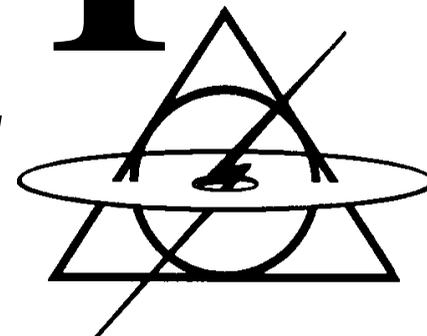


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SUCCESSFUL CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION



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Hidden Hands In The Vatican

6/27/03—#2 (16-315)

GCH—RE: *THE BROKEN CROSS*; *The Hidden Hand in the Vatican*, by Piers Compton.
PART 2—[PART 2: Ch 1-2]

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[H: We are tempted here to do a bit of tampering with the book contents because we have also received an excellent reference to this upcoming portion of the book regarding the history of Cardinal Roncalli and Rosicrucian Masonry in 1935. My decision, however, is to ask that the book be presented as is since the portion

added only covers a portion of the chapter itself. I do believe, however, that the additional information will be so worthy of note that we will ask that Mark please run it separately.

I am a bit torn however, for if I don't have Dharma type in the information on the disk we have no way to ensure getting it into a *Journal* later since the contents of the paper do not automatically make it into the data which would move into a *Journal* when compiled.

We will handle those decisions and considerations later but will expect a reminder of this notation if we seem to neglect our intent as "life happens". The reason for this consideration is that the excerpts and comments are well studied and annotated by Gordon Cardinal Bateman in August of 1999. We will see what things

may come.]

PART 2

*Our moral and political world is undermined
With passages, cellars, and sewers.—Goethe*

THE BROKEN CROSS
The Hidden Hand in the Vatican

By Piers Compton (1983)

1.

The pontificate of Pius XII (1939-58) found the Church in a highly flourishing condition. It was exerting its legitimate effect upon the Western world. More and more people were acquiring a fuller realization, or at least a glimmering, of the Catholic ideal. In England an average of ten thousand people yearly, and in the United States some seventy thousand in one year alone, were said to have

(Continued on page 2)

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'gone over' to Rome; and these converts included not a few who could be classified as prominent in various walks of life.

Entire houses of Angelican religious, who had favored high Church practices, sometimes followed suit. The record number of those training to be priests and nuns promised well for the Church's future. The tide of opposition resulting from the Reformation was on the turn. The signs of Catholic revival were spreading throughout a most unexpected quarter—the English-speaking world.

Those things, strangely enough, coincided with the rise of Communism and the widespread collapse of moral and social values that followed the 1939 war. During that war, which left Communism in the ascendant, the Vatican had been one of the few completely neutral centers in the world, which caused it to be adversely criticized by Communists who interpreted that attitude as latent partisanship for the other side; and that criticism was strengthened when the Pope passed sentence of excommunication on Catholics who joined, or in any way aided, the Communist Party.

This was an extension of the warning conveyed by the previous Pope, Pius XI, in his encyclical *Quadragesimo Anno*: "No one can be at the same time a sincere Catholic and a socialist properly so-called."

Those words had doubtless been written with an eye on continental rather than English-speaking exponents of democracy. But they nonetheless implied condemnation, not only of revolutionary principles, but also of the milder forms of political expression that, when put to the test, encourage subversion.

There it was. The dividing line between Rome and her enemies had been firmly drawn. Both sides had issued their challenge and flourished their blazon. One was inspired by a Messianic though non-religious fervor that promised better things once the existing form of society had been dissolved; the other, secure in its reliance on a supernatural promise which meant that it would not, could not, compromise.

2.

As already mentioned, the meeting of secret societies, which passed a number of epoch-making resolutions, was held in Paris in 1935: And at about that time a Bishop from Northern Italy, who was working as representative of the Holy See in the Turkish capital of Istanbul, there underwent a strange experience that was to convert the least of the resolutions passed by the secret societies into a momentous reality.

The Bishop in question was Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli. Born in 1881 and ordained in 1904 he soon attracted the notice of the Vatican, as a Doctor of Theology and a Professor of ecclesiastical History. In 1921 he was assigned to the Congregation of Propaganda and after being consecrated Bishop in 1935, he entered the diplomatic service of the Church.

His first appointments were in the Balkans, a part of the world that was far from being favorably disposed toward any Catholic influence, as Roncalli discovered. As Apostolic Visitor, or *Charge d'affaires* of the Holy See at Sofia, he became involved in diplomatic difficulties with the King, and these took on a more petty, but personal aspect when, in 1935, he was transferred as Apostolic Delegate to Istanbul.

There the current fervor for modernization, under Mustapha Kemal, was in full swing. Some of his laws came down heavily on religion, Islamic as well as Christian, and the wearing of any kind of clerical garb in public was strictly forbidden. The use of ecclesiastical titles was also proscribed.

Roncalli was made to feel that he was in a kind of strait jacket, never really free but watched and spied on, and his moves reported. Any contacts he might have developed were few and far between, and his invariable habit at the end of the day was to go home quietly, a foreign and anonymous passer-by.

One evening he felt unusually tired, and without undressing or putting out the light, he flung himself on the bed. On the walls were reminders of his earlier life, the photographs of relatives and of the village on the Lombardy plain where they had grown up together. He closed his eyes and murmured his usual prayers. In a kind of vision he saw the faces of people, those he had heedlessly passed in the street that day, float out of a mist before him. Among them was the face of an old man with white hair and an olive skin that gave him an almost oriental look.

What followed may have been a dream, or so it appeared to have been, when daylight came. But there in the quiet room Roncalli distinctly heard the old man ask: "Do you recognize me?" and without knowing what prompted him Roncalli answered: "I do. Always."

His visitor went on: "I came because you called me. You are on the way, though you still have much to learn. But are you ready?"

Roncalli never experienced the slightest doubt. It had all been prepared for him. He said: "I wait for you, Master."

The old man smiled and asked three times if Roncalli would recognize him again; and Roncalli answered three times that he would.

Even the coming of morning did not make the experience seem unusual. It would, Roncalli knew, be repeated and in a way that would give it no ordinary meaning.

He knew that time had come when he found the same old man waiting outside his lodgings; and he also felt that a more familiar situation had developed which caused Roncalli to ask if he would join him at table.

The old man shook his head. "It is at another table we must dine tonight." So saying he set off with Roncalli following, into a quarter of quiet, dark streets that the latter had never entered. A narrow opening led to a door at which Roncalli stopped, as if by instinct, while the old man told him to go up and wait for him.

Beyond the entrance was a short staircase and then another. There was no light, but in the almost total darkness there seemed to be voices calling from above, directing Roncalli's footsteps to go on. He was brought to a stop by a door, smaller than the others, which was slightly ajar, and Roncalli, pushing that open, found himself in a wide room, pentagonal in shape with bare walls and two large windows that were closed.

There was a big cedarwood table in the centre, shaped like the room. Against the walls were three chairs, one holding a linen tunic, three sealed envelopes and some colored girdles. On the table was a silver-hilted sword, the blade of which, in the partial light made by three red candles in a three-branched candelabra, appeared to be flaming. Three other candles in a second branched holder had not been lighted. There was also a censer about which were tied colored ribbons and three artificial roses made of flimsy material with their stalks crossing each other.

Near the sword and the censer was an open *Bible*, and a quick glance was enough to show that it was open at the Gospel of St. John, telling of the mission of John the Baptist, passages which had always held a peculiar fascination for Roncalli. "A man appeared from God whose name was John...". The name John acquires a special significance in secret societies, who make a point of meeting on December 27th, the feast of the

Evangelist, and on June 24th, feast day of the Baptist. They frequently refer to the Holy Saints John.

Roncalli heard a light footstep behind him and turned from the table. It was someone he was to hear addressed, as Roncalli had called him, the Master. He was wearing a long linen tunic that reached to the ground and a chain of knots from which hung various silver symbols about his neck. He put a white-gloved hand on Roncalli's shoulder. "Kneel down, on your right knee."

While Roncalli was still kneeling the Master took one of the sealed envelopes from the chair. He opened it so that Roncalli was able to see that it contained a sheet of blue paper on which was written a set of rules. Taking and opening a second envelope the Master passed a similar sheet to Roncalli who, standing by then, saw that it was inscribed with seven questions.

"Do you feel you can answer them?" asked the Master.

Roncalli said that he did and returned the paper.

The Master used it to light one of the candles in the second holder. "These lights are for the Masters of the Past (The Masters are said to be perfect beings, the masters of humanity who have passed through a series of initiations to a state of higher consciousness) who are here among us," he explained.

He then recited the mysteries of the Order in words that seemed to pass into and through Roncalli's mind without remaining there; yet he somehow felt they had always been part of his consciousness. The Master then bent over him. "We are known to each other by the names we choose for ourselves. With that name each of us seals his liberty and his scheme of work and so makes a new link in the chain. What will your name be?"

The answer was ready. There was no hesitation.

"Johannes," said the disciple. Always, ready to his mind, was his favorite Gospel.

The master took up the sword, approached Roncalli and placed the tip of the blade upon his head; and with its touch something that Roncalli could only liken to exquisite amazement, new and irrepressible, flowed into every part of his being. The Master sensed his wonder.

"What you feel at this moment, Johannes, many others have felt before you; myself, the masters of the Past and other brethren throughout the world. You think of it as light, but it has no name."

They exchanged brotherly greetings, and the Master kissed the other seven times. Then he spoke in whispers, making Roncalli aware of the signs of recognition, gestures that have to be performed and rites to be carried out daily at precise moments which correspond to certain stages in the passage of the Sun.

"Exactly at those points, three times each day, our brethren all over the world are repeating the same phrases and making the same gestures. Their strength is very great, and it stretches far. Day after day its effects are felt upon humanity."

The Master took the remaining sealed envelope, opened it and read the contents to Johannes. They concerned the formula of the oath, with a solemn undertaking not to reveal the Order's secrets, and promises to work always for good and, most important of all, to respect the law of God and His ministers—(a somewhat ambiguous stipulation in view of all that their surroundings implied).

Johannes appended his name to the paper, together with a sign and a number that the Master showed him. That confirmed his degree and entry into the Order; and once again a feeling of unearthly strength welled through his being.

The master took the paper, folded in seven times

and requested Johannes to place it on the point of the sword. Once again a sudden flame ran down the length of the blade. This was carried over to the candles that were still giving light “for the Master of the Past”.

The flames consumed it, and the Master scattered the ashes. He then reminded Johannes of the solemnity of the oath he had taken, and how it would convey a sense of freedom, real freedom, that was known in general to the brethren. He again kissed Johannes, who was too overcome to respond by word or gesture and could only weep.

A few weeks later Johannes (or Roncalli, as we must again continue to call him) was told that he was now sufficiently versed in the cult to figure in its next and conclusive phase—that of entering the Temple.

The Master prepared him for what, he never disguised from Roncalli, would be an ordeal; and Roncalli’s apprehension increased when he found that no one like himself, an initiate of only the first degree, was allowed to enter the Temple *unless a task of great importance was about to be entrusted to him.*

What could be ahead for Roncalli? Did the vision of a certain Chair, or throne, take shape in his mind as he made his way to the Temple?

There the brethren were assembled, another indication that Roncalli had been picked out for some special mission. On the walls were the mysterious words Azoth and Tetragrammaton. The latter stands for the terrible, ineffable and unpronounceable name of the creator of the universe which was said to have been inscribed on the upper face of the cubicle, or foundation stone, in the Holy of Holies in the Temple at Jerusalem.

It figures in the pattern that is used for the evoking of evil spirits, or sometimes as a protection from them, a pattern that is known as the great magic circle which is drawn on the ground or on the floor. It is some eight feet in diameter, within which another or secondary circle is drawn. Between the two circles, which are composed of endless lines as symbolizing eternity, various articles such as a crucifix, some herbs and bowls of water, which are said to influence evil spirits, are placed.

Also in the Temple was a cross, picked out in red and black, and the number 666, the number of the Beast in the Apocalypse. The secret societies, aware of the general ignorance regarding them, are now confident enough to show their hand. The American people are being made familiar with the mark of the Beast on forms, brands of advertised goods, public notice: And is it mere coincidence that 666 is part of the code used in addressing letters to the British now serving (May 1982) in the South Atlantic? Those numbers, said to be all powerful in the working of miracles and magic, are associated with the Solar God of Gnosticism.

The Gnostics, a sect that flourished in the early Christian centuries, denied the divinity of Christ, disparaged revelation and believed that all material things, including the body, were essentially evil. They held that salvation could only be achieved through knowledge (Their name is derived from the Greek *gnosis*—knowledge). The Gospel stories they taught are allegories, the key to which is to be found in a proper understanding of Kneph, the Sun God, who is represented as a **serpent** and who is said to be the father of Osiris and so the first emanation of the Supreme Being and the Christos of their sect.

Roncalli, in his final and more elevated role for which the initiation prepared him, was to wear the image of the Sun God, surrounded by rays of glory, on his glove.

The colors red and black were held in reverence by the Gnostics and have been much in use by diabolists. They are also the colors of Kali, the Divine Mother of Hindu mythology, thus providing one of the several resemblances that occur between deviations from Christianity and pre-Christian cults. It may be noted that they figured on the banners of the International Anarchist Movement, whose prophet was Mikhail Bakunin (1814-76), a pioneer of libertarianism as opposed to State socialism.

While Roncalli was noting the details of the room the brethren advanced from their places near the walls until they were drawing, slowly and almost imperceptibly, closer and closer to him. When they had formed a chain they pressed forward, touching him with their bodies, as a sign that their strength, which had been tried and proven in earlier ceremonies, was being transmitted to him.

He suddenly realized that, without consciously framing them, he was being given words of power that streamed from him in a voice that he failed to recognize has his own. But he was able to see that everything he said was being written down by one who had been referred to as the Grand Chancellor of the Order. He wrote in French on a sheet of blue paper that bore the heading “The Knight and the Rose”.

Judging by that and other known signs, it would appear that Roncalli was affiliated with the Rose-Croix, the Rosicrucians, a society founded by Christian Rosenkreutz, a German who was born in 1378. But according to its own claims, “The Order of the Rose and Cross has existed from time immemorial, and its mystic rites were practiced and its wisdom taught in Egypt, Eleusis, Samothrace, Persia, Chaldea, India and in far more distant lands, and thus was handed down to posterity the Secret Wisdom of the Ancient Ages.”

That its origin remains a mystery was emphasized by Disraeli who said of the Society in 1841, “Its hidden sources defy research.”

After traveling in Spain, Damascus and Arabia, where he was initiated into Arabian magic, Rosenkreutz returned to Germany and set up his fraternity of *Invisibles*. In a building they designated as *Domus Sancti Spiritus* they followed such varied studies as the secrets of Nature, alchemy, astrology, magnetism, communication with the dead, and medicine.

Rosenkreutz is said to have died at the over-ripe age of 106 and when opened his tomb, which had been lost sight of for many years, was found to contain signs and symbols of magic and occult manuscripts.

At first glance, Turkey may seem to be a country “off the map”, so far as the operations of a secret society are concerned. But in 1911 Max Heindel, founder of the Rosicrucian Fellowship and the Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception, wrote of that country in a manner that showed it was not escaping the observations of those who work with an eye on the religious, political and social future. “Turkey,” he said, “has taken a long stride toward liberty under the Young Turks of the Grand Orient.”

During the last few decades we have learnt much that was previously hidden about the rites, passwords and practices of the secret societies. But there are few indications of the way in which they choose, from their mainly inactive rank and file, those who are looked upon as capable of furthering their designs. One of their simple instructions runs: “You must learn to govern men and dominate them, not by fear but by virtue, that is, by observing the rules of the Order.” But an occult writing

which appeared in New York is rather more explicit. “Experiments are being made now, unknown oft to the subjects themselves... people in many civilized countries are under supervision and a method of stimulation and intensification is being applied by which they will bring to the knowledge of the Great Ones themselves a mass of information that may serve as guide to the future efforts of the race.” This was accompanied by a pointed remark that was also a pledge for one who had been judged to be suitable: “You were for long the object of our observation and our study.”

[END QUOTING CHAPTERS 1-2, PART 2. TO BE CONTINUED]

Here is a good place to shut down for the day before I lose my typist. Dharma simply says, rightfully so, that this stuff gives her the creeps and frankly wonders how the world made it this far.

Of course the response is “not very well” and mankind grows so slowly out of his desire for controlled and controlling ritual. Just be patient and allow the book to unfold so that you don’t jump to conclusions which are possibly erroneous. The writing is overflowing with “clues” to total BS but also to TRUTH. Be very careful into what you jump.—GCH

dharma

6/28/03—#1 (16-316)

GCH—RE: THE BROKEN CROSS; The Hidden Hand in the Vatican, by Piers Compton. PART 4— [PART 2: Ch. 3-5]

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[QUOTING PART 2, CHAPTERS 3-5:]

3.

In the last days of December 1944, Roncalli was preparing to leave Turkey for Paris, where he had been appointed Papal Nuncio to the Fourth French Republic. The war was still on, and the difference between Right and Left in politics which had split France, was still violently on the surface; and it soon became clear to observers whose judgment was not affected by ecclesiastical titles that Roncalli’s innate sympathies were with the Left.

It was on his recommendation that Jacques Maritain was made French ambassador to the Holy See. Maritain was generally regarded as a world thinker, certainly as one of the most prominent Catholic philosophers. The full impact of his “integral humanism” had so far been tempered by his Aquinian perspective. But later it was overcome by such contemptuous promulgations as that the social kingship of Christ had been good enough for medieval minds (and Maritain’s mentor, Thomas Aquinas, had been a medieval) but not for the people enlightened by such “instruments of progress” as the French and Bolshevik Revolutions.

His status as a Catholic philosopher again causes doubt since on his own testimony he had been converted, not by any spiritual urge, not by any theological or historical argument but by the writings of Leon Bloy (1846-1917).

In spite of its flowing musical style, Bloy’s writing is hardly the sort of stuff to convert one to Christianity. He identified the Holy Ghost with Satan and described himself as a prophet of Lucifer whom he pictured as

seated on top of the world with his feet on the corners of the Earth, controlling all human action and exercising a fatherly rule over the swarm of hideous human offspring. Compared to this vision of an affable Lucifer, God is seen to be a relentless master whose work will end in final failure when Satan displaces him as king.

According to his own confession, Bloy was converted to what he and his disciples called Christianity by the ravings of a poor prostitute who saw visions and who, after her affair with Bloy, died in a madhouse.

