has a bigger share of global trade than the U.S. and while the U.S. has a huge current account deficit, the euro area has a more, or balanced, external accounts position.

"From the EU's point of view, it is clear that Europe would prefer to see payments for oil shift from the dollar to the euro, which effectively removed the currency risk. It would also increase demand for the euro and thus help raise its value.

"Moreover, since oil is such an important commodity in global trade, in terms of value, if pricing were to shift to the euro, it could provide a boost to the global acceptability of the single currency.

"Should the euro challenge the dollar in strength, which essentially could include it in the denomination of the oil bill, it could be that a system may emerge which benefits more countries in the long-term. Perhaps with increased European integration and a strong European economy, this may become a reality."

Facing these potentialities, I hypothesize that President Bush intends to topple Saddam in 2003 in a pre-emptive attempt to initiate massive Iraqi oil production far in excess of OPEC quotas, to reduce global oil prices, and thereby dismantle OPEC's price controls.

The end-goal of the neo-conservatives is incredibly bold yet simple in purpose, to use the "war on terror" as the premise to finally dissolve OPEC's decision-making process, thus ultimately preventing the cartel's inevitable switch to pricing oil in euros.

How would the Bush administration break up the OPEC cartel's price controls in a post-Saddam Iraq?

First, the newly installed regime (apparently a U.S. General for the first several months) will convert Iraq back to the dollar standard.

Next, with the U.S. military protecting the oil fields, the Bush junta will undertake the necessary steps to rapidly increase production of Iraq oil, quintupling Iraq's current output—well beyond OPEC's two-million-barrel-per-day quota.

Dr. Nayyer Ali offers a succinct analysis of how Iraq's underutilized oil reserves will not be a "profit-maker" for the U.S. government, but it will serve as the crucial economic instrument used by the Bush junta to leverage and hopefully dissolve OPEC's price controls, thus causing the neo-conservative's long-sought goal of collapsing the OPEC cartel (15). ("Iraq and oil", 13-12-02)

If Iraq were reintegrated into the world economy, it could allow massive investment in its oil sector and boost output.

What would be the consequences of this? First would be the collapse of OPEC, whose strategy of limiting production to maximize price will have finally reached its limit.

Contrarily, OPEC could meet in Vienna and in an act of self-preservation re-denominate the oil currency to the euro. Such a decision would mark the end of U.S. dollar hegemony, and thus the end of our precarious economic superpower status.

Again, I offer the astute analysis of my expert friend regarding the colossal gamble this administration is about to undertake: **"One of the dirty little secrets of today's international order is that the rest of the globe could topple the United States from its hegemonic status whenever they so choose with a concerted abandonment of the dollar standard.**

"This is America's preeminent, inescapable Achilles' Heel for now and the foreseeable future. That such a course hasn't been pursued to date bears more relation to the fact that other Westernized, highly developed nations haven't any interest to undergo the great disruptions which would follow, but it could assuredly take place in the event that the consensus view coalesces of the United States as any sort of 'rogue' nation'."

The Bush administration and the neo-conservative movement has set out on a multiple-front course to ensure that this cannot take place by a graduated assertion of military hegemony atop the existent economic hegemony.

Despite President Bush's attempt to use the threat of applying military force to OPEC producers who may wish to switch to the euro for their oil payments, it appears their belligerent neo-conservative policies may paradoxically bring about the dire outcome they hope to prevent—an OPEC currency switch to euros.

The American people are not aware of such information due to the U.S. mass media, which has been reduced to a handful of consumption/entertainment and profit-oriented conglomerates that filter the flow of information in the U.S. Indeed, the Internet provides the only source of unfiltered "real news".

It would appear that any attempt by OPEC member states in the Middle East or Latin America to transition to the euro as their oil transaction currency standard shall be met with either overt U.S. military actions or covert intelligence agency interventions.

This war in Iraq will have nothing to [do] with any threat from Saddam's old WMD program. This war will be over the global currency of oil.

THE PRESIDENT'S REAL GOAL IN IRAQ

By Jay Bookman, deputy editorial page editor,
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 9/29/02

The official story on Iraq has never made sense. The connection that the Bush administration has tried to draw between Iraq and al-Qaida has always seemed contrived and artificial. In fact, it was hard to believe that smart people in the Bush administration would start a major war based on such flimsy evidence.

The pieces just didn't fit. Something else had to be going on; something was missing.

In recent days, those missing pieces have finally begun to fall into place. As it turns out, this is not really about Iraq. It is not about weapons of mass destruction, or terrorism, or Saddam, or U.N. resolutions.

This war, should it come, is intended to mark the official emergence of the United States as a full-fledged global empire, seizing sole responsibility and authority as planetary policeman. It would be the culmination of a plan 10 years or more in the making, carried out by those who believe the United States must seize the opportunity for global domination (<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2319.htm#REBUILDING>), even if it means becoming the "American imperialists" that our enemies always claimed we were.

Once that is understood, other mysteries solve themselves. For example, why does the administration seem unconcerned about an exit strategy from Iraq once Saddam is toppled?

Because we won't be leaving. Having conquered Iraq, the United States will create permanent military bases in that country from which to dominate the Middle East, including neighboring Iran.

In an interview Friday, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld brushed aside that suggestion, noting that the United States does not covet other nations' territory. That may be true, but 57 years after World War II ended, we still have major bases in Germany and Japan. We will do the same in Iraq.

And why has the administration dismissed the option of containing and deterring Iraq, as we had the Soviet Union for 45 years? Because even if it worked, containment and deterrence would not allow the expansion of American power. Besides, they are beneath us as an empire. Rome did not stoop to containment; it conquered. And so should we.

Among the architects of this would-be American Empire are a group of brilliant and powerful people who now hold key positions in the Bush administration: They envision the creation and enforcement of what they call a worldwide "Pax Americana" (<http://64.176.94.191/cgi-bin/webglimpse/home/informat/informationclearinghouse-www?query=Pax+Americana>), or American peace. But so far, the American people have not appreciated the true extent of that ambition.

Part of it's laid out in the National Security Strategy (<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2320.htm>), a document in which each administration outlines its approach to defending the country. The Bush administration plan, released Sept. 20, marks a significant departure from previous approaches, a change that it attributes largely to the attacks of Sept. 11.

To address the terrorism threat, the president's report lays out a newly aggressive military and foreign policy, embracing pre-emptive attack against perceived enemies. It speaks in blunt terms of what it calls "American internationalism" (<http://www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2320.htm#internationalism>), of ignoring international opinion if that suits U.S. interests. "The best defense is a good offense" (www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2320.htm#defense), the document asserts.

It dismisses deterrence as a Cold War relic and instead talks of "convincing or compelling states to accept their sovereign responsibilities" (www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2320.htm#responsibilities).

In essence, it lays out a plan for permanent U.S. military and economic domination of every region on the globe, unfettered by international treaty or concern. And to make that plan a reality, it envisions a stark expansion of our global military presence.

"The United States will require bases and stations within and beyond Western Europe and Northeast Asia" (www.informationclearinghouse.info/article2320.htm#bases), the document warns, "as well as temporary access arrangements for the long-distance deployment of U.S. troops."

The report's repeated references to terrorism are misleading, however, because the approach of the new National Security Strategy was clearly not inspired by the events of Sept. 11. They can be found in much the same language in a report issued in September 2000 by the Project for the New American Century (www.informationclearinghouse.info/article1665.htm), a group of conservative interventionists outraged by the thought that the United States might be forfeiting its chance at a global empire.

"At no time in history has the international security order been as conducive to American interests and ideals," the report said. "The challenge of this coming century is to preserve and enhance this 'American peace'."

Familiar themes

Overall, that 2000 report reads like a blueprint for current Bush defense policy. Most of what it advocates, the Bush administration has tried to accomplish. For example, the project report urged the repudiation of the anti-ballistic missile treaty and a commitment to a global missile defense system. The administration has taken that course.

It recommended that to project sufficient power worldwide to enforce Pax Americana, the United States would have to increase defense spending from 3 percent of gross domestic product to as much as 3.8 percent. For next year, the Bush administration has requested a defense budget of \$379 billion, almost exactly 3.8 percent of GDP.

It advocates the "transformation" of the U.S. military to meet its expanded obligations, including the cancellation of such outmoded defense programs as the Crusader artillery system. That's exactly the message being preached by Rumsfeld and others.

It urges the development of small nuclear warheads "required in targeting the very deep, underground

hardened bunkers that are being built by many of our potential adversaries". This year the GOP-led U.S. House gave the Pentagon the green light to develop such a weapon, called the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator, while the Senate has so far balked.

That close tracking of recommendation with current policy is hardly surprising, given the current positions of the people who contributed to the 2000 report.

Paul Wolfowitz is now deputy defense secretary. John Bolton is undersecretary of state. Stephen Cambone is head of the Pentagon's Office of Program, Analysis and Evaluation. Eliot Cohen and Devon Cross are members of the Defense Policy Board, which advises Rumsfeld. I. Lewis Libby is chief of staff to Vice President Dick Cheney. Dov Zakheim is comptroller for the Defense Department.

'Constabulary duties'

Because they were still just private citizens in 2000, the authors of the project report (www.informationclearinghouse.info/pdf/RebuildingAmericasDefenses.pdf) could be more frank and less diplomatic than they were in drafting the National Security Strategy. Back in 2000, they clearly identified Iran, Iraq and North Korea as primary short-term targets, well before President Bush tagged them as the Axis of Evil. In their report, they criticize the fact that in war planning against North Korea and Iraq, "past Pentagon war games have given little or no consideration to the force requirements necessary not only to defeat an attack but to remove these regimes from power."

To preserve the Pax Americana, the report says U.S. forces will be required to perform "constabulary duties"—the United States acting as policeman of the world—and says that such actions "demand American political leadership rather than that of the United Nations".

To meet those responsibilities, and to ensure that no country dares to challenge the United States, the report advocates a much larger military presence spread over more of the globe (<http://64.176.94.191/usbases.htm>), in addition to the roughly 130 nations in which U.S. troops are already deployed.

More specifically, they argue that we need permanent military bases in the Middle East, in Southeast Europe, in Latin America and in Southeast Asia, where no such bases now exist. That helps to explain another of the mysteries of our post-Sept. 11 reaction, in which the Bush administration rushed to install U.S. troops in Georgia and the Philippines, as well as our eagerness to send military advisers to assist in the civil war in Colombia.

The 2000 report directly acknowledges its debt to a still earlier document, drafted in 1992 by the Defense Department. That document had also envisioned the United States as a colossus astride the world, imposing its will and keeping world peace through military and economic power. When leaked in final draft form, however, the proposal drew so much criticism that it was hastily withdrawn and repudiated by the first President Bush.

Effect on allies

The defense secretary in 1992 was Richard Cheney; the document was drafted by Wolfowitz, who at the time was defense undersecretary for policy.

The potential implications of a Pax Americana are immense. One is the effect on our allies. Once we assert the unilateral right to act as the world's policeman, our allies will quickly recede into the background. Eventually, we will be forced to spend American wealth and American blood protecting the peace while other nations redirect their wealth to such things as health care for their citizenry.

Donald Kagan, a professor of classical Greek history at Yale and an influential advocate of a more aggressive foreign policy—he served as co-chairman of the 2000 New Century project—acknowledges that likelihood.

"If [our allies] want a free ride, and they probably will, we can't stop that," he says. But he also argues that the United States, given its unique position, has no choice but to act anyway.

"You saw the movie *High Noon*?" he asks. "We're Gary Cooper."

Accepting the Cooper role would be a historic change in who we are as a nation, and in how we operate in the international arena. Candidate Bush certainly did not campaign on such a change. It is not something that he or others have dared to discuss honestly with the American people. To the contrary, in his foreign policy debate with Al Gore, Bush pointedly advocated a more humble foreign policy, a position calculated to appeal to voters leery of military intervention.

For the same reason, Kagan and others shy away from terms such as empire, understanding its connotations. But they also argue that it would be naive and dangerous to reject the role that history has thrust upon us. Kagan, for example, willingly embraces the idea that the United States would establish permanent military bases in a post-war Iraq.

"I think that's highly possible," he says. "We will probably need a major concentration of forces in the Middle East over a long period of time. That will come at a price, but think of the price of not having it. When we have economic problems, it's been caused by disruptions in our oil supply. If we have a force in Iraq, there will be no disruption in oil supplies."

Costly global commitment

Rumsfeld and Kagan believe that a successful war against Iraq will produce other benefits, such as serving an object lesson for nations such as Iran and Syria. Rumsfeld, as befits his sensitive position, puts it rather gently. If a regime change were to take place in Iraq, other nations pursuing weapons of mass destruction "would get the message that having them... is attracting attention that is not favorable and is not helpful," he says.

Kagan is more blunt.

"People worry a lot about how the Arab street is going to react," he notes. "Well, I see that the Arab street has gotten very, very quiet since we started blowing things up."

The cost of such a global commitment would be enormous. In 2000, we spent \$281 billion on our military, which was more than the next 11 nations combined. By 2003, our expenditures will have risen to \$378 billion. In other words, the *increase* in our defense budget from 1999-2003 will be more than the total amount spent annually by China, our next largest competitor.

The lure of empire is ancient and powerful, and over the millennia it has driven men to commit terrible crimes on its behalf. But with the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet Union, a global empire was essentially laid at the feet of the United States. To the chagrin of some, we did not seize it at the time, in large part because the American people have never been comfortable with themselves as a New Rome.

