

# CONTACT

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GOD'S NEW MILLENNIUM

KNOWING TRUTH IS NOT ENOUGH,  
SUCCESSFUL CHANGE REQUIRES ACTION



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# Gibson Overcomes Zionist Intimidation

## ROLE OF JEWS DISPUTED IN JESUS FILM

*L.A. Daily News, 8/2/03*

*New York Times*—With his movie about the death of Jesus under attack as anti-Semitic, Mel Gibson is trying to build an audience and a defense for his project by screening it for evangelical Christians, conservative Catholics, right-wing pundits, Republicans, a few Jewish commentators and Jews who believe that Jesus is the Messiah.

Gibson has poured \$25 million of his money into the movie, *The Passion*, calling it the most authentic and biblically accurate film about Jesus' death.

Now, seven months before its scheduled release next year on Ash Wednesday, the film has provoked a bitter uproar that antagonists on

both sides warn could undermine years of bridge-building between Christians and Jews.

The hand-picked audiences who have seen the film defend it as the most moving, reverential—and violent—depiction of Jesus' suffering and death ever put on screen. Its detractors, who have read a script but not seen the film, say it is a modern version of the medieval passion plays that portrayed Jews as "Christ-killers" and stoked anti-Jewish violence.

The controversy has been cast by many of his supporters as the Jews versus Mel Gibson. But it began when several Catholic scholars voiced concern about the project because of Gibson's affiliation with a splinter Catholic group that rejects the modern papacy and the reforms of the Second Vatican Council, which in 1965 repudiated the charge of deicide against the Jews.

## **Friendly Audiences**

Gibson has screened *The Passion* for friendly audiences but has refused to show it to his critics, who include members of Jewish groups and biblical scholars.

In Washington, D.C., he held a screening for the conservative cybercolumnist Matt Drudge, columnists Cal Thomas and Peggy Noonan, and staff members of the Senate Republican Conference and the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, among many others.

In Colorado Springs, Colo., a center of evangelical support, the film drew raves. A convention of the Legionaries of Christ, a traditionalist Roman Catholic order of priests, saw a preview, as did Rush Limbaugh.

Audiences wept, and many were awe-struck.

(Continued on page 2)

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## IN THIS ISSUE

Doris' Corner, by Doris Ekker.....page 3

The News Desk, by John & Jean Ray.....page 6

“Mel Gibson is the Michelangelo of this generation,” said the Rev. Ted Haggard, president of the National Association of Evangelicals.

“It’s going to be a classic,” said Deal Hudson, publisher of *Crisis*, a conservative Catholic magazine. “It’s going to be the go-to film for Christians of all denominations who want to see the best movie made about the passion of Christ.”

Gibson has claimed that his movie will be true to the gospel account of the last hours of Jesus’ life. But Matthew, Mark, Luke and John differ greatly, presenting Rashomon-like accounts of the roles of the Romans and Jews in the crucifixion.

A committee of *Bible* scholars who read a version of the script said it was not true to Scripture or Catholic teaching and that it badly twisted the role of Jewish leaders in Jesus’ death. The problem, the scholars said, was not that Gibson was anti-Semitic, but that his film could unintentionally incite anti-Semitic violence.

One scholar, Sister Mary Boys, a theology professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York, said: “When we read the screenplay, our sense was, this wasn’t really something you could fix. All the way through the Jews are portrayed as bloodthirsty. We’re really concerned that this could be one of the great crises in Christian-Jewish relations.”

### Stolen Script

Gibson, who directed and co-wrote the film, is vehement that any criticism is based on an outdated script that was stolen. He declined to give an interview, and his company, Icon Productions, says it is showing the movie only to selected journalists and critics.

But he said in a statement, “Anti-Semitism is not only contrary to my personal beliefs; it is also contrary to the core message of my movie. *The Passion* is a film meant to inspire, not offend.”

The furor began last March, when the committee of scholars—five Catholics and four Jews—asked Icon Productions to show it the script. Five of the scholars hold endowed chairs at their universities, and all have long been engaged in interfaith dialogue. The group was assembled by staff members at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Anti-Defamation League of B’nai B’rith.

These organizations were wary because they had spent years drafting guidelines for ridding Passion plays of anti-Semitism. Some of these same scholars had consulted on the overhaul of the world’s most famous Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany.

### Breakaway Catholic

The scholars say the other reason for concern was Gibson’s strain of Catholicism. He built and belongs to a Los Angeles church that is part of a growing but fractured movement known as Catholic traditionalism. Considered beyond the pale even by conservatives, these traditionalists reject the Second Vatican Council and every pope since then, and celebrate Mass in Latin.

Gibson also set off alarm bells among the scholars when news reports quoted him as saying that his script had drawn on the diaries of Sister Anne Catherine Emmerich, a 19th-Century mystic whose visions included such extra-biblical details as having the Jewish high priest order that Christ’s cross be built in the Jewish temple.

Icon Productions did not respond to the scholars’ request to see the script. But someone leaked a copy to one of them: the Rev. John Pawlikowski, a professor of social ethics and director of the Catholic-Jewish Studies program at Catholic Theological Union. Pawlikowski said in an interview that the script had come to him from a friend, who got it from someone else—he did not know whom.

### Airing Grievances

The scholars sent a report to Icon complaining about the script, again receiving no response. After excerpts of the report appeared in the media—both sides accuse the other of leaking them—the scholars began to air their grievances.

“This was one of the worst things we had seen in describing responsibility for the death of Christ in many, many years,” Pawlikowski said in an interview.

In particular, they objected that the Jewish priest, Caiaphas, is depicted as intimidating Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, into going along with the crucifixion. (Several people who saw the film in July say the version they saw contained this portrayal.) The scholars say this distorts the fact that the Romans were the occupying power, and the Jewish authorities their agents.

Paul Lauer, director of marketing for Icon, said Gibson’s rendering was not anti-Semitic but simply followed the *New Testament*. “There are some sympathetic to Christ and some who clearly want to get rid of this guy,” he said. “And that’s clearly scriptural. You can’t get away from the fact that there are some Jews who wanted this guy dead.”

The script the scholars read was dated October 2002. Lauer acknowledged that filming began that same month. But scripts

often change after shooting begins, he said.

Icon Productions threatened to sue the scholars and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The bishops soon apologized, and said the conference had neither authorized the scholars’ committee nor the report.

Gibson has since sought to mend fences with the bishops. He recently met in Washington with officials of the bishops conference, and has shown the film to Cardinals Francis George of Chicago and Anthony Bevilacqua of Philadelphia, and Archbishop Charles Chaput of Denver.

But the scholars and the Anti-Defamation League have not backed down. They are pressing Gibson to show them the rough cut that he has screened for others.

Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League, said: “If you say this is not anti-Semitic and this is a work of love and reconciliation, why are you afraid to show it to us?”

But Lauer said, “**There is no way on God’s green Earth that any of those people will be invited to a screening. They have shown themselves to be dishonorable.**” [MM: **emphasis mine**]

### Brutally Graphic


Those who have seen it say that the movie is brutally graphic, dwelling at length on a scene that renders Jesus a bloody piece of flesh before he is even nailed to the cross. He is beaten with a leather strap studded with metal points that, when slapped across a tabletop, stick in the wood like spikes.

The beating in the film is administered by Roman soldiers, said Hudson, the Catholic magazine editor. “By the time the Romans get through with him, you’ve forgotten what the Jews might have done.”

Gibson’s vision “pays tribute to Judaism”, Lauer said, by underscoring Christianity’s Jewish roots. The actor who plays Jesus, Jim Caviezel, appears Semitic, a far cry from the Nordic icon of popular paintings.

All the movie’s dialogue is in Aramaic and Latin. (Scholars say this belies Gibson’s claim of total authenticity, because the Romans would have spoken Greek.) Gibson had originally said the film would have no English subtitles. But he is screening it with them, and might allow the subtitles to stay, Lauer said.

*The Passion* has no distributor, but Lauer said “two major studios” were interested. And Gibson might distribute it himself, he said. The controversy, he said, had built a considerable buzz about the movie.

“You can’t buy that kind of publicity,” he said. 