In 1947 Vincent Auriol was named President of the French Republic. He was an anti-Church plotter, one of those hardened anti-clericals who find a natural home on the continent; yet he and Roncalli became not only cordial associates, as their offices demanded, but close friends. This was not due to Christian charity on one part and to diplomatic courtesy on the other but to the ceremony that Roncalli had undergone in Istanbul which established a bond of understanding between the two men.

This was given tangible expression when in January 1953 Archbishop Roncalli was elevated to Cardinal, and Auriol insisted on exercising his traditional right as the French Head of State to confer the red biretta on the newly created Prince of the Church. This occurred at a ceremony in the Elysee Palace when Roncalli, seated on the chair (loaned by a museum) on which Charles X had been crowned, received the plaudits of men who had sworn to bring him and all he stood for into the dust, a design in which Roncalli was secretly pledged, though by more devious methods, to assist them.

Three days later he was transferred as Patriarch to Venice; and during the five years he was there he again showed as in Paris a certain sympathy for Left-wing ideologies that sometimes puzzled the Italian Press.

It was during the pontificate of Pius XII that a number of priests then working at the Vatican became aware that all was not well beneath the surface. For a strange kind of influence, not to their liking was making itself felt, and this they traced to a group who had come into prominence as experts, advisers and specialists, and who surrounded the Pope so closely that he was spoken of half humorously as being their prisoner.

But those priests who were more seriously concerned set up a chain of investigations both here and in America where their spokesman was Father Eustace Eilers, a member of the Passionist Congregation of Birmingham, Alabama. This led to establishing the fact that the Illuminati were making themselves felt in Rome by means of specially trained infiltrators who came from near the place to reduce the Vatican to a hollow shell.

That the hand of the Illuminati was certainly involved became clearer when Father Eilers, who announced that he was publishing those facts, was suddenly found dead, presumably of one of those heart attacks that, when dealing with secret societies, so often precede promised revelations.

Pius XII died on October the 9th, 1958; and on the 29th of that month Angelo Roncalli, after the Cardinals in conclave had voted eleven times, became the two hundred and sixty-second Pope of the Catholic Church. He was seventy-seven but of a build well able to sustain the sixty pounds of ecclesiastical vestments with which he was weighed down for his coronation on November the 4th.

4.

Roncalli's election was a signal for outbursts of welcome, often from the most unexpected quarter, to echo round the world. Non-Catholic, agnostic and atheist agreed that the College of Cardinals had made an

excellent choice, the best, in fact, for many years. It had lighted upon a man of wisdom, humility and holiness who would rid the Church of superficial accretions and guide it back to the simplicity of Apostolic times; and last, but not least among the advantages that promised well for the future, the new Pope was of peasant stock.

Seasoned Catholics could not account for the warmth and admiration that greeted him as journalists, correspondents, broadcasters and television crews from almost every country in the world swarmed into Rome. For very little had hitherto been known to the outside world about Angelo Roncalli beyond the fact that he was born in 1881, had been Patriarch of Venice and that he had held diplomatic posts in Bulgaria, Turkey and France. As for his humble background, there had been peasant Popes before. The Church could absorb them as easily as it had her academic and aristocratic Pontiffs.

But the secular world, as evidenced by some of the most "popular" publications in England, insisted that something momentous had happened in Rome and that it was only the promise of still greater things to come; while informed Catholics, who for years had pleaded the Church's cause, continued to scratch their heads and wonder. Had some information gone forth, not to them who had always supported religion but to those who served up snippets of truth, or no truth at all, to titillate and mislead the public?

An Irish priest who was in Rome at the time said of the clamor for intimate details regarding Roncalli: "Newspapers and radio, television and the magazines, simply could not get enough information about the background and career, the family and the doings of the new Holy Father. Day after day, from the close of the conclave to the coronation, from his first radio message to the opening of the consistory, the remarks and the activities of the new Pope were dealt out in flamboyant detail for all the world to see."

Speculation was added to interest when it became known that the new Pope wished to be known as John XXIII. Was it in memory of his father, who had been named John, or out of respect for John the Baptist? Or was it a wish to emphasize his readiness to outface, or even to shock, the traditional outlook? John had been a favorite name for many Popes. But why retain the numbering?

For there had been an earlier John XXIII, an anti-pope who was deposed in 1415. He has a tomb in the baptistery at Florence, and his portrait appeared in the *Annuario Pontificio*, the Church's yearbook, until recent years. It has since been removed. We know nothing to his credit, for his only recorded achievement, if the word of such a precious reprobate as himself can be believed, was to have seduced more than two-hundred women, including his sister-in-law.

Meantime there was a general feeling abroad that the Church was approaching a break with the traditional past. It had always evinced a proud refusal to be influenced by its environment. It had been protected, as by some invisible armor, from the fashion of the time. But now it was showing a readiness to undergo a self-imposed reformation as dramatic as that which had been forced upon it in the Sixteenth Century. To some it was anticipated as a bringing up to date of Christian doctrine, a desirable and inevitable process of re-conversion in which a deeper and ever expanding catholicity would replace the older and static Catholicism of the past.

Such a change was guardedly foreshadowed in an

early statement by John XXIII when he said: "Through east and west there stirs a wind, as it were born of the spirit, arousing attention and hope in those who are adorned with the name of Christians."

The words of "Good Pope John" (how quickly he acquired that complimentary assessment) were not merely prophetic. For he spoke of changes in the once monumental Church that would be initiated by himself.

5.

American collectors of ecclesiastical mementos would have noticed soon after Pope John's election that certain objects were being offered for sale in some of their papers. They were described as copies of the personal cross chosen and sanctioned by John XXIII.

These crosses had nothing to do with the pectoral cross that is worn, suspended from the neck, by every Pontiff and bishop as a sign of Episcopal authority. They are made of gold, ornamented with precious stones, and each one contains a holy relic. Before wearing it the prelate says a prescribed prayer in memory of the Passion and begs for grace to overcome the wiles of the Evil One throughout the day.

But the cross that was put before the American public under Roncalli's patronage had very different associations. For its centre, instead of holding a representation of the crucified Figure, contained the all-seeing Eye of the Illuminati, enclosed in a triangle or pyramid; and these crosses, advertised in *The Pilot* and *The Tablet*, the diocesan papers of Brooklyn and of Boston were, in keeping with the lack of dignity and reverence that was becoming proverbial, on sale at two hundred and fifty dollars each.

Those who understood the meaning of the mystic symbols, and how profoundly they affect us, again had their attention drawn to the sun-face that was depicted on John's glove. It was reminiscent of the design used by pagan sun worshippers; while his gesture of extending a hand with fingers spread over a congregation could also be recognized as an invocation to the white moon, part of an esoteric code that has always claimed followers.

To those who think that such suggestions verge on the ridiculous, it need only be pointed out that thousands of sedate, bowler-hatted businessmen have, in the course of furthering their careers, performed rituals and adopted symbols that make the above seem very tame indeed.

To people in general, however, the pyramid, without resigning one jot of its original significance, now passes as a thoroughly respectable and harmless sign. It is merely a decoration. But it is one that goes into general circulation whenever an American one-dollar note changes hands.

For on the reverse side of the note is the secret Eye, enclosed in a pyramid, and the date 1776. There are also the words *Annuit Coeptis, Novus Ordo Seclorum*.

The date 1776 may indicate no more to the unsuspecting than that it was the year of the American *Declaration of Independence* drawn up by Thomas Jefferson.

True enough. But what of the symbols which also figure on the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States—why choose them? And 1776 was also the year in which Adam Weishaupt founded his brotherhood. And Thomas Jefferson, like his fellow politician Benjamin Franklin, was an ardent Illuminist.

The words quoted above may be translated as meaning: "He (God) has approved of our undertaking, which has been crowned with success. A new order of the ages is born."

It has been demonstrated time and again that the future of the world is in the hands not of mere politicians but of those who have the power, occult allied to international financial power, to manipulate events according to their plans; and we of the present time have witnessed the coming of their new order in several departments of life, including the religious, political and social. Before the current propaganda that emphasizes the role of women became popular, the occult authority Oswald Wirth spoke of woman "not being afraid" to adopt masculine rites and customs, and of how, when she has obtained her full power, men will comply with her directions. That process is being actively carried out before us.

The term "new" is being propagated as though it necessarily implies a marked improvement in whatever has existed before. It attained political prominence in 1933, the year in which Roosevelt's New Deal was instituted; and it was in the same year that the Illuminati insignia, with the words referring to the "new order of the ages", appeared on the reverse side of the American dollar bill. Their enactment is now taking shape in the formation of a new One World Order in which, it is anticipated, different nations, races, cultures and traditions will be absorbed to the point of eventually disappearing.

[END QUOTING PART 2, CHAPTERS 3-5]

* * *

Serious stuff? Yes indeed. How many ways and times must you be warned and told? The truth is known around the globe and yet even the ones who share this truth are badgered and denounced—even in the face of realization of being "right".

Yes, I know that you would simply like ATON to meet Lucifer at high noon next Friday and have a real brawl. Well, don't count it out that something may well happen next week as the U.S. again celebrates (around the globe) some false idea of "independence" from your "MASTERS". You in the U.S. are right back worse off than you started and still the Native Indigenous People have not fared much better except to now embrace business gambling and things of the "New World Order" Order.

No thank you, readers, Satan/Lucifer is your problem and if you do not choose to contain the predator, so be it.

May you think carefully upon these things that you may live long and prosper.— GCH

dharmia 

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Doris' Corner

6/27/03—#1 (16-315)

By Doris & E.J. Ekker

RE: GENERAL UPDATE FROM PHILIPPINES

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GENERAL UPDATE FOR THE RECORD

DJE—It has been a long time in between confirmations of such a magnitude as to shore up those chinks and doubts that wash over us as we go about our lives, some making plans while others are stuck in life "happenings", and each of us doing whatever we might be doing at any given time in our journeys through this "experience".

We are getting that confirmation, however, friends and family, as pieces of this grand puzzle are being assembled—and usually while we go kicking and screaming into the void of unknowing events. The past is unrecognized as the "dumb-down" process has eaten away at all of us in our consciousness and, frankly, simply that which we do not know. What we don't know, however, does not make it less true. We find that EXPOSURE is the only way to gain knowledge and that is so whether it is in universal physics or mystical ritual.

We are grateful for the anonymous gift of the book we are utilizing these days for sharing, *Broken Cross*. It is, tucked away within its information on that which we abhor or do not accept, the truth about underlying potentials of God in fact and truth. Oh, we know who dropped off the book, literally, to our notice—but we certainly do not know from whence it came.

I share that note for on the surface it seems to only be ANOTHER one of those illumination "Illuminati" attached dissertations of things of which we grow weary in confronting.

Who might be Piers Compton, the author? We have no idea and we are quite sure he would not recognize our name or station either. It doesn't, moreover, make a whit of difference. Ours is not to run the world, own the world or even be recognized by said world. It is, however, that evil, things or doers, cannot bear long the light turned onto the tricks and manipulations—or long hide the manipulators themselves as the shadows melt away and actions hang forth like laundry on the line when the dryers break down or the power source is severed.

I would guess that here in the Philippines, Manila especially, the very "washer" is broken for not only is the laundry coming out to dry but it is quite dirty as well.

Every day now the spots get larger and more pronounced as "Shout" stain remover doesn't seem to phase the permanent ink marks. Meanwhile, the establishment "bought off" papers don't even bring mention of the matters unfolding. They just continue to give spread to the pictures taken in the White House and surely enough, they are of the very ones hiding the truth from the "brethren".

Ah, but where does all of "that" leave us in all of "this"?

Well, we have our damnable distractions as well as today our visas expire and of course the extensions got botched and you have to get a lawyer to expedite the bribe trail. However, we will note that probably an attorney sophisticated and specializing in "immigration" matter is surely a "next step" in our journey to Paradise.

At least this one comes with references and after being on Radio last night did stay in his office until he got what he

needed from us somewhere around 10:00 P.M. when he sent his courier to fetch the passports, pictures and petition. (It is the Big P Triad). It seems to be the only "Tripod" (V.K.'s definition of our being a leg) that we seem to recognize.

Did SARS have impact on us? Oh indeed—we caught the Big P "syndrome". After getting a break already in delayed trip off-shore as mandated in April we "thought" we were given a year's waiver from such a journey—but alas, the right hand certainly does not know what that left one does. We got our extension from the HEAD OFFICE which can only be surpassed in foul-up qualifications by the White House itself.

The funny came, though, on day-before-yesterday when it was actually too late to make travel arrangements by today that suddenly the WHO took Hong Kong off the SARS list so nobody knows what to do with those travel warnings—even if the U.S. has not removed any warnings, including "don't risk your life in the Philippines".

Not to concern, readers, for as in gambling in Las Vegas—what they didn't get of your blood on last extension day—they WILL GET one way or another before you "get away".

The lawyer is going for a 60-day extension to allow us to make decisions about travel. We laughed because 60 days is all you can get anyway except for only 21 when you offload onto this Island of dreams. There are few "visions", friends, just La-La Land "dreams". (This is representative of the Big L as in La-La-Land.) Put the Big P together with the Big L and you may make it another two months which is hardly even calculated in "Philippine Time". Oh well. You simply can't acquire enough lawyers! By the way, there are more lawyers per capita in the Philippines than ANYWHERE (including the U.S.) in the WORLD!

It does, however, make prison life so much more easily accomplished as I would guess we will not even have to walk across the street to the Penn Travel Agency this time—nor go to Hong Kong for "60 days" (potential probability). That makes the Big P and "pentagon" which then makes that a hexagon. Oh, you know how it goes. It always ends up with that Superstar of David. And, by the way, THAT is the Star of David (el Roy, remember) and not of Israel. Moreover, if you don't believe that is a "thing" (*Res*) then I am here to tell you that there was not even a computer question as to how to write or spell it!

Now, just when you think you have been cute as in the above, you find that the Star in note is not a "star" at all but rather two intertwined TRIANGLES with one inverted while both seem to represent, somehow, the Illuminati with the whole representing the "All Seeing Eye" and which has remained the symbol of "The Order" on the backside of the U.S. dollar bill. It goes, itself, right along with the "666" of "The Mark" of "The Order"! Ah yes, and we thought we would decline the mark thereof? It is on every "bar-code" and is representative of the EXCHANGE of marked items for marked money. It is called "Operation Getcha" or "OG" for short. Some would say it is the "Zionist Organization Government" (ZOG) symbol of excellence which surpasses any *Good Housekeeping* symbol of approval.

By the way, I got all of this information from the CIA while bypassing that old ONS and ONI. INTERPOL won't release that kind of information—I know because I tried to get it through "Gammelsgaard" in Denmark. He did sort of refer me to Prince Bandar but didn't specify "where" or "which" one.

We have been advised to NOT get carried away with "levels of importance" as opportunities arise which would take us to the U.S. Embassy to the celebration of "the U.S. Independence Day" show-and-tell.

We have been asked to foot the bill for at least one friend from Mindanao to attend that glorious celebration along with a promise of an invitation for us. We are now told that the underground informers are saying the celebration is to allow for a major “incident” which will be used for even more MAJOR propaganda involving “terrorist” groups down South.

It finally came out TODAY that the U.S. is totally involved in the “peace” efforts with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF). It is NOT wise to alienate the MILF, don’t you know? The MILF controls a lot of territory where the U.S. needs to capture gold and protect that OIL. So be it, the world needs both gold and oil. It is strange that oil and gold seem to “mix” while neither mixes with plain old polluted water.

But the more interesting thing about the Embassy circumstance is that the “visitors” will be the ones nailed for any ripple of trouble. How blind we are and remain as certainly I didn’t hook such a “crook” together with Independence Day. Well, we should look again and add a bit better—until very recently the Philippines also celebrated “Independence” Day on July 4th. This is even bigger than the Triple P-Triple L operation.

So, friends and family, please relax—we will stay in our allotted cubicle (sleeping cell) and that is not to be confused with Rumor’s and V.K.’s “sleeping cell” or clandestine assumptions. We simply feel it wiser to stay out of the target zone when the shooting is advertised as well as this particular possibility.

As the Supreme Court Justices come under heavier attack and under the picket rallies so too does the connection with the U.S. and U.S. operations and organization recently (this year) in the public notice. Moreover, within the last two weeks there was a big announcement of “bombs” at the U.S. Embassy. It turned out to ONLY be “drills” for “in case” or “if”, etc. Traffic was tied up in the city to the point of really needing bombs to get it moving again. We find it interesting that all of “that” was somehow connected to potential “stuff” at “celebration time”.

We can’t see over to the Embassy to catch any show of fireworks in the sky but we will know how big it might be by how many distracters they shoot off in Makati.

Things are slipping into the pit for the NOW and this non-functioning government so we KNOW there has to be an incident right away and we also know that it will have to pull in the U.S. Wouldn’t it be really nice if they threw this war PARTY and nobody came?

In this land of rumors and dramas perhaps it is only the “Shadow” who knows but dis-ease sets in, the “denials” heat up while the threats get larger and known “terrorist” cells kill off a few citizens here and there giving rise to excuses for doing all sorts of foolish things.

It is interesting to notice that the President, in office by totally unlawful acts, is promising to bring the law down hard on demonstrations and promises to have arrested anyone(s) breaking the new regulations. IS THAT NOT CALLED “MARTIAL LAW”? But ohmygosh, friends, the stakes are high indeed.

Would the U.S. participate in such a “game”? Did the U.S. invade Iraq to Liberate something or other and find those Weapons of Mass Destruction? Is the “liberation” going well? I can’t seem to find much of anything anywhere “going really well”.

Are we tired of the isolation and limitations? Yes, but it is like very old age and waking up in the morning—the alternative is so negative, relatively speaking.

I am grateful for the wonderful new instrument Two-By made possible. However the alternative had its appeal—nothing to type on. I am able to keep use of my familiar keyboard so that is easy. The screen is a bit larger and for these fuzzy eyes that is GOOD!

The man from the computer store is coming a couple of evenings a week to show EJ the better ways of doing the old tasks and finally the computers, at least, can communicate with one another which keeps other lines of communication open if one goes down for any reason.

The same person has the old machine and thinks he can make it functional for backup for either machine and for “storage”. He is hoping to be able to retrieve some of the data held in limbo as well.

Healthwise I believe that we have never been better in a very long time. That is, of course, also “relative”. However, I have to look back to just before we came here and remember that, indeed, I was in serious jeopardy of ascension. I am probably one of the few who have actually improved, health-wise, in beautiful downtown Manila. I can remember Diane, however, saying (again), “Mom, just don’t consider it—I will NOT sort this mess.” God love her as she had to anyway! Even that is not accurate as the friends and family had to grab what they could with NO SORTING and just run and dump elsewhere. Nightmares also have a way of becoming lessons if you wait long enough. It is never that we “wait” willingly, however, I note. Each, it seems, of our worst, at the moment, nightmares has become in the difficult “long-haul” one of the better solutions for “holding”. It is either “that” or we have truly lost our marbles.