Now, more than a decade later, the events of Sept. 11 have given those advocates of empire a new opportunity to press their case with a new president. So in debating whether to invade Iraq, we are really debating the role that the United States will play in the years and decades to come.

Are peace and security best achieved by seeking strong alliances and international consensus, led by the United States? Or is it necessary to take a more unilateral approach, accepting and enhancing the global dominance that, according to some, history has thrust upon us?

If we do decide to seize empire, we should make that decision knowingly, as a democracy. The price of maintaining an empire is always high. Kagan and others argue that the price of rejecting it would be higher still.

That's what this is about.

"Rebuilding America's Defenses", a 2000 report by the Project for the New American Century, listed 27 people as having attended meetings or contributed papers in preparation of the report. Among them are six who have since assumed key defense and foreign policy positions in the Bush administration. And the report seems to have become a blueprint for Bush's foreign and defense policy.

Paul Wolfowitz

Political science doctorate from University of Chicago and dean of the international relations program at Johns Hopkins University during the 1990s. Served in the Reagan state department, moved to the Pentagon during the first Bush administration as undersecretary of defense for policy. Sworn in as deputy defense secretary in March 2001.

John Bolton

Yale Law grad who worked in the Reagan administration as an assistant attorney general. Switched to the state department in the first Bush administration as assistant secretary for international organization affairs. Sworn in as undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, May 2001.

Eliot Cohen

Harvard doctorate in government who taught at Harvard and at the Naval War College. Now directs strategic studies at Johns Hopkins and is the author of several books on military strategy. Was on the Defense Department's policy planning staff in the first Bush administration and is now on Donald Rumsfeld's Defense Policy Board.

I. Lewis Libby

Law degree from Columbia (Yale undergrad). Held advisory positions in the Reagan state department. Was a partner in a Washington law firm in the late '80s before becoming deputy undersecretary of defense for policy in the first Bush administration (under Dick Cheney). Now is the vice president's chief of staff.

Dov Zakheim

Doctorate in economics and politics from Oxford University. Worked on policy issues in the Reagan Defense Department and went into private defense consulting during the 1990s. Was foreign policy adviser to the 2000 Bush campaign. Sworn in as undersecretary of defense (comptroller) and chief financial officer for the Pentagon, May 2001.

Stephen Cambone

Political science doctorate from Claremont Graduate School. Was in charge of strategic defense policy at the Defense Department in the first Bush administration. Now heads the Office of Program, Analysis and Evaluation at the Defense Department.

—Jay Bookman: <mailto:jbookman@ajc.com>
(Follow links for greater depth.)

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Iraq War Initiated: Exactly As Planned

3/23/03—#1 (16-219)

RE: "IT'S THE DOLLAR, STUPID". HELL HATH NO FURY LIKE A BANKER OUT OF CONTROL. WHERE IS GOD?

[CONTACT: P.O. Box 27800, Las Vegas, NV 89126. Phone: (800) 800-5565. News Desk: <john.ray.1776@attbi.com>]

LAST FIRST:

Where is God? RIGHT THERE WATCHING!

GCH—And the man said unto God: "Stop this insanity—what will YOU do?"

And God said: "I already have—I SENT YOU!"

It's the dollar you know. If you do not know, then where have YOU been? Oh I see, you have been sleeping and planning and praying and pretending CONFUSION. Confusion? There is no confusion—not even about Iraq.

Back in year 2000 Saddam did the unthinkable—HE CHANGED FROM DOLLARS TO EUROS FOR THAT OIL. This, as have also some of the other "Axis of Evil" players. Ah but—when the whole of OPEC changes out to Euros, the Dollar will collapse. It is most simple deduction, my sleepy friends.

Go ahead and watch the orchestrated media and even there where the word is totally controlled and the mind-warp built-in, you will see the facts of EVIL that YOU have allowed to come forth upon this wondrous place—and you will witness the fires of HELL unleashed as man has never known in the souls of MAN.

What are "we" going to do? Exactly what we have been doing in working ever more diligently to be available when man opens his eyes and DARES change. Moreover, it had best be quickly done lest you lose more windows of opportunity. Just HOW did YOU think it would "come down"?

Is Saddam an evil man? It is not my judgement to count in the halls of "justice"—but he worked his atrocities in the very closest conspiracy with the very ones blowing him to bits and pieces today—so IN WHOM DO YOU PLACE TRUST? You turned your lives over into the hands of the beast all the while the very monsters are also playing their dastardly shards against our messengers while the pathway has become all but impassible.

We now have full feedback from the Central Bankers in Papua New Guinea who feed the SAME erroneous information as presented on Internet as long ago as three years past.

But I do ask you, especially you in the U.S. and you who have assets and must use that "dollar"—do you actually want us to FAIL? I remind all of you that MORE PAPER trash will NOT solve a problem—only the reality of hard assets will bring possible recovery in any measure

whatsoever. GOD WILL RESPOND AND HELP YOU IN RIGHTEOUSNESS OF HONEST "INTENT"—**HE WILL NOT DO IT FOR YOU!** HE HAS GIVEN YOU THE WAY AND THE TOOLS. I must remind you, however, that when these "messengers" have had "too much", the probabilities of ability to rectify this incredible catastrophe upon you now, becomes most improbable.

We can work in any "currency" but it very well will get more easily accomplished in this local arena through that paper fraud called "dollar". If this atrocity is not cut short, the dollar will collapse as the opposition parties see the merit of intelligence rather than blowing one another asunder.

Just today in frantic pleading there are phone calls to have Mr. Ekker "come" and convince the doubters. NO, NO AND NO.

This team will NOT move from this two-block area—period and end of the tale. If the waiver for flight to Hong Kong is not forthcoming, then we take a next move. People have dawdled and played with V.K. Durham's little devil troops too long, chelas. YOU HAVE TOLERATED THE ASSAULTS AND THEREIN LAY THE FACTS.

Therefore I ask you: WHAT WILL YOU HAVE GOD DO? Oh, I suggest HE "did that" and you slept on, waiting for HIM to magically shift the game board pieces. GOD SENT YOU "LIFE ITSELF" AND YOU CALLED HIM FRAUD AND LIAR! So be it.

GOD HAS "TIME"—DO YOU?

You want to talk about the war and whether or not you are getting truth in media transmissions? OF COURSE NOT! You were even told about the fact that the "Tail would Wag that Dog" long ago and far away. **MEDIA IS A PART, A MAJOR PART, OF THE ENTIRE "GAME" BEING PLIED AGAINST A WORLD IN HURT.**

Messengers shouted and wrote and pleaded with you to LISTEN and actually hear and you turned to the fun and games of the moment while ignoring the Truth. You have become SOFT AND INCAPABLE OF PHYSICAL SURVIVAL. It was and is part of the plan and even the actual unfolding in Iraq TODAY is from a detailed plan of years ago and wrapped up and "canned" at least a year ago while also being presented to you in the press. You run about looking for naughty ghosts while the devil is in your bedroom.

Oh indeed, V.K. and bullies would like to see us fail and collapse! No, we won't do either—no matter how badly Dharma thinks she wants to do exactly "that" this morning.

Is the "Great Satan" willing to sacrifice all those finest of your young gladiators in the desert of the oldest civilization on Earth—Iraq (don't you read any history?) OF COURSE! YOU WILL BE EVER SO MUCH MORE MANAGEABLE WITHOUT ANY PROTECTION FROM YOUR INTENDED PROTECTORS.

MAN makes war—NOT GOD!

And by the way: The war in Iraq will NOT be short even though Iraq is smashed into the dust of ages—THIS WAR IS FOREVER! You had best think on that for a while. Moreover the "rest" of the world KNOWS your enemy—it is you who do not seem to recognize the beast. All you have done is go to the next movie prepared for your destruction by your leadership for tomorrow. I also suggest you look very carefully at the U.S. "coalition of the willing". SHAME HAS COME FULL CIRCLE UPON THE MOST BLESSED OF THE WORLD.

* * *

I ask that we please take time to share an Australian article, for it says what you need to hear more clearly than anything we might write or share, for you have to have manifest—man-made evidence. "But I need a 'sign'," you say? Fine, here was one from over a year ago—why didn't you heed it?

[QUOTING the *Sydney Morning Herald*, March 22, 2003, by Alan Ramsey:]

INK DRY ON WAR SCRIPT A YEAR AGO

Gordon Jockel was a senior Australian diplomat for many years. His long career included ambassadorships in Indonesia and Thailand in the 1970s and early '80s and he was once director of joint intelligence in our huge defense complex at Canberra's Russell Hill. Ironically, the complex of high security buildings, with its many hundreds of civilian and military bureaucrats, is dominated by the soaring plinth and eagle of the American war memorial, a gift in the late '40s from the U.S. government and dubbed, soon after its opening, Phallus in Blunderland. Two days ago, Jockel, now retired, telephoned from the NSW North Coast.

His message was brief. Read the April 1 issue last year of *The New Yorker*, Jockel insisted. It was all there he said, the whole monstrous charade over Iraq that has gone on ever since in Washington and the UN and here in Australia. Jockel was right. It is there, in chilling detail. All of it. No April Fool's Day joke, clearly. It has all happened, just as the article's author, Nicholas Lemann, said it would happen. It is still happening.

So next time you hear John Howard insulting your intelligence with all that fear-mongering rubbish he goes on with, ad nauseam, in seeking to justify his decision to include Australia in the so-called "coalition of the willing"—or, more credibly, the troika of the killing—think of Lemann's article, written out of Washington exactly a year ago, of how the Bush Administration always intended invading Iraq, whatever the UN said or did, and the campaign of deception and deceit it would and did employ over the past year to manipulate and mold domestic and international opinion to cover its deeper motives.

Which means, what exactly?

Well, so far as this country is concerned, it means our Prime Minister, involved from the very outset, is either a naïve, impressionable hick from Down Under who's been utterly taken in by the authority and aura of the White House, or he is a very calculating liar who has convinced himself he's acting in our best national interest. You make your own choice. He has to be one or the other. Read Lemann's article to understand why.

Lemann writes a regular Letter from Washington in *The New Yorker*, which is published weekly. This particular article was entitled, "The next world order". It began: "When there is a change of command—and

not just in government—the new people often persuade themselves that the old people were much worse than anyone suspected. This feeling seems intense in the [new] Bush administration, perhaps because Bill Clinton has been bracketed by a father-son team. It's easy for people in [this] administration to believe that, after an unfortunate eight-year interlude, the Bush family has resumed in governance—and about time, too.”

Lemann's article is constructed around a lunch. “Not long ago, I had lunch with a senior administration foreign-policy official, at a restaurant in Washington called the Oval Room. Early in the lunch, he handed me a 27-page report whose cover bore the seal of the Department of Defense, on an outline map of the world, and the words, ‘Defense Strategy for the 1990s: The Regional Defense Strategy, Secretary of Defense, Dick Cheney, January 1993.’”

Cheney was defense secretary in the Bush father's 1988-92 administration, which ended on January 20, 1993. Ten years later Cheney is the Bush son's Vice-President.

Lemann wrote: “After the fall of the Berlin Wall [in 1989], Cheney, as defense secretary, set up a ‘shop’, as they say, to think about American foreign policy at the grand strategic level. The project, whose existence was kept quiet, included people now back in the game [present Bush administration], at a higher level: among them, Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Secretary of Defense; Lewis Libby, Vice-President Cheney's chief of staff; and Eric Edelman, a senior foreign policy adviser to Cheney—generally speaking, a cohesive group of conservatives who regard themselves as bigger-thinking, tougher-minded and intellectually bolder than anyone else in Washington ...

“Colin Powell, then [1993] chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, mounted a competing, and presumably more ideologically moderate, effort to reimagine foreign policy and defense. A date was set—May 21, 1990—on which each team would brief Cheney for an hour. Cheney would then brief president Bush, after which Bush would make a foreign-policy address unveiling the new grand strategy. Everybody worked for months on the brief, with a sense that the shape of the post-Cold War world was at stake.” Bush subsequently prepared his major foreign-policy speech, using material mostly from Wolfowitz, “but he delivered it on August 1, 1990, the day that Iraq invaded Kuwait, so nobody noticed”.

Lemann continued: “The team kept working. In 1992 the *New York Times* got its hands on a version of the material and published a front-page story saying the Pentagon envisaged a future in which the U.S. could, and should, prevent any other nation or alliance from becoming a great power. A few weeks of controversy ensued about Bush hawks being ‘unilateral’, controversy that Cheney's people put an end to with denials and the counter of an edited, softer version of the same material.

“As it became apparent Bush was going to lose to Clinton, the Cheney team's effort took on the quality of a parting shot. The report the senior official handed to me at lunch [early 2002] had been issued only a few days before Clinton took office.

“It is a somewhat bland, opaque document—a ‘scrubbed’, meaning unclassified, version of something more candid—but it contained the essential ideas of ‘shaping’ the rest of the world and of preventing the rise of other superpowers.

“Its tone is skeptical about diplomatic partnerships. A more forthright version of the same ideas can be found in a short book, *From Containment to Global Leadership*, which Kalmay Khalilzad, who joined Cheney's team in 1991 and is now special envoy to

Afghanistan, published a couple of years into the Clinton administration. It recommends the U.S. preclude the rise of another global rival for the indefinite future.”