# Doris' Corner

8/1/03—#1 (16-350)

FRI, AUG. 1, 2003 8:40 A.M. YR. 16, DAY 350

**DJE—RE: CATCH-UP ON PHILIPPINES COUP CIRCUS**

## IT HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN

**Or, perhaps it is nearly over—it is impossible to tell from this position in the middle of the ongoing dysfunctional apparatus.**

As journalists here in this wondrous city of adventure—mostly untoward, we are given much respect and generous courtesy. A lot of “establishment” “journalists” are having to eat a lot of cud-fodder.

The specific focus goes to the publisher, favored child of *The STAR*, Max Soliven. One of his closest friends and a considered “son” within his family was SET UP, evidence planted on his property and he is now in a hospital, having had a heart attack and near-stroke while in incarceration. THIS IS A NASTY WORLD AND GETTING NASTIER. This all done by the administration’s “chain of command” and the bantering goes back and forth right in public forums as her Ladyship GMA tries to recover composure and control—as guest speaker at the posh dinner of the entire Philippines Press Club. This, after a day of congressional hearings with her “dupes” and “criminals”, it begins to appear, under interrogation regarding the Sunday “incident” at Oakwood.

GMA (Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Philippines) whines that she had no support from business, etc., and claims to have put the rebellion down all by her lonesome self—but it is not selling—especially to such as bankers J.P. Morgan, *et al.*

We mention that particular party first because we all know that J.P. Morgan (Morgan-Chase) (IBC) even OWNS a big bunch of the now privatized Central Bank—don’t we? It is always J.P. Morgan to save the day and make more loans to deeper deep-six the nation here. Please note that J.P. Morgan is also one of the ones now trying to PAY OFF the U.S. government in something like \$300 million (in the U.S. touted as \$250 million) to not be prosecuted in the Enron mess—where they are involved into the BILLIONS of dollars. It is all in this week’s news and international papers—so this is hardly “news” but few ever see the connections within dying nations or why they are dying.

As I noted above, it is well established now that incredible “frame-ups” are taking place as several other “residencies” of parties attached to Estrada are being “found” to have stashed forbidden items, including coup-plot guns, documents, etc. THE STRANGE THING IS THAT THE ITEMS ARE NOW RECOGNIZED AS HAVING JUST BEEN FOUND IN THE PRIOR RAIDS.

Yesterday, three agents from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (ISAFPP) were apprehended as they were sneaking into former San Juan mayor, Jinggoy Estrada’s offices. The enforcement efforts have been loaded toward getting Jinggoy back into jail after insufficient evidence got him released on bail. He had been incarcerated with his Father, Erap. The “planters” were CAUGHT dead to rights in the act. One van carried items

to be planted and it sped away and “got away” in police protective shelter. But, the people who were caught and held were then snatched away by Military Police and vanished. BUT PEOPLE ARE NOW AWARE OF THE NASTY GAMES AFOOT AND IT PROBABLY WILL BE BETTER THAN ANOTHER COUP ATTEMPT.

It becomes clear as to why we do not have visitors to our rooms and trust nobody. We have had lots of surveillance agents around and we have been investigated by, at least, the Philippines, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Australia, China, Russia, South Korea, Japan, Israel, Iran, Libya, South Africa, Botswana, India, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Peru, Argentina, Brazil and probably dozens of others, including the U.S.A. The results are all the same: Nothing wrong with GAIA, Ekkers, or Bonus 3392-181. But, if they are allowed to use it, the IBC will lose money (at least make it a bit slower) so nations are held in line by the threat that any who dare to use it will probably suffer some financial ostracism, at least temporarily.

Now, Dove of One discounts us and proclaims her lack of connection or recognition of any such dark dregs of humanity as us. She even names her information resources as “Bellringers” and their Websites.

[Mark, please run that Dove item in this paper. Comment as you will, for we do not have time to give it proper attention.] [MM: **Neither do I have time—no comment.**] [QUOTING:]

**Date: Tuesday, July 29, 2003 12:19 p.m. PDT**

**To: Dove Group Members**

**From: “Dove\_of\_O”**

**<dove\_of\_o@fourwinds10.com>**

**Subject: [doveof] NESARA Moving on Three Fronts; False Info about Dove on Internet**

Hello Dear Friends and White Knights, ...

... On another subject, there are many purposeful lies on the Internet these days in attempts to confuse people. As action to get NESARA announced heats up, the dark agenda/Illuminati stooges increase their posting of lies on the Internet. We have to remember that the dark agenda use lies to accomplish their goals; we have just seen this with the “weapons of mass destruction” lies used by Bush Jr. to attack Iraq. We all need to remember that disinformation is a key weapon used by those who oppose us receiving our NESARA and prosperity benefits.

One website which is unfortunately being used by the Illuminati to post lies about NESARA is the Rumor Mill News website owned by Rayelan. Dark agenda agents from both the FBI and the CIA are and have been posting on Rumor Mill News. Also Rayelan herself is clearly being influenced by the dark agenda and is being fed lies and disinformation about NESARA. There are postings on Rumor Mill News from time to time that claim that a woman named Doris Ekker is involved with NESARA and is “Dove”.

I am NOT NOT NOT Doris Ekker. This is a ridiculous assertion made by ignorant people who have not even bothered to attempt to check the facts. There are hundreds of people in the big O prosperity program who know my real name. There are numerous people in Thurston county area of

Washington state who know my identity because I have lived in this area most of my life. My name is NOTHING LIKE the name “Doris”. I have zero connection with this person named “Doris” and I had never even heard of her until some people started FALSELY claiming that this Doris person was Dove of Oneness.

Also, Rayelan is TOTALLY WRONG in claiming that this Doris Ekker has anything to do with the true NESARA law. This is a complete lie. This Doris Ekker person has ZERO White Knight contacts and is totally NOT connected to the true NESARA law in any way whatsoever.

Apparently the dark agenda disinformation agents are spreading these lies because the Fourwinds10.com website has some old channeled “journals” which this Doris Ekker person channeled some years ago. The Fourwinds10.com website is owned and maintained by the “Bellringer” family and the Bellringers think that this Doris person was a “good” person years ago. However, the Bellringers and others tell me that this Doris person has been working for the dark agenda for some years now.

I knew NOTHING about this Doris person when I moved the Dove Reports to Fourwinds10.com last August. From August 2000 to August 2002, I posted the Dove Reports from my own private group on yahoogroups.com but in August of 2002 there was so much sabotage of my ability to post Reports from yahoogroups.com, that I asked for help in finding a new website to take over hosting the Dove Reports. The generous and sincere Bellringers at Fourwinds10.com offered to take on hosting and emailing the Dove Reports last August and that is why the Dove Reports are posted from Fourwinds10.com.

The Dove Reports, NESARA, and I, Dove of Oneness, have ABSOLUTELY NOTHING to do with this Doris Ekker person.

My sources say that there are CIA disinformation agents who have been posting FALSE information on Rumor Mill News website and other websites claiming that this Doris person is supposedly “Dove”. We all need to remember that Bush Senior was head of the CIA and Bush Jr. and Bush Senior are constantly ordering certain CIA groups to act against NESARA. Since NESARA requires Bush Jr. and the entire illegal Bush regime to resign, NESARA begins the total destruction of Bush Senior’s long cherished “new world order” scheme. It is not surprising that the Bush gang are using paid CIA agents to try to attack Dove and NESARA. Furthermore, the Rumor Mill News website has been used by the CIA and FBI to post FALSE information for years. The owner, Rayelan, is also clearly being used by the dark agenda. I had a long conversation with a lady yesterday who knows Rayelan and also knows a good friend of mine and this lady has confirmed my sources’ information that Rayelan is being used by the dark agenda/Illuminati. I suggest you stop reading anything on the Rumor Mill News website because the Bush gang, who want to stop NESARA and the prosperity programs, are using that website to post lies.

The White Knights decision team should be voting on doing the NESARA announcement either Wednesday or Thursday evening. This timing would still enable them to go ahead with the NESARA announcement on the same date as would have been voted upon tonight if the meeting had not been rescheduled. This vote by The Committee is the fastest course of action to getting NESARA announced. Let’s keep these White Knights and their voting in our prayers, meditations, and energy work focuses. NESARA Yes! ...