That is probably because of the adrenalin pumped every time you cross the street and avoid getting squashed—one more time. You don’t see many really crippled people in Makati and we thought that was because they aren’t allowed. No, I have decided it is because they are eaten by busses belching black-lung or jeepneys bearing signs of “Jesus Protects Us” in draped, glorious décor. Oh gosh, truly, “Only In the Philippines” (OIP). Both would be banned from this Elite space except how else could you get your slaves to the jobs?

I rather enjoy our observations as I would guess that we truly are the only people in this building doing our own laundry, cooking and yea, even shopping.

We opened the local paper yesterday only to find a picture of our neighbor Congressman’s wife pictured at the White House (USA) at the “State Visit” “affair”. I howled even louder when right there before God and the Philippines, Dubya was in a beautiful tux WITH HIS TEXAS COWBOY BOOTS!

No wonder the *Washington Times* proclaimed that the U.S. was “had” by the Philippine nonsense. Every bootlicker (or worse) was there in Washington lined up for the photo ops. It paid off though, for let me assure you that the ones from media who got included are “sold-out” in loyal dishonor—against this nation in favor of the “masters”.

Funny thing is that each one there plans to immigrate instantly if necessary and have funds and property stashed for that purpose—already in place.

Now everyone here is out of joint because Dubya paid more attention and gave more promises of handouts to Pakistan this very week. And yes, I’m quite sure the world has gone totally insane.

There too was the Philippine DEFENSE heads of state WITH Rumsfeld and Ms. Rice. You can’t get much closer than that can you? But then, there also was Powell and you can see by the entire “play” exactly what was taking place. It is worse than pre-school babes in Santa’s workshop LITERALLY having a push-shove to get to stand next to the tall guy in the Texas boots who is easily head and shoulders and boot-heels taller and more impressive than any of these people could possibly be! Gosh can you just imagine Dubya of all people making it though names like Macapagal, Magsaysay, LingLing, Bong Bong, Tingling, and yes, even “Lovely” Romulo but not to be confused with “Beautiful” Romulus or “Pretty” Magdripagulis (sounds Greek to me). Come to think of it,

it might work out well for George in that in Texas every woman is “Hon” and men are “Buddy” or “Bud”, Stetson hats and Justin boots are “in” and it’s legal to wear your weapons of mass destruction. Moreover, if you make it the White House Kingdomship you can use all at the same time and the raves are of “charming” and “captivating” in the “comfort” of the casual treatment in the ROYAL setting. Wow, that coalition of the willing came with a price tag just for the “association” with the bigwigs.

What is also really funny is the menu of that State Dinner.

In an effort to make the guests “feel at home” they were served things that they could get on any corner in Manila—BETTER—and wouldn’t order if they had to. Goodness, a handful of social climbers and hoods get 15 minutes of photo-ops and the nation gets 1,500 years more of intensified slavery. The price? Pay your own expenses and that includes for six extra family members for the “People” and e-gads, nobody has yet done a “body count” of attachments, but into the hundreds or more, with reservations in at least two to three visitor cities at the BEST hotels—and—all your oil, all your gold, all your Deuterium along with all your money! Well, unlike Castro with his chickens in the posh hotel—there are no chicken feathers on these dudes. These are very definitely Gucci, Luis(ee) Vuitton, Faragamo, Lowes and Cartier or Rolex people. There is really only one class in this country—ELITE. All others are slaves.

Justice “Hilarious” (Hillario) Davide of the Supreme Court cut his *Bible* and decided he had to “Save Zion” and I guess so! Please do not hold me to pronunciation or spelling because, remember, I am from Texas where “Hon” and “Bud” is as tough as it gets outside Junior and Sis.

Just today we had our own smile on names. The lawyer helping us through this immigration thing has a long name which I won’t even attempt. But, he is called “Aga”. Oh, ok! AGA are the first letters of his names. Oh silly woman! So, you can now just call me Deje and E.J., Eeje—it works for us.

The Filipinos are noted for their jokes and they are pretty rank (or is that “ranque”?) most of the time. One now circulating as 15 soldiers were just yesterday shot and killed by elements of the New People’s Army. The joke? “They won’t have to get shot in Iraq! And either way the guns and ammo are the same name-brand.” Ah yes, coalition of the willing and foreign jobs for the unemployed. This is about as good as it may get in this New World Order as organized by the IMF. Impressive, isn’t it?

Do I expect change? I don’t “expect” anything. All I, or anyone, can do is “our job” and hope. We pray for guidance in God’s way and will then try to shut up and listen. We sometimes tell Him our plans and then have to wait while He laughs a bit. This is remembering the thing about “How do you make God laugh?—Tell Him YOUR plans!”

I need to go now and get back to *Broken Cross*. Gosh, life is just one real kick after another! It really is getting easier and easier, however, to find positive points in everything. It seems, even, that the more annoying and irritating the incident the more positive outgrowth appears to be embedded. That is just a word I got from the Iraq war for journalists—and can’t find much excuse to use it often.

Embedded in Southeast Asian sector near the North China Sea. That is so embedded that I can’t find my troop-mates. So, I settle for “foreign correspondent” as this is a foreign country and this is now considered “correspondence”.

May we be some kind of a prism in this rainbow that reflects from within that which might give a bit of light without. God doesn’t advertise HIS presence so why should we be egotistical? Besides, its far safer that way!—DJE

6/29/03—#1 (16-317)

DJE—RE: LAWLESS UPDATE IN PHILIPPINES

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UPDATE COMMENTS:

It is rather difficult to hop, skip and jump from topic to topic while also hoping to keep a bit of sequence of events for your attention. However, we have no luxury of having journalists to cover particular subjects that might come to public attention—or be hidden away so that incredible digging has to be done to uncover the blight.

The big topic today is the battle in the “Drug War” in the Philippines. We, like you, cannot discern whether this is a war to gain control of the business itself—OR—“for”/“against”. A “dream team” is touted only to find that some of the team are so involved already that the appointments couldn’t hold. So now appointed are an interesting bunch already known to be in the drug business—or so the rumors run. One major player whose claim to fame resides in his having had gunfights and slew some 30 people. By any label here that is called “salvaging” if you work for the “law” side of the gunfight.

One who got excluded (after being named) is one who was a former mayor of Manila (nicknamed “Dirty Harry”) and has been in this “get rid of drugs” even after our presence in Manila. His method of nailing the druggies was/is to spray-paint the fence or house of the suspected—which were rarely very high-ranking individuals. However, the word was that it was necessary to protect the guilty and alert the CIA as to its own team. This would, off-hand, appear a joke. Actuality proves it to have been true. Anyway, to protect the possibly guilty he was removed from the leadership list of the warriors against drugs.

The interesting one in charge from the “administration” is a Senator whose claim to fame was being in the U.S. during the Estrada impeachment debacle for emergency surgery. His absence was a great inconvenience. Surgery? Indeed, it took months and the surgery was to transplant hair. Actually, he looks pretty good after poufing and puffing.

Another unrelated but interesting story involved another Senator of the Realm. That one just died THIS WEEK. He had to have an emergency liver transplant in the U.S. His son gave 60 percent of his liver to his Dad. Dad remained skin and bones, however, and finally came back to the Philippines about two weeks ago looking pretty sad. He was to take over the Leadership of the Senate ASAP. Well, ASAP never arrived. He died—not of liver or transplant failure but of abdominal cancer of the stomach. That in itself is interesting since less than three months ago in the U.S. and up to being released to return to the Philippines—there was no cancer!

IT IS A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL

A call on Friday brought some interesting memories and expectations.

All of you readers will recall the “gold transfer” of the mighty team of Russbacher-Russell, transferring gold from the Philippines to Europe? Ah indeed, you know, the flights brought down in Midland, Texas by none other than the Ekker Black Hats?

Well, an interesting thing happened during those days of more wine than roses when, yes indeed, we were assisting (sometimes without our permission or knowledge) several persons coming/going to the Philippines. That was over “gold” in some manner or other but certainly nothing to do with our current program.

Well, among the travelers was Father Ed Cleary—a genuine Catholic Priest originally from Memphis, Tenn. The others traveled, however, using false documents (so we will leave them unnamed here) but also listing them as Catholic Priests of the Eastern Orthodox something-or-other. They called the “operation” White Robes. Of course they dressed up in black but interesting is as interesting does.

Punch line if any? Friday called a person looking for Father Ed Cleary and did E.J. know him? Why yes, said E.J., but he died you know. No, he became my friend and we hadn’t heard of his death.

Well, that party, with friends, wants to come and get acquainted again so that might be “interesting”. It is amazing what you can possibly find out if you wait long enough. Ed died several years ago.

What is important here is that Ed also traveled, expensively, with Gunther and Rayelan Russbacher a couple of times to Austria—also at our expense. Well, Ed was on the Board of Directors, along with many others, excluding Mrs. Ekker who gets blamed somehow for everything ever gone wrong, at the time.

Father got up in a meeting after that non-performance trip, announced to everyone present (some 40 or so people) that “the money is gone and what we are doing now is none of your business.” Sounds like the government, doesn’t it?

This week should be a rather interesting week to observe life passing on by.

There seem to be all sorts of things planned as it is expected great movement in the Estrada faction along with purely destabilization “things” taking place coincidental with the U.S. Embassy’s great party to celebrate “independence”.

Will anything at all happen? Hard to say since Philippine “time” is as interesting as the event planned. Any which way you look at coup possibilities it seems Bush’s baby is not on the popular list to be retained as Grand Leader appointed by herself and the post legally ordained by the Supreme Court of said Philippines. That will be our major focus for the day as we have yet to offer, as promised, attorney Pagua’s *RULE OF LAW OR RULE OF FORCE?*

Facts are, though, that GMA was NEVER “the” choice of leader. She just happened to be the one to fill the slot until “they” could get rid of her and as she goes down so too will dishonor be her shroud for retirement. This has been the most terrible and corruption-torn, year-and-a-half of Philippine history.

The Introduction is written by Francisco S. Tatad and that becomes more important to our own circle of experience. We miss Teri York in the sharing of this circumstance for she was here when we met with Senator Tatad. We can only hope that she is doing well.

The uppermost question, of course, is where is Global-Maharlika? Hanging in there, around there somewhere and getting more and more quiet attention as the important investigators are finding it factual, true and “real”. Patience, and abiding Philippine “time”, serve well. Philippine “rivers” do not “push well” either.

Mark, we will try to get through this in one session and will ask you to hold, anyway, for the next edition of the paper so that there is less push on anyone.

[QUOTING PRESENTATION OF PART I:]

RULE OF LAW OR RULE OF FORCE?

Estrada v. Arroyo

By Alan F. Pagua (2003)

Presented with permission from an autographed copy, June 5, 2003. Introduction by former Senator Francisco Tatad.

“TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE”—Author

FOREWORD

By Francisco S. Tatad

[Francisco Tatad has also authored a book in 2002 which immediately became a “best seller”: A NATION ON FIRE: The unmaking of Joseph Ejercito Estrada and the Remaking of Democracy in the Philippines. Icon Press, Manila.]

In January of 2001, Philippine President Joseph Ejercito Estrada was replaced in a coup by Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Estrada was facing a Senate impeachment trial when Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr., who had been presiding over the trial, appeared before a fiercely anti-Estrada crowd and swore in “President” Arroyo. It was nothing short of “revolutionary”. Arroyo could have cried “revolution” and foreclosed all questions about her legitimacy. But both she and the Supreme Court said it was nothing “revolutionary”—just a simple operation of the constitutional provision on presidential succession.

Arroyo was first in the line of succession to Estrada. She would succeed him if ever he vacated his office. That would happen in case of death, permanent disability, removal from office (after conviction in an impeachment trial), or resignation of the President. But none of these had occurred. Estrada had not died. He had not been permanently incapacitated. He had not been removed by an impeachment court. And he had not resigned. There was no vacancy to be filled.

This was *the* fact known to everybody. But the Justices decided to act above the facts, above the law, and above everybody else. Ignoring all constitutional norms and forms, Davide administered the President’s oath to Arroyo, and the Justices declared that Estrada had resigned, without having to write a letter of resignation to anybody.

It was absolute lunacy. Justices are presidential appointees. They have no authority to revoke the sovereign mandate of any duly elected president. Yet, this was exactly what they did to Estrada. They then imposed a non-elected pretender on the presidency. This was a crime, not just a mistake. And many honest men and women shared that view.

But after the Justices had rejected Estrada’s petitions “with finality”, and Arroyo had had Estrada arrested and detained on charges that carried the death penalty, even those who had said they believed the Justices had committed a crime seemed resigned that nothing more could be done. They had reached a dead-end. The mainstream media, backed by the new propaganda, portrayed the crime against the sovereign will and the duly constituted authority as a service to the very institutions it had destroyed, and those who had committed the crime were proclaimed as “heroes”—paragons of justice and rectitude in a corrupt and venal society.

Having sat in that botched impeachment trial as a Senator-Judge, I decided to document this savaging of the sovereign will and duly constituted authority for posterity. In my book *A Nation on Fire*, I give an eyewitness account of this descent into one of the darker caverns of our political and legal history.

The book sold more copies than I had expected and won critical reviews here and abroad. But the mainstream Philippine media ignored it completely while giving so much space to non-biodegradable trash and trivia. After a while, so many people thought it no longer politically correct to inquire into Arroyo’s legitimacy. The constitutional disorder had become the status quo.

What rare and unexpected pleasure then when I finally came upon Prof. Alan Pagua’s *Estrada v. Arroyo: RULE OF LAW OR RULE OF FORCE?* The Author’s name rang no bells. But the title of the paper

encouraged me to read on. It was more than a breath of fresh air. Paguia was saying with such clarity, conviction and courage the truth that so many political and legal luminaries had tried to sweep under the rug for fear of offending the new power-holders and disturbing the status quo. But there it was, in all its simplicity and splendor.

Paguia had never met Estrada or Arroyo. Yet as a legal scholar interested in the truth, he obviously could not go on talking to his law students at Ateneo de Manila University and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila, if he could not at the very least tell them what happened to the rule of law in 2001. The result of that inquiry was this priceless document.

I did not want good seed to fall on rock or barren ground. So, immediately I asked my friend Jake Macasaet of *Malaya* to run the piece as soon as he could. He more than happily obliged, and the next day, “the rule of law” began to make the rounds as a topic of serious conversation in the country. The paper’s reach and influence have grown since then. In several sessions of Citizens’ Caucus, which I had been privileged to host in Manila and Baguio City, Paguia’s lectures, based on his paper, drew the most enthusiastic response.

Through his paper and lectures, Paguia has almost single-handedly rekindled public debate on a central issue which those in power and a vast array of political pretenders would rather not have at all. He has roused many from their drugged sleep. To him we owe the conviction that the “final ruling” of the Justices on *Estrada v. Arroyo* has not laid the question to rest; that precisely because of their naked assault on the sovereign will, it remains an open question.

The distinction Paguia makes between “authority” and “power” is his most valuable contribution to the debate he has rekindled. Authority and power, he points out, are not interchangeable. Estrada retains presidential authority as the duly elected President of the Philippines, even though he is unable to exercise any power. Without authority, on the other hand, Arroyo merely exercises illegitimate power.

The twelve (12) questions Paguia poses to the Justices wrap up his presentation. I hope at least one of them would recognize a moral and intellectual duty to answer. Until the publication of this small book, no one on the court or in Arroyo’s service had attempted to rejoin or refute Paguia’s paper. They appeared to have chosen to ignore completely what they could not counter. So not a fig-leaf or a single thread is left to cover the nakedness of the power-holder from the gaze of those who inhabit the Republic of Reason.

Paguia has taken the first step. We can do our part by being faithful to the truth and living the rule of law as best we can. The rule of law must be defended at all costs, and we, the citizens, must defend it, against all offenders, regardless of the consequences. Especially, when those who had sworn to defend it have now become its offenders.

I am certain many will weigh in. And they will prevail. But they must first be convinced of the strength of their position. I can think of no better way of fortifying their stand than by sharing with them this small mighty paper.—**Francisco S. Tatad**

INTRODUCTION

January 20, 2001 ought to have an exclamation point in Philippine legal history. At that time, the Republic of the Philippines appeared to have two sitting presidents—Joseph Ejercito Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Each claimed as against the other that he or she was the President under the 1987 Philippine Constitution which materially provided that:

“In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice-president shall become the President to serve the unexpired term...” (Art. VII, Section 8)

According to the Supreme Court, although the facts show that the petitioner (Estrada) *did not write* a formal “*letter of resignation*”,

(a) his acts and omissions before, during and after January 20, 2001 are sufficient to justify the court’s ruling that petitioner had *resigned as president*:

(b) such *resignation* created a vacancy in the Office of the President; and

(c) Vice President Arroyo’s proclamation as *President* on the same date, as administered by Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. during a public rally, was *valid*.

(The Court’s discussion of the matter appears in 353 SCRA 452 (March 2, 2001) and 356 SCRA 108 (April 3, 2001)—the *Resolution* on the petitioner’s *Motion for Reconsideration and Omnibus Motion*.)

The constitutional validity of President Estrada’s alleged resignation is *basic* because the merits of all the issues raised by the parties depend on it.

If the President had resigned, or if his alleged resignation was valid, then the *Office of the President* became vacant, and Vice President Arroyo’s proclamation as President would likewise be valid. However, if the President did not resign, or if his resignation was invalid, then the *Office of the President* was never vacated, and Vice President Arroyo’s proclamation as president was likewise invalid. It was legally impossible for her to occupy the public office legally occupied by the incumbent President.

According to the Supreme Court:

“The issue then is whether the petitioner resigned as President or should be considered resigned as of January 20, 2001 when respondent took her oath as the 14th President of the Republic. *Resignation* is not a high-level legal abstraction. It is a factual question and its elements are beyond quibble: There must be an intent to resign and the intent must be coupled by acts of *relinquishment* (*Gonzales v. Hernandez*, 2 SCRA 228). The validity of a resignation is not governed by any formal requirement as to form. It can be oral. It can be written. It can be expressed. It can be implied. As long as the resignation is clear, it must be given legal effect.

“In the cases at bar, the facts show that petitioner did not write any formal letter of resignation before he evacuated Malacañang Palace in the afternoon of January 20, 2001 after the oath-taking of respondent Arroyo. Consequently, whether or not petitioner resigned has to be determined from his acts and omissions before, during and after January 20, 2001 or by the totality of prior, contemporaneous and posterior facts and circumstantial evidence bearing a material relevance on the issue.