The Lemann article of several thousand words includes an interview with Richard Haas, another veteran from Bush senior's White House years and now director of policy planning for the U.S. State Department. Lemann quotes Haas: “What you're seeing from this administration is the emergence of a new principle or body of ideas about what you might call the limits of sovereignty. One is not to massacre your own people. Another is not to support terrorism in any way. If a government fails to meet these obligations, then it forfeits some of the normal advantages of sovereignty, including the right to be left alone inside your own territory. **[H: GO BACK AND READ IT AGAIN!]**

“Other governments, including the U.S., gain the right to intervene. In the case of terrorism, this can even lead to a right of preventive, or preemptory, self-defense. You essentially can act in anticipation if you have the grounds to think it's a question of when, and not if, you're going to be attacked. I don't think the American public needs a lot of persuading about Saddam Hussein. I'd expect the President and his chief lieutenants to make the case. Public opinion can be changed. We'd be able to make the case [that] this isn't a discretionary action but one done in self-defense. We have to have allies. We can't impose our ideas on everyone. We don't want to be fighting wars alone, so we need others to join us. American leadership, yes, but not American unilateralism. It has to be multilateral.”

Enter Tony Blair and John Howard.

There is much more in the Lemann article. But one stunningly prescient section reads: “The first, but by no means the last, obvious manifestation of a new American foreign policy will be the effort to remove Saddam Hussein. What the U.S. does in Iraq will very likely dwarf what's been done in Afghanistan... Smiling and supremely confident, Richard Perle, the prominent hawk and former Defense Department official, opened a panel discussion in Washington recently by saying: ‘Evidence is mounting the Administration is looking very carefully at strategies for dealing with Saddam. That means changing his regime. And that action will be taken, I have no doubt ...’.

“When [Bush] submitted [his administration's] budget earlier this year [2002], it asked for a \$U.S.48 billion [\$81 billion] increase in defense spending in fiscal 2003.

“A total \$U.S.10 billion of this is designated as an unspecified contingency fund for further operations in the war against terrorism. That's probably at least the initial funding for an invasion of Iraq.

“This [northern] spring [March/May, 2002], the Administration will be talking to other countries about the invasion, trying to secure basing and overflight privileges, while Bush builds up a rhetorical case for it by giving speeches about the unacceptability of developing weapons of mass destruction. A drama involving weapons inspections in Iraq will play itself out over the spring and [northern] summer [June/August 2002], and will end with the U.S. declaring that the terms that Saddam offers for inspections, involving delays and restrictions, are unacceptable.

“Then, probably in late summer or early fall [September/November 2002], the enormous U.S. troop positioning, which will take months, will begin. The administration obviously feels the U.S. can effectively parry whatever aggressive actions Saddam takes during the troop

buildup, and hopes its moves will destabilize Iraq. The chain of events leading inexorably to a full-scale American invasion, if it hasn't already begun, evidently will begin soon.”

Remember, this was all written a year ago. It begs the obvious that everything Bush and Howard have said and done in the 12 months since has simply been part and parcel of the most grotesque pretense.

[H: And so it has come to pass in these days of your generation, and it is only one “phase” of that which is thrust upon you. IS THERE HOPE? Is there life yet remaining? Then I suggest you place your own conclusion herein.

The sender of the above article has appended the following: “I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something. And because I cannot do everything, I will not refuse to do the something that I can do. What I can do, I should do. And what I should do, BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I WILL DO.”—Edward Everett Hale]

[END OF QUOTING]

Meanwhile while Baghdad burns and everybody watches—the rest of the cupboards are emptied.

I ask that another article be shared, not that the names will mean much to most readers but remember that the CONCEPT is the same EVERYWHERE. YOU ARE IN THE CONCLUSION OF THAT NEW WORLD ORDER. Worse yet, the world is glued to a 25-inch screen for your virtual-reality games like *Monday Night Football* or *The Gladiators*. The lie is only LARGER in war, my friends; and if you think that betting isn't taking place as in Las Vegas casino-type gambling on this war, from the death of Saddam to the day the napalm falls on the innocent—you are wrong. The charade determining the remainder of your experience is under way. We are presenting it for all of you but most specifically for the friends right in the Philippines.

We will write about rather mundane things next but you in the U.S. had best ponder what is taking place with your “Homeland Security” (you don't have any) and just WHO are those terrorists.

[QUOTING *The Philippine STAR*, Sunday, March 23, 2003. “BY THE WAY”, by Max V. Soliven:]

WHILE WE'RE ALL WATCHING
BUSH & BLAIR BASH BAGHDAD,
BILLION-PESO SCAMS BREWING HERE
MAY GET AWAY UNNOTICED.

Don't sell the government's 40-percent share in PETRON! Don't furtively sell off the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corp. (PAGCOR) to big, clandestine investors! Don't sell the government's stake in San Miguel Corporation! Don't sell our irreplaceable overseas government properties, like Roppongi in Tokyo and other overseas real estate holdings (even the Philippine Center on Fifth Avenue in New York!)

What's the expiring administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo up to? With only 14 months to go, why are GMA—no mention of Mike, of course—and her Money Men, like Finance Secretary Jose Isidro “Lito” Camacho and, yes, feckless Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel “Mar” Roxas II in such a fantastic, fast-break hurry to peddle the nation's “family jewels”—to already panting private buyers, who're waiting in the wings?

If I didn't believe GMA is an honest lady, one would be tempted to believe the critics, doubters and outright malicious when they say that *La Presidente* and her cohorts are eager to ride off into the sunset with

their saddlebags bulging with massive retirement funds. No, sir—The daughter of Cong Dadong, the idealistic Poor Boy from Lubao, would never do that!

What about her finance men? (Shame on you critics for viciously calling them “bagmen”, those upright guys with wide-open smiles and well-manicured fingernails!) They have one obvious flaw, it’s true: They were previously investment bankers and investment brokers. You know the type. They sell everything off for their clients, then collect a hefty commission. Then they buy back everything for other clients, and again collect a hefty commission. They’re used to getting rich, coming and going. What about a case when they sell off—in a fire sale or auction “bargain sale”, or okay, multibillion-buck swap meet—the Filipino people’s “family jewels”? Who gets rich while the Filipino people get poorer? **[H: My gosh, Max, what has kept you silent for so long that all that is left is almost nothing?]**

Since there’s going to be a new President, a new Cabinet, and a new Congress (parliament?) just a few months over a year from now, why not wait for the new, incoming Administration, or new Government? Why such a rush to get billions of pesos and dollars in ready cash? To fund, as DTI Secretary Mar Roxas claimed in a speech a few days ago to business chambers, or bankroll the massive infrastructure projects needed to “jumpstart” economic growth? **[H: See, even the “lingo” is the very same lies on which you have all learned to feast—exactly as planned.]**

Roxas attempted to pass off the “urgent” big auction initiatives of the GMA administration as “new generation ideas”. C’mon, Mar, the same thing happened during the first two years of the post-Marcos, therefore post-EDSA Cory Administration, when we lost our best properties abroad at giveaway prices or “lawyers’ fees”, and “auctioned off” our accumulated art treasures, silvers, etc., through Southeby’s and Christie’s, because the government claimed the 20 years of Macoy-Imeldific rule had impoverished the treasury. The government always bleats it desperately needs money, while its leaders and the politicians blithely squander the budget.

The bargain-sale concept is not a new generation idea. Give us a break: We’ve heard such Barnum & Bailey phrases like “jumpstart” the economy and massive “infrastructure projects” before.

What amazed me about Mar, whom many had considered a leading candidate for much higher office in the future (the grandson of a great President, Don Manuel Acuna Roxas, and son of an impeccable Senate President, the late Gerry Roxas), is his rattling on in this manner.

He declared: “Much like we do in our families, we can liquidate an asset, even an heirloom, for the sole purpose of investing in our future.” Sure, Mar. Why don’t you give us a personal example by selling off your family jewels, so to speak—namely, the Araneta Center? Not just Jorge, but the shade of your dynamic grandfather, the Last Tycoon, J. Amado “Amading” Araneta, might march out of the family mausoleum, a la Lazarus, not to smite you, perhaps, but give you an angry dressing down regarding your foolish views about business, finance and the importance of meeting obligations and vindicating public trust.

Secretary Roxas, for instance, wants PAGCOR to be privatized (so do others in the Palace coterie), because he claimed the sale of 50 percent of the gambling monopoly—whose franchise runs up to June 11, 2008 (not the year 2007 as one newspaper put it)—would generate P150 billion. If Mar was quoted right,

he insisted this amount paid to the government would be almost 15 times the annual PAGCOR earnings for the government of P20 billion. **[H: And look, you don’t have to worry about getting income forever after, or to pay next year’s bills.]**

By the way, didn’t Mar Roxas—along with dear Sen. Loren Legarda and former Senate President Edong Angara—endorse that Rose Baladjay Militel “pyramid” deal which burned so many?

Roxas intoned that the proceeds from the PAGCOR sale could be applied as seed capital for an infrastructure fund, which the government could leverage kuno for highways, railways, airports, seaports and bridges.

Sounds yummy when you sugarcoat it that way. BUT think of the implications of the government’s gambling monopoly falling into the grubby and greedy hands of a gambling Mafia, or the Macau Gang (did I say Stanley Ho—no, ho? I didn’t), or the Chinese Triads? If we’re scared of the runaway proliferation of drug syndicates—including those dreaded drug-lords, drug-manufacturers and drug-pushers from the Chinese mainland—why aren’t we horrified at the prospect of our casinos, lottos and our country’s gambling monopoly falling into the hands of Triads, gangsters and “high rolling” mobsters? If we don’t want to become a narco-state (with our 1.8 million Filipino drug addicts, and counting), why do we forget that gambling syndicates usually parley their big bucks into bigger bucks by funding the lucrative drug industry, prostitution and other “collateral” crimes? We’d become a nation in the grip of vultures and racketeers. And this gambling king/drug-lord empire would have limitless funds with which to bribe everybody, from politicians to policemen. What alarms many of us even more is the fact that there’s a determined, almost clandestine move in Congress—the current Twelfth Congress (as Congressman Teddy Boy Locsin himself warned in a perceptive editorial in *TODAY* last March 18—to extend the PAGCOR’s franchise by 50 years! Wow!

“Until about Christmas last year,” the editorial stated, “*the two committees on franchises and on games of the House of Representatives were engaged in the most serious and also the most patently pointless—if not outright larcenous—discussions on the extension of the franchise of the PAGCOR. So much so that the chairman of the House Committee on Franchises never once turned up. Rep. Miguel Zubiri said right off he would have nothing to do with it.*”

Since the PAGCOR franchise does not expire for five years, not until the year 2008, why does the present Congress, indeed, have to strive to extend it? This task should be left not only to the next, or Thirteenth Congress, but to the further Fourteenth Congress—two elections from now. Wouldn’t that be logical? It would also be more forthright and transparent.

Why the immediate rush to extend the franchise by half a century? Sanamagan: There’s something smoking here, and I didn’t even say a “smoking gun”. Obviously, the extension is being touted as a ploy to make PAGCOR more appetizing for prospective FOREIGN INVESTORS.

I’ve got news for you: Those investors are already, Alikabok tells me, waiting behind the curtains, thrilled at the prospect of taking over control of this “crown jewel”, not just a mere family jewel.

So stop! PAGCOR must NEVER be taken from government control and slipped into “privatization” to benefit a favored few, including some with possibly unsavory backgrounds. Let’s have full disclosure of

their names now—even of the names of their possible “dummies”—so they can be vetted and investigated thoroughly, and so the public will know.

Susmariosep. Saddam or his felonious and homicidal sons, Uday and Qusay (now waiting in their bunkers to reveal, perhaps, their weapons of mass destruction to the advancing Yanks and Brits) might be among the potential investors.

One thing is clear: The government itself must never relinquish PAGCOR. If jueteng is a monstrous racket, can you imagine our official casinos and other gaming outlets in the hands of monsters?

“Entertainment”, my foot. Our people and our economy might be caught in the coils of a boa constrictor from whose crushing grip we may never be able to extricate ourselves.

Is this the legacy you want to leave us, GMA? Even Bong Pineda back home in Lubao might be considered, in comparison and in retrospect, as having been a peanut vendor.

[H: The column ends with a bit of humor (if you can’t consider that from the Philippines viewpoint the above was anything but humor) about a big flap regarding the highest military figure in this world here. That revolves around Gen. Reyes, who spends as much time in Washington D.C. as in the Philippines and has hired a U.S. public-relations firm, no less, is now in trouble for insulting Senators. We kid you not, even the Iraqi war had to go on hold for this encounter. Now Max is getting the direct “horse’s mouth” explanation for the faux-paux from Reyes himself.]

[QUOTING:]

Defense Secretary Angelo T. Reyes rang me up last Thursday to explain that he had never called the senators “assholes”. He said that there was a fictitious story going around, and he was totally misunderstood when he narrated this as a joke during a luncheon with journalists and foreign correspondents. He said that the joke went this way: “There were a group of friends having lunch and engaged in conversation. One of the fellows asserted: ‘All senators are assholes!’ At once, one man in the group stood up and furiously asserted: ‘This is an insult! I demand that you apologize and withdraw that statement!’ The fellow who had made the derogatory remark was astonished. ‘Why,’ he sputtered, ‘are you a Senator?’ To which the resentful individual replied: ‘No, I’m an asshole!’” Gee whiz, Angie. When you carelessly tell such stories, what you said will be passed from mouth to mouth, and end up relating you, and the senators, with assholes...

[H: Meanwhile, Rome...er-a-Baghdad BURNS. How much mercy do YOU expect from our Creator? So be it.]

[END QUOTING]

When you ask “why??” please remember with no insult intended: IT’S THE DOLLAR, STUPID!