Blessings and Love, Dove of Oneness

The Dove Report currently has 13,635 subscribers and is read by over 290,000 people worldwide in forums on other websites and published in magazines and journals nationally and internationally. [END QUOTING]

I REMIND EVERY READER: TRUTH WILL FINALLY OUT AND THE VIPERS WILL, AFTER ALL, BEGIN TO BITE ONE ANOTHER.

### coup d'état

The facts are that the whole escapade called “coup” is looking very suspicious—especially the fact that the AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) would not allow the young officers responsible for the Sunday event to appear, as ordered, before Congress yesterday to begin the BIG investigation.

Law enforcement said they couldn't risk bringing them to the congressional building. This was a laugh as the Congressmen on the committee investigating said that the claim was that the whole of Manila could be secured (?) to protect Australian Prime Minister Howard and U.S. President George W. Bush but five officers couldn't be brought a couple of miles to the hearing. Actually, in the Senate today General Abaya, Chief of Staff, was finally forced to admit that the “mutineers” had been loaded into a minivan and hauled to within a mile of the House yesterday before he found out about it and ordered their return to detention.

Since it might not be easy to connect the dots, we should identify some of the characters and tell you why allowing these young officers to testify at the House and Senate hearings is making some highly-placed persons, including the President, very nervous. You may recall the many articles about the “coup” of GMA ousting Estrada January 20, 2001, especially those having to do with violations of the Philippine Constitution. The Chief of Staff at that time was Gen. Angelo Reyes, who was immediately named Secretary of Defense by GMA. Another “coup plotter” was Roilo Golez who got to be head of the NSA and another activist, former communist Col. Victor Corpuz, was made head of the “Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines”. To round out the six men on the hot seat before the House and Senate are Former Senator and Governor (Laguna Province) Joey Lina, now the Secretary of Interior and Local Government (having responsibility for police, fire and prisons), Gen Abaya and Gen Hermogenes Ebdane, Chief of National Police. Corpuz “quit” (apparently at GMA's request) and was sent immediately to South Korea as GMA's “special envoy” to an anti-terrorist confab, leaving five to face the congressional grilling.

The “young officers” (aka “mutineers”) are articulate and have read the same material we published, so they can point out that the main difference in what they did and what those now in power did is a matter of “success”. The old officers can be pretty sure that when these young ones get to talk on TV the majority of the people will side with the young ones. Yesterday the House issued orders to produce them at the next hearing on Tuesday. Today the Senate said it had not yet decided what day it could again take up the matter but when it did it expected to see them in attendance. If they were criminals, they would likely be shot during an escape attempt but that wouldn't fly with this group.

Things are really bad in la-la-land as the President, in the face of a nation in civil war and State of Rebellion, issued orders and P100 million to get boots for the troops. Boots! It seems some of the complaints are

that the soldiers have no shoes, no clothes and not enough food allowance. The Coup Troops did, however, have top-level equipment and all of it U.S. made, from radios to backpacks. Maybe we need Mel Brooks to explain what is going on here.

I hope that I will have an opportunity through the months to share these details with you because I know what our backup business can be AFTER we get this job done—simply revamp Hollywood and acquire Mel.

### U.S. INTERFERENCE/INVOLVEMENT

The U.S. and Australia both butted into Philippine sovereign affairs by making international broadcasts in support of the government—obviously in response to appeals from GMA. The Aussie Ambassador lives in the Oakwood. He would have made a prime “hostage” but the “young officers” escorted him and family out, to be moved to another hotel. They may think twice before they do that again.

These “expressions of support” came before anybody knew the extent of the coup. There were to have been a lot more participants, marchers and demonstrators, attacks on military units in Mindanao, and a much bigger “happening” but something, we still don't know what, spoiled the show.

### WHO GETS “SET UP”?

As things unfold in hearings and the press, the administration is focused on frame-ups of the Estrada family and supporters. Before now it was focused on opposition Senators running in the Presidential campaign. However, with THAT statement in mind you have to know something that may elude the unobservant: Estrada has said that “if GMA runs for election”, so too will he.

I ask that Mark please find an article from the past two days from the *New York Times*, **I believe**, which does in fact state that the Philippines has the most corrupt military, *et al.*, of any nation on the globe. It is now being talked about here in Congress. [QUOTING:]

### MUTINOUS SOLDIERS OR TRUE PATRIOTS?

By Ted Lerner, *Asia Times*, 7/29/03

MANILA—It is difficult to overstate the pleasing nature of the shade provided by an armored personnel carrier (APC), especially on a searing-hot morning in Manila. Because of its high, angular front end, which juts up and away, even a blaring Sun moving toward high noon in the tropics can't deny the occupant and a visitor a cooling space.

Staff-Sergeant Navarta looked as though he was thoroughly enjoying the refreshing shade of his particular APC, which was parked right in the middle of what is usually the busiest road in town. A Sunday morning would normally see this road filling up with cars flocking to the high-end malls of this the commercial center of Manila. But today the street and everything around it was completely deserted, except for several hundred government soldiers and police placed at various parts, making sure absolutely no vehicle entered the area.

Navarta exhibited no nervousness, no tension, and seemed perfectly at ease with his surroundings. The situation belied his mood because just about 200 meters away, well over 100 young renegade soldiers from various branches of the Philippine Armed Forces had taken over the swank Oakwood Premier Hotel and

Condominium. They had apparently wired the grounds outside and the building inside with explosives. They were demanding the resignation of Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes and several other people in the government and military. They had also made some stinging accusations of corruption in the government and the military. They said they were willing to die for their cause.

Arroyo had just minutes before gone on television and laid down a 5pm deadline for the rebellious soldiers to surrender. If not, she intimated, they faced certain death in an assault on the building. Navarta would be one of those tasked to go in the building and do the dirty work. “I don't know what will happen,” he said with a shy smile. “I know some of the guys in there.”

“Do you think they will succeed?” the visitor asked, amid the eerie air of utter quiet that hung through the entire area, which is normally bustling with commercial activity.

“I don't know,” he said. “If one of my commanders says he is supporting the rebel soldiers, then that's what we'll do. We'll just wait and see.”

“What do you think of Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes?” he was asked. Reyes, the questioner pointed out, was the one the rebels wanted to resign over corruption charges. He was also the man who—as head of the armed forces back in January of 2001—broke the chain of command and withdrew his support from the duly elected president, Joseph Estrada. “Wasn't that also a coup, and how come that was considered okay?”

“Yes, you are right,” Navarta said. “That was a coup. You know, if you asked 100 percent of the military men, 70 percent will tell you that they don't like what happened to president Estrada. He is our commander-in-chief. We don't like Reyes. Whenever he speaks to us, and then he turns away, everybody boos him.”

“Well how come that the military doesn't seem to do anything about it. Why not try and return Estrada to the presidency?”

“Because that is what our superiors said so we just go along with what they say.”

The idea that he might have to fight fellow soldiers in just a few hours didn't seem to bother Navarta, because, it seemed, he didn't think it would come to that. Indeed none of the others on the government side out there on the street did either. Considering the talk of coup and rebellion, the whole scene seemed extremely laid back and more than a little relaxed. An uprising with a uniquely Philippine twist to it.

Scores of Army men and policemen had taken up positions on the road. Actually, the phrase “taken up” makes it sound more intense than it was. It's more like they were there hanging out. In the shade of one overpass, several dozen Army men in fatigues lay on the street. Some were eating meals out of Styrofoam boxes, other were busy sending text messages on their mobile phones, others taking naps.

“Hey, Joe, how are you doing?” one called out with a smile, which prompted the other men to laugh. A little farther back, hundreds of metal riot shields leaned up against the wall of the nearby train station. Under the odd collection of trees jutting out of the concrete, men in fatigues wiped themselves down with wet towels, smoked cigarettes and dozed off. Two blocks away at the Shell service station, about 100 police had taken over the station and were busy downing their midday meals.