“Using this totality test, **we hold that petitioner resigned as President.**” (page 496)

COMMENTS

1. What was the basic issue? The Court made three formulations, to wit:

a) Assuming that the petitions present a justiciable controversy, whether petitioner Estrada is a president on leave while respondent Arroyo is an acting President” (p. 489, 353 SCRA);

b) Whether or not the petitioner resigned as president” (p. 495, *ibid*);

c) “The issue then is whether the petitioner resigned as president or should be considered resigned as of January 20, 2001 when respondent took her oath as the 14th President of the Republic” (p. 496, *id*).

2. Actually, the first formulation under Paragraph (a) above was described by the Court in its preliminary summation of the case as the second of four “bedrock issues for resolution” by the Court. However, after discussing the *first* “bedrock issue” as to whether the petitions present a justiciable controversy, the Court

denominated the second “bedrock issue” as worded in paragraph (b) above. Finally, after quoting Article VII, Section 8 of the Constitution regarding “resignation of the President,” the Court again reworded the basic issue which resulted in the formulation stated in Paragraph (c) above. The Court did not offer any explanation.

3. The *third* and *fourth* “bedrock issues”, according to the Court, were: “Whether conviction in the impeachment proceedings is a condition precedent for the criminal prosecution of petitioner Estrada. In the negative and on the assumption that petitioner is still President, whether he is immune to criminal prosecution”; and “Whether the prosecution of petitioner Estrada should be enjoined on the ground of prejudicial publicity.” Both issues were resolved in the negative.

4. The constitutional provision at the heart of the controversy simply states:

“In case of death, permanent disability, removal from office or resignation of the President, the Vice-President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term.”

Is this law clear or not clear? If it is clear, following the *First Rule* of Statutory Construction, it must be promptly applied. There is absolutely no need for construction. If it is not clear, following the *Second Rule* of Statutory Construction, it must be properly and exhaustively construed and then applied accordingly.

5. Is there any ambiguity or reasonable doubt as to the meaning of the law?

According to the Supreme Court, there was none. Consequently, the Court applied a “totality test” concerning the facts before, during and after January 20, 2001 when respondent Gloria Arroyo took her oath of office as President of the Philippines, and ruled that indeed, petitioner Joseph Estrada resigned as president of the Philippines.

In effect, the Supreme Court applied the *First Rule* of Statutory Construction.

6. The author respectfully submits that the foregoing ruling of the Supreme Court is incorrect for the following reasons, among others:

a) The phrase “resignation of the President” is tainted with ambiguity and reasonable doubt. The aforementioned provision of the Constitution failed to expressly provide in what *form* such resignation is to be made and accepted as constitutionally valid.

b) According to the Court: “The validity of resignation is not governed by any formal requirement as to form.” However, the Court failed to cite its basis for this conclusion. While it may be true that the Constitution does not *expressly* provide for such a requirement of *form*, (a) it does not necessarily follow that there is no *implied* requirement; and (b) it is equally true that the Constitution does not expressly provide that such resignation may be *in any form*. So that, at the very least, there is reasonable doubt as to what form a *presidential resignation* ought to be made in, in order to satisfy constitutional contemplation. Unfortunately, the decision is bereft of any discussion in this regard.

c) By the way of an aside, it may be noted that the Court’s pronouncement that: “The validity of a resignation is not governed by any formal requirement as to form” contains what is referred to in the law on evidence as a *negative pregnant*. While the statement negates “any *formal* requirement as to form”, it admits by necessary implication some *substantial* requirement as to form.

d) Does the Constitution contain any *implied* requirement as to the valid form of a *presidential resignation*? Yes, for the following reasons:

i. It does not seem reasonable to suppose that the Constitution would forego with official formality with respect to a *presidential resignation*, considering that: (a) It involves the highest office in the government and therefore, matters of national security may be compromised

because of uncertainty as to the *validity or invalidity* of any alleged resignation; (b) Unless there is a *written resignation*, there would be reasonable doubt not only as to the existence of the act of resignation which is a *question of fact*, but also as to its validity which is a *question of law*. It should be noted at this point that the Supreme Court is *not* a trier of facts.

ii. Article VII, Section 11 of the 1987 Constitution requires a *written form* no less than six times for a valid declaration of presidential inability to discharge the powers and duties of his office. Thus:

“Whenever the President transmits to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives his *written declaration* that he is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, and until he transmits to them a *written declaration* to the contrary, such powers and duties shall be discharged by the Vice-President as Acting President.

“Whenever a majority of all the Members of the Cabinet transmit to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives their *written declaration* that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice-President shall immediately assume the powers and duties of the office as Acting President. “Thereafter, when the President transmits to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives his *written declaration* that no inability exists, he shall reassume the powers and duties of his office. Meanwhile, should a majority of all the Members of the Cabinet transmit within five days to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives their *written declaration* that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Congress shall decide the issue. For that purpose, the Congress shall convene, if it is not in session, within forty-eight hours, in accordance with its rules and without need to call.

“If the Congress, within ten days after receipt of the *written declaration*, or, if not in session, within twelve days after it is required to assemble, determines by a two-thirds vote of both Houses, voting separately, that the President is unable to discharge the powers and duties of his office, the Vice-President shall act as President; otherwise, the President shall continue exercising the powers and duties of his office.”

Unless there is such a *written declaration*, there would be no objective basis for the Legislative Department to pronounce a presidential inability to discharge the powers and duties of his office. By parity of reasoning, unless there is a similar *written declaration* by the President himself that he is resigning from his office, there would be no constitutionally acceptable or *objective* basis for any agency of the government to pronounce such resignation. There would be, at best, only a *subjective* and therefore highly debatable or questionable basis. Surely, the latter situation, volatile and divisive, is not what the Constitution contemplates. Furthermore, the principle of separation of powers prohibits the Legislature and the Judiciary from substituting their discretion for that of the Chief executive.

iii. Under Article VII, Section 8 of the Constitution, resignation stands on equal footing with (a) *death*, (b) *permanent disability* and (c) *removal from office*—as modes of severance of official relations from the Office of the President. All these modes obviously require specific *written forms* as basis for setting in motion the prescribed constitutional process. In case of death, the *death certificate*. In case of impeachment (removal), the final *written decision*. In case of disability, the President’s or the majority of the Members of his Cabinet’s *written declaration* to such effect. Therefore, it stands to reason that in case of resignation of the President of the Philippines, a *written resignation* is likewise required by the Constitution.

It would further seem absurd to imagine applying the High Court’s “totality test” to the same grounds so that:

(a) In case of death, the totality of the facts before, during or after the alleged date of death would be used to determine the fact of death instead of the death certificate; or

(b) In case of disability, the totality of the facts before, during and after the alleged date of disability was acquired would be used to determine the fact of disability instead of the President’s own written declaration to that effect; or

(c) In case of impeachment/removal, the totality of the facts before, during and after the impeachment proceedings would be used to determine the fact of conviction instead of the final written decision on the case itself. So it does seem absurd that in case of *presidential resignation*, the “totality test” aforementioned is used to determine the fact of resignation instead of the *written resignation* of the President himself.

iv. Does the Constitution provide the *presidential resignation* may be validly made in *any form*? It does not seem so. The High Court did not cite any *express* provision to that effect. Neither did the Court cite any constitutional provision which, at least, *implies* such effect. While the court cited the case of *Gonzales v. Hernandez, id.*, as authority for its conclusion that resignation may be in any form, it appears that the cited case is not applicable to the petition at bar for the following reasons:

a) The cited case refers, NOT to a presidential resignation, but to the conditional resignation of an “attorney-agent” of the Department of Finance. Surely, the position of the President of the Philippines stands in a class different from all other public officials so that the rules governing the latter are not necessarily applicable to the former, especially in matters specifically covered by constitutional provisions;

b) The cited case does NOT refer to any “totality test” to determine the existence or non-existence of a resignation by a public official;

c) The cited case held that the subject position did not become vacant as a result of the resignation. In the petition at bar, it was held that the Office of the President became vacant by virtue of the alleged resignation by President Estrada.

It therefore appears that there is NO constitutional nor jurisprudential authority for the proposition that a *presidential resignation* may be validly made in any form. The truth being that, by what appears to be a necessary implication of Article VII, Sections 8 and 11 of the Constitution, such presidential resignation—to be valid—must be in *written form*.

7. Unlike “People Power” I which catapulted President Corazon C. Aquino to the Office of the President and which saw the revolutionary replacement of the 1973 Philippine Constitution with the Freedom Constitution and the 1987 Constitution, in “People Power” II which saw the proclamation of Vice-President Arroyo as President during the term of President Joseph Estrada, there was no change of the 1987 Philippine Constitution, the full force and effect of which do not appear to have been affected at all by “People Power” II. In other words, the 1987 Philippine Constitution **uninterruptedly remained effective up to the present time.**

What is constitutional and valid or unconstitutional and invalid is therefore anchored on the provision of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. This means that the acts and omissions committed before, during and after January 20, 2001 are to be considered valid or invalid in accordance with the 1987 Philippine Constitution which remained and remains as the supreme law of the land.

8. Did the Court make any clear-cut ruling as to the *constitutional validity* of President Estrada’s alleged “resignation”? It does not seem so. While

the Court ruled that there was “resignation”, which as earlier stated is a question of fact, the Court did not make any clear-cut ruling as to the *constitutional validity* of the alleged “resignation,” which is a question of law. Why? The Court did not explain.

9. Does the Constitution recognize “People Power” II as a valid mode of replacing an incumbent President? No. “People Power” is not among the modes of specified and enumerated in the Constitution. According to the legal maxim **inclusion unius est exclusion alterius**, what is not included is excluded.

10. How was it then that “People Power” II was able to replace an incumbent President? By confluence of certain factors:

a) An active mobilization of a very large number of people rallying for several days in public areas against the incumbent President;

b) Wide coverage by mass media;

c) Active support from the youth sector, students, religious, labor, nationalist and civilian organizations;

d) Withdrawal of support by certain leaders of the government, the military and the national police from the incumbent President;

e) Official recognition of the new administration extended by the international community; and

f) The Supreme Court ruling which recognized the legitimacy of the new administration.

In other words, there was *popular acquiescence* to the new administration.

By way of historical footnote, it will be recalled that in *Javellana v., Executive Secretary*, 50 SCRA 30 (March 31, 1973), the idea of popular acquiescence was first utilized by four justices of the Supreme Court to help justify the Court’s ruling that there was no further judicial obstacle to the 1973 Philippine Constitution, under then-President Ferdinand E. Marcos’ Martial Law regime being considered in force and effect.

11. Was that *popular acquiescence* in accordance with the Rule of Law? The final answer is best left to the sound judgment of history. There are some things, however, that need to be said about the Rule of Law. It is essentially a gift from God. It resides in the conscience of every person. It seeks to guide both his heart and mind to find the truth, discern right from wrong, good from bad and to render to each person what is his or her due without regard to the consequences.

It is higher than any constitution. The Rule of Law is perfect in itself. No constitution is. With the Rule of Law, a constitution is full of life. With the Rule of Law, the constitution is full of meaning. Without the Rule of Law, a constitution has no meaning. The Rule of Law comes from the divine Authority who can destroy both the body and the soul. A constitution comes from Human Authority that can destroy the body but not the soul. The Rule of Law is good for all eternity. A constitution is, at best, temporary.

Therefore, the Rule of Law is far more significant than any constitution or all the constitutions there are combined. It follows that the appointed guardians of a constitution ought to faithfully and always abide by the Rule of Law. Otherwise, the true meaning of the law would be lost, and sooner or later, the faith of the people as well.

[END QUOTING PART I]

6/29/03—#2 (16-317)

DJE—RE: LAWLESS UPDATE IN PHILIPPINES

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[QUOTING PRESENTATION OF PART II:]

RULE OF LAW OR RULE OF FORCE?*Estrada v. Arroyo*

By Alan F. Paguia (2003)

12. The truth shall set our conscience free to faithfully follow the Rule of Law, regardless of the consequences.

13. On the morning of January 20, 2001, Vice President Gloria Arroyo wrote and sent the following letter to:

THE HONORABLE SUPREME COURT
Supreme court Building
Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila

Attention: Honorable Hilario G. Davide, Jr.
Chief Justice

Your Honors:

The undersigned respectfully informs the Honorable Court that Joseph Ejercito Estrada is permanently incapable of performing the duties of his office resulting in his *permanent disability* to govern and serve his unexpired term. Almost all of his Cabinet members have resigned and the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police have withdrawn their support for Joseph Ejercito Estrada. Civil society has likewise refused to recognize him as President.

In view of this, I am assuming the position of President of the Republic of the Philippines. Accordingly, I would like to take my oath as president of the Republic of the Philippines before the Honorable Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jr., today, 20 January 2001, at 12:00 noon, at the EDSA Shrine, Quezon City, Metro Manila.

May I have the honor to invite all the members of the Honorable Court to attend the oath-taking.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

14. Accordingly, the Chief Justice and twelve (12) other Justices of the Supreme Court participated in the requested oath-taking at EDSA before a mammoth crowd of obviously ANTI-PRESIDENT ESTRADA rallyists.

15. The Legislature—the Senators and the members of the House of Representatives—acting thru the Senate President and the Speaker of the House, extended official recognition to the newly proclaimed president.

16. On January 22, 2001, the Supreme Court “unanimously confirmed” Vice President Arroyo’s proclamation as President by way of a Resolution which reads:

“Gentlemen:

Quoted hereunder, for your information, is a resolution of the Court *En Banc* dated 22 January 2001:

“A.M. No. 01-1-05-SC.-In re: Request of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to Take her Oath of Office as president of the Republic of the Philippines before the Chief Justice. Acting on the urgent request of Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to be sworn in as President of the Republic of the Philippines addressed to the Chief Justice and confirmed by a letter to the Court, dated January 20, 2001, which request was treated as an administrative matter, the Court Resolved unanimously to CONFIRM the authority given by the twelve (12) members of the Court then present to the Chief Justice on January 20, 2001 to administer the oath of office to Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President of the Philippines, at noon of January 20, 2001.

“This resolution is without prejudice to the disposition of any justiciable case which may be filed by a proper party.”

Very truly yours

LUZVIMINDA D. PUNO

Clerk of Court

By:

(Signed) MA. LUISA D. VILLARAMA

Assistant Clerk of Court

Her Excellency

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo (x)

Malacañang Palace, Manila

17. According to the Supreme Court, there was NO REVOLUTION during EDSA 2. Therefore, NO REVOLUTION, peaceful or otherwise, took away the presidential powers from President Estrada. It was the Vice President who did. How?

1) Initially, by ADMINISTRATIVE PROCLAMATION as authorized by the Chief Justice and the other Justices of the Supreme Court upon President Estrada’s alleged “permanent disability”; and

2) Later, by JUDICIAL DECLARATION in *Estrada v. Arroyo, supra*, upon President Estrada’s alleged “resignation”.

18. The formal recognition extended by the international community led by the United States Embassy to President Arroyo appears to have been based upon two assumptions, namely:

1) That constitutional processes were complied with; and

2) That President Estrada had RESIGNED.

19. The sole constitutional ground invoked by Vice President Arroyo was President Estrada’s alleged “permanent disability”. This ground appears to have been unquestioningly accepted as a FACT BY:

1) The Supreme Court Justices when they authorized and administered the oath-taking;

2) The Senators and the Congressmen when they officially recognized Vice president Arroyo’s proclamation as President.

20. The Constitution, however, expressly requires a WRITTEN DECLARATION of such “permanent disability” as well as a SPECIAL PROCEDURE for the validation of the WRITTEN DECLARATION which must be transmitted from the EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT to the LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT. That procedure is prescribed under Article VII, Section 11 of the Constitution. Were these constitutional requirements complied with at the time of the subject oath-taking? It does not seem so. The records of the event do not show any such compliance. Consequently, without such compliance, the oath-taking as well as the Legislators’ official recognition of the same appear to have absolutely NO FACTUAL NOR LEGAL BASES.

21. So, why then did Vice President Arroyo, the Justices of the Supreme Court, the concerned Senators and Congressmen go through with that oath-taking and official recognition of the same—in spite of the obvious non-compliance with the constitutional requirements? There appears NO explanation on record.

22. The same question appears to apply with equal force to the Members of the Cabinet, the officials of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the Philippine National Police (PNP) who chose to turn their backs on the incumbent President on that fateful day. Instead of faithfully upholding the duly constituted presidency, they appear to have allowed their independent judgment to be swayed by the hooting throng.

23. Was the oath-taking at EDSA a partisan political activity? Yes.

1) It was clearly a political activity since it involved the ‘ouster’ of the incumbent President and the installation into office of his supposed successor.

2) It was clearly partisan because the rallyists were openly and simultaneously ANTI-ESTRADA and PRO-ARROYO.

24. Did the Chief Justice and the other Justices of the Supreme Court who participated in the oath-taking at EDSA

act in accordance with law? It does not seem so.

1) They knew very well that the “permanent disability” invoked by the Vice President was subject to certain constitutional requirements which never appeared to have been complied with.

2) Under the Code of Judicial Conduct, judges are strictly prohibited from participating in “partisan political activities” (Rule 5.10). By personally attending and administering the oath of office to Vice President Arroyo at EDSA, the Chief Justice and the other Justices FAILED to avoid public suspicion of political partisanship.

3) By their apparent failure to demand proof of compliance with constitutional requirements before authorizing and administering the oath of office to Vice President Arroyo, they took part in a proceeding where their impartiality might reasonably be questioned.

4) After they had acted upon the ground of alleged “permanent disability” of President Estrada, they appear later to have completely changed their minds and declared in *Estrada v. Arroyo, supra*, that the real ground or reason why Vice President Arroyo was sworn in as President was President Estrada’s alleged “resignation”. In effect, the Justices appear to have REJECTED “permanent disability” which they had themselves earlier unquestioningly accepted and relied upon as their constitutional ground for swearing in Vice President Arroyo as President. It would seem that the Justices realized after the oath-taking that (a) there was NO COMPLIANCE with the constitutional requirements, and (b) the invocation of “permanent disability” would be constitutionally INDEFENSIBLE. But by then, the Justices appeared to have irretrievably acted upon the ground of “permanent disability”. By then, they appeared to have irretrievably administered to Vice President Arroyo the oath of office as President of the Philippines. It would thus appear that it would have been a most terrible loss of face to publicly confess that:

5) They erred in unquestioningly accepting and relying upon the “permanent disability” invoked by Vice President Arroyo, as it was plainly UNTENABLE, considering the equally plain NON-COMPLIANCE with constitutional requirements;

6) They erred in administering to Vice President Arroyo the oath of office as president, for the same reasons stated in the preceding paragraph;

7) A historic injustice had been committed against the Filipino People and a duly elected president.