And again, “Why the Philippines, Sir?” Because this is where “it’s at”, my friends. THIS IS WHERE WE CAN TAKE OUR STAND AND ALSO BE OBJECTIVE IN THE PROCESSING.

The other point to ponder carefully is not whether or not GOD has mercy—DO YOU? What excuses do you offer for YOUR EVIL? May the soul you work to save be your own, for if you can save yours, all the rest will follow on.

Salu, GCH

dharmā 

Last Thing Confiscated: Bank-Loan Collateral

3/24/03—#1 (16-220)

RE: "GLOBAL" STATUS REPORT—BUT NOT TO DISTRACT FROM YOUR PERSONAL INVASION OF IRAQ. TERRORISTS!?!

[CONTACT: P.O. Box 27800, Las Vegas, NV 89126. Phone: (800) 800-5565. News Desk: <john.ray.1776@attbi.com>]

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS—PUNT AND LIE!

GCH—Is it not sad to realize that no matter what you are told or shown you cannot know whether it be lie or possibility? Is it not also sad to find that Rambo, after all, was only Col. James "Bo" Gritz exaggerated by Sylvester Stallone? Oh, Bo made people dead and indeed killed his own soul in the process. WAR IS NOT OF GOD! Furthermore, interpreting according to "man" makes no difference.

But where are the "weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq? Well, right where the "gold" is mapped to be, my good friends—booby-trapping the vaults. The aggressors in the form of "leadership" know exactly where everything is and could not have run the risk of the gold being found by inspectors as they would fan out around Baghdad. "Oh well" is, I believe, your response to such circumstances.

So, will the recovery be easy? People, GOLD is the hardest one commodity on Earth of which to "gain control". How difficult do you think it might be to gain access and control over the stashes in the Israeli Negev Desert? And yes indeed, that is exactly where Israel keeps its weapons of mass destruction—right with the gold YOU gave them.

No, we do NOT need the actual gold—only the chain of site locations. It can all be returned to rightful owners at convenience of recovery parties while still having full use by those rightful owners. All we have to do is basically "keep the books", and that through recognized "deposit slips" and credit registers. Gold is a very difficult commodity to carry in pockets but there has to be something for "accounting"!

ATTITUDES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

I do not wish to discuss the overall attitudes of major powers, i.e., China and moving Westward, or even that of Russia as to any intervention into the affairs of aggression. They don't have to do ANYTHING—yet.

As far as the "coalition" of which the Yanks and Brits claim 40 countries—I only suggest you look at those nations and their condition for both aid and capability.

The Philippines differs not at all from the most desperate of those Third World countries with one exception—they are being isolated from their brothers in the neighborhood while being outnumbered greatly. Is the U.S. a good "only ally"? No, not if you study history and potential problems. However, it is good for us for the potential of being able to establish, quietly, a program of mutual benefit. More important is that we are talking here about debt Assumed in 1906 by the U.S. Treasury. Calling that debt will not damage the U.S. but would cause the backlash to fall on the FED who assumed that debt in 1913. IT IS THE BANKERS' CARTEL THAT HAS TO ACCOUNT FOR THE GOLD AND ASSETS—NOT THE U.S. TREASURY.

There is talk of "calling the debt"? BS, V.K.! Nobody

even wants to "call" that debt except V.K. in her efforts to control the global economy with her claim to treasure. The very last thing we would wish to happen is to have a collapse of the dollar because with it goes the basic foundation of half the world or more.

All the OPEC nations really have to do is change over to Euros or Dinars (if based on substantial gold reserves) and the dollar game is over. This, however, would be catastrophic as considered by, say, those 40 "coalition" states that have no backup or reserves from which to pull for survival.

Ah but: The nations of major impact would have to consider loss of their "stashed dollar" accounts. It has just happened AGAIN, to Iraq, where even the UN "Trust" accounts are frozen. Funny thing, though, Saddam got a whole big wad changed out into Euros FIRST and made a whole bonus return on the change. Wow, just suppose the claims of sabotage should all of OPEC choose to do likewise along with, say, a split-off of China and Russia also. There is NOTHING to shore up the dollar, friends, except the "good faith and reputation" of the U.S. [taxpayer] and the Federal Reserve which today seems a bit less than usual.

Could GLOBAL shore up the foundation? Well, not without the recovery of GOLD into the TREASURY. We don't truck much with the Federal Reserve Banking Cartel who has developed the massive catastrophe in the first place. So, we leave that interchange to Ms. Durham and her non-existent "Holding Trust". It is, after all, those Treasury guys that have given us our parameters of operation. V.K. claims valid ownership—so go for it. We have done nothing to spoil her program—BUT, EMPTY PAPER IS JUST MORE VALUELESS TRASH UNLESS IT IS HELD LAWFULLY AND ACCEPTABLY BY THE "BEAN COUNTERS"—AND REMEMBER THAT "BONUS" IS ONLY DENOMINATED IN GOLD! IF THERE IS NO GOLD, THEN ALL THE PAPER IN THE WORLD HAS NO VALUE!

"GLOBAL" does not rush in and snatch-and-run with gold of any color. The gold in consideration is put directly and accounted totally right in the funding bank—directly into the vaults. It then, in addition to securing "loans" or "credit" can be, and is, accounted as RESERVES (the very life-blood of any BANK!). A legal central bank or Treasury Department can then hold the gold and create new money against it. This brings valuable gold-based currency into the flow of commerce. Global is an ALLIANCE and "joint venture partner" throughout the processing but stays OUT OF THE BUSINESS of the nation or projects. THAT monitoring must be done by the nation and the banks involved. As it evolves there will be notable lack of interest charges as everything will fall into "service charges", storage charges, and actual bank management and oversight as to those agreements regarding projects/letters of credit—not in banks' ownership of the world and all in it.

Are we making progress? Of course—but how much can one expect in the hotbed of the most political push-pull since Moses?

Could the administration in Manila do much differently than what has taken place here? No, not much, because note, please, the U.S. ambassador just cut another nerve over the weekend by claiming the Philippines' overthrow of Marcos to be a U.S. operation. And where are YOU when the facts hit the fan? Filipinos are irate, for they always thought they overthrew a dictator with some street demonstrations. Moreover, the **U.S. RAN OFF WITH THE MAN AND THE MONEY!**

What real choices do the Filipinos have? Not many, but the rift between sects and political groups is widening and tossing Iraqi diplomats out of the country or claiming associations with terrorists is now falling on deaf ears. In other words, it is more and more difficult to lie, cheat and grab now that the aggressions have started. Blackmail is easiest against these little nations totally dependent on Big Daddy.

Difficult for our team? Of course, for they are Americans and Americans are number one on the hit list—with or without cause. All of the recognized BASTARDS have come from America and now, worse yet, they are ALL considered "terrorists" of the worst kind and totally without honor.

And guess what, U.S. citizen: The overall question is, "When the U.S. falls and the dollar is collapsed, what happens next?" Well, in this program—stability comes almost instantly—either way! Moreover, being a Muslim, Moslem, Christian or Roman Catholic or Pentecostal will not change a farthing of it.

Are the Filipinos being loyal to the U.S. in this war—because they hopped on the bandwagon headed for Iraq FIRST of any? No, the Filipinos have become so out of perspective to the world as a whole and moral interests that they are simply trying to edge their way into reaping the spoils as to jobs in the major industries that will reinvent Iraq. You know, they expect nothing more than slave jobs but they want their cut of that.

There is a bit of upheaval NOW as it is rumored that there will be a demand from some of these "Third Nations" in the coalition to send TROOPS to handle the tending and maintenance of Iraqi prisoners and civilians detained in centers. Well, good luck, for the Filipinos can't even keep their own police off the dole or mulcting programs and can't keep anyone who wants out of jail—in. A hundred pesos (a couple of bucks) can buy almost anything.

Meanwhile the "negotiations" go quietly forward as major problems are worked through but it takes long and hard work and much overcoming of language and cultural understandings. Then, of course, the war is underway and the world stops to watch CNN and very, very few are impressed or believe ANYTHING. That is the point to which you have arrived with your entertainment media. It is simply something to watch, talk about and "bet" about.

Do the Central Bank and the U.S. Embassy want "us" out of here? No, they just don't want anyone to notice us one way or another because every time one more V.K. idiocy is issued they become the laughing-stock—not us. That is why it is now so interesting to find that even in Papua New Guinea there is interchange with Central Bank warnings—but with no substance, admittedly, that per V.K. this could be a faulty program. They laugh and admit it is real, good and totally valid but remember that AUSTRALIA is in deep banking yogurt right along with the rest of the "COALITION" pushers.

Please, readers, V.K. has now been defined by those she thinks she impresses. Well, she has impressed them, OK, but I am glad we are not on that recognition list. THERE IS NO DENIAL OF THE ASSET BUT ONLY A SUGGESTION THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE WISE TO USE IT IN ANY BIG WAY. ALL THE LEGAL BACKUP IS IN PLACE AND PASSED AROUND IN SUCH A WAY AS TO NOT OUTRIGHTLY OFFEND THE IMF OR BIGGER BROTHERS.

Places like Brunei "don't need any money" but neither do they want to fail to participate in such as BIMP-EAGA. With this "alliance" they can do BOTH. Since there is no "Prince Bandar" in Bandar, Brunei of any consequence—we again fail to become socially acquainted to such personage as presented by V.K. in her all-knowing viewfinder.

EVERYBODY IS TRYING TO PROTECT THEIR OWN INTERESTS ANY WAY THEY CAN. THAT "DOLLAR" IS A REALLY FRIGHTENING POTENTIAL FOR HEAVY HURT.

Moreover, in response to accusations about our association and support of “off-list” groups or states—sorry. We have no interchange with any questionable parties unacceptable to the U.S. political system—including the U.S. Political System. V.K. comes forth and accuses us of dealing with such as Iran? Funny thing is that it was V.K. trying to deal with Iran until Rick Martin-Cortright SHUT HER DOWN.

We have to be a bit amused by watching the games afoot even about some “enemy” such as Libya. How so? Just within the past year or so a full joint project was put forth and sealed with the Philippine President GMA, Libya and Malaysia. Malaysia pulled out when the aggression got under way and problems came forth over North Borneo (Sabah) but the Libyan enterprise is under full “intended” swing.

We laugh at the “intended” part of that project which is one of Palm Oil production—but the land was occupied by PEOPLE belonging to the land. So Gen. Reyes who runs the military (and some say the government) invaded them and ran them out with lots of bloodshed and agony while the southern war began again. The President (GMA) was in Malaysia making peace talk and agreements. Can you guess which direction the agreements headed? Well, interestingly enough the people on the land don’t OWN the place either—can you guess who does?

You will most surely have lots of fun when we, very soon now, run the “Tallano” papers in the paper as indeed, yes, PUBLIC NOTICE.

We have a valid “Tallano” foundation now established in the U.S. and therefore, our participation becomes a valid public recognition project even though nothing is relative to the U.S. other than the “association”. We have the due-diligence documents backed up a foot deep or more and can now track who has thieved the property even next door in downtown Makati. And indeed, yes, “thieved” is the proper word for use here.

Without, however, our association there is no way to even begin to sort or enforce the court orders—just as would be making anyone stronger than you—pay a debt. However, put the funds in holding and available and all becomes instantly POSSIBLE and everybody WINS.

We are having one bit of interference as the administrator appointed by the court would actually like to become “King”, literally. Well, we don’t have input or interest in “tribal” or group politics but it is such an unwise attention-grabber. Administrators of a viable and qualified FOUNDATION, run as a corporation, are SAFE and SECURE. Kings are usually targets for disposition or, at the least, losing their thumbprints.

As example for comparison: GLOBAL will continue to function nicely without either or both Ekkers. It would simply be annoying and cause delays—but that is the wonder and beauty AND SECURITY of a corporate structure. And no, I did NOT say: Holding Trust! Moreover, ANYONE who would like their name as sole owner of any asset is somewhat lacking in intelligence in that ego begets desire on other’s part for disruption of life-stream of that “sole” owner. A phony “trust” is a disaster waiting to happen, or in some instances, a disaster already happened.

Does anyone remember the “Holding Trusts/Companies” revealed by Jonathan May and the Saudi Arabians (along with any or all OPEC nations who do not use “interest”)? Does anyone remember what happened to the funds? They were shifted OUT of the banks (specifically Chase as per DEMAND) and into the Holding facilities, which were then BANKRUPTED at or before payout time. And readers, there was not one thing the empty-baggers could do about it.

A little family trust might well be a useful tool for an estate BUT even that can be frozen and emptied without much ado or notification. A sound CORPORATION, or a Foundation which is INCORPORATED, is about

the only sure security and yet we all know that that too can be seized and accounts frozen.

Protection? Well, we walked through those lessons years ago—didn’t we? Keep the corporation small and each project separate. Keep your assets tied up in gold and borrow against the gold for your projects themselves. **THE LAST THING THE BIG BOYS WILL CONFISCATE IS THE ASSETS HELD BY THE BANKS AS COLLATERAL FOR LOANS.** Borrowings are also tax-sheltered. Of course in the banking world there will be a cost in interest for that service, so the hope is always that you can keep enough collateral in holding to EARN coverage through increase in commodity (gold) holdings.

We learned, as well, that it is certainly wise to never allow impact from a “few” to have control over the “many” or have share ownership in any project in which the greedy can gain control. If you can tie up a “corporation” and there comes a “call” on that collateral, then there is NOTHING you can do but watch the collateral GO SOUTH and into the bank coffers. However, EXPERIENCE is still the very best teacher available.