The Oakwood sits about a block away from the main road and it wasn't a problem to get down there, as nobody from the government side outside on the road bothered to

stop anyone. About 50 journalists and photographers were relaxing under trees and on the lawns outside the Intercontinental, which had been totally evacuated and was now locked. This whole area was apparently the rebels' area as several rebel soldiers, all in military fatigues, armed and identified by their red armbands, lounged outside of the hotel. Across the way, several armed men, also with red armbands, walked around in front of the Oakwood and up and down the shopping arcade.

The rebel soldiers were all young—20s and 30s—and looked serious. Except for a little idle chit-chat with some members of the press, they didn't talk. Occasionally they politely asked everyone please to stand back from the building. There was nothing nerve-racking or overly tense about the situation, though. The soldiers seemed almost nonchalant.

A large cardboard box had been placed at one corner of the parking lot and a wire snaked out from underneath and went all the way over to the front of the Oakwood.

"The rebel soldiers said that was a bomb inside," said one photographer. That didn't seem to worry too many people as many of the photographers and writers just sat on the nearby curb only a few feet away. Apparently the soldiers had planted bombs in various places along the mall area. They said they only planted the bombs in order to protect themselves if the government decided to attack them.

By taking over the towering Oakwood they picked quite a symbolic setting. The Oakwood is actually a part of the busiest commercial area in the Makati financial district, the hub of Philippine finance, banking and commerce. The building, the complex and indeed much of Makati is owned by the Ayala family. If they were looking to make a statement against the old order, this place seemed the right place to do it. Certainly one couldn't imagine Arroyo attacking a building complex belonging to one of her biggest supporters.

The main clientele of the Oakwood Hotel are foreigners. Earlier in the day, after seizing the building and supposedly planting explosives around the complex, the rebels evacuated the residents there. This was one of the first pictures picked up by international television. The very sight of foreigners, women and children included, being herded on to waiting buses by rebels in the business district of Manila, surely wasn't going to do the country any good in the coming months.

But obviously, the rebel soldiers figured they had a bigger message to get out to the world. Their accusations, pronounced earlier on television by their leader, Navy Lieutenant Antonio Trillanes, were stinging. They accused the higher-ups in the military and government of selling bullets and arms to enemy groups such as the Muslim and communist insurgents—groups to whom many young soldiers were losing their lives. They accused Defense Secretary Reyes of committing terrorist acts in Mindanao in order to justify more aid from the United States in the name of the "war on terrorism". They accused the president of failing to do anything about these complaints of graft and corruption in the military and government. And they could speak from experience, as all of these rebels had served in Mindanao and had seen fellow soldiers die by the score.

Shortly after noon, the rebels announced a press conference at about 3:30. At various times in the afternoon, several soldiers from the government side walked down to the Oakwood. They were greeted by the rebel soldiers cordially and then disappeared inside. At one point a mother of one of the rebels came down and went inside to plead with her son to give up. Soon

afterward several of the rebel soldiers had surrendered. As they left the Oakwood, followed by a mob of about two hundred media men and women, they hugged their commanders from the government side.

Other than that, there was little in the way of action. The government troops stationed a block away on the main roads were obviously taking an extremely low-key approach as no overt signs of an offensive posture could be seen. The rebels standing outside the Oakwood continued to maintain their calm posture. The ever growing army of press people busied themselves with sending text messages and cracking jokes.

Even as the 5pm deadline approached the atmosphere never reached anywhere near a tense level. In the parking garage behind the Intercontinental the government side had set up a small command center. The deadline was extended by the government until 7pm as negotiations for a settlement were going on. Just after 5pm the government held a press conference on the second floor of the parking garage, where they presented 17 rebel soldiers who had so far surrendered.

Over at the Oakwood one could only imagine the kind of comments the hotel would be receiving this week on the "Customer Comment" forms that are on offer next to the front desk (Q: "What could we do to make your stay better?" A: "Perhaps keep the guns and rebels out of the lobby.").

The current occupants of the luxury abode seemed comfortable enough, if a little high-strung. Finally around 6pm, the rebel soldiers held their own press conference inside the sparkling sixth-floor lobby. Down on the first floor, numerous wires snaked in through the door leading to the supposed planted bombs. On a table, a wok full of rice sat next to boxes of canned sardines and corned beef that lay open on the ground, along with various kinds of radios and other supplies.

Up on the sixth floor, the rebel leaders sat lined up on handsome cushioned wooden chairs while about 60 more of their men, all armed, stood behind them. They faced an armada of press people, easily 250 of them.

Several of the rebel leaders got up and made long, impassioned speeches. An agitated Lieutenant Trillanes continually walked around and spoke into his mobile phone, refusing to discuss anything with the press. Unlike the circus atmosphere of the government press conference down the block, the room remained fairly quiet as the soldiers went down their list of grievances against the president, the defense secretary and others. They said they didn't want power, they didn't have a leader and that they just wanted to open up people's minds to what is really happening. They decried the corruption in the military, asked why retired military men are living in luxury homes in Manila, while the young soldiers are making starvation wages while dying for their country. One heavily armed soldier wondered why they've been fighting the Moro rebels in Mindanao for 35 years, and yet "they haven't run out of bullets".

After much negotiation, the rebels eventually decided to call it quits at about 9pm and they were taken back to their barracks. Arroyo at least promised to conduct an inquiry, but she has said the soldiers will face military justice. But it probably won't be that easy.

When Arroyo and Reyes proclaim that "the constitution must be upheld", and that "the chain of command must not be broken", the pleas surely ring hollow. For it was Reyes who literally broke the chain of command two-and-a-half years ago by withdrawing his support from then-president Joseph Estrada, an unconstitutional move that handed then-vice president

Arroyo the presidency. How they can hold the young soldiers to a different standard will surely be an often-asked question in the weeks ahead.

One of the more striking incidents of the day occurred at the rebel press conference after one particularly impassioned speech in which the soldier railed against entrenched corruption. As soon as he had finished speaking, the assembled crowd of media people actually burst into applause. It was exactly at this point that it was obvious that whatever message these men were trying to impart, it was ringing true to a good many Filipino people.

One got the sense that there was no outrage from the public over what these men had done. Sure, their methods will be a cause for debate in the weeks and months to come, and their actions, on the face of it, have given the Philippines a black eye in the international arena. But Filipinos have always reserved a place in their hearts for young, good-looking and idealistic men who are willing to risk their careers and families to do something for their country. On the other hand, many Filipinos have nothing but revulsion for the old-school fat cats and traditional politicians who they feel have continued to enrich themselves at the expense of the country. The juxtaposition couldn't be more striking.

Nineteen hours after it began, the soldiers, tanks, trucks and press vehicles gave the darkened streets of Makati back to the Sunday-night taxicabs. The siege was over. But one gets the feeling that the intrigues, and the fallout from this extraordinary day in Manila, have only just begun. [END QUOTING]

The Senate hearing is as much fun as the impeachment trial of Estrada—a total circus—and yet the Senators are actually nailing the truth as it unfolds. AND NO, THE YOUNG OFFICERS WERE NOT BROUGHT TO THE SENATE AND THAT IS GOING TO DO-IN THE GOVERNMENT CLOWNS.


#### WHAT HAS ALL THIS TO DO WITH US?

The main benefit has to do with *CONTACT*. Its stature is growing and right now it is a better platform from which to work than is *GAIA* alone. When young soldiers risk their lives and careers to make a statement about their lack of approval of their government, things are bad and are ripe for a change. Honest citizens have to look for alternatives so the "hair-brained" notion of putting the country's currency on a gold base is bound to get some consideration.

Progress, painfully slow progress, is being made on the Foundation and that is where the gold is. We have also protected that entity back in the U.S. We have that wondrously exceptional adviser and we have certainly learned to listen and act accordingly. We end up being so "timely" as to stun even the most skeptical observers.

In the middle of coups and counter-coups and "counting coups" (this is a pun for Native Americans), we find that our program can go right on unfolding in honor and integrity. We can't cause it to be implemented but we can BE READY when appropriate.

Frankly, friends, there is almost NOTHING that would or could "surprise" us in this ongoing adventure called life. What has happened here in Manila has caused the eyes of the world to focus HERE—and it is good, for some of the rats are being uncovered.