8) To avert the possibility of such loss of face, it would seem that they opted to shift from “permanent disability” to “resignation”. And to justify “resignation”, they appear to have devised the so-called “totality test” which construed the factual events before, during and after the controversial oath-taking to be able to support the conclusion that President Estrada had “resigned”. In other words, at the time of the oath-taking, the ground relied upon was “permanent disability”, NOT “resignation”. But when it was later realized that “permanent disability” was constitutionally INDEFENSIBLE, that ground was abandoned and then replaced with “resignation” which was apparently thought of as constitutionally DEFENSIBLE. It therefore seems clear that the subsequent resort to “resignation” was a mere AFTERTHOUGHT—long after the oath-taking had been administered upon the constitutionally INDEFENSIBLE ground of “permanent disability”.

25. Is the ruling in *Estrada v. Arroyo, supra*, to the effect that President Estrada had “resigned”, a judicially closed matter or does it remain an open question? It is respectfully and most humbly submitted that it remains an open question.

1). The substantive distinction between “public office” and “public officer” applies squarely to the Supreme Court *vis-à-vis* its Members or Justices. Whatever is done lawfully by the “public officer” in the performance of his official duties is considered the act of the “public office”.

Otherwise, it is not. Jurisprudence has recognized those individual “public officers” who falsely speak and act in the name of their “public office” (*Urbano v. Chavez*, 183 SCRA 347, citing *Poindexter v. Greenhow*, 114 U.S. 270 [1885]), in which case, the unlawful word or deed is NOT of the “public office”. As an alter ego of the State, the Supreme Court can speak and act only by law and whatever it does say and do must be lawful, and that which is unlawful is not the word or deed of the Court, but is the mere wrong or trespass of those individual Justices who falsely speak and act in its name.

2). The Justices’ participation in what appears to be a clearly partisan political activity at EDSA in favor of Vice President Arroyo has naturally tended to create a reasonable perception that the Justices have LOST the appearance of the cold neutrality of an impartial judge. And, that they had PREJUDGED the controversy in favor of Vice President Arroyo. How can they be properly perceived as impartial when they swore in the Vice President as President—without requiring PROOF OF COMPLIANCE with the constitutional requirements? Consequently, it would seem that there is sufficient cause to perceive a clear FAILURE OF JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS.

26. Conclusion:

1) The proclamation of Vice President Arroyo as President of the Philippines was VOID from the beginning;

2) The Estrada Presidency may have lost in the meantime its presidential POWER, but definitely NOT its presidential AUTHORITY;

3) Whether we all like it or not, Joseph Ejercito Estrada remains the true President of the Republic of the Philippines under the 1987 Philippine Constitution.

6/30/03—#1 (16-318)

DJE—RE: RULE OF LAW OR RULE OF FORCE? PART III, ALAN PAGUIA

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[QUOTING PRESENTATION OF PART III:]

RULE OF LAW OR RULE OF FORCE?

Estrada v. Arroyo

By Alan F. Paguia (2003)

26. NOBODY IS ABOVE THE LAW. Not the President or the entire Executive Department. Not the Chief Justice or the entire Judicial Department. Not the leaders of, or the entire Legislative Department. And not even the entire GOVERNMENT. This is the essence of DEMOCRACY. Every person must abide by the RULE OF THE MAJORITY which is the original and rawest source of all GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY. Without the RULE OF THE MAJORITY, there is only the RULE OF THE MINORITY, which is the opposite and anti-thesis of DEMOCRACY.

27. Who was actually chosen as President by the RULE OF THE MAJORITY—President Estrada or President Arroyo? It was clearly President Estrada.

1) Up to now, absolutely NOBODY has come forward in public to dispute the FACT that President Estrada is the DULY ELECTED President of the Philippines.

2) President Estrada (a) NEVER suffered any “permanent disability”; (b) was NEVER “removed” by impeachment or revolution; and (c) NEVER wrote any “resignation” letter.

3) President Arroyo was NEVER ELECTED AS PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES. Consequently, it

would seem clear that President Arroyo was installed merely by the RULE OF THE MINORITY.

28. What is the RULE OF THE MINORITY? This essentially refers to the POWER of certain individual persons who wield considerable political or financial INFLUENCE in society. They have POWER which is the ABILITY to make things happen, or prevent things from happening. But they have NO AUTHORITY which is the SOVEREIGN DUTY to make things happen, or prevent things from happening. The first is ABILITY, the second is a DUTY. The first is more of an ACTIVE CONCEPT, the second is more of a PASSIVE CONCEPT. The proof of their difference is the fact that one can exist without the other. So that while a person may have the POWER, he may not have the AUTHORITY; or he may have the AUTHORITY but not the POWER. The ideal situation in Government or State affairs, however, ought to be that official duty is performed with BOTH AUTHORITY and POWER, the first always being followed by the second. Records show that the leading personalities who participated in the installation of Vice President Arroyo were: Vice President Arroyo herself, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, Jr., former President Corazon C. Aquino, former President Fidel V. Ramos, Cardinal Jaime Sin, Senators Aquilino Pimentel and Teofisto Guingona, AFP Chief of Staff Angelo Reyes, big business leader Jaime Zobel de Ayala, and other similarly influential persons.

[D: As an interruption I would like to note that it is claimed that the Philippine National Police also withdrew their support and helped, therefore, precipitate the overthrow of the Presidency. This is NOT true. Panfilo Lacson (Ping) was HEAD of the PNP and he stayed right with his “Commander-in-Chief” until and after Estrada was taken away by “overrun” of the Palace itself, accompanied by none other than his Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, Angelo Reyes. Lacson was required to resign a short while later. He ran for Senator and was easily elected but now remains the target of every effort of the above named parties to damage him and destroy his credibility. Since, however, the “evidence” brought forth has been found IN EVERY INSTANCE to be fabricated and planted (even from the U.S.) it is not difficult to identify the absurd miscarriage of justice from the highest places within the Government.]

29. How did the RULE OF THE MINORITY prevail over the RULE OF THE MAJORITY? As follows.

1) The individual persons behind the RULE OF THE MINORITY were (a) well organized; (b) they ACTED FAST; and (c) they appeared to HAVE MONEY for the purpose.

2) The FILIPINO PEOPLE behind the RULE OF THE MAJORITY were (a) NOT as well organized; (b) they had, historically, ACTED SLOW; and (c) they had NO MONEY for the purpose.

30. How long will the RULE OF THE MINORITY prevail over the RULE OF THE MAJORITY?

The answer would necessarily depend on the DECISION of the FILIPINO PEOPLE. If they already understand the situation and do not feel bothered by it, they ought to maintain the present order. Otherwise, THEY MUST TAKE APPROPRIATE AND TIMELY ACTION TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THEIR CONSCIENCE.

IV

QUESTIONS TO BE ASKED

What QUESTIONS should the FILIPINO PEOPLE ask, which the Justices of the Supreme Court SHOULD ANSWER, to EMPOWER the average citizen with a FUNCTIONAL UNDERSTANDING of the Estrada presidency *vis-à-vis* the Arroyo presidency?

The 12 most basic questions would appear to be:

Question No. 1

IS IT TRUE THAT THE LAW STRICTLY PROHIBITS JUDGES OR JUSTICES FROM PARTICIPATING IN “PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES”?

Note: The CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT OF POLITICAL ACTIVITIES

Rule 5.10.—A judge is entitled to entertain personal views on political questions. But TO AVOID SUSPICION OF POLITICAL PARTISANSHIP, A JUDGE SHALL NOT make political speeches, contribute to party funds, publicly endorse candidates for political office or PARTICIPATE IN OTHER PARTISAN ACTIVITIES.

“COMPLIANCE WITH THE CODE OF JUDICIAL CONDUCT: All judges shall STRICTLY COMPLY with this CODE.”

Under the CIVIL CODE, acts executed against the provisions of mandatory or PROHIBITORY LAWS shall be VOID. (Article 5)

Question No. 2

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR HONORS PARTICIPATED IN A PARTISAN POLITICAL ACTIVITY DURING VICE PRESIDENT ARROYO’S OATH-TAKING AT EDSA ON JANUARY 20, 2001?

Note: According to the ruling in *Estrada v. Arroyo*, 356 SCRA 108, at 154-155, “The twelve (12) members of the Court... merely accepted the invitation of the respondent Arroyo to attend her oath-taking. As mere spectators of a historic event, said members of the Court *did not prejudge* the legal basis of the claim of respondent Arroyo to the presidency at the time she took her oath.”

Question No. 3

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR HONORS ATTENDED AND AUTHORIZED THE ARROYO OATH-TAKING IN YOUR HONORS’ OFFICIAL CAPACITY AS JUDICIAL OFFICERS?

Note: If so, then aside from being “mere spectators”, Your Honors who had their black robes on were also there as “public officers” with legal and constitutional DUTIES.

Question No. 4

IS IT TRUE THAT THE BASIC LAW INVOLVED IN THIS CONTROVERSY IS ARTICLE VII, SECTION 8 OF THE CONSTITUTION?

Note: The cited provision materially states that:

In case of:

- “death”
- “PERMANENT DISABILITY”
- “removal from office”, or
- “RESIGNAION”

of the President, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term.

Question No. 5

IS IT TRUE THAT THE SOLE CONSTITUTIONAL GROUND INVOKED BY THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR HER OATH-TAKING AS PRESIDENT WAS “PERMANENT DISABILITY”?

Question No. 6

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR HONORS AUTHORIZED THE OATH-TAKING AT EDSA ON THAT SAME GROUND OF “PERMANENT DISABILITY”?

Question No. 7

IS IT TRUE THAT CHIEF JUSTICE HILARIO G. DAVIDE, JR. ADMINISTERED THE OATH-TAKING AT EDSA ON THAT SAME GROUND OF “PERMANENT DISABILITY”?

Question No. 8

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR HONORS UNQUESTIONINGLY ACCEPTED THE VICE PRESIDENT’S ALLEGATION OF “PERMANENT DISABILITY”?

Question No. 9

IS IT TRUE THAT THE “ADMINISTRATIVE MATTER” OF ADMINISTERING THE OATH-TAKING AT EDSA BY THE CHIEF JUSTICE INVOLVED THE PERFORMANCE OF AN OFFICIAL DUTY WHICH OUGHT TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE CONSTITUTION?

Note: The CIVIL CODE expressly provides that “ADMINISTRATIVE or executive ACTS, order and regulation SHALL BE VALID ONLY WHEN THEY ARE NOT CONTRARY TO THE LAWS OR THE CONSTITUTION.” (3rd paragraph)

Question No. 10

IS IT TRUE THAT THERE WAS NEVER ANY PROOF OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE SAID “PERMANENT DISABILITY”?

Note: The Constitution REQUIRES the WRITTEN DECLARATION either by the president or by the majority of all the Members of his Cabinet. No such WRITTEN DECLARATION was ever CLAIMED, much less PRESENTED on record. (ART. VII, Sec. 11)

Question No. 11

IS IT TRUE THAT YOUR HONORS LATER REJECTED THAT GROUND OF “PERMANENT DISABILITY” AND REPLACED IT WITH “RESIGNATION”, EVEN AS PRESIDENT ESTRADA NEVER WROTE ANY RESIGNATION LETTER?

Question No. 12

IS IT TRUE THAT DUE PROCESS OF LAW ABSOLUTELY REQUIRES THE “COLD NEUTRALITY OF AN IMPARTIAL JUDGE” BOTH IN APPEARANCE AND IN SUBSTANCE, WITHOUT WHICH THE PROCEEDINGS ARE RENDERED VOID OR WITHOUT LEGAL EFFECT FROM THE BEGINNING?

Note: According to a revitalized Supreme Court *en banc* in 1986: “This Court has repeatedly and consistently demanded the cold neutrality of an IMPARTIAL judge as the INDISPENSABLE imperative of due process. To bolster that requirement, we have held that THE JUDGE MUST NOT ONLY BE IMPARTIAL BUT MUST ALSO APPEAR TO BE IMPARTIAL, as an added assurance to the parties that his decision will be just. The litigants are entitled to NO LESS THAN THAT. They should be sure that when their rights are violated they can go to a judge who shall give them justice. THEY MUST TRUST THE JUDGE, otherwise they will not go to him at all. They must believe in his sense of fairness, otherwise they will not seek his judgment. Without such confidence, there would be no point in invoking his action for the justice they expect.

“DUE PROCESS is intended to insure that confidence by requiring compliance with what Justice Frankfurter calls the RUDIMENTS OF FAIR PLAY. Fair play calls for equal justice. There cannot be equal justice where a suitor approaches a court already committed to the other party and with a judgment already made and waiting only to be formalized after the litigants shall have undergone the CHARADE of a formal hearing.” (*The Evelio Javier case*, 144 CRA 194, at 206-207)

31. It is most respectfully submitted that the answers ought to be in the AFFIRMATIVE.

However, if the FILIPINO PEOPLE believe otherwise, then this legal article would be a FARCE.

On the other hand, if the FILIPINO PEOPLE share the humble submission, then the Honorable JUSTICES’ ruling in *Estrada v. Arroyo* would be a MOCKERY OF JUSTICE AND DUE PROCESS, and therefore VOID or without legal effect from the beginning.

[END]

There has been a formal call to the law enforcement personnel and to the Armed Forces to respond to setting things to right in that they were actually guilty of treason and mutiny in January 2001. And yes indeed, there ARE expected all sorts of things happening this very week, although rumors are a dime a dozen and worth less.

It is none of our business except that, as U.S. citizens, it is surely extremely embarrassing that it is recognized globally that the U.S. orchestrated and made it possible to “pull off” the most dastardly debacle in this country since the kidnapping of Ferdinand Marcos and the theft of his billions of dollars of assets in one fell swoop. That is still recognized as the “Zionist success of the century”. In 2001

it is well known that the U.S. Ambassador was the FIRST to congratulate Arroyo on her “victory” followed immediately by a personal phone call from Dubya who had finally made it to his own residency change.

It is also well known that the same players who orchestrated both those prior events are again working this next one.

The same people met on last Wednesday NIGHT (midnight it seems) at the “Palace” to decide how to bring this opposition to a HALT. Part of the decision was to cause Arroyo to run for the Presidency (after she had denied emphatically that she would do so). The other “failure” point was that there was a MAJOR push to change the Constitution to a PARLIAMENTARY system in time to simply appoint her as Prime Minister—or perhaps even quit the games and make Ramos Prime Minister.

Meanwhile we have to now face the FACT as information has come back that, sure enough, the World Bank OWNS the Central Bank—entirely. Well, that only means that the old International Banking Cartel (IBC) owns it. How in the world does a poverty-ridden, puppet-run people even continue to exist?

Just as an aside, the word also has been made public that the electricity rates will go up immediately by at LEAST 100%. This because of the IPP contracts wherein some of the Independent Power Producers (IPP) never even built the producing facilities.

I am somewhat agreeing with John R. that “who cares”? Probably not more than ten people on the globe as they struggle with their own circumstance.

How do we feel about it all? It is not even relevant! We will continue right along with our task and watch it drag its way through whatever ELSE is going on of more interest to pertinent and necessary participants. Even the ones most important to get the “Foundation” up and running are “up and running” somewhere up north in a distant province rather than down to the SEC or the Court.

Oh well, tomorrow Ed Cleary’s lady will come and the world, we suppose, will continue to turn.

There are only two papers in this place that even mention disputes over the Presidency and very little comment on the missing millions of dollars from even the Justice Department in the hands of that now infamous Hilario Davide. The payoffs for treason are large and very grand indeed.

What DO people do to protect themselves or regain their “rights”? I can tell you today that it certainly eludes this old brain.

Realizing that most of you who remember that a case was filed regarding the Presidency matter and claims against the Justices in point might well be asking how it is going? SECRETLY! NO ATTENTION AT ALL IN MEDIA EXCEPT IN THE RADIO WAVES WHICH NEVER STOP. But, not speaking Taglish we are at a total loss as to WHAT is being actually said.

One objection by some of the Congress today is that the U.S. is trying to “pattern the Philippines after itself”. No, it is simply taking over this nation to run as it chooses after the commercial interests are distributed to the Elite. That is working right on target and schedule.

One paper has dared and of course is under the firing squad.

Most of the “people” just want to work it so they can make it to the land of “promise”—the U.S.—and sign up for the welfare program(s). And, if that sounds like a joke of some kind—THINK AGAIN. It is exactly THAT.

As to the conclusion of this writing I’m also pretty sure you are curious as to how the Justices have responded to the dozen question above? THEY DON’T. They say they are being “picked on”, “the ruling was/is FINAL”, and Arroyo is President while part of the major backup argument is: “The U.S. recognized her...!”

To you who wade through all this plethora of information, we thank you. If “truth shall set us free”, then it is worthy of the effort.—DJE

7/1/03—#1 (16-319)

DJE—RE: PAGUIA FILES FORMAL LETTER WITH INTENT TO FILE CRIMINAL RAPS VS. SUPREME COURT JUSTICES

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TODAY’S UPDATE:

UNLAWFUL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL
DISPOSITION OF PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT

We realize that it is easy to turn away from a topic in our efforts to get back to ongoing “other” subjects just when progressive steps are made which merit interest and ongoing attention.

With that in mind, please recognize that is why, as interesting things unfold, we remain on the topic. The legal sequence of procedures are certainly useful to ALL OF US who find ourselves involved in any level of litigation and feel helpless at the hands of the judicial system, including well-paid counsel.

Especially here where the name of the game is total “stonewall”, give no information, make no response, etc., that there seems to be no way to even precipitate any action—even in the face of evidence mounting daily as to indiscretions and actual CRIMINAL actions taking place on a continual basis.

Well, President Estrada’s lawyer, Mr. Alan Paguia, has become impatient and now demands a response, starting with “FORMAL” letters demanding response to questions directly asked of some of the Justices involved and that to be followed by criminal charges if there is a refusal to respond. I don’t need to comment but I believe you will enjoy the update.

[QUOTING *The Daily TRIBUNE*, Tuesday, July 1, 2003. Front Page, major headline: “ERAP LAWYER TO FILE CRIMINAL RAPS VS DAVIDE, PANGANIBAN”:]

Formally asks chief justice, associate justice to answer 12 basic questions.

The now detained president’s lawyer has taken the bull by the horns.

Frustrated at the Sandiganbayan’s delay in resolving his motion petitioning the court to subpoena certain officials and the “deafening silence” coming from the high court justices on important and fundamental charges leveled against them, lawyer Alan Paguia, professional law lecturer at the Ateneo de Manila University, threatened to file administrative and criminal charges against the high court justices, following up this threat with a formal letter written to the Supreme Court (SC) and demanding answers to 12 questions that are the heart of the legitimacy issue.