We find, for instance, that to shelter our own efforts within the security of both corporation or registration in whichever country we find ourselves AND IN THE UNITED STATES “OF NEVADA”, WE HAVE SHELTERED THE ENTIRE PROGRAM FOR BOTH PARTIES—UNTIL OTHERWISE DESIRABLE. Since we have no wish to manage the “projects”, it can be as temporary as we desire.

We would note, however, that a relationship with our corporation in the U.S. as established, especially as a separate entity, brings ability for “foreigners” to have access to acceptable travel to and from the United States and ability to secure offices therein. Here is where extended office facilities in the Corporate AGENT/Agency are so desirable, for “visitors” are at a great disadvantage for office management. As we grow, for instance, we will have offices in “both” places, which will allow our own staff to easily move back and forth as well.

Since we are stuck with a “new world order” we might well make it work in a positive manner for all concerned. Without going back to cave-dwelling, you are stuck with what has evolved and, frankly, most of you would not even survive in a return to those “olden golden days”. It is simply that rowing upstream in any river with great flow is difficult, slow and tedious at best. With a paddle it is all but impossible but with a motor it becomes far more easily accomplished as to changing destination. With aircraft crossing or moving upstream it becomes effortless. That is why I prefer flying rather than mucking through the graft and corruption of the swamp. Have you ever tried paddling a boat in a mudhole? Then give us a break already!

Will we use family and true friends to secure our businesses? Indeed—every time. We have found that the careless sharing of the most important positions of all in this very program was shocking in outcome. The people sharing the responsibility not only cut out the minute they THOUGHT something might be amiss and they could grab some gusto by snatching the “paper”, they also set about totally destroying the project. We will certainly keep better care on the participants until (and yea, after) we get a functioning program up and running. It may well mean that family and friends have to pitch in where they might rather not—to manage until new management can be established—but the program can and shall continue. Example: A corporation never dies, it just gets a new President! Personal holdings can be handled equally as smoothly as necessary for both privacy and security according to the wishes of the “creators”.

We have also learned that we can’t trust even the most seemingly sincere petitioners even in the “name of God”. This is unfortunate but we have now had time to realize the possibilities and take adequate measures for such contingencies.

There are few participants who have struggled along with us and family who have made sacrifices and literally allowed us to make it through who would just grab and run, and if they would, they would gain LITTLE for the exercise. Know, that those who “split” never believed in us ANYWAY and lied about their loyalty and intentions. Those who actually “stole” from our resources shall not gain from our successes. **Moreover, the weary travelers can retire with dignity and comfort.**

There will be the special places for “retirement” so that the needs of the body and mind can be met with independence and total dignity whereby family can continue exchange and interchange without the dealings of “imposition” or negation. And yes, it not only CAN be accomplished, but in our circle, SHALL BE ACCOMPLISHED. Retirement homes need not be a prison but rather a looked-forward-to sharing and caretaking experience. Most people don’t really want to be a burden to any family—so why suffer through such indignity of aging or processing, as visiting should be a JOY, not a burden.

These things should be a “right” and not a considered “welfare” handout or burden upon all family members. It can’t, however, come to pass until you outgrow your needs and demands for wars and killing.

Is it possible for the “human” species to attain such honor and achievement? Of course, for THAT is the condition for which YOU WERE CREATED! Surprise? Evil was not and IS NOT your intended purpose. The evil in your experience is for that very purpose of lessons and growth that you can become that which is perfection. You will also come to LEARN that goodness pays ever so much better than the alternative lifestyle. **GOD IS, AFTER ALL, ABUNDANCE!**

CAN THE FILIPINO GROW BEYOND THE MASTER-SERVANT ATTITUDE?

Yes, the MINUTE that production of self can be recognized for its fundamental value in EXCHANGE. It does, however, mean growing beyond the simple desire to “get by” on wits and games against another.

Surprisingly enough there is another MISCONCEPTION that needs extraction from your acceptance and that is an attitude of “suffering” to gain heaven and atonement. Those ideas are also of MAN and NOT of God. So, yes indeed, we have a long way to travel to get to Truth but that doesn’t mean the effort in the journey would be best evaded. Let us just AVOID the pits and swamps as become possible. A bit of rain makes the flowers grow and allows the wheat to flourish. And by the way, there is no need to pound the wheat to powder when you have grinders that do the job ever so much better. The problem lays in the tendency to become lazy when the gifts are too great. An elevator is certainly wondrous when the body and knees are worn and the feet weary. The lungs and heart, however, need the stairs—but that too in balanced moderation. Lifting a paint can and brush can also be far more profitable than lifting dumbbells. Mostly you need to pay more attention to that which is between the ears than any other two parts of the body itself. If, for instance you lock your mind in your pocket—you are indeed limited. Life itself is an endless and unlimited chain of connections while each is a part of everything else. When you destroy one you damage all—just as when you damage your brother you inflict more damage on self. And yes, I would rather dwell more on these lessons than on how to make a bank function in better service to all and not the greedy few. To be your brother’s keeper does not mean his manipulator or dictator. God allows—HE does not dictate. You have guidelines and choices, so life is up to you.

May you always live in such a way that you are wanted on either or both sides of that great divide in dimensions.

Salu, GCH

dharmā 

The News Desk

By John & Jean Ray

BUSH FOCUSED, FIRM IN OUTLINING GOALS

By Michael Tackett, *Tribune*, 03/20/03

WASHINGTON—The war did not start, as so many had predicted, in the dark of night. It started instead with the rise of the Sun over Baghdad, with the whole world watching, and in America, in prime time.

President Bush ordered the beginning of the nation's first war of the 21st Century in a fashion that was not so much the predicted "shock and awe" as it was more subtle, and perhaps even surgical. It was also audacious in that the military seemed to acknowledge little need for the element of surprise that darkness would have provided. ...

He was firm and resolute, his language unadorned and clear. Bush challenged the honor of those nations that opposed the United States, at least indirectly, by praising those that had joined the U.S. to "bear the duty and share the honor of serving in our common defense".

What he left unsaid was also unmistakable, namely that many of this country's most valued and long-standing allies had not supported his call to invade Iraq to rid the world of Saddam Hussein's regime.

"Our nation enters this conflict reluctantly," Bush said. "Yet our purpose is sure. The people of the United States and their friends and allies will not live at the mercy of an outlaw regime that threatens the peace with weapons of mass murder."

It is a case that France, Germany, Russia, China, Mexico and Canada, among others, did not believe Bush had made. And now, in addition to winning the war, there is a burden on the president to prove those nations wrong by turning up the weapons about which he has so consistently sounded alarm.

"It's the beginning of what could be the ultimate test for the Bush presidency," said John Pitney, a professor of political science at Claremont McKenna College in California. "It's a new conflict for a new world. In some ways, the action is unprecedented, but in many ways the threat is unprecedented too."

The president also vowed that, unlike the Persian Gulf War that his father led, this war would not leave unfinished business in Baghdad. He promised decisive victory, no "half measures", conveying the unmistakable message that Hussein was a specific target of the operation.

After months of military buildup suggesting the conflict would be swift and relatively casualty free, Bush tried to lower those expectations, begging the indulgence of the citizenry that the war could be "longer and more difficult" than the many predictions. And he tried to prepare the country, even though the first bombs were just dropping, for a postwar Iraq that would require a "sustained commitment" from the U.S.

He also tried to prepare the public for civilian casualties in Iraq by noting that Hussein had placed troops and equipment in civilian areas, using the Iraqi people as human shields in what Bush called Hussein's "final atrocity against his people". ...

[JR: The Bush boy got his war and Daddy Bush has got to be so proud that his boy finally pulled it off. The dirty wars have begun and the first stage is called Shock and Awe. A shock it is but it hardly amazes or astonishes anyone who sees it as a war against the defenseless. President Bush says he cares about the Iraqi people and will try to limit their deaths.

Sure he does, just like Sharon hates killing the Palestinians. Before Bush gave his speech announcing that the attacks against Iraq had begun, he was seen by reporters pumping his fists in the air saying, "I FEEL GOOD." The war has just started and already the victory parties have begun!]

WORLD REACTS TO U.S. ATTACK ON IRAQ

Globe and Mail, 03/20/03

(AP)—For the most part, the U.S.-led attack on Iraq received a thumbs-down from world leaders on Thursday, although Washington says it has the support of more than 30 countries for war effort.

"France regrets this action taken without approval of the United Nations," French President Jacques Chirac said.

"We hope these operations will be as rapid and least deadly as possible, and that they don't lead to a humanitarian catastrophe," he said in brief televised address.

The French President also said that Paris would continue to support the United Nations as the forum to solve "crises which bloody and threaten the world".

"It is the only legitimate framework to build peace in Iraq as elsewhere," Mr. Chirac said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin—whose nation has stood with France and Germany in opposition to U.S. and British war plans—said the war ran counter to the ideals of the United Nations.

"The military action in Iraq is being conducted in spite of world opinion, in spite of the principles and norms of international law and the *UN Charter*," Mr. Putin said. "This military action cannot be justified."

Mr. Putin demanded that the matter be brought back to the council. "Russia intends to pursue a policy of returning the Iraqi question to the basis of Security Council resolutions," he said.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said in a televised address on Thursday that the war was a mistake.

"The wrong decision has been reached. The logic of war has won over the chances of peace. Thousands of people will have to suffer terribly," Mr. Schroeder said.

Mr. Schroeder, who long ago ruled out German participation in any military action, said his country would take part in the reconstruction of Iraq and offer humanitarian assistance.

In China, Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said Beijing was "seriously concerned" about the conflict: "We urge relevant countries to stop their military action and return to the right path."

In Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, President Megawati Sukarnoputri "strongly denounced" the attack and urged the UN Security Council to hold an emergency session.

In Iraq's neighbour Iran—which fought a war with Iraq in the 1980s—Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi called the U.S. attack "unjustifiable and illegitimate".

Key U.S. allies in the Middle East, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, both said they were concerned about the U.S. attack and urged a quick end to the conflict.

In Lebanon, President Emile Lahoud warned that the war was forcing the world into a "dark tunnel" from which it would be difficult to escape.

Amr Moussa, the Secretary-General of the 22-member Arab League, said it was a "mournful day"

and called for moves to stop the conflict.

Pakistan, a Muslim nation and key U.S. ally in the war on terrorism and Washington's attack on Afghanistan, said it "deplores" the U.S. attack on Iraq. There were antiwar protests in various places across the country.

In India, the Foreign Ministry said that the U.S. attack "lacks justification".

Among those offering support for the U.S. was Japan.

"I understand the start of the use of force by America and support it," the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, said.

"If a dangerous dictator possesses dangerous weapons of mass destruction, we will face a big danger. How to get rid of this threat concerns people around the world."

South Korea supported the war and pledged to keep it from worsening relations with the North, with whom nuclear tensions have been increasing.

In the Philippines, President Gloria Arroyo said her country was "part of the coalition of the willing. We are giving political and moral support for actions to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction."

The U.S. has been helping Manila in its fight against Muslim rebels in parts of the country.

[JR: Bush has only been able to claim 30 out of the 191 countries in the UN for his coalition against Iraq and just a few are actually sending troops and equipment. Despite what the media is reporting about an over-flight agreement with Turkey, it never happened and the invasion of Northern Iraq has been extremely hampered. The majority, like the Philippines are "giving political and moral support for actions to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction". These are countries that are so deeply dependent on the U.S. that they can't afford to antagonize their "overseer" BIG (BULLY) BROTHER. The majority of the world has made it quite clear that without authorization from the UN Security Council the attack on Iraq would be illegal under International law. What this pre-determined invasion of Iraq shows is that the U.S. has the singular mindset that ONLY MIGHT IS RIGHT. The military might of the U.S. has not only nullified the UN, it has set American diplomacy back 200 years.]

U.S. LAUNCHES PREEMPTIVE ATTACK AGAINST UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

By Jeremy Brecher, *Znet*, 03/20/03

All over the world, governments and civil society groups are proposing to take the U.S.-led attack on Iraq to the UN General Assembly under a procedure known as "Uniting for Peace". The U.S. is so alarmed that it has launched a preemptive attack with a letter to all countries in the world which "**demands that they avoid calls for an emergency session of the General Assembly**".

Here's a report on the U.S. efforts to block "Uniting for Peace", followed by reports from around the world on the effort to convene the UN General Assembly to challenge U.S. aggression against Iraq.

1. U.S. PREEMPTIVE ATTACK AGAINST A UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

The Chilean newspaper *La Tercera* reports that their embassy in Washington received a letter from the U.S., technically called a "non paper" that "demands" that they "focus on the real challenges that are to come and avoid provocative steps within the Security Council such as condemning resolutions or calls for an emergency session of the General Assembly. Such steps will not change the path that we are on, but will increase tensions, make divisions deeper and could provoke more damage to the UN and the Security Council."

U.S. Ambassador to Chile Brownsfield confirmed that the letter was sent, saying it was in the hopes

of “avoiding more diplomatic problems”. He said it was sent to all the countries of the world.

Although Ambassador Brownsfield has said that Chile’s position on the Security Council resolution won’t affect the Free Trade Deal, he publicly criticized Chile’s last-minute proposal to give Iraq more time to disarm. *La Tercera* says that after the press conference, he told individual journalists asking about whether there would be reprisals against Chile in the future if they don’t support the U.S.: “I don’t reject or accept anything. The future will develop however it develops.”