Thank you for picking up slack as we fail to send as many writings—I am only one, as that wondrous saying reminds us on the e-mail—but together we are "WE" and in that alliance we are without limitation. Thank you.—DJE 

# The News Desk

By John & Jean Ray

## THE DAY IRONY FAILED

By Gary LaMoshi, *Asia Times*, 07/29/03

During the predawn hours in Manila on Sunday, disgruntled junior officers of the Philippine armed forces seized a shopping and residential complex in the fashionable Makati district. Their act not only spotlighted the soldiers' grievances against the regime of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, but it focused attention on how badly the sense of irony fails today's leaders, news media, and, apparently, those of us who abet and tolerate those failures.

The 20-hour standoff brought an outpouring of endorsements for the loyalists. Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer expressed his nation's support for the "democratically elected government of the president of the Philippines".

That declaration must've come as quite a shock to Joseph Estrada, winner of the Philippines' most recent presidential election, in his prison cell, particularly given Australia's previous reticence regarding Estrada's two-and-a-half-year confinement.

Similarly, Singapore's Foreign Ministry declared, "The resort to unconstitutional means by the rebels is unacceptable." That statement would have been far more apt at the time of the "People Power II" demonstrations and military maneuvers against Estrada, such as fighter jets buzzing Malacañang Palace, that brought Arroyo to the presidency. Those events also confirmed that following the constitution is hardly a reliable path to power in the Philippines: of the country's last five presidents, only Fidel Ramos entered office via election and left at the end of his legal term.

The U.S. State Department weighed in on the Makati crisis by backing "the legitimate civilian government of the Philippines". The U.S. cleverly avoided use of the word "elected", but any comment on the Philippines from the Bush administration registers big numbers on the irony scale.

Presidents George W. Bush and Arroyo each took office of the same day, January 21, 2001, with dubious Supreme Court decisions substituting for electoral mandates. Each of these offspring of former presidents has deployed the "war on terrorism" as a cover for their failures to mend their national economies.

In fact, Arroyo's embrace of the U.S. anti-terror campaign was a key issue for the rebel soldiers in Makati. It has also been seized upon by unarmed critics as evidence that Arroyo completely misunderstands the genuine concerns of the Philippine people.

That's not the only area where Arroyo suffers from delusions. When the Makati standoff was concluded peacefully, Arroyo declared the outcome "a triumph for democracy".

It wasn't just the Philippines where irony detectors in officialdom failed on Sunday.

Malaysia stepped up its pressure on Myanmar's military junta to release Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi from detention. Last week, Malaysia refused to let its own political prisoner No. 1, former deputy premier Anwar Ibrahim, out of jail for medical care to treat injuries from beatings he claims he received in captivity.

In Washington, as part of commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Korean Armistice, the Pentagon declared that in the event of another military

confrontation with North Korea, there would be "no doubt about the outcome: it would be end of that regime". That confident prediction begs the question as to why the United States tolerates Kim Jong-il's moves to produce nuclear weapons rather than ousting this (yet another) presidential changeling filling daddy's shoes who boasts a resume far worse than Saddam Hussein's.

It's hard to decide what's more frightening: that political leaders and foreign-affairs and military spokespeople don't see the irony of what they say, or that they see it all and just don't care what they tell us. Does Gloria Arroyo believe she was democratically elected? Does Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad really think he's on the side of justice when he advocates freedom for a political prisoner that threatens a nearby regime's grip on power and captivity for one who may threaten his own? Do George W. Bush and Tony Blair think they told the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth about the Iraqi threat? Are they fooling themselves, too, or just us?

Journalists bear some responsibility for aiding this culture of delusion, contributing to the high irony diet we're all force-fed. For example, here in Asia journalists are guilty of referring to the second-generation president of Indonesia, Megawati Sukarnoputri, as "democratically elected". In fact she was chosen by an assembly of elected and unelected representatives to complete the term of the president that small circle previously chose, without reference to the popular vote, and then impeached on dubious grounds.

It's difficult to determine whether journalists should be excused or excoriated when we live in a world where a soldier who gets lost, shot in the ass and captured is hailed as a hero. Aside from the hyping and alleged stage-managing of the Jessica Lynch rescue, the idea that a POW can qualify as a hero violates a basic rule of armed combat that George C. Scott articulated as the title character at the start of the movie *Patton*: "No son of a bitch ever won a war dying for his country. You win wars by making the other son of a bitch die for his country."

In today's sophisticated world, perhaps such statements are too devoid of irony to be taken seriously. **[JR: We all seem to be existing in a fool's paradise ruled by deceivers who we think are more enlightened and intelligent than we are. It is this false assumption that will undo us all, unless and until someone starts asking the hard questions as to why things are the way they are.]**

## ISRAEL DEFIES BUSH, CLAIMS SEPARATION WALL "NECESSITY"

*IslamOnline.net*, 07/26/03

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM—In clear and immediate defiance of U.S. President George Bush's criticism of the controversial Israeli separation wall now under construction in the West Bank, an Israeli official claimed Saturday, July 26, it was a "necessity".

"The building of this security fence has no political connotations. It's a necessity dictated by the security imperative of preventing Palestinian suicide bombings against Israel," the official, who asked not to be named, told *Agence France-Presse (AFP)*.

In landmark talks with Palestinian Premier Mahmoud Abbas at the White House Friday, July 25, Bush dismissed as a "problem" the wall which Israel started building in June last year.

"I think the wall is a problem, and I have discussed this with (Israeli Prime Minister) Ariel Sharon," Bush said, adding it was very difficult to "develop confidence between the Palestinians and the Israelis... with a wall snaking through the West Bank."

The Israeli official took issue with Bush's use of the word "wall" even though the barrier does take that form for part of its length.

"It is a shame that President Bush did not use the correct term, security fence," argued the Israeli official.

**"Israel is not constructing a wall—it's the Palestinians who use that term in a bid to persuade the world it's some sort of Berlin Wall."**

"This fence is a necessity and not a choice. Sharon will explain that to President Bush when he meets him" in Washington Tuesday, July 29, the official alleged.

He recalled that in the past the U.S. leader had "always championed Israel's right to defend itself".

The separation wall, which incorporates a network of earthworks, trenches and patrol roads, also cuts a whole string of Palestinian communities in two.

Planned to snake some 900 kilometers (550 miles) along the West Bank, the wall has infuriated Palestinians as it leaves large swathes of the occupied territory on the Israeli side and is seen as a bid to preempt negotiations on the final borders of the Palestinian state promised by 2005 under a U.S.-backed peace roadmap.

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom admitted after his meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell Thursday, July 24, that a "misunderstanding" is developing between the U.S. administration and Israel over the **construction of the wall.** **[JR: Oops, Shalom said the word wall.]**

In a related development, a top aide to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat stressed that Israel was "isolating itself from the international community by continuing (to build) the separation wall."

Nabil Abu Rudeina also accused Israel of "not implementing the roadmap, not proceeding to withdrawals and not releasing prisoners", as well as failing to lift the blockade of Arafat in his West Bank headquarters.

Commenting on Bush-Abbas meeting, he said Palestinians wanted to see words transformed into deeds.

"What we undoubtedly ask is the implementation of the roadmap and that (Bush's) words be translated into deeds," Nabil Abu Rudeina told *AFP*.