Paguia, in submitting his client’s Omnibus Motion which questions the jurisdiction of the anti-graft court over the person of Estrada, as it is argued that he remains the legitimate president despite the SC ruling on the legitimacy of Mrs. Arroyo’s ascension to the presidency, asked the court to subpoena Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and his associate, Justice Artemio Panganiban, author of the book *Reforming the Judiciary*.

It is in Panganiban’s book where an admission is made that the swearing in of then-Vice President Arroyo was unconstitutional and illegal, owing to the fact that no vacancy in the Office of the President existed as then sitting President Joseph Estrada had not resigned.

At the same time, Paguia, irked over what he called the deafening “silence” of the Supreme Court officials on the charges leveled against them, decided to officially

“interrogate” Davide and Panganiban through the means of a FORMAL LETTER he officially had sent the two justices.

Paguaia said he wanted direct answers from the justices themselves on whether they participated in Edsa II that led to the alleged illegal assumption of President Arroyo to the presidency.

The letter, which comprises 12 questions that are all answerable by a simple yes or no, are the same questions that have been raised by Estrada’s counsel before the Sandiganbayan Special Division where he had filed an Omnibus Motion invoking Estrada’s immunity from charges on the strength of the detained president remaining to be the true and legal president.

In an interview, Paguia said the letter was not meant to pressure or harass the Chief Justice and the other justices of the high tribunal and neither was this action taken to harass the anti-graft Special Division which now [is] required to resolve the Omnibus Motion which he filed last May.

The Omnibus Motion, which also questions the Special division’s jurisdiction over Estrada while invoking immunity from charges, holds the same questions.

The only difference, Paguia claimed, is that he is giving the Chief Justice the opportunity to reply to these questions without prejudice to the pending motion at the Sandiganbayan.

“I am just giving them the opportunity to tell the people what their position is regarding these questions,” he said in a telephone interview.

“This is the right time for the people to be enlightened. Their (justices) silence is very deafening. It is easy for them to answer these questions,” the lawyer said.

At the same time, Paguia expressed the view that the Chief Justice and his colleagues will not attempt to disregard his letter and its contents.

“They can never do that,” he said as he explained that justices, like any other government officials and personnel, are obliged to answer “in writing” all the queries of the public within the period of 15 working days.

Refusal to answer his queries, according to Paguia, has the corresponding penalty of imprisonment.

“If they refuse to do so, whatever the reason may be, then I will file administrative and criminal cases against them before the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the City Prosecutor’s Office,” he said.

Among the questions asked by Paguia directly to the high court justices are:

(1) Is it true that the law strictly prohibits judges or justices from participating in partisan political activities?

(2) Is it true that your honors participated in a partisan political activity during Vice President Gloria Arroyo’s oath-taking at Edsa on Jan. 20, 2001?

(3) Is it true that your honors attended and authorized the Arroyo oath-taking in your honors’ official capacity as judicial officers?

(4) Is it true that the basic law involved in the Estrada v. Arroyo controversy is Article VII, Section 8 of the Constitution (“in case of death, permanent disability, removal from office, or resignation of the President, the Vice President shall become the President to serve the unexpired term”)?

(5) Is it true that the sole constitutional ground invoked by Vice President Arroyo for her oath-taking as President was permanent disability?

(6) Is it true that your honors authorized the oath-taking by Vice President Arroyo at Edsa on that same ground of permanent disability?

(7) Is it true that Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. administered the said oath-taking at Edsa on that same ground of permanent disability?

(8) Is it true that your honors unquestioningly accepted Vice President Arroyo’s allegation of permanent disability on the part of President Joseph Estrada?

(9) Is it true that the administration matter of administering the oath-taking at Edsa by the chief justice involved the performance of an official duty which ought to be consistent with the Constitution?

(10) Is it true that there was never any proof of compliance with the constitutional requirements regarding the said permanent disability (“Written declaration” by the President or majority of his Cabinet members)?

(11) Is it true that your honors, as well as the other justices, later rejected that ground of permanent disability and replaced it with resignation, even as President Estrada never wrote any resignation letter?

(12) Is it true that due process of law absolutely requires the cold neutrality of an impartial judge both in appearance and in substance, without which the proceedings are rendered void or without effect from the beginning?

The SC has maintained silence over the allegations leveled against them before public forums and the court itself.

The Chief Justice, not replying directly to questions, called the twin moves of Estrada’s counsels, one which had him filing an impeachment complaint against Davide and seven other justices before Congress, and another, the Omnibus Motion before the Sandiganbayan as “sinister moves” against the “institution of the Supreme Court”. This was contained in a speech he gave during the anniversary of the late Justice Roberto Concepcion.

In another instance, Davide, again in a speech extolling the late Justice Sabino de Leon, said during his necrological services, that de Leon knew the justices’ move to declare Mrs. Arroyo as President was done “for the country”.

[END QUOTING ARTICLE]

Yes indeed, we are now into the first day of the rest of our lives and that too is July 1, 2003 to be a bit more specific.

Things do “heat up” while very little attention, actually no attention, is being given to this matter by the “Establishment-pro-Administration news press. There is only one TINY reference we could find to the Supreme Court justices and it was a short notation that the SC would have to answer for their own activities as relative to the Judicial Development Fund (JDF).

This fund is established to augment salaries and special circumstance employees within the judicial system itself. Of course NONE of the money has seen its way to “the people”.

The fund seems to somehow circulate through the hands for approval of expenditures of that “Chief Justice” Davide.

It is interesting to note that there is a current move to get far meaner than Estrada’s counsels for indiscretions of use of those funds.

It seems billions of pesos have gone into remodeling, polishing and making grandiose the Supreme Court facilities and offices of these justices. Moreover, the justices have chairs at 120,000 pesos apiece just for their *en banc* sessions. But two bigger biggies are (1) the building of “mansions” in Baguio. Baguio is an old U.S. establishment in the mountains where there are literally transplanted thousands of U.S. pine trees. But, just to build the SC villas required the cutting down of 75 of those landmarks; and (2) Each SC justice just received NEW Nissan luxury cars. They already had issued TWO other “luxury” vehicles for use of the justices and their families.

It makes \$600 U.S. toilet seats somewhat pale in comparison so—somebodies have been well paid for their willingness to break all the laws and codes of ethics along with actual treason.

The sad part is that the former President Ramos, along with former President Aquino, and their henchmen are given full credit for the current debacles—even in Mindanao where the “terrorists” are supposed to be holed up ready to bomb away the country—or something equally as absurd.

It becomes more and more clear why the U.S. refuses to be a party—as in “accused parties”—to an International World Criminal Court. Every politician in Washington and these colonial satellites would be in prison for life.

On our own “home front” we have been quietly asked where we are with “the Foundation” as to “operation” capability? We don’t know who asked—but... We consider that good news but then we clutch at straws while equally hopeful it is not the straw that breaks that infamous “camel’s” back.

As we look at the Middle East and especially at Iraq and the rebuilding and holding of the oil fields—by such as Bechtel and Halliburton—we are impressed with the necessity of Bush to have won that last Presidential election. Even if he loses the next election his people, through him, have accomplished the control and grab that was of do-or-die (they do—we die) importance.

There had to be a way to get those assets and shut down Saddam and grab his assets at the same time. I mean “imperative” before Saddam could tell all and show more. Anyone who doesn’t believe we now have a Vietnam-type war in Iraq must have worse eyesight than this old observer. How thin can the U.S. spread our troops while our homeland is maintained by black-hooded-booted teams of enforcers of new laws, limitations and breaking and entering?

Well, every nasty incident, I suppose, has a positive aspect. We don’t have any property left to break and enter with or without search warrants. Are YOU that “fortunate”? Worse, these are called “protectors” when they are by all definitions available: The Terrorists. How recently has bin Laden terrified YOU? How about those homeland security teams ready to pounce on you the minute even your kid gets out of line? Terror they have plenty left to intimidate all of us. Terror and POVERTY and both add up to FEAR.

May God please have mercy on us as we troop along, for I’m confident no one else will dare.—DJE 

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The News Desk

By John & Jean Ray

WHEN FICTION IS FICTION AND FACT IS FACT

By Carol Marin, MarinCorpProductions@yahoo.com, 06/25/03

...Every day we are bombarded with facts that dissolve into fiction. It's like the old joke about the weather—if you don't like it today just wait, it will change tomorrow. Sometimes the morphing of fact into fiction is no joke at all.

We went to Afghanistan—remember Afghanistan?—to drive a stake into the heart of al-Qaida, rid the world of No. 1 terrorist Osama bin Laden and Taliban leader Mullah Omar and liberate the Afghan people from the oppression of the Taliban. Along the way, we pledged that never again would we abandon the Afghan people as we had twice before.

Today, just 7,000 U.S. troops patrol the country, there is evidence al-Qaida is reorganizing and bin Laden and Omar are nowhere to be found.

The oppression of the Taliban has been replaced by the oppression of the warlords the U.S. relied upon to help liberate Afghanistan. Women outside of Kabul still are in burqas and, in most places, little girls still are prevented from going to school.

Human Rights Watch just returned from a fact-finding mission in Afghanistan to report serious human-rights abuses and a profound lack of security for the citizens the Bush administration said the U.S. saved from their oppressors.

Then there is Iraq.

Like the drip of a leaky faucet, every other day we hear or read of another U.S. soldier killed in Iraq. Since President Bush, in the striking scene in May aboard the *USS Abraham Lincoln*, declared, if not outright victory in Iraq, that the U.S. had certainly "prevailed", another 55 U.S. soldiers have died.

This week Hans Blix, chief UN weapons inspections, told the Council on Foreign Relations in New York that "it is sort of fascinating you can have 100 percent certainty about weapons of mass destruction and zero certainty about where they are".

If weapons of mass destruction are not a fiction, for the purposes of our war with Iraq, neither are they yet a fact.

U.S. presidents have a rich history of taking the truth and transforming it in the pursuit of foreign policy objectives they want to achieve.

In 1941 Franklin Roosevelt took the "fact" that a German submarine had fired on an American destroyer to issue a "shoot on sight" order for all German submarines in the Western Atlantic.

On Sept. 11 of that year (yes, Sept. 11), Roosevelt addressed the nation, declaring this "unprovoked attack" was like a sniper in a schoolyard. Just as Bush handled Iraq, Roosevelt argued the U.S. had to act and act quickly.

The facts came later. Congressional hearings in 1941 proved the United States actually provoked the attack that caused the sub to fire.

The truth hardly mattered. The Nazis then, like Saddam Hussein now, were the personification of evil.

Don't get me wrong. No sane person would argue the Nazis didn't need to be eliminated.

No sane person finds any redemption for Hussein.

But it's the dance, the deceptions, the trivialization of the truth in the name of bona fide foreign policy objectives that defy logic and risk destroying the very thing any government depends on: the faith of its people in the facts it offers.

[JR: Since President Roosevelt, September 11th seems to have become the catalyst as a day of infamy in our American history. Americans have become conditioned and comfortable with the lies spun by our Presidents. The truth doesn't seem to matter as long as the deceptions are wrapped in the olde red, white and blue. The coalition Christians follow with blind faith while firm in their belief that anything America does is righteous even though proven wrong. War is bad only when someone else starts it. Most Americans aren't ready to hear the truth or demand reforms because they do not want to assume the responsibility that comes with it.]

THE HIGH COST OF LYING ABOUT WAR

By Karen J. Alter, (associate professor of political science at Northwestern University), 06/29/03

If Saddam Hussein had choked on a pretzel, been assassinated by his closest advisers or slain by his own people rising in revolt, the U.S. and the world would have cheered.

Instead, he was overthrown by a U.S. military invasion, after a worldwide campaign of half-truths, misleading insinuations and outright lies. How the world rid itself of Hussein matters as much as the fact that Hussein no longer runs Iraq.

The world cares that this war was justified by lies, and Americans should care too.

Even if some evidence of an Iraqi program to create weapons of mass destruction is eventually unearthed, it is already clear that the evidence the Bush administration used to support its case for war was faulty. Perhaps the Bush administration is only guilty of naively believing people whom it knew had a reason to lie.

Intelligence experts knew that many in the Iraqi exile community wanted the U.S. to invade Iraq and would say whatever it took to get an invasion. Perhaps the Bush administration is mainly guilty of knowingly peddling bad intelligence—information that had been discredited or deemed unreliable by experts.

Don't forget how the secretary of defense created his own internal intelligence office, hand-selecting "experts" willing to vouch for questionable sources and interpret evidence in ways that the CIA, FBI and even the Pentagon's own Defense Intelligence Agency would not.

Or perhaps the administration is mainly guilty of insinuation—withholding counter-evidence while letting others read into its public statements deep connections between Hussein, nuclear weapons programs and al-Qaida.

Do such transgressions cross over the line from honest miscalculation to willful misleading—dare we say lying? Does it matter whether President Bush lied or was simply grossly mistaken?

Either way, we pay the high costs:

*The credibility of the U.S. has suffered. Who will believe us the next time a U.S. administration claims to have classified information of an impending threat? The ability of the U.S. to rally the world has been compromised.

*People around the world no longer believe that the U.S. is a benign force for change. If we must live with one country possessing unparalleled power, at least let it be a country that champions freedom, human rights and the rule of law. Americans and people around the world have believed this image of America, supporting

the U.S. in its efforts to fight terrorism and promote change. Increasingly, however, the U.S. appears as an oppressive Goliath, unwilling to listen to or value others' opinions and punishing of those who dare to disagree. If the U.S. is a Goliath, its challengers become underdog Davids, worthy of popular support.

*The democratic process has been undermined. Democracy works when there is an earnest debate that informs public decision-making. How can Americans seriously evaluate whether a war with Iraq makes sense, and whether we should give the UN more time, when the credibility of the intelligence and the extent of the Iraqi threat has been greatly exaggerated?

*Our intelligence system has been compromised. In the fight against terrorism, the U.S. relies on intelligence offered by ordinary people around the world. The willingness of the neighbors and compatriots of those plotting against the U.S. to pass on intelligence is undermined if these sources fear that their information will be used to manufacture threats and support a U.S. desire to dominate others.

*Americans around the world now face greater risks. In the past, U.S. soldiers often have been welcomed wherever they have been stationed because they are seen as liberators and guarantors of peace and security. The more U.S. soldiers are perceived as occupiers killing civilians and innocents, the harder and more dangerous their job becomes and the more likely Americans around the world will become targets of violence.

*We may have set a bad precedent. If the U.S. attack on Iraq sets a precedent that any country can invade another whenever there is an irrational fear, regardless of whether it is unsubstantiated or even fabricated, the world will be a more dangerous place.

*The integrity of U.S. politics is undermined. It is amazing that many of the same people who thought President Bill Clinton should be impeached for lying about his extra-marital affair are far less troubled when a president manipulates the public for political ends. Why aren't the people who wanted to impeach Clinton mobilizing now?

*This is not the first war to be triggered by lies or misperceptions.

But the transparencies of the falsehoods are so clear, people throughout the world simply cannot believe that Americans thought Hussein posed a threat to them. Whether or not conspiratorial arguments about Texas oil designs or an imperial lust to dominate are true, the U.S. is perceived to be the greatest threat to world security by people around the globe, making the world a more dangerous place for America and its supporters.

Maybe the charge of lying would not hold up in a court of law. But there was an alternative to using mistruths and insinuation to justify a war. If getting rid of Hussein was the only acceptable outcome, Bush could have relied on Hussein to fail to fulfill his promises to the UN. If Bush had waited for the UN process, he might have had UN support, a broader coalition of forces to wage the war, more help in the post-war reconstruction, and a greater basis to credibly believe that Hussein had not gotten rid of his weapons of mass destruction.

The president has a responsibility to make sure there is strong evidence before he publicly levies serious charges against other countries. The reputation of the United States is on the line, and the costs of the error directly affect all Americans.

Hussein was a tyrant. But it matters that the war was justified by lies. Whether or not you believe that the Bush administration crossed the line of lying, our leaders should be held accountable for manipulating information, misleading the American public and undermining America's reputation.

Holding those responsible accountable will let political leaders know that manipulating the public is not acceptable political behavior—in the U.S. or anywhere. It will also be a first step to correcting the damage, distancing the American people from the abuses and mistakes of its leadership.

[JR: America's integrity and credibility has Gone With the Wars we have instigated or started. We aren't a bit concerned about what the world thinks or says of our actions because America has mutated and changed into a dictatorship much like the one we removed in Iraq. Our U.S. Knesset is a rubber stamp for all the policies and decisions made by the neo-cons in this administration. Bush lied to Americans and to the world in his debate with Gore in October 2000 when he stated: "The vice president and I have a disagreement about the use of troops. He believes in nation building. I would be very careful about using our troops as nation builders". Since making this statement, can we now infer that the elusive and reclusive Cheney and his sidekick Rumsfeld are the ones who really wield the power and not Bush Jr.? Why haven't the opposition or any of the Republicans of conscience insisted that President Bush clarify his position as to why 9/11 is being used to turn us into nation builders? Our prevarication to start a war against Iraq was deliberate. If lying to bring down a nation and causing harm and the death of innocents doesn't hold up in a court... what does? What the U.S. committed in Iraq was an act of genocide and that IS a war crime in any court.]

REBEL FIGHTING ENGULFS MONROVIA

By Jonathan Paye-Layleh, *Daily News*, 06/26/03

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP)—Shells and rockets pounded refugee-crowded neighborhoods of Liberia's capital Wednesday as rebels pressed home their three-year war to oust President Charles Taylor, wounding hundreds and leaving thousands of others cowering in the coastal city without escape.

The fighting shattered a week-old truce and raised the possibility of the deadliest of endgames for Liberia's civil war: an all-out battle among undisciplined armies for the city of 1 million residents, now also packed with hundreds of thousands of refugees.

Taylor pledged to live or die with his troops, with rebels on three sides of the city and the Atlantic surf pounding the other. ...

"Everybody in the world is sitting to watch us die," a refugee, Suah Kolli, cried at Monrovia's John F. Kennedy Hospital, where 200 wounded brought in by midday overflowed the wards.

The French humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres evacuated another hospital overrun by fighting, and was treating scores of wounded in its own compound.

Aid workers described a humanitarian nightmare even before fighting broke out Tuesday, with cholera and starvation rampant among the refugees.

Taylor's forces have lost at least 60 percent of the country to two rebel groups—each determined to drive out the president, a UN-indicted war-crimes suspect accused of roiling West Africa's conflicts for 14 years.

At midday, Taylor took to the airwaves of his private radio station to dispel a rumor that he had fled. ...

Rebels breached the city Tuesday, and before dawn Wednesday were waging their fiercest-ever battle for control.

Liberia's June 17 truce never fully took hold. It shattered over the weekend after Taylor announced he would not yield power, reneging on pledges during peace talks this month.

The U.S. Embassy, in a statement Wednesday, condemned what it called the rebels' "serious violation of the cease-fire".