In Barbados, diplomatic sources said the U.S. State Department had sent an urgent note to regional governments stressing that the U.S. would see the region’s participation in such a meeting as “inimical to its national interest”. In Jamaica, foreign ministry officials confirmed that the U.S. Embassy in Kingston had verbally passed on a message from Washington that the Bush administration would prefer that Jamaica stay away if the General Assembly is in fact called into session. “My understanding is that we were contacted by the U.S. Embassy asking us to refrain from giving support in relationship to what they understand to be a General Assembly meeting,” junior foreign minister, Delano Franklyn, told the *Jamaica Observer*.

2. RUSSIAN DUMA, MANY OTHERS, CALL FOR UN “UNITING FOR PEACE”

UNITED NATIONS

Diplomats told *CNN* that “members of the UN’s non-aligned nations—underdeveloped countries that make up more than two-thirds of the UN—had discussed calling an emergency session of the General Assembly under the ‘Uniting for Peace’ resolution.”

RUSSIA

The State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, approved 226 to 101 a resolution calling on the Russian president to seek a UN General Assembly emergency session “due to the military action launched by the United States and Britain against Iraq”. The same position is reportedly shared by the upper chamber.

Chairman of the International Affairs Committee of the Federation Council Mikhail Margelov “said it is necessary to call urgently a session of the UN General Assembly”. Head of the Defense and Security Committee Viktor Ozerov expressed anxiety for “an explosion in the Moslem world, and this will lead to stepped-up operations of international terrorists”. First deputy chairman of the Industrial Policy Committee Sergaei Shatirov said the General Assembly should take into account the threat of a serious ecological disaster that “can affect land, air and water” connected with fires at oil deposits and wells which could affect the atmosphere in Russia.

MALAYSIA

Malaysia, current chairman of the 116-nation Non-Aligned Movement, condemned a U.S.-led attack on Iraq as “an illegal act of aggression”. Acting Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said that Malaysia, in its capacity of the Non-Aligned Movement chairman, “Will be consulting member countries of NAM on the appropriate course of action.”

INDONESIA

Indonesian President Megawati Soekarnoputri called on the UN Security Council to hold an emergency meeting to urge the U.S. and its allies to stop the war. “If that was not possible, the UN General Assembly should meet to discuss the issue, Mrs. Megawati said after a special cabinet meeting.”

BRAZIL

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has been “speaking to regional and international leaders—including UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan—about the possibility of summoning those world leaders opposed to war to a meeting of the General Assembly to discuss alternatives to armed conflict”.

AUSTRALIA

Leader of the Democrats in the Australian parliament, Senator Andrew Bartlett, called on governments to use Resolution 377 (Uniting for Peace) to put war in Iraq before the UN General Assembly. “The assembly could mandate, for example, that the inspection regime be permitted to complete its inspections. An overwhelming vote against war by the nations of the world would increase the pressure on the United States, United Kingdom and Australia to reconsider.”

PAKISTAN

At a seminar in Islamabad speakers including a former Air Force Chief and a former Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, the speakers advocated that “The matter should be taken to the UN General Assembly and war should be averted by gaining two-thirds majority in the Assembly.”

VATICAN

Archbishop Renato Martino, head of the Vatican’s justice and peace council and for 16 years Vatican representative to the UN, said that the UN General Assembly could hold an emergency session of all its members. “In that case, all the countries could talk and vote, and the entire international community would face its responsibilities.”

BRITAIN

British peace organization CND said, “The authority of the UN has been destroyed. The CND calls upon the UN to restore its own credibility by using the resolution ‘Uniting for Peace’ to call for a full general assembly of the UN and to question this war.”...

[JR: This movement is purposely being omitted from our established media. The U.S. is threatening and intimidating the global community NOT to call a Special Session of the General Assembly for fear of invoking UN Resolution 377 Uniting for Peace that might stop its invasion of Iraq. The U.S. is using implied “trade barriers” to Third World countries in an attempt to force the vote against a Special Session of the UN and any peace resolutions. President Dubya Bush is using every means possible to quell any resistance to the U.S. plans for Iraq. Being the world’s bully does not make for friendly or loyal allies.]

MASSIVE HUMAN SLAUGHTER

By Marc Ash, *truthout*, 03/16/03

What George W. Bush and Tony Blair are planning is the greatest act of human slaughter since Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge orchestrated the Cambodian genocide in the mid-1970s. That act killing some 1.5 to 2 million largely defenseless and quite peaceful Cambodians.

Civilian Iraq is utterly defenseless and totally unprepared for the carnage that is about to be visited upon them. It is murder plain and simple, murder on an unimaginable scale.

There is no “war” looming, no “conflict” with Iraq, and no “standoff”. What exists is a vast military force poised to inflict death and destruction on a major population center. Those who live there will attempt to defend themselves, but they will fail, and the dead will cover the ground like a fallen forest.

Should this act of insanity proceed, it will stand as one of the greatest crimes against humanity ever recorded.

Know now, it can be stopped.

This deadly drama now playing out on the United Nations stage is not for diplomacy or disarmament or for some vague resolution. They joust for one thing: the hearts of common men. All that stands between Baghdad and unprecedented destruction is our favor, and nothing more. ...

The blood of innocents once shed cannot be unshed. Should the U.S. military set about killing these people, the

deed remains our doing for all time. We are given now a precious moment for reflection. Let us use it wisely. The voices of true American friends all over the world are clearly calling to us: Be patient... work as a group... you are not alone. Let us not taint the American experience for all time by answering, instead, a drumbeat to madness.

We hear day after day that “Time is running out”. Running out on what, on who? On Saddam Hussein? On a five-thousand-year-old city? On 24 million men, women and children? Or is time running out on the spirit of America? On the soul of our people? Why is it that the world no longer cherishes American values? Could it be because we no longer cherish them ourselves?

The right way is the American way. America’s great gift to the world is fair play and due process. Democracy is not a sales slogan. It is a commitment to tolerating dissent and yielding to consensus. Genocide, on the other hand, is true anarchy.

[JR: There will be no adequate words to convey the world’s utter sorrow and dismay that the U.S. and Britain despite all reason forged ahead anyway to “bring freedom and their brand of democracy” to Iraq, through death and destruction. What is sure to follow will be a world in disorder.]

YOU MEAN SADDAM DIDN’T GAS HIS OWN PEOPLE?

By Jon Rappoport, *www.stratiawire.com*, 03/11/03

Very little attention has been paid to Stephen Pelletiere’s op-ed piece in the *New York Times* (January 31, “A War Crime or an Act of War”).

Pelletiere was the CIA’s senior political analyst on Iraq during the 1980s war between Iraq and Iran, and later served as a professor at the U.S. Army War College (1988-2000).

His op-ed piece attacks the theory that Saddam gassed the Kurds. You know, “Saddam gassed his own people”. That oft-repeated charge that makes up a significant part of the administration’s argument for war now.

Pelletiere had access to a lot of the classified data that was generated around the Kurd matter. He was in charge of the 1991 Army probe that investigated the question: How would Saddam fight a war against the U.S.?

The major gassing incident occurred in March 1988 at a town called Halabja. “But the truth is,” Pelletiere writes, “all we know for certain is that Kurds were bombarded with poison gas that day.” This occurred near the end of the Iraq-Iran war.

Pelletiere writes, “...immediately after the battle [at Halabja] the United States Defense Information Agency investigated and produced a classified report, which it circulated within the intelligence community on a need-to-know basis. That study asserted that it was Iranian gas that killed the Kurds, not Iraqi gas.”

Obviously, this report has been intentionally ignored by several presidents and their major mouthpieces.

Pelletiere goes on to write that both the Iraqis and the Iranian troops used gas at Halabja. “The condition of the dead Kurds’ bodies, however, indicated that they had been killed with a blood agent—that is, a cyanide-based gas—which Iran was known to have. The Iraqis, who are thought to have used mustard gas in the battle, are not known to have possessed blood agents at the time.”

If Bush were simply saying that Saddam deserves to die because he used mustard gas, then Bush might want to mention, as well, that the U.S. employed tons and tons of Agent Orange (a chemical, the last time I looked) in Vietnam.

Then Pelletiere raises and answers a very interesting question. Why was the battle of Halabja fought? “...Iraq has the most extensive river system in the Middle East...Iraq had built an impressive system of dams and river control projects, the largest being the Darbandikhan dam in

the Kurdish area. And it was this dam the Iranians were seeking to take control of when they seized Halabja.”

Pelletiere points out that a water pipeline through Iraq “could bring the waters of the Tigris and Euphrates south to the parched Gulf states, and by extension, Israel.”

To date that pipeline has not been built. But after Gulf War 2? Would Israel become one of the prime beneficiaries in the aftermath?

Remember, the charge that has been leveled at Saddam is, he gassed his own civilians. Pelletiere is offering evidence collected by U.S. intelligence and military analysts that refutes that charge.

Bush, Powell, Blair, and the rest of the crew are brushing all this off without a glance.

[JR: I have seen numerous reports that refute the often-repeated phrase that Saddam is so evil that “he gassed his own people”. Well there is also a saying going around the Internet is that the evidence the U.S. has to prove Iraq had “weapons of mass destruction” prior to the Gulf War is that WE KEPT THE RECEIPTS!]

COULD UN USE MILITARY FORCE ON U.S.?

By Art Moore, *WorldNetDaily.com*, 03/15/03

Americans urge invoking obscure convention to halt ‘aggression’

Could the UN use military force to prevent the United States and Britain from waging war on Iraq without a Security Council mandate?

Some anti-war groups are urging the world body to invoke a little-known convention that allows the General Assembly to step in when the Security Council is at an impasse in the face of a “threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression”.

The willingness by the U.S. and Britain to go to war with Iraq without Security Council authorization is the kind of threat the UN had in mind when it passed Resolution 377 in 1950, said Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, a human-rights group in New York City.

In a position paper, Ratner wrote that by invoking the resolution, called “Uniting for Peace”, the “General Assembly can meet within 24 hours to consider such a matter, and can recommend collective measures to UN members including the use of armed forces to ‘maintain or restore international peace and security’.”

The UN taking military action against the U.S.?

“It would be very difficult to say what that means,” said Ratner in an interview with *WorldNetDaily*, emphasizing that he did not believe the situation would evolve to that “extreme”.

“I don’t consider that within the framework I’m talking about,” he said. ...

Steve Sawyer, spokesman for Greenpeace in New Zealand—which has joined Ratner’s group in the campaign—told *WND* he was not aware of the UN being able to use force under any circumstances.

Ratner explained that Resolution 377 would enable the General Assembly to declare that the U.S. cannot take military action against Iraq without the explicit authority of the Security Council. The assembly also could mandate that the inspection regime be allowed to “complete its work”.

“It seems unlikely that the United States and Britain would ignore such a measure,” Ratner said in his paper. “A vote by the majority of countries in the world, particularly if it were almost unanimous, would make the unilateral rush to war more difficult.”

Uniting for Peace can be invoked either by seven members of the Security Council or by a majority of the members of the General Assembly, he said. ...

He expects there to be support from the 116 countries

in the non-aligned movement, who are “already saying inspectors should be given more time”.

Greenpeace’s involvement has greatly expanded the campaign’s reach, he said, since “we’re just a small human-rights litigation organization.”

“I’ve done a lot of work with international law and with the UN,” he said, “and we’re always interested in figuring out ways to make the UN more important.”

A circular e-mail letter promoting the campaign said in the first paragraph that “if Iraq is invaded, it would empower the General Assembly to restore peace, including an authorization to use military action to accomplish this, if necessary.”

A political science professor at the University of Michigan who forwarded the letter to colleagues, added a note above the text, obtained by *WND*, that said: “Below you will find an excellent and urgently needed proposal for stopping the war before it starts from the Center for Constitutional Rights.”...

[JR: Greenpeace spokesman Sawyer is incorrect in saying that the UN by invoking Resolution 377 cannot stop the U.S. and Britain from going to war with Iraq. The only reason the UN may not invoke such an option is because of its own attack against Yugoslavia with the formidable assistance of NATO and the U.S. What threat did Yugoslavia pose to the world that warranted an invasion and intrusion other than its strategic position between Europe and the Middle East? The EU wanted Yugoslavia for that primary reason and also to gain full control of its valuable assets such as gold and other minerals. Sound familiar? Should the UN, because of its own past culpability, not declare mandates against the U.S. and Britain, then it will become irrelevant as to playing a vital role in maintaining world peace. Wasn’t peace the reason why the UN was formed—and is that role now being altered through the instigation of the U.S. and Israel?]

CHENEY IS STILL PAID BY PENTAGON CONTRACTOR

By Robert Bryce; Julian Borger, *Guardian*—UK, 03/12/03

Bush deputy gets up to \$1 million from firm with Iraq oil deal

Halliburton, the Texas company which has been awarded the Pentagon’s contract to put out potential oil-field fires in Iraq and which is bidding for postwar construction contracts, is still making annual payments to its former chief executive, the vice-president Dick Cheney.

The payments, which appear on Mr. Cheney’s 2001 financial disclosure statement, are in the form of “deferred compensation” of up to \$1 million (£600,000) a year.

When he left Halliburton in 2000 to become George Bush’s running mate, he opted not to receive his leaving payment in a lump sum but instead have it paid to him over five years, possibly for tax reasons.

An aide to the vice president said yesterday: “This is money that Mr. Cheney was owed by the corporation as part of his salary for the time he was employed by Halliburton and which was a fixed amount paid to him over time.”

The aide said the payment was even insured so that it would not be affected even if Halliburton went bankrupt, to ensure there was no conflict of interest.

“Also, the vice president has nothing whatsoever to do with the Pentagon bidding process,” the aide added.