**[JR: Whether you refer to the building of these walls as a wall, fence, barrier, berme, it is still an obstruction to keep the Palestinians from their lands and away from the illegal Jewish settlements. What this Zionist Wall truly represents is Israel's bigotry, hatred and indifference towards non-Jews and to dehumanize the Palestinian people. The Israelis mask their camps with walls of separation around towns and villages. Wrap anything around the word "security" these days and you can make your case for wars, assassinations, land confiscation and even genocide. It is of evil but it legitimizes the misdeeds of those in power.]**

## DELAY TELLS ISRAELI HAWKS NOT TO FEAR GOP HOUSE LEADER PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL ON HOLY LAND TOUR

By Megan K. Stack, *Los Angeles Times*, 07/31/03

JERUSALEM—He delivered his words with the rolling cadence of a tent revivalist. He slipped the West Bank's Ramallah into a string of cities that included Auschwitz, Pyongyang and Damascus. He invoked Moses and Anne Frank. He mixed *Old Testament* language with the American civics-class lexicon of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

"I come to you with a very simple message: Do not be afraid," House Majority Leader Tom DeLay (R-Texas) told a rapt crowd of Israeli lawmakers, yeshiva students and



WOLFOWITZ ON WOLFOWITZ AND SAVING IRAQBy Jim Hoagland, *Washington Post*, 07/25/03

AL TURABAH, Iraq—Lionized by conservatives and denounced by liberals as the architect of the second Gulf War, Paul Wolfowitz sits cross-legged in the blowing dust of a hall made of reeds and perspires visibly as a tribal sheik pleads for support. Wolfowitz's blue blazer and red tie add to his discomfort; **but the U.S. deputy defense secretary insists on showing respect to a people he has almost certainly helped save from extinction. [JR: Not all Iraqis seem to see it that way.]**

Watching him in the fiery 115-degree heat and the blinding glare of a parched wasteland that stretches far beyond the horizon, you know that there is nowhere else in the world Wolfowitz would rather be. ... **[JR: Oh please... except for maybe Israel.]**

For more than a decade, the Iraqi tyrant drained and diverted water from their lands. His genocidal campaign here was even more devastating than his serial wars on the Kurds in northern Iraq. An estimated 300,000 Marsh Arabs perished. Forcibly resettled in what is as close to Hell as I ever want to experience, the survivors here have recreated a traditional gathering hall that Wolfowitz is visiting. ...

Isn't he concerned, I ask later, that he seems to be dwelling on the past when Iraq needs to secure its future? Is he seeking to justify a regime change he pursued relentlessly for two decades by raking up deeds that are monstrous but overtaken by the vast new problems of liberated Iraq?

For once, Wolfowitz does not pause to reflect judiciously before responding to a question. Trained as a professor of international relations, **he has become passionate about the need for and possibilities of change in Iraq and the Arab world at large. That passion today drives much of the Bush administration's policy in the greater Middle East.**

"It is important to offer firsthand testimony about things I have only read in books until now," the 59-year-old defense intellectual says.

"That part of history I am observing—the destruction, the fear and trembling that the old regime induced in its subjects—is still alive in the minds of many Iraqis. We have to be aware that things could go backwards here if we do not put to rest that part of their history."

Wolfowitz continues: "I plead guilty to optimism—but not excessive optimism—that these are remarkable people who can achieve a change in their lives that will also mean much for the whole region, even if there is more unease than I would have hoped to see at this stage."

This grueling trip has confirmed rather than shaken the long-distance vision of Iraq that Wolfowitz began to develop in 1979 when, as a junior policy analyst at the Pentagon, he identified Iraq as a regional challenge for the United States. This was, he recalls, "when others pooh-poohed" the idea.

"You can be elated that these people are free but still remember how much they suffered and how much of that suffering was unnecessarily prolonged," Wolfowitz says, referring indirectly to the premature ending of the Gulf War in 1991 by the first Bush administration.

"At least there was still a Marsh Arab civilization capable of being preserved. They would not have lasted another 12 years."

Critics who cast him as the leader of a neoconservative, pro-Israeli cabal that has seized control of the administration's Middle East policy deride him as Wolfowitz of Arabia. But such critics ignore Wolfowitz's deep intellectual interest in Arab society and his firm belief that it can reform itself, especially if given encouragement from outside.

academics Wednesday. "We hear your voice call out in the desert and we will never, ever leave your side." **[JR: Is Tom DeLay speaking as a Zionist god here?]**

They may be talking peace and Palestinian statehood in Washington, but DeLay is touring the Holy Land with a message for Israeli hawks: The war is not over, and the United States is Israel's brother-in-arms in a pitched battle against evil.

"Standing up for good against evil is very hard work; it costs money and blood," DeLay told a crowded hall in the Israeli parliament building. "But we're willing to pay." **[JR: Yeah, dopey, with our blood and U.S. tax dollars.]**

One of the most prominent leaders in the group of ardent Christian supporters of Israel who have grown in power in the post-Sept. 11 Bush administration, DeLay is a longtime friend to the Mideast nation.

And his conservative audience today has plenty of cause to be nervous.

The U.S.-backed "road map" to peace is inching along. President Bush is pushing for a Palestinian state and a halt to Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories. Palestinian Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas was welcomed warmly at the White House last week. ...

All of this is anathema to many right-wing Jews—and to many Christian Zionists, whose reading of the *Book of Revelation* in the *Bible* fires a fervent devotion to Israel and a discomfort with Muslim claims on the Holy Land.

Instead of discussing reconciliation and compromise, DeLay lingered on apocalyptic images of battle and strife.

"There is no middle ground, no moderate position worth taking," he said. "We fight humbly and proudly together. ... Brothers and sisters of Israel, be not afraid. The American people stand with you, and so does our president." **[JR: So say you!]**

He urged the isolation of the "pernicious enemy" Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader, and called Palestinian militants "so many desert scorpions".

"As I shook his hand, I told Tom DeLay that until I heard him speak, I thought I was farthest to the right in the Knesset," Aryeh Eldad, a right-wing lawmaker from the National Union Party, said jokingly.

**Bush's attempts to broker an Israeli-Palestinian peace have caused a growing schism between his administration and the Christian Zionists who form a significant minority of the Republican vote. ...**

**Christian Zionist** organizations encourage—and even bankroll—Jewish settlements that Washington frowns on. The movement also opposes a Palestinian state on land they believe was given to the Jews by God.

A few hours after DeLay spoke in Jerusalem, Bush told reporters in Washington that a Palestinian state by 2005 is a reasonable goal. The contrast wasn't lost on right-wing Israelis, who noted the gap between DeLay and Bush.

"We went for the road map because of President Bush; we've been persuaded to make moves that in our eyes are dangerous," Israeli Public Security Minister Uzi Landau said. "[These fears] were embedded in the speech we just heard. This is refreshing..."

**[JR: "Man cannot serve two masters," as Esu Emmanuel (Jesus) said, "render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's." What happened to this mandate about the separation of church and state? Here you have Representative Tom DeLay, a politician now playing an American Moses in Israel and preaching sermons to his fellow Zionists, not on the Mount but in their Knesset. Is it any wonder that organized religions have been overrun by false teachers and are headed, along with their followers, into the pit of lies and evil that Jesus warned them about. President Bush has a road map for peace in Palestine while Representative DeLay is busy in Israel setting up the roadblocks. Talk about doublespeak from the Zionists in charge of disorder.]**

In his spare time, Wolfowitz reads Arab writers such as Egypt's Alifa Rifaat, whose collection of short stories, *Distant View of a Minaret*, graphically portrays the frustration of women in purdah and other restrictions they face.

"It is important for Iraqis to show what Arabs can do when they live in freedom," he says to the local leaders gathered here. He has arranged to meet them in the company of Britain's Baroness Emma Nicholson, the redoubtable human rights campaigner who has championed the Marsh Arabs in the European Parliament.

"What we are seeing," Wolfowitz tells me later, "eliminates any moral doubt about whether this was a war against Iraq, or a war for Iraq. This was a war for Iraq." **[JR: What a bogus public relations campaign by the Washington Post to improve the hawkish image of Wolfowitz into one of a scholar and historian. Since 1979 Iraq has been the focus in the dreams and aspirations of this ardent Zionist supporter. He has made it a point to study Iraq's history and to read Arab writers solely to understand how they think and view their world. If Wolfowitz was so concerned about the water plight of the Marsh Arabs during Saddam's regime, why didn't he make it HIS priority to relieve their plight through the UN? A very good place to start since the U.S. and Israel now seem in control of this body. Why is Wolfowitz, who is supposedly committed to Arab causes, not working towards improving the image and working relations with the Arabs in the U.S. and in Israel? Instead he is avidly bringing about his kind of order through force and the wars and chaos that he plans. Wolfowitz is the "Wolfowitz of Arabia" and like Britain's T.E. Lawrence means to capture the Middle East for the U.S. and Israel. Iraq is the dawning of his vision.]**

WHEN PRESIDENTS DECEIVEBy Jacob Heilbrunn, *Los Angeles Times*, 07/13/03

WASHINGTON—Democrats have pounced indignantly on the recent revelation that President Bush relied on forged documents when he asserted last January that Iraq was trying to purchase uranium from Niger. "This may be the first time in recent history that a president knowingly misled the American people during the State of the Union address," said Democratic Party Chairman Terry McAuliffe.