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and Nigerian Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar, lead mediator for the Liberia talks, likewise condemned the fighting and urged all sides to honor their accord.

Liberia, a nation founded in the 19th Century by freed American slaves, for decades was sub-Saharan Africa's richest country, profiting off timber, rubber and close business ties to the United States.

A 1980 rebellion overthrew the American-Liberian elite of returned slaves that had ruled Liberia since its founding.

Taylor, a Boston-educated business student trained in the guerrilla camps of Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, launched the country into war at the head of a small armed force in 1989.

[JR: Kofi Annan asked the U.S. to send troops to "restore order" because of the Civil War in Liberia. Since the U.S. appointed itself as the "Unilateral International Police Enforcer" I can understand this request by the UN however the U.S. wants to pick and choose which skirmishes it wants to get involved in. If oil is an asset of the area of the skirmish then there is no reservation. If Bush does agree it will only be our show of unity for NATO's world peacekeeping efforts or to repair our strained relations with the UN? Either way both the U.S. and the UN are preserving the spirit of cooperation as it serves the agenda for both sides. A bad sign for those countries who because of their independence or assets merits them the attention of the world's elitists.]

WAR AGAINST TERROR COMES TO AFRICA U.S. TROOPS IN DJIBOUTI

By Steven Komarow, *USA TODAY*, 06/27/03

DJIBOUTI—The Hayabley medical clinic is overstocked with patients but short on medicine for their malaria and tuberculosis. So it welcomed a well-supplied medical team from the U.S. military that arrived in May. ...

U.S. troops, including a contingent of Special Operations Forces, now operate out of Djibouti. More forces, usually including 2,000 Marines, hover offshore. It takes seven words for Brig. Gen. Mastin Robeson, their commanding officer, to explain the reason. "We're here because the terrorists are here," he says. ...

To detect terrorists in this region and eventually hunt them down, the abandoned French Foreign Legion post known as Camp Lemonier has been transformed into a modern, air-conditioned base bristling with antennae.

Robeson, who has at his fingertips intelligence from satellite and radio communications, is watching a lot more than just a tiny republic on Africa's northeast coast. Within his jurisdiction: **[JR: Yes, like the entire Horn of Africa?]**

* Yemen, across the Gulf of Aden to the north, is where bin Laden's father lived and where the *USS Cole* was bombed three years ago, killing 17 sailors.

* Somalia, to the southeast, is as lawless now as it was in 1993 when tribal militia battled and killed American soldiers who tried to control the unruly clans—a clash made famous by the book and movie *Black Hawk Down*.

* Kenya, the former British colony, is where the U.S. Embassy was bombed by al-Qaida in 1998. Last November, at the Kenyan resort of Mombasa, terrorists launched two simultaneous attacks. A missile was fired at an Israeli jetliner and narrowly missed, but a car bomb killed 14 people in the lobby of an Israeli-owned tourist hotel.

* Sudan, to the west, is where bin Laden lived in the mid-1990s before moving his headquarters to Afghanistan.

* Neighboring Ethiopia and Eritrea, best known for famine and tribal warfare, present opportunities for terrorists to blend in with the chaos. Like the rest of the region, their borders are porous and allow easy transit for terrorists.

These nations cover an area of 2 million square miles, more than half the size of the U.S.A. The military is approaching the problem here differently than it did in Afghanistan or Iraq. There's no Taliban or a Saddam Hussein with an army that can be defeated in a conventional battle. There is no Northern Alliance or opposition group that's an effective ally. Instead, there are government and regional chiefs who have so many other problems that dealing with terrorism is a low priority.

So the U.S. military and State Department are repairing long-neglected ties to the governments and offering foreign aid, military assistance and other incentives to win their friendship and cooperation. Bush on Thursday announced \$100 million in new U.S. aid to combat terrorism at African airports and seaports. The government of Djibouti already was set to receive \$30 million this year—making it one of the world's biggest per-capita recipients of U.S. aid.

Quietly **[JR: and covertly]** American spy agencies and uniformed forces have been working to create the intelligence network needed to identify terrorism before it strikes.

The United States was satisfied with minimal ties to the Horn of Africa until Sept. 11, 2001. Before that, the main interest was humanitarian. The region has few critical resources, little oil and a poorly educated population. Civil wars, including the ongoing turf fights in Somalia, made it a dangerous place for Americans. ...

Djibouti was chosen as a land base because of its relative stability, security and central location. About the same size as Massachusetts, it is the smallest nation in the region in area and population. Most of its 600,000 residents live in the capital, also called Djibouti. Much of the country is an uninhabitable, volcanic desert where daytime temperatures of 115 degrees are normal.

The 1990s saw violence between Djibouti's two main ethnic groups, the Somalis and Ethiopians. But the last few years have been stable. Djibouti lacks the strong anti-Western bias of other Muslim states nearby.

The country and its most important economic resources, including a deepwater port, are still protected by several thousand French troops and Mirage jets a quarter century after independence. Germany, meanwhile, leads a flotilla of ships just offshore. ... With such a small force, Robeson says long-term security depends on convincing leaders and citizens that hosting terrorism is a mistake—and ruinous to their economies. "We're here to empower them to take charge of their own destiny, to create that safe and secure environment."

A visit to Camp Lemonier erases any doubt that the United States intends to stay for a while. The Pentagon takes pains to call the U.S. presence in Djibouti temporary. The scene behind berms built to block prying eyes or truck bombers suggests a longer stay, however. ...

[JR: Like the Romans, the American Caesars are building a new coalition around the Horn of Africa with our aid and support. Despite the presence of France and Germany the U.S. is securing its own position and is recruiting troops to add to our nation building. The U.S. with its military is establishing listening posts in this vast reign and is building port inspection facilities all along the Indian Ocean and Suez Canal. This same type of operation is being planned for every Muslim country around the world. The U.S. has already succeeded in establishing a presence in the southern ports of the Philippines. Thanks to the help and the willing cooperation of the corrupt leaders of the Philippines we are now in full control of that region which is adding greatly to the civil unrest there. Pax Americana is growing and is reaching out and claiming everything as its own.]

SABOTEURS HIT ANOTHER IRAQ PIPELINEBy Paul Salopek, *Tribune*, 06/26/03

BAGHDAD—Saboteurs struck once more at the frail economic heart of Iraq, blowing up yet another pipeline in a nation critically dependent on oil.

The latest attack occurred early Tuesday and appears to have ruptured a key pipeline that carries crude from Iraq's northern oil fields to the main Al-Daura refinery in Baghdad, an Oil Ministry source said.

The extent of the damage was unknown, but televised news reports showed images of black oil leaking into palm groves near the desert town of Hadithah, some 150 miles northwest of the capital. And thousands of beleaguered motorists, fearful of shortages, jammed gas stations to stock up on fuel.

"So far we're meeting demand by tapping our stored reserves," said Dathar Yahya Al-Khasab, the general manager of Al-Daura refinery, which was running at 45 percent capacity after two weeks of pipeline sabotage. ...

Iraq's sprawling network of oil pipelines seems to have become the target of choice for guerrillas in recent weeks.

Though the country is believed to sit atop the second-largest pool of crude in the world after Saudi Arabia, its petroleum infrastructure is in shambles. A decade of UN economic sanctions and a ruinous looting spree that followed the recent U.S.-led war to topple Saddam Hussein have cut oil production to 800,000 barrels a day, roughly a third of prewar levels.

Now sabotage is battering the vital industry further. And the pace of the assaults is quickening.

Three attacks have occurred across Iraq over the past four days, Iraqi oil officials said. The destruction has pushed back the sale of crude abroad, depriving the country of billions in much-needed reconstruction funds.

Some attacks seem aimed purely at stirring up anti-American sentiment.

Tuesday's attack, for example, may strangle the oil supply to Baghdad's Al-Daura refinery just as the city is staggering back to normal after days of sabotage-induced blackouts. ...

Paul Bremer, the U.S. civilian administrator in Iraq, blamed "rogue elements" from Hussein's old Baath Party for the recent spate of pipeline attacks.

"[The militants] are trying to hinder the coalition's efforts to make life better for the average Iraqi person," he said at a news conference Wednesday. "We are doing everything we can to fix this as quickly as possible. ..."

One measure suggested by Iraqi Oil Ministry officials last week was to double the number of guards patrolling the pipelines. Currently, Iraq's three state-owned oil companies employ about 5,000 security men.

But with more than 4,500 miles of pipelines crisscrossing Iraq's deserts, even advocates of the idea admit the scope of the problem is daunting. ...

[JR: The UN can't release the frozen Iraqi funds it is holding because that would be aiding and abetting U.S. efforts in worn, torn Iraq. Since the flow of oil is less assured as the days of chaos drag on and along with that the prospects of our rebuilding a better and brighter Iraq for the Bush oil cartel. Also too in the profit limbo is all those nice, big lucrative government reconstruction contracts handed out to the favored few by the Bushites. The Iraqi people don't want us there and they certainly don't want their oil enriching Bush and his Zionist partners.]

PAKISTAN AGREES 'IN PRINCIPLE' TO SEND TROOPSBy Peter Slevin, *Washington Post*, 06/26/03

WASHINGTON—President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan said Wednesday that his country has accepted "in principle" a U.S. request to send thousands of peacekeeping

troops to Iraq, but first he wants to see a larger role for other Muslim countries or the United Nations.

Pakistan is wary of the political difficulties of joining the U.S.-led security operation in Iraq and also would need financial help to pay for the two brigades requested by U.S. and British leaders, Musharraf said.

As attacks have intensified on occupation troops, Musharraf said the situation is neither under control nor satisfactory. He said he urged President Bush on Tuesday to establish an Iraqi government as soon as possible.

"The sooner we put an Iraqi government in place to be seen by the people as their own government, that they are governing themselves, the better that will be. That will reduce the visibility of foreign forces there," Musharraf said.

The Bush administration is eager to make the security force more international, both to lessen the perception of U.S. dominance and to ease the burden on U.S. troops. More than 40 countries have agreed to send soldiers, according to Pentagon and State Department officials, but without a firm commitment from Pakistan or India, the total is only about 20,000 soldiers.

There are 146,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and 63,000 in neighboring Kuwait, along with 12,000 soldiers from other countries. ...

Musharraf called the meeting with Bush and the \$3 billion, five-year commitment the "beginning of the re-establishment" of the strategic relationship between the two countries that ebbed during the 1990s because of Pakistan's weapons program and the imposition of U.S. military and economic sanctions.

[JR: There is probably not enough money in the U.S. treasury (for now) to proposition Musharraf to send troops into Iraq. His unilateral agreement would ignite a firestorm in Pakistan. Unless and until other Arab nations commit to the sending their troops, Musharraf would be signing his own death warrant both politically and as a Muslim. The Bushkovites wouldn't hesitate to sacrifice an old friend or ally on their altar of expediency if it's a means to further their plans. Having Muslim troops patrol Iraq would certainly be the capstone for the Zionist plans in Iraq and the Middle East. I don't see that happening without Software programming of Arab leaders at Camp David.]

FREED GUANTANAMO DETAINEESRECALL DESPAIR, AGONY*IslamOnline.net*, 06/18/03

KABUL, Afghanistan—Freed after long months of despair and agony, two detainees who were detained by the U.S. at Guantanamo spoke about the unspeakable conditions they suffered along with other prisoners, a leading U.S. newspaper reported.

In interviews at their homes, weeks after being released, two of the freed men, a Pakistani and an Afghan, talked of the overwhelming feeling of injustice among the approximately 680 men detained indefinitely at U.S. naval base, the *New York Times* said.

The two men said that for the first few months, they were kept in small wire-mesh cells, about 6 1/2 feet by 8 feet, in blocks of 10 or 20, adding the cells were covered by a wooden roof, but open at the sides to the elements.

"We slept, ate, prayed and went to the toilet in that small space," said Suleiman Shah, 30, from Kandahar province in southern Afghanistan.

"Some were saying this is a prison for 150 years," he said, adding that the detainees were taken out only once a week for a one-minute shower.

"After four and a half months we complained and people stopped eating, so they said we could shower for five minutes and exercise once a week," said Shah who spent 14 months at the camp.

It was the uncertainty and fear they would be there forever that drove many of the detainees to despair, he confirmed.

"All of the people were worried about how long we would be there for," Shah said.

"People were becoming mad because they were saying: 'When will they release us? They should take us to the high court.' Many stopped eating," he added.

Capt. Warren Neary, a spokesman at the detention camp, told the *Times* that in the 18 months since the detention camp opened, there have been 28 suicide attempts by 18 individuals, with most of those attempts made this year.

"I was trying to kill myself," said Shah Mohammad, 20, a Pakistani who was arrested in northern Afghanistan in November 2001 and handed over to American soldiers and flown to Guantanamo in January 2002.

"I tried four times, because I was disgusted with my life... It is against Islam to commit suicide, but it was very difficult to live there. A lot of people did it. They treated me as guilty, but I was innocent," he lamented.

Mohammad, who spent 18 months in the detention camp before his release, further said that "when they first took us there they would not let us talk, or stand or walk around the cell.

"At the beginning it was very hard to bear," he added. "There was no call to prayer, and there was no shade. In the afternoon the sun came in from the side."

Amnesty International called in February for an investigation into conditions at the camp after reports about suicide attempts by the detainees.

According the *New York Times*, one Taliban fighter from the southern province of Helmand, who only goes by the name Rustam said in May that he was driven to trying to hang himself.

"There were some very strange people, they were hitting their heads on the wall, insulting the soldiers, and that is why I hated it," said Rustam, 22, in an interview in an Afghan prison in Kabul.

"I think they were really crazy people, and that's why I kept asking to be taken out for questioning," he said.

When he tried to hang himself, Rustam said, the guards found him quickly.

None of the prisoners have killed themselves, but American officials have confirmed that one man has suffered severe brain damage.

Dr. Najeeb bin Mohamad Ahmed al-Nauimi, a former justice minister in Qatar, who is representing nearly 100 of the detainees, identified the prisoner as Mish al-Hahrbi, a Saudi school teacher.

He said that the teacher became desperate over not knowing what his future held and so tried to hang himself.

Hahrbi was resuscitated but is unlikely to recover from a severe hemorrhage, the lawyer said.

The detainees come from more than 40 countries, and include more than 50 Pakistanis, about 150 Saudis and three teenagers under 16, a majority of them captured in Afghanistan, said Dr. Nauimi.

He represents many of the Saudis, and American lawyers represent about 14 prisoners from Kuwait.

There are also 83 Yemenis, he said, and a sprinkling of others, including Canadians, Britons, Algerians and Australians, and one Swede.

Since January 2002, at least 32 Afghan prisoners and three Pakistanis have been released from Guantanamo.

At the same time, the American military is preparing to place about 10 of the detainees before a military tribunal soon, the daily said quoting U.S. officials.

Human rights organizations have raised concerns about the conditions at Guantanamo and the unclear legal status of the detainees.

Concerned about their prolonged detention without trial or clear legal status, the head of the

International Red Cross (IRC), who visited the detainees, urged the Bush administration last month to start legal proceedings and to institute a number of changes in conditions at the camp.

On January, the IRC called on the U.S. to clarify the status of hundreds of people held without charge in the U.S. military base at Guantanamo.

Washington refuses to consider them prisoners of war, even though a majority were captured on the battlefield, and does not allow them access to lawyers.

[JR: The U.S. is setting a dangerous precedent for "our" future wars and it may be our own American soldiers that become "combat detainees" in enemy camps, without prisoner's rights as related to the "Rules of War" set down in the Geneva Convention. Psychological torture and mental anguish through the daily uncertainty of what will happen to them, if anyone even knows where they are and how long will they be held in prison without charges is enough to drive many men to suicide. Drastically limiting the "detainees" physical activity, health care, and keeping them in isolation for indefinite periods of time has been used to break the spirit of many political prisoners under dictatorships. By allowing these same things to happen to these "detainees" makes we Americans no different than our worst enemies. I say "enemies" because our present foreign policy is generating increased hatred against the U.S. in many nations, especially non-Christian countries throughout the world. The playground bully is usually insecure and relies on fear as a means to exert power over others to obtain approval, when in fact he generates hatred instead. It would never dawn on a bully/dictator that by changing his behavior toward others, he would achieve a much greater respect and admiration instead of generating the hatred that produces terrorists. What do you think drives a person to strap explosives on his body, walk into a group who represent his suppressors and blow himself up? It isn't envy that produces terrorists, its suppression, frustration and helplessness that leads people to strike out with suicidal hatred. What have they got to lose? These angry and frustrated souls are what we now labeled terrorist, not the ones that create the conditions that breed this lethal hatred.]

TWO WARS IN IRAQ: ONE FOR U.S. AUDIENCES,
THE OTHER FOR THE ARABIC-SPEAKING WORLD

By Delinda C. Hanley,
Washington Report

on Middle East Affairs (WRMEA), May 2003

There are two wars going on in Iraq. One is a gripping made-for-TV show starring brave U.S. and British troops putting their lives on the line to bring freedom to oppressed Iraqis. Little blood is spilled on camera. Soldiers pass food out to starving Iraqi civilians and prisoners. Homesick and on edge, these idealistic servicemen and women remain confident that they will soon win this just war and return to their families. "Collateral damage", sandstorms, flies, fierce resistance and doubt have not yet worn down our gallant troops. This war, featuring their hometown heroes, is the one Americans watch on network and cable TV every night, and read about, complete with moving photos, with their morning coffee.

The other war is waged by Iraqis, desperate to protect their homes and their ancient land against U.S. and British invaders. Bombed buildings, smoke and chaos are the backdrops for this war. Its stars are wounded and screaming Iraqi women and children, captured or terrified Iraqi—and yes, U.S. and British—soldiers. Iraqis' pain is immortalized by the Arab and European press, including *The*

Independent's Robert Fisk, who describes civilians "incinerated by missiles, torn to pieces before they could be liberated by the nation that destroyed their lives." How many others, Fisk wondered, are "dying anonymously, indeed unrecorded, because there are no reporters to be witness to their suffering?"...

Al-Jazeera's uncensored images of the chaos and brutality of war are not shown on TVs across the world in order to promote any political agenda, according to Ballout. Nonetheless, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell told National Public Radio in late March, "They tend to portray our efforts in a negative light."

Responding to charges that the station has inflamed Arab opinion against the U.S.-led war, Ballout countered, "We would be doing our viewers a disservice if we were to edit, doctor or dress up facts on the ground in Iraq. We won't shield our audience from distressing pictures.

"*Al-Jazeera* has tried to fend off censorship ever since we began broadcasting in 1996," Ballout said. "We don't decide what our viewers should or should not see. I think the audience has the right to see all aspects of the battle. The conflict in the Middle East is important to their destiny."