The company would not say how much the payments are. The obligatory disclosure statement filed by all top government officials says only that they are in the range of \$100,000 and \$1 million. Nor is it clear how they are calculated.

Halliburton is one of five large U.S. corporations—the others are the Bechtel Group, Fluor Corp, Parsons Corp, and the Louis Berger Group—invited to bid for

contracts in what may turn out to be the biggest reconstruction project since the Second World War.

It is estimated to be worth up to \$900 million for the preliminary work alone, such as rebuilding Iraq’s hospitals, ports, airports and schools.

The contract winners will be able to establish a presence in post-Saddam Iraq that should give them an invaluable edge in winning future contracts.

The defence department contract awarded to the Halliburton subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown & Root (KBR), to control oil fires if Saddam Hussein sets the well heads alight, will put the company in an excellent position to bid for huge contracts when Iraq’s oil industry is rehabilitated.

KBR has already benefited considerably from the “war on terror”. It has so far been awarded contracts worth nearly \$33 million to build the detention camp at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba for al-Qaida suspects.

Asked whether the payments to Mr. Cheney represented a conflict of interest, Halliburton’s spokeswoman, Wendy Hall, said: “We have been working as a government contractor since the 1940s. Since this time, KBR has become the premier provider of logistics and support services to all branches of the military.”

In the five years Mr. Cheney was at the helm, Halliburton nearly doubled the amount of business it did with the government to \$2.3 billion. The company also more than doubled its political contributions to \$1.2 million, overwhelmingly to Republican candidates.

Mr. Cheney sold most of his Halliburton shares when he left the company, but retained stock options worth about \$8 million. He arranged to pay any profits to charity.

[JR: There is something very rotten going on, given the ties Vice President Cheney has with Halliburton along with Kellogg, Brown and Root, and that smell is coming right from the Oval Office of President Bush. Wars are being waged solely for personal gain. It is not and never has been about the U.S. bringing freedom, democracy and peace to the world. What the Bush administration is masterful in doing is wreaking its havoc by destroying or dismantling nations just to profit themselves. There is a scary bunch of egomaniacs that are now in control of this country and they are running it into the ground. Worse yet, many don’t see this problem, especially the media. I wonder what charity might be receiving that extra \$1.1 million Cheney gets from Halliburton and their successful partnership with the White House? Could any of it be going to build those new settlements in the Gaza or the West Bank or is Cheney just too selfish a Zionist even for that?]

NEW CHAPTERS OPEN IN THE WAR MYSTERY

By Georgie Anne Geyer, *Universal Press Syndicate*, 03/14/03

WASHINGTON—This was supposed to be the crucial week just before the war, when American and “allied” leaders were closing in on Saddam Hussein and Iraq. Instead, circumstances seem to be closing in on us.

First, Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld dropped his customary ingratiating bantering style and admitted a very serious fact. It might well be that not even Britain would go along with the war, and we would have to “go it alone”. But then, given the administration’s indiscriminate bullying, might that not be expected?

Second, after months of deceptive blarney on the part of the administration over the cost of this war, finally some institutions began coming forth with dependable figures. The cost of only postwar reconstruction of Iraq will be at least \$20 billion a year and will require the long-term deployment of 75,000 to 200,000 troops to prevent widespread instability and violence, according to a panel of high-level officials brought together by the Council on Foreign Relations. The report further concluded that President Bush has failed “to fully describe to Congress

and the American people the magnitude of the resources that will be required to meet the post-conflict needs” of Iraq.

Yet only two weeks ago, when Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, the Army’s chief of staff, told the Senate Armed Services Committee that “several hundred thousand soldiers” would be necessary for peacekeeping duties, he was rudely put down by Rumsfeld’s pugnacious deputy, Paul Wolfowitz. Without precedent, he insulted a senior officer by calling Shinseki’s estimates “way off the mark”. That, of course, was then.

Third, as this fruitful week gradually revealed its secrets, some great mysteries began to unravel, such as whatever happened to Ahmad Chalabi, the leader of the exile Iraqi National Congress that was supposed to take over Iraq? Wasn’t he, in the words of the Wolfowitzes, destined to be the “George Washington of Iraq”?

Well, something funny happened about six weeks ago on the way to the Delaware. The polished, posturing, London-salon habitue Chalabi, a businessman wanted for fraud in Jordan, has long been the darling of the war party here. **Paul Wolfowitz even wrote his policy program.** But even as they were still oohing and aahing about him, he was suddenly—poof!—gone.

As Martin Sieff, an expert analyst for *United Press International*, wrote just last week, the Pentagon’s civilian man, Chalabi, was found to have been feeding them worthless intelligence to back up his ambitions. In fact, Sieff says: “The entire U.S. war plan against Iraq was designed and based on the assumption that the Iraqis would not fight and that the Iraqi army would fall apart. And this assumption itself was entirely based on the flood of supposedly priceless inside information that Chalabi had provided to his eager audience in the Defense Department.”

It was at that point of disillusionment with Chalabi, other sources confirm, that the American administration changed policy completely. Now it would back an American military governorship of postwar Iraq. Obviously, this turnabout carries with it dire threats of the entire Middle East seeing invading Americans, with their UFO chemical warfare suits and their 21,000-pound bombs, as the “new colonialists”.

Fourth, others of the civilian advisers to Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney are finally coming under scrutiny, often due to their voracious parts in pushing this war since the hours immediately after Sept. 11, when American blood was not yet even dry in New York and Washington.

The *New Yorker* magazine, which has presented some truly groundbreaking work on the lead-ups to the war, this week published a piece by veteran correspondent Seymour M. Hersh about another prominently hawkish member of the war party, the chairman of the Defense Policy Board, Richard N. Perle.

The author moves sparingly through the minefields of this elusive subject, yet points to a sinister scenario. He tells how Perle is a managing partner in a venture-capital firm called Trireme Partners in Delaware, which invests in “companies dealing in technology, goods and services that are of value to homeland security and defense,” particularly in Europe, Saudi Arabia and Singapore.

From the beginning, the war party has liked to characterize this war as a cakewalk. Few geostrategic acrobats can dance such intricate steps without falling into dangerous traps.

Eventually, this whole story will be told. It will be a story of distrust and deception, of new forms of conspiracy, coups and hijackings, all of them far removed from our American historical experience.

[JR: If and when this full story is ever told it will come with a heavy price through wars, the death of untold thousands and the destruction of nations. Cheney, WOLFowitz, and Perle have much to answer for. They have and are profiting from the tragedy of 9/11 through the

business attachments they enjoy. Their defense against their detractors is to shield themselves with the powers of their office. The Defense Department is definitely making the policies for the Bush White House, Secretary of State Sir Powell, Security Advisor to the president Condoleezza Rice, as well as Homeland Security. It is Rumsfeld, the mouse that roars, that is pushing Bush the elephant over the cliff while enjoying the power he and his cohorts wield over the president and our country.]

A WAR AND ITS REPERCUSSIONS

By E.W. Chamberlain III, retired U.S. Army colonel and military strategist, *Tribune*, 03/15/03

Secretary of defense has never ‘faced the elephant’

I’ve watched Donald Rumsfeld several times on TV, and I have to admit that I admire his style, wit and candor.

They fire questions at him, and he fires right back at them. He doesn’t flinch. He doesn’t hesitate. He shoots straight, and straight from the hip. He’s fast. He’s a successful former businessman. He’s a successful former politician. He’s a successful former pharmaceuticals CEO. ...

I’ve watched Colin Powell several times on TV, and I have to admit that I admire his style, wit and candor.

They fire questions at him, and he fires right back at them. He doesn’t flinch. He doesn’t hesitate. He shoots straight, and straight from... well, 35 years of “seeing the elephant”.

Secretary of State Powell is a former professional soldier. That’s all the “former” he is. He absolutely understands how the ground combat piece will work in Iraq. He’s been there, done that and got the Purple Heart from Vietnam to prove it. You only get that particular medal because you’ve seen the elephant.

What elephant?

There was a saying on both sides during the Civil War about “seeing the elephant”.

In letters home and around the campfires of new units and units receiving replacements for casualties, there was always the discussion about seeing the elephant. The saying usually went something like this: “You talk big and say that now, Recruit, but you wait ’til you’ve seen the elephant and then come talk to me.” Or, “That boy got religion after he seen the elephant!”

What they were talking about was experiencing combat for the first time. It was so markedly different from any other human experience that it could only be compared to seeing an elephant for the very first time if you lived on a farm in 19th Century rural America. It was a shock. It was different. It was scary.

And in some ways, if you survived the encounter, it was also pleasurable because you never feel more alive than after nearly losing your life. Powell has seen the elephant and Rumsfeld has not.

OK, so Powell got shot at and hit and Rumsfeld didn’t. Rumsfeld’s official biography states that he was a naval aviator and instructor during his stint on active duty from 1954 to 1957, which was post-Korean War and pre-Vietnam War. Rumsfeld never flew in combat. Well, so what?

Nowhere does it say that the secretary of defense must have been in combat. In fact, most have not. In fact, many have never even served in the military. But this is one case in which where and how Rumsfeld served is apparently coloring his judgment.

He envisions combat from a nice clean cockpit at 20,000 feet and 500 m.p.h.

It’s about experience

This is not about courage, which you can tell Rumsfeld has in abundance by the way he carries himself. It’s about experience. He has not seen the elephant and has only heard about it from others.

Couple that with Rumsfeld’s widely known and open dislike of the Army and its chief of staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki,

whom he made a lame duck almost two years earlier by announcing his replacement, and you have a recipe for disaster, in this old soldier’s humble opinion.

Our experiences are what give us our wisdom, our values and our judgment. That is why older folks generally know more about life and problem-solving than most younger folks. I would say that Rumsfeld’s business background certainly suits him for the defense budget process and to manage a large and diverse organization like the Defense Department. Then I would say that his limited military background only qualifies him to make costly mistakes when it comes to ground combat in Iraq or North Korea, as Rumsfeld has said both engagements could happen simultaneously.

Rumsfeld could only make such a statement because he believes that the war against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was won by air power and some Special Forces troops on the ground directing it. The fact that some of the Special Forces fellows were riding horses got plenty of press coverage.

Of course, the tens of thousands of ground combat troops in the Northern Alliance army were conveniently overlooked in this victory equation.

The other fact is that a combination of air power and ground power was the key to victory. Each in isolation from the other could not have won. Iraq has a much larger and better-equipped and better-trained army than the former Taliban regime. The two forces are not comparable.

So a war with Iraq is not just about Special Forces troops on horses and air forces. It is also about ground power from the Army, which Rumsfeld doesn’t like.

During the 1991 Persian Gulf War, then-Gen. Powell announced that we only would consider combat on two conditions. The first and most important was to have the support of the American people, a lesson he learned from seeing the elephant during the Vietnam War. The second was that we would not go in unless we had overwhelming power so we could overtake the enemy quickly.

Again, another lesson learned from the Vietnam War.

This concept for future wars became known as the Powell Doctrine. I liked that doctrine. I fought in the Gulf War and was part of that doctrine. My question now is where did the Powell Doctrine go? What took its place? ...

Right now as the game plan looks for Iraq, the U.S. is strong in the air but weak on the ground. Is this the Rumsfeld Doctrine? What if the enemy decides not to cooperate? What if they decide that they can withstand years of bombing, as Nazi Germany and Japan did? Where’s the decisive part? Most important, are the American people in support of this? What if it lasts 10 years?

I think there’s a bigger picture that has not been shared with us yet. I think this whole Iraq deal is actually about oil and the economy and making sure we’re in the end of a recession and not the beginning of a depression. No president wants to be the next Herbert Hoover....

But if this is not about oil and it really is about bringing Iraq to its knees in a ground war to remove Hussein, then we will probably regret that Rumsfeld has never seen the elephant and doesn’t like the Army. The last time we had a secretary of defense who was openly disdainful of the Army was a fellow named Louis Johnson in the Truman administration.

He was the same fellow who ensured that the U.S. Army was absolutely unprepared to fight the initial phases of the Korean War. Johnson had built up the Navy and the Air Force at the expense of the Army in the late 1940s. He didn’t like the Army. He didn’t think they were relevant. He really believed that air [and naval] power were the decisive components of warfare.

He had come from the business community and had not served in combat in either World War. Johnson had never seen the elephant.

Sound familiar?

IRAQ STRATEGISTS QUESTIONING
OLD WAYS OF COMBAT
GOING IN HEAVY SEEN AS NECESSITY

By Richard T. Cooper and John Hendren,
Los Angeles Times, 03/19/03

WASHINGTON—The conflict with Iraq catches many senior leaders of U.S. ground forces in an awkward position: One foot in the future, one foot in the past and passionately divided from the civilian leaders whose authority they accept but whose military judgment they do not always respect.

As a result, the U.S. battle plan for invading Iraq reflects an uneasy compromise between civilian leaders who put their faith in new strategies and technologies and ground commanders who believe the underlying realities of war do not change.

For Iraq, the dispute focused particularly on how important a role to assign to armor and heavy infantry—the 70-ton Abrams tanks used by the Army and Marines, the armor-plated Bradley fighting vehicles, the mechanized artillery, tank-killing helicopters and the vast supply train needed to keep them rolling.

On one side are Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and some of his closest aides, who consider the armed forces—especially the Army—too slow, too heavy and too inflexible to meet the challenges of the post-Cold War world.

Rumsfeld and his inner circle want what he once called “new ways of thinking and new ways of fighting”. That translates into greater reliance on high-tech weapons, especially air power, and on the light, fast-moving capabilities of Special Operations Forces, which won a quick, low-cost victory in Afghanistan. ...