But far from being an aberration, presidential manipulation of intelligence is an American tradition practiced by Democrats and Republicans alike. During the past century, presidents, in displays of both self-deception and deliberate chicanery, have used highly suspect intelligence to justify action or inaction abroad.

The manipulating began with America's rise to empire early in the 20th Century. The architect of that empire, Theodore Roosevelt, relied upon America's only organized espionage unit, the Office of Naval Intelligence, to provide him with inflated threat assessments. To help justify building more American battleships, he seized on rumors reported by the U.S. naval attaché in Berlin that Japan's Adm. Heihachiro Togo was traveling around Germany buying weapons with bags of Chinese gold. He also demanded and got inflated estimates of foreign navies' shipbuilding programs. Naval intelligence officers were too cowed by Roosevelt to dispute his notion that battleships were key to American military supremacy. The result, writes Christopher Andrews in *For the President's Eyes Only*, was that "at the outbreak of the First World War, the United States was to be desperately short of destroyers".

Nor was Roosevelt's domestic foe, Woodrow Wilson, immune to the temptation to exaggerate intelligence findings. With U.S. entry into World War I looming, Wilson played up German subversion, going far beyond what was actually known in insisting that Germans had filled "unsuspecting communities with vicious spies and conspirators, and sought to corrupt the opinion of our people in their own behalf. And many of our own people were corrupted".

After World War II broke out, in an attempt to frighten the U.S. into entering the war, the British provided Franklin Roosevelt with false intelligence documents suggesting a Nazi plot to take over Latin America. Roosevelt was warned by the State Department and FBI that the British claims were greatly exaggerated. In particular, they questioned the authenticity of a letter that was supposedly from the Bolivian military attaché in Berlin.

Nevertheless, in a fireside chat Sept. 11, 1941, Roosevelt warned that Hitler was infiltrating Latin American governments to gain "footholds and bridgeheads in the New World, to be used as soon as he has gained control of the oceans. Conspiracy has followed conspiracy." On Oct. 27, in his most important foreign policy speech before Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt relied on a map he had been warned had probably been forged by British intelligence: "I have in my possession a secret map, made in Germany by Hitler's government—by planners of the New World Order. This map, my friends, makes clear the Nazi design not only against South America but against the United States as well."

On Aug. 4, 1964, Lyndon Johnson took the plunge into intelligence manipulation. In order to justify radically escalating the Vietnam War, he appeared on national TV with the sobering news that a U.S. ship had been attacked that day in the Gulf of Tonkin. Although there had been a skirmish in the area two days earlier, the events of Aug. 4 were not at all clear. Johnson delivered his message to the American people despite the fact that the ship's captain had already reported to the Joint Chiefs of Staff his doubts about whether the attack had taken place, saying that "reported contacts and torpedoes fired appear doubtful. Freak weather reports and overeager sonar men may have accounted for many reports." The captain concluded by suggesting a "complete evaluation before further action".

Richard M. Nixon and his secretary of State, Henry A. Kissinger, also showed themselves willing to exaggerate or downplay threats in order to justify actions. In the administration's early years, Kissinger exaggerated the Russian missile threat, as he wanted Congress to approve an antiballistic missile system. But by 1972, he was soft-pedaling the Russian threat in an attempt to win approval for the first Strategic Arms Limitation Talks treaty. Later, when the CIA spotted Soviet infractions of SALT I, Kissinger, according to Rhodri Jeffreys-Jones in *The CIA and American Democracy*, "exploited his dominant position to hush up the evidence".

During the administrations of Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, intelligence again became highly politicized. Pressure from the administration for worst-case estimates prompted a declaration from the CIA that the Soviet Union was in no danger of collapse — even as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was dismantling the "evil empire". And while the administration was trying to sell arms for hostages to Iran, CIA official Robert Gates prevented Iran analysts from disseminating information to a White House that was uninterested in hearing news that didn't support the overture to the mullahs. Gates' reward for his loyalty to the Reagan administration was to be promoted in 1991 to head the agency by President Bush, who had himself been CIA director.

Given the historical record of the presidents who came before, it would have been more surprising if Bush had not manipulated intelligence.

**[JR: Fabricating some intelligence to put through an important issue has always been a political move, possibly even before Theodore Roosevelt. However, the lies of politicians and the U.S. government really increased following Franklin D. Roosevelt, Washington's real "Father of the lie" and have been getting worse with each administration. The last three presidents: Bush, Clinton and Dubya are at the pinnacle of all presidential liars. Dubya and his brigade of Zionists have such unbridled arrogance and their lies are so blatant that they openly threaten and defy anyone who may even consider challenging them—and that includes our placating Congress. The credibility of the Office of President and the White House has been so totally destroyed by its own Weapons of Mass Deception (WMD) that no one can believe anything that comes out of Washington these days, especially the American people. As a comparison, here's a quote from Alexander Solzhenitsyn who lived the lies of the Communist Soviet Russia before its fall: "In our country the lie has become not just a moral category, but a pillar of the state."]**

#### AS BUSINESS, POLITICS COLLIDE, RUSSIA SUFFERS

By Georgie Anne Geyer,  
*Universal Press Syndicate, 07/25/03*

MOSCOW—An ominous struggle for positioning and power between the Kremlin and the oligarchs has become the talk of Moscow.

Yet there is one thing all the protagonists agree upon: The Yukos oil company story, pitting Vladimir Putin's Kremlin "chekists" against the new economic barons of the state, is deadly serious and could destroy the "New Russia".

The story began on July 2 with the arrest of the prominent Yukos shareholder Platon Lebedev on charges he had stolen state property in a 1994 privatization deal. It quickly ballooned into 17-hour-long searches of Yukos' company offices by government prosecutors, aided by armed storm troopers wearing masks. On that one day alone, the company faced a sell-off of shares and a loss of \$1.9 billion in its market value, and soon presidential economic adviser Andrei Illarionov was predicting a "new civil war" over the issues.

But it was not Lebedev, who now languishes in Lefortovo Prison, usually reserved for traitors or terrorists, the Kremlin forces were after. Instead, they have been trying to destroy the power of Yukos CEO Mikhail Khodorkovsky, the oligarch who founded the company—and the reformed robber baron who has become the darling of the international economics community.

Khodorkovsky became the richest man in Russia by taking over the old industrial plants when the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991. He formed the Yukos oil giant, whose market capitalization within years shot up to \$6.8 billion.

After a few years, Khodorkovsky became a veritable example to the West, paying out dividends and running the most modern and transparent company in Russia. To get some idea of the company he keeps, **on the board of his charitable Open Russia foundation are names such as Kissinger and Rothschild.**

But Khodorkovsky, while he was being lionized in the West, was operating on various levels that apparently enraged those in the Kremlin (known ironically as the chekists after the brutal early Soviet era "Cheka", or secret police) who surround President Putin. Khodorkovsky was also supporting political parties in opposition to the Putin chekists; he has dared to say that the Russian Duma, or parliament, would be better off if two-thirds were independent of the Kremlin group.

Was he pushing to run for president? Certainly many thought so; the next Duma elections are in December, and the next presidential elections are in March 2004.

This time around (Putin has already exiled two other business emperors, Boris Berezovsky and Vladimir Gusinsky, and largely confiscated their assets) **[JR: Not without just cause]** it is not at all easy to tell who is in which camp or exactly why. To prominent historical dissidents such as Ludmila Alexeeva, a politically savvy woman who is president of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, **[JR: This group is a collection of 41 selected NGOs whose Executive Director is Aaron Rhodes.]** the case revolves simply around the fact that "a faction within the chekists in the Kremlin wants to roll back privatization. Putin wants to build up the weight of evidence, not wanting to appear to be taking the side of the oligarchs. He wanted to get rid of the guys he saw as personal threats—and the ones who had alternate power bases."