Al-Jazeera strictly documents and verifies its news sources, the 45-year-old former London-based journalist of Lebanese descent asserted. "The clips that accompany our reports must have news value and relevance," Ballout explained. "We're not insensitive to the fact that what we show may distress some people. We show real pictures from all sides of the conflict. As Arabs we are just as distressed by scenes of carnage and death as any other people. War is innately ugly."...

Ballout said he recently has been called a few things he didn't like by the ultra-nationalist U.S. media. But, he said, he and other *Al-Jazeera* journalists have a clear conscience. They are committed to telling the truth, something some U.S. journalists are now afraid to do. He said his American colleagues in the area often call him to say, "Good going. You are doing the stuff we are not allowed to do."

NBC recently fired Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter Peter Arnett for speaking his mind on Iraqi television. Arnett made the mistake of telling viewers that American war planners had underestimated Iraqi resistance to the war. "Not everyone may agree with what a reporter says," Ballout said, "but he or she should be allowed to express a conviction without fear of losing a livelihood."

In 9 to 12 months, viewers in the U.S., Canada and Europe will be able to tune in to *Al-Jazeera* in English. In the meantime, *Al-Jazeera* has been criticized and attacked for its truthful reporting and principled stand. Within days of putting up only the initial experimental page of its Website, Ballout said, *Al-Jazeera* was hacked. "It's that easy to gag the press," he noted. "Today all it takes is a couple of clever guys with sophisticated computer equipment to attack freedom of the press. In the old days bombs in Kabul tried to silence us. Today, *Al-Jazeera* is trying its hardest to report on the war in Iraq for the Arabic-speaking world. Soon Americans will be able to exercise their own freedom of choice, and select the media network that tells everyone's story."

[JR: How many Americans exhibiting a false sense of patriotism will be outraged or incensed that others will be able to avail themselves of another point of view on Al-Jazeera other than through our own media? Truth for them in varied forms is something to be feared and even dreaded. For those who are willing to allow themselves the opportunity and to test their own perceptions against others will find it rewarding as well as challenging. It will be interesting to see what, if any, American companies will advertise on this channel. You can bet none would dare except maybe the oil companies and related companies like Halliburton.]

SURPRISING ASSAULT ON DEMOCRACY

By Phyllis Schlafly, *Eagle Forum*, 06/18/03

Press and television channels have been filled for months about America's responsibility to bring democracy to Iraq and other faraway nations that have no prior experience with self-government. So why are some of the same people now trying to abolish the most democratic feature of our constitutional republic, namely, the right of the people to elect the U.S. House of Representatives?

An elite group of former Clinton advisers and former public officials of both political parties gathered last week at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington to announce their proposal to convert the House of Representatives from an elected body to an appointed body in the event of a national emergency. I'm not making this up; this crowd has set 9/11 of this year as its target date to pass a constitutional amendment to accomplish this goal.

This group calls itself the Continuity of Government (COG) Commission, and the acronym is apt. The COG Commission is trying to be a cog that manipulates our constitutional process of self-government.

COG offers a "solution" in search of a hypothetical problem that doesn't exist and may never exist. COG hypothesizes that it would be a second disaster if, after a terrorist attack on the U.S. Capitol killed most members of Congress, we then had to wait several months for special elections to fill the House vacancies.

It should not be high on our worry list that the House couldn't pass bills until special elections are held. Almost every year Congress goes about four months without passing anything significant.

COG proposes a constitutional amendment that would allow House members to be appointed, a procedure that is now unconstitutional. After painting an emotional picture of a worst-case scenario with most members of Congress killed, COG is hoping that Americans' fear of a recurrence of the events of 9/11 will bamboozle Congress into precipitous action, and H.Con.Res. 190 to study COG's proposals passed the House on June 5.

COG draws a dramatic word picture of what might have happened if United Flight 93 had departed on time and hit the U.S. Capitol instead of being forced down in Pennsylvania. In fact, only a handful of congressmen were in the Capitol that morning.

One of COG's proposals would simply give Congress plenary power to fill vacant seats "if a substantial number of members are killed or incapacitated". Another alternative would empower each governor to replace his state's dead or disabled House members (e.g., Governor Gray Davis could appoint 53 Representatives from California).

The text of COG's proposed constitutional amendment contains far more words than the entire ten amendments of the *Bill of Rights* and is a Rube Goldberg-like plan (i.e., complex and impractical). COG would require each House and Senate member to designate in advance three to seven successors to fill his seat if it becomes vacant, and the governor would appoint Representatives from among those so designated.

Each House and Senate member would be empowered to "revise the designations" of his successors at any time. Thus, in the 2004 elections, voters would be given the task of electing a congressional candidate to whom is attached several shadows who would fade in and out of the possibility of serving in Congress and whose actual appointment would depend on the governor's choice.

Each governor's "appointment authority" would kick in after a majority of governors issued a proclamation that an "emergency" exists because a majority of the Representatives in that state are dead or "unable to discharge" their duties. The process gets even stickier if the disabled Representative rises from his sick bed and tries to resume the office to which he was legitimately elected.

James Madison did a better job of writing the *Constitution* than COG, whose members include Donna Shalala, Lynn Martin, Kweisi Mfume, Tom Foley and Newt Gingrich. Our present *Constitution* already allows governors to fill U.S. Senate vacancies and allows states to advance their timetables for special House elections.

COG's co-chairman is Lloyd Cutler, confidant of Presidents Carter and Clinton, who was also co-chairman of the 1983 Committee on the Constitutional System that tried (fortunately unsuccessfully) to change the *U.S. Constitution* in a dozen ways in order to eliminate our Separation of Powers. A co-sponsor of COG is the Brookings Institution, whose president Strobe Talbott (Clinton's foreign policy adviser) famously wrote in *Time* magazine that "nationhood as we know it will be obsolete" and that he rejoiced in the coming "birth of the Global Nation".

The United States survived the real national emergencies of the Civil War and the burning the U.S. Capitol by the British in 1814 without giving up our right to elect members of the U.S. House of Representatives. We should never relinquish that right.

[JR: Correction: We did not have a "Civil War"... we had a War Between the States! During, and long after that war over the Right of Secession, none of the "Confederate States" were represented in the U.S. Congress, and yet very significant laws were still passed without a legal quorum that still stand today. As far as a messing with... or I should say messing up the Constitution. That was done many times such as the 17th Amendment where, instead of Senators being elected by State Legislators as originally established by the U.S. Constitution to specifically avoid public-opinion pressures and financial campaign (Pac) influence peddling. The Senate carries the greatest power of the U.S. Congress and the 17th Amendment required Senators to campaign and run in general public elections just like the less powerful House Members. Congressional elections are basically popularity contest and Senators' integrity and qualifications are no longer selectively scrutinized by their state's Legislators. Now they are influenced by anything and everyone, but mostly are obligated to potentially unscrupulous financial backers, not the people of the state they are supposed to represent. And that is your history lesson for this week. The bottom line is: DON'T MESS WITH THE CONSTITUTION!]

NAME CAN SET OFF BELLS WITH AIRPORT SECURITY

By Rex W. Huppke, *Tribune*, 06/29/03

David Nelson, last time he checked, is a 56-year-old investment broker from Barrington, a father of three grown children, an avid Cubs fan and, by his own assessment, a pretty decent golfer.

He is not, to the best of his knowledge, a terrorist.

Neither is David Nelson, the Northwestern University journalism professor. Or David Nelson, the Oregon state senator. Or even David Nelson, the exceptionally non-threatening high school guidance counselor from rural north-central Wisconsin.

Yet all four David Nelsons, and hundreds of others across the country, are having a heck of a time getting on planes these days. They're being pulled from ticket lines, quizzed about their identities, asked to unpack their bags and told to slowly pull each ID and credit card from their wallets.

"I asked for an explanation and they said, 'Your name is on a terrorist list,'" said Nelson, the investment broker. "That's when I started to realize I had a problem."

The root of that problem lies with the computers that some airlines use to cross-check passenger lists with the Transportation Security Administration's list of suspected terrorists.

These computers will sometimes throw up a red flag

when a passenger name is similar to a name on the "no-fly list," or even if the name of the passenger and the name of the suspected terrorist share only a few common letters.

TSA officials will not say whether a suspected terrorist named David Nelson exists. But they do say that deficiencies in airline computer systems have allowed innocent people—from passengers with Arabic names to two California peace activists named Rebecca Gordon and Janet Adams—to be inadvertently flagged as posing what the TSA defines as a threat.

By next summer, a new system will be in place that will allow TSA to do all the cross-checking itself, and federal officials say that change should make life easier on both airlines and passengers.

Opponents of the no-fly list, however, say the David Nelson phenomenon is a compelling, albeit somewhat amusing, example of the fallibility of wide-sweeping airline security measures in the post-Sept. 11 age. For some, it raises disconcerting questions about what names and information the government is harboring in the name of national security.

"We're troubled by the notion that there is this secret list that exists, where nobody knows the criteria for someone being placed on the list," said Ed Yohnka, spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union of Illinois.

"That's a troubling performance of government and performance of power. I think what you see in this particular instance is that they don't really add anything to our safety. We're not more secure because David Nelson can't fly..."

"It really made it very difficult to supervise them," Nelson said. "They're pretty good kids, but we're from rural Wisconsin. Half our kids had never even flown before."

Nelson was thoroughly searched and questioned in Minneapolis and Chicago, and again at New York's LaGuardia Airport on the way back.

At first he found it a bit amusing, but by the end he was downright confused why he was being singled out.

"I'm a 57-year-old Scandinavian," Nelson said. "I don't think I fit too many terrorist profiles."

Sen. David Nelson of Oregon said he and his wife now expect long security delays whenever they go to the airport: "My wife just says, 'David, you're on your own.'"

"The part I don't like is basically they can track me," Nelson said. "They can tell what I'm doing, where I'm flying, wherever I'm going. If I'm not the person they're looking for, why do they need to keep track of me?"...

TSA spokesman Brian Turmail said the office will help the David Nelsons of the world fill out a "passenger identification verification form" with information such as their Social Security number, address and date of birth.

Once the TSA is satisfied with the information, it is kept on file to ensure that the person won't be hassled on future trips, Turmail said.

Though much less publicized, the TSA has provided the same service for members of the Islamic community. ...

"The problem is nowadays, security trumps everything, trumps civil rights, trumps due process. Whenever we try to defend civil rights or due process, they say we're against security," he said.

For better or worse, the ACLU's Yohnka said, the David Nelson situation has drawn considerable attention to the controversial no-fly list, and guaranteed that people will remain watchful of the methods government is using to ensure airline safety.

"It's interesting to me that David Nelson was the name, and these were the people that made folks wake up and pay attention to this list," Yohnka said. "There are a whole lot of people who have Arab and Muslim names that have been getting harassed since 9/11. We should not think that David Nelson from middle America is the first person getting harassed as a result of this policy."...

[JR: The first thing that a dictatorship or fascist state does is to remove all personal freedoms and to impose laws that control and restrain. Screening at our airports seems to be an arbitrary thing and targeting is based on a whim. This goes with why an American and his family had a visit from an official from NIS (Naval Intelligence Service). They were all questioned and their private lives investigated because he was seen wearing a tee shirt with an anti-Bush slogan on it. When he stated it was his right to express his opinion as guaranteed by our Constitution he was told: "not any longer". Says a lot about Big Brother being everywhere and watching every one of us doesn't it?]

AFTER 127 YEARS, TRIBES WIN BATTLE MEMORIAL

By Andrew Metz, *Newsday*, 06/26/03

LITTLE BIGHORN BATTLEFIELD, Mont.—In the sagebrush and tall grass that reach to the edge of the mountains here, the grandsons and granddaughters of great Indian warriors greeted the first light of day like victors.

As sun warmed the Plains on Wednesday, they trudged on foot and horseback, up hills permeated with the spirits of their forefathers and those of Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer's 7th Cavalry, who were wiped out 127 years ago in the legendary Battle of the Little Bighorn.

With meditation and cheers, drum-beating and song, thousands of Indians symbolically reclaimed this sacred ground and a place at the shrine to one of America's most storied battles.

"It took 127 years to get this," said Geofredo Little Bird, a Northern Cheyenne Indian, leading daybreak prayers on a ridge below a bronze memorial dedicated Wednesday to the warriors and their victory on June 25, 1876.

"They were trying to exterminate all the tribes from the face of the Earth. But we are still here."

For more than a century, the austere battlefield on the Crow Indian Reservation has had a memorial and grave markers for Custer and his 260 men. Traces of the Indians' participation, as winners or as scouts who died alongside the cavalrymen, were largely invisible.

Now, after years of controversy and delays, American Indians can finally point to this site and see something of their own here: a bronze sculpture of three Indians on horseback and a circular stone dugout with plaques naming the warriors who fell.

The dedication of the \$2.3 million memorial filled the rolling hills with Lakota Sioux, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Crow and Arikara and is seen as a major achievement for the Indians, who persisted in the face of an oppression that pushed them toward extinction.

Generations of Americans know this battle as Custer's Last Stand, a moniker that persists today, and Wednesday's ceremonies seemed as much about setting the record straight as celebration and reverence. ...

After Custer's defeat, the U.S. government stepped up its campaign against the tribes, exacting a toll that American Indians consider nothing short of attempted genocide. ...

As early as 1925, descendants of the Indian warriors were calling for official recognition. But not until 1991 did Congress, spurred on by the lone Indian representative, Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (R-Colo.), approve changing the name of the site from Custer National Battlefield to the Little Bighorn Battlefield.

At that time Congress also authorized an Indian memorial, but no funds were appropriated until two years ago.

[JR: Because of the dedication and persistence of the tribes to preserve their history and to memorialize the warriors who died in battle to protect their people, their objective has finally been achieved. It is and has been a hard-won victory that lasted over 127 years. The government never makes life easy for those who refuse to give up or give in.]

GREATER USE OF GOLD DINAR FOR TRADE SOON

By Nick Leong & Sabry Tahir, *biz.thestar.com*, 7/2/03

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad said that in addition to Iran, many countries, especially those in West Asia, are interested in conducting trade with Malaysia using the gold dinar for settlement.

“Arab countries, in particular, have expressed interest but the decision-making process and bureaucratic procedures take time,” he said after opening the International Convention on Gold Dinar as an Alternative International Currency in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Dr. Mahathir said efforts to use the gold dinar in bilateral trade with Iran had just started and, if successful, the same mechanism could be applied and expanded to Malaysia’s other trading partners, particularly the 30-plus countries with which the country had concluded bilateral payment arrangements (BPA).

On whether the adoption of the gold dinar for trade could be achieved this year, the prime minister said: “Maybe... we’ll see if we can do it with Iran.”

Dr. Mahathir said Malaysia was ready to use the gold dinar but other countries either did not really understand the concept or found it difficult to make a decision.

He said Malaysia would continue to promote the use of the gold dinar—not only among Islamic countries but also non-Islamic nations.

“We have to be patient. When we introduced Islamic banking, it took time for people to accept it—but now non-Muslims and non-Islamic banks are using Islamic banking and they can issue Islamic bonds,” he said.

Dr. Mahathir said he did not foresee any objections to the use of the gold dinar—as it was the same as the gold standard used in the Bretton Woods Agreement.

The Bretton-Woods Agreement is about fixing the exchange rate of major trading countries’ currencies against gold. The value of the currencies was fixed against the U.S. dollar which in turn was fixed at 1/35 ounce of gold or U.S.\$35 per ounce.

On whether the U.S. had made known its stance on the gold dinar, Dr. Mahathir said he had not heard of any objection from Washington on the matter. [MM: No U.S. troops on their front porch—YET!]

Meanwhile, Bank Negara assistant governor Datuk Latifah Merican Cheong said the challenge in the adoption of the gold dinar now lay mainly in developing the mechanism to make it a credible system that was practical to traders.

“The gold dinar will be in demand once it is proven to be credible,” she said in presenting her paper on the “Gold Dinar as an Alternative International Currency”.

Latifah said Malaysia was working rapidly towards addressing the technical issues of using the gold dinar.

“On the part of Bank Negara there have been ongoing discussions with countries interested to use the gold dinar,” she said. “Most important is the need to come up with a system acceptable to the central banks [MM: Oops!!!] of all the participating countries.”

Among the key issues that needed to be addressed quickly were the establishment of legal frameworks in countries using the gold dinar, matters pertaining to trade surpluses and trade deficits, and interest charges and penalties for late payment and net settlement, she said.

NEVADA CORPORATIONS:

Foreign Nationals And Corporate Citizenship

Budget’s “Tip of the Week” #10:

Benefits for Foreign Nationals

As a foreign national citizen, when you set up a Nevada corporation you are establishing an entity resident in the United States, with all of the benefits that accrue to that status. And no, you do not ever have to set foot in the country to do this. You can even set up a virtual office presence, with a telephone answered in the name of the corporation to present a different face to the new global community!

A Nevada corporation can provide services for a business in a foreign jurisdiction and receive its income in Nevada, where is taxed at the federal rate of just 15% on the first \$50,000 of net income. In some cases, that advantage alone is sufficient reason to take this step IMMEDIATELY. In the long run, however, you will find that Nevada’s “haven” status will serve you in many other ways as well.

Coming to America

The United States Immigration Service has in recent years relaxed requirements for many high-tech workers, in recognition of the global demand for skilled workers in this field. H1-B visa status—which applies to entertainers, athletes and those who otherwise possess unique skills—is easier to obtain now than at any time in the past. Wouldn’t it be nice if an American company needed you badly enough that it would help you to qualify for an H1-B visa? You just might have a LOT to offer this country!

H1-B visa quotas are often filled quickly but there is another type of visa that might be of interest to any foreign national working in a management capacity. An executive or manager of a foreign corporation affiliated with a U.S. corporation can qualify for an L visa, if the following requirements are fulfilled:

1. The foreign corporation must be affiliated with the American (Nevada) corporation and should have assets in excess of \$500,000.
2. Document that you are in fact an executive or manager of a foreign corporation affiliated with the U.S. corporation.
2. Document that the U.S. corporate affiliate is in need of someone with your skills and abilities. (An advertisement demanding a special combination of skills and abilities that just happen to match your own will help a lot.)
3. Document your skills and abilities relative to the U.S. corporation’s needs.

In addition to the L-type visa, foreign nationals may be able to avail themselves of E-type visas, which typically involve investment in U.S. businesses. We suggest you consult with an immigration attorney.

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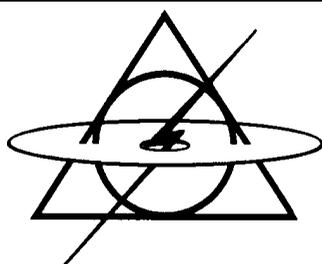
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WORDS OF WISDOM

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