On the other side are many of the senior leaders of the Army and other ground forces. They, too, favor “transformation” to a lighter, more agile force, but they insist it must retain the battlefield superiority of today’s heavy ground units.

And, they have argued, until such new capabilities arrive—sometime in the next decade—there is a vital role for the tank brigades and heavy infantry designed decades ago for a war of survival in Europe.

These leaders say Iraq and other potential adversaries still possess enough tanks and other conventional forces to threaten all but the strongest American units. Overreliance on Special Forces and other so-called light units is seen as a dangerous infatuation.

“I thought it was the generals who always fought the last war,” one senior general said recently, referring to the “light infantry” tactics used in Afghanistan and expressing frustration with what he considered “the one-dimensionality” of some civilian leaders’ thinking.

While the United States will ultimately prevail, the commanders believe, in the chaos of war, things always go wrong. There is no such thing as victory on the cheap. The only sensible approach is to mobilize the strongest force possible, backed by maximum support to cope with the inevitable snafus.

For months last summer and through the fall, Rumsfeld and his senior aides challenged plans for the kind of massive buildup of troops and materiel that characterized the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Why, senior officials asked, did ground commanders need so many troops, so much heavy equipment, such mountains of supplies? Why couldn’t the planners be more imaginative? Why couldn’t they do the job with surgical applications of air power and the fast-moving, light and flexible tactics of the Afghanistan war?

The answer, senior Army leaders said, is that “going heavy” with the forces many civilian Pentagon officials consider outmoded would ultimately promote a quicker, cleaner victory at lower cost in American and Iraqi lives. ...

Moreover, using the armed forces’ most powerful ground units reduces the likelihood of protracted battles and gives planners more freedom to use the light forces imaginatively.

What heavy forces deliver in return is irresistible firepower, speed and combat superiority against anything Iraq can muster. They can drive forward with around-the-clock assaults, giving enemy commanders little time to regroup, counterattack or bog down American forces in extended, potentially bloody engagements.

[JR: The “new war planners” are facing-off with the old war “seasoned warriors”. Rumsfeld is not their equal as he served as a naval aviator instructor after the Korean War was over and was fortunate enough to never see any action. It is one thing to see the elephant during a battle and another to read about war from the pages in an instructor’s manual. Rumsfeld may consider himself to be the Napoleon of war strategies but he is just an amateur playing in the war games. The Father of all Battles will be fought in the boardrooms with the suits from the Defense Department doing battle with the uniforms from the Pentagon. In the middle are our 220,000-plus U.S. troops facing the elephant in Iraq.]

MEDIA GIANT’S RALLY SPONSORSHIP
RAISES QUESTIONS

By Tim Jones, *Tribune*, 03/19/03

Some of the biggest rallies this month have endorsed President Bush’s strategy against Saddam Hussein, and the common thread linking most of them is Clear Channel Worldwide Inc., the nation’s largest owner of radio stations.

In a move that has raised eyebrows in some legal and journalistic circles, Clear Channel radio stations in Atlanta, Cleveland, San Antonio, Cincinnati and other cities have sponsored rallies attended by up to 20,000 people. The events have served as a loud rebuttal to the more numerous but generally smaller anti-war rallies.

The sponsorship of large rallies by Clear Channel stations is unique among major media companies, which have confined their activities in the war debate to reporting and occasionally commenting on the news. The San Antonio-based broadcaster owns more than 1,200 stations in 50 states and the District of Columbia.

While labor unions and special interest groups have organized and hosted rallies for decades, the involvement of a big publicly regulated broadcasting company breaks new ground in public demonstrations.

“I think this is pretty extraordinary,” said former Federal Communications Commissioner Glen Robinson, who teaches law at the University of Virginia. “I can’t say that this violates any of a broadcaster’s obligations, but it sounds like borderline manufacturing of the news.”

“They’re not intended to be pro-military. It’s more of a thank-you to the troops. They’re just patriotic rallies,” said Clear Channel spokeswoman Lisa Dollinger. ...

“Any rallies that our stations have been a part of have been of their own initiative and in response to the expressed desires of their listeners and communities,” Dollinger said.

Clear Channel is by far the largest owner of radio stations in the nation. The company owned only 43 in 1995, but when Congress removed many of the ownership limits in 1996, Clear Channel was quickly on the highway to radio dominance. The company owns and operates 1,233 radio stations (including six in Chicago) and claims 100 million listeners. Clear Channel generated about 20 percent of the radio industry’s \$16 billion in 2001 revenues.

The media giant’s size also has generated criticism. Some recording artists have charged that Clear Channel’s dominance in radio and concert promotions is hurting the recording industry. Congress is investigating the effects of radio consolidation. And the

FCC is considering ownership rule changes, among them changes that could allow Clear Channel to expand its reach.

Sen. Russell Feingold (D-Wis.) has introduced a bill that could halt further deregulation in the radio industry and limit each company’s audience share and percent of advertising dollars. These measures could limit Clear Channel’s meteoric growth and hinder its future profitability.

Jane Kirtley, a professor of media ethics and law at the University of Minnesota, said the company’s support of the Bush administration’s policy toward Iraq makes it “hard to escape the concern that this may in part be motivated by issues that Clear Channel has before the FCC and Congress.”...

Rick Morris, an associate professor of communications at Northwestern University, said these actions by Clear Channel stations are a logical extension of changes in the radio industry over the last 20 years, including the blurring of lines between journalism and entertainment.

From a business perspective, Morris said, the rallies are a natural fit for many stations, especially talk-radio stations where hosts usually espouse politically conservative views.

“Nobody should be surprised by this,” Morris said.

In 1987 the FCC repealed the Fairness Doctrine, which required broadcasters to cover controversial issues in their community and to do so by offering balancing views. With that obligation gone, Morris said, “radio can behave more like newspapers, with opinion pages and editorials.”

“They’ve just begun stretching their legs, being more politically active,” Morris said.

[JR: If more and more radio stations can be owned by one corporation or one individual, at what point can this single perspective begin to influence the American people and control both information and news to manipulate public opinion? Is this being done by design through the Elite? Clear Channel Worldwide Inc. alone, with its 1,233 radio stations can influence or manipulate the minds of 100 million people. That’s over ONE-THIRD of the American population. Isn’t that equivalent to BIG BROTHER? It may seem okay in Washington now, provided this power is kept in the hands of Zionists to push their agenda. But what would the outcry be should an equal power of influence be taken over by some Islamic Fundamentalist group and used against the will of the government and the Zionists? The screams of anti-Semitism would be deafening and could be heard throughout the world. The media should not only be balanced through limited ownership—but government influence over the media should also be limited. That is what is constitutionally meant by “A FREE PRESS”.]

SMALLPOX VACCINE ‘INSURANCE’

By Laura Meckler, *CBS NEWS*, 03/06/03

WASHINGTON (AP)—After months of delay, the Bush administration is proposing a compensation fund for people injured by the smallpox vaccine, trying to plug the most prominent hole in its inoculation program.

The proposal, which Congress would have to approve, is based on a similar compensation package now available to police officers and firefighters injured on the job.

Under the plan, the government would pay \$262,100 for each person who dies or is permanently and totally disabled by the vaccine. Those less severely injured could receive up to \$50,000 plus medical expenses.

The vaccine, effective in preventing the transmission of the highly contagious disease, carries rare but serious risks, including death. Smallpox was declared eradicated globally in 1980, but there is fear it could return in an act of bioterrorism.

The plan announced Wednesday by the Health and Human Services Department would compensate people who are being asked to participate in the vaccination program—as many as 10.5 million health care workers and emergency responders. The fund also would cover people injured because they came into contact with a vaccinated worker.

“We are asking these health professionals to perform a vital public duty, so we are proposing to provide them the same sort of benefits that we provide our public safety officers when they are injured on the job,” Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in a statement.

The government is making the vaccine available to the general public but not recommending it, and these people would not be eligible for compensation from the fund.

An existing federal compensation fund covers those injured by other vaccines, but not smallpox. People injured by the smallpox vaccine are not likely to be fully compensated for lost wages or medical expenses without a separate fund.

That partly explains the tepid early response to the federal vaccination program, according to state and local officials, unions, hospitals and health care workers.

Federal officials initially aimed to vaccinate as many as 450,000 people on special smallpox response teams in about a month. As of Tuesday, about six weeks into the program, 12,404 people had been vaccinated.

Officials are hoping the fund will increase the numbers. “We would expect that this would provide a level of comfort to those who are concerned about the vaccine,” said Jerry Hauer, the top bioterrorism official at HHS.

The government said its compensation plan, modeled after the Public Safety Officers Benefit program, would:

Offer \$262,100 for people who die or are permanently and totally disabled because of the vaccine. The money would be paid even if the victim had other death benefits.

Pay up to \$50,000 in lost wages for people temporarily or partially disabled by the vaccine. The government would pay two-thirds of lost wages after the fifth day away from work, with a maximum of \$50,000. This would be in addition to any workers' compensation or disability insurance benefits available.

Pay reasonable out-of-pocket medical expenses, other than minor injuries, for people injured. This would be secondary to any health insurance benefit available.

Retroactively cover everyone who has been vaccinated since Jan. 24, when the civilian program began. ...

Officials in Florida, Minnesota and Virginia have said they are investigating a handful of cases of people sickened after getting the vaccine, and there have been several reactions among military personnel being vaccinated. None of the reported reactions have been serious.

The most common serious reaction comes when vaccinia escapes from the inoculation site, often because people touch the site and then touch themselves or someone else. The virus transferred to the eye, for instance, can cause blindness.

More deadly is encephalitis, which can cause paralysis or permanent neurological damage. Also fatal though very rare is progressive vaccinia, where the site does not heal and the virus spreads, eating away at flesh, bone and gut.

[JR: These “recommended” (with reservations) smallpox vaccinations are obviously making the drug manufacturer more profitable, so of course the potential risks will be minimized. Washington seems to have an open checkbook when it comes to buying allies for the WAR ON IRAQ or encouraging emergency and healthcare workers to prepare for a possible biological terrorist attack. They aren't, however, willing to fund the additional expenses placed on municipalities required to comply with all the hundreds of new federal regulations pertaining to security checks and disaster preparation. That is why many cities and counties have withdrawn their plans for their disaster programs. It's very easy for Washington to use their foreign policy to increase the potential of a terrorist attack and tell local governments they must prepare for the inevitable worse-case scenario without the necessary funding. Why aren't local governments coming out against this fabricated War on Terrorism and especially the War on Iraq? Because they are afraid that Bush will cut off other federal funding if they don't support HIS wars. BIG BROTHER is alive and well.]

NEVADA CORPORATIONS:

Nevada Vs. “Offshore”: Working With Your Capital

Budget's “Tip of the Week” #17:

What About “Offshore”?

“What about setting up a corporation ‘offshore’? I've heard that offshore corporations don't have to pay any tax and that I can move my money offshore to shelter it.” Up front, there is little that can be done offshore that cannot be accomplished in and through the shelter of Nevada corporations. But let's look at just a few things that this questioner should consider before moving in this direction.

There CAN BE tax advantages, particularly in cases where the offshore entity earns its income in a tax-free jurisdiction from activities in locations that do not tax the income. Such opportunities can be hard to find. On the other hand, if the offshore entity (sometimes called an IBC, for International Business Corporation) is OWNED by U.S. stockholders, the stockholders are still subject to tax on capital gains and on any income derived from the IBC. In most cases offshore shareholding is NOT private, unlike in Nevada. Further, the United States has developed MLATs (Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties) with virtually all offshore locations, allowing for the extension of U.S. law—and the powers of the I.R.S.—into those jurisdictions, at will.

One good solution might be for the offshore entity to be owned by a private Nevada corporation. Just keep in mind that the Nevada corporation would still be subject to taxation on any income or capital gains derived from the IBC. In many cases, however, it might be better to simply extend the structuring of Nevada corporate shelters than to try to operate offshore. The main reasons for this are more immediate control and, of course, privacy. *The Nevada Corporation Manual* sums it up like this:

“Nevada is unique in that it not only offers a high degree of privacy but ready access to your capital that is not likely to be denied in even the most extreme turmoil that COULD develop in the world's financial markets. In these highly uncertain economic times, long-range planning should take into consideration the possibility—even the probability—of extreme turmoil. In that event, there could be some real shock felt by those whose strategies are oriented around offshore structures. It is entirely possible that in a real emergency offshore funds would be totally inaccessible, depriving the owners of those assets the use of their own capital when they need it the most. For any situation where ready access to one's capital is required, and especially if you wish to work with your capital, Nevada corporations are THE answer.”

In September 2000, the globalist OECD (Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) proposed the total elimination of any and all offshore tax advantages. The Bush Administration has withdrawn its support—for the time being—from this initiative, probably allowing time for repositioning by at least some of the Big Boys. Ultimately, though, it seems likely that offshore jurisdictions will be precluded from offering tax advantages to foreigners. When that happens, it will leave the shelter of Nevada corporations as one of the very few true “havens”.

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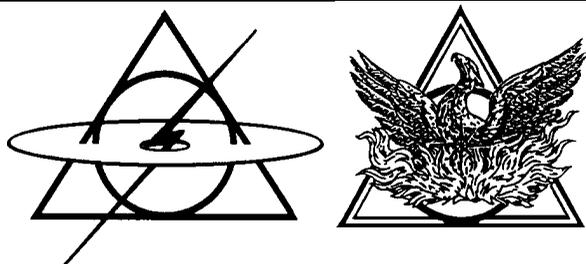
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WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HATONN

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