Others believe the Kremlin chekists simply want to confiscate the assets of the wealthy oligarchs, many of whom are Jewish and thus fit into old prejudices. The struggle could open the entire question of property ownership that was generally closed after the bitter takeovers of the first few years of the '90s, leading to economic chaos within Russia.

As *Moscow Times* editor Lynn Berry told me, "The Yukos case is important. It will show where Putin's going. You start to revisit property rights, and where do you stop? Nobody will invest—and money is just starting to come in."

This is true. While no one yet knows what form the economy will take, it is growing at a respectable rate of 6 percent to 7 percent a year. This growth is far too highly dependent upon oil prices and natural extraction industries, while Russia's manufacturing industries have withered on the vine; but at least the \$20 billion that has been going out every year is now beginning to come back, mostly from banks in Cyprus, where it has been waiting for some resolution of the economic chaos within Russia.

Now, all that could end, as this new political risk—linking politics to economics—comes into the picture.

Yukos, one Western diplomatic analyst sums up, "has become the pawn in the fight between the group in the Kremlin and the economic reform group over who will control Russia in a Putin second term. The security types in the Kremlin see the future of the country as coming through the revitalization of the defense sector. But Yukos means a revitalization of oil and gas and an integration into the international markets. You modernize, you have to come to terms with giving up power, with accepting alternate centers of power."

In this fascinating and elliptical story, one sees how fragile that acceptance still is today.

**[JR: Who behind the scenes coined the word "chekist" to Russia's domestic intelligence agency (FSB), which is the equivalent of our own FBI "chekists"? It is my opinion that Putin is not out to roll back privatization but to remove it from the control of the privileged few and to make it more accountable and transparent. It so happens that many of the oligarchs are in fact Jews. How is it that the mentioning of this fact is targeting those of great wealth and giving rise to old prejudices? The lucrative oil and mineral assets are Russia's wealth and are vital to its economic survival. It is therefore reasonable that all efforts be made to ensure that these vital assets be in the control of those who will serve and honor Russia's interests and not just the self-serving few—be they Russians, Jews or of other ethnic origins. Name-calling is just part of the game of deflecting the spotlight off those who wield the power and the money and the controversy that surrounds them.]**



HOUSE VOTE AIMS TO SOFTEN PATRIOT ACT

By Curt Anderson, *Newsday*, 07/24/03

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department objected Wednesday to a surprising House vote against covert “sneak and peek” searches in criminal investigations, a move that sponsors said reflected civil liberties concerns raised by the anti-terrorism USA Patriot Act.

By a solidly bipartisan 309-118 vote, the House struck the first serious blow against the law, passed shortly after the Sept. 11 attacks.

“I think the message that 309 votes tells me is that people have the opportunity to look back and say, ‘What have we really done?’” said Rep. C.L. “Butch” Otter (R-Idaho). “I think it’s given unbridled authority to the federal law-enforcement agencies.”...

The measure sponsored by Otter would prevent federal dollars from being spent to implement warrants that delay notification of a covert search. The USA Patriot Act established uniform national standards for what are sometimes known as “black bag” or “sneak and peek” searches.

The law permits agents to search the home of a suspected drug dealer, plant a listening device in the car of a reputed mobster or copy a computer hard drive of a terror suspect, all without notifying the suspect until a later date. That keeps suspects from escaping, destroying evidence or tampering with witnesses, for example.

The warrants must be approved by a judge and are permitted in limited circumstances. The Supreme Court in 1979 ruled that “it is well-established that law officers constitutionally may break and enter” when such action is the only way to execute a search warrant.

As of April 1, the Justice Department had obtained such warrants under the USA Patriot Act 47 times for searches and 14 times for property seizures. Extensions ranging from one day to 90 days have been obtained 248 times. ...

The amendment, approved Tuesday night in committee, was attached to the annual spending bill for the Justice Department and other agencies. It passed the House on Wednesday. **The bill moves on to the Senate, giving the Bush administration time to get it removed later this year. [JR: No surprise here.]**

Still, civil liberties groups said the vote underscored growing concern about the Patriot Act. They noted that three states—Alaska, Vermont and Hawaii—and 142 local governments have passed measures opposing the act, with some taking steps to prevent local officials from complying. ...

The Otter amendment would have no effect on secret search warrants obtained under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which is aimed at agents of foreign powers such as spies and terrorists. That law also was expanded and updated by the USA Patriot Act.

**[JR: To quote Alexis de Tocqueville: “Centralized power is necessary by war or expectation of war.” The terror of 9/11 gave our government the license to expand its powers to snoop, spy and seize our property and our persons, not for our nation’s security but the security of those in power. Our faux justice system sees to it that our rights are all but dissolved or overturned to protect the criminals in high places. Government is in power to TAKE from you, not give to you.]**

TAKE 2 ASPIRINS AND GO ONLINE

By Marian Sandmaier (recipient of the 2001 June Roth Award for Medical Journalism of the American Society of Journalists and Authors), *Tribune*, 07/24/03

Last year, when my daughter Darrah began to complain of severe headaches and a bizarre “whooshing” sensation in her head, not one but two doctors assured us that

nothing serious was amiss. I looked at my daughter’s face and knew the doctors were wrong, so I went on the Internet to try to diagnose the trouble myself. There I discovered that my 16-year-old had developed a rare neurological reaction to a new antibiotic she was taking—a reaction that could result in blindness and lifelong pain. I took her off the drug and within days, her symptoms began to reverse and she is fully recovered.

Apparently, I’m not the only one who seeks a second opinion from *Google.com* in the throes of a health crisis. According to “Internet Health Resources”, a national survey released last week by the Pew Internet & American Life Project, nearly half of all U.S. adults—some 93 million Americans—surf the Web in search of medical guidance. Our motives are diverse and urgent, from trying to diagnose an elusive disease to researching a prescription’s side effects to preparing for surgery. But the most surprising news about these dogged Web quests: We may not always get what we want, but often enough, we get what we need.

This is news indeed, since a popular conception of the “medical Web” is as a kind of Snake Oil Central, the repository of all manner of health rip-offs, quackery, and at best, well-meaning error. Certainly the medical establishment is wary of it: An editorial in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* last spring charged that “a plethora of inaccurate and even potentially life-threatening content [is] readily available to anyone with a modem and an Internet browser...”. Rough translation: Surf and perish.

Yet when you ask ordinary Americans what they’ve experienced—and the Pew researchers asked more than 4,000 people nationwide—nearly three-quarters of Internet users say that the Web has improved their health knowledge and, by extension, their medical care. Most reported that their online research has empowered them to ask more informed questions of their doctors—and at least some physicians seem to be responding. A study published in the March 2003 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Oncology* found that when a patient brought online medical information to an appointment, the doctor spent about 10 extra minutes discussing it with them.

This is not to idealize the Internet as a peerless health resource; it has plenty of growing up to do. Anyone who has surfed the Web in the midst of medical crisis knows the sense of flailing panic that accompanies the struggle to decipher often pitilessly technical information from Websites of vastly different quality and reliability. In my own anxious search to find out what ailed my daughter, I encountered one site that said 5 percent of patients with Darrah’s disorder would lose their eyesight. Another site claimed 22 percent. Still another site’s verdict: 96 percent.

Yet even in my panic and confusion, I was aware of feeling grateful. The Web, at least, was giving me something—some crude but compelling outline of what my daughter might be up against—whereas before I had nothing at all. The information spurred me to act decisively: first, to take Darrah off the offending medication before it was too late, and, second, to bring her to a first-rate neuro-ophthalmologist, who confirmed my Web-based diagnosis and carefully monitored my daughter’s condition until she had fully recovered.

What I’ve learned from our hairsbreadth escape from medical disaster is this: Each of us must be prepared to understand and aggressively manage our health care as never before. I believe that the first two doctors who saw Darrah and misread her symptoms were well-intentioned. But in today’s world of nanosecond doctors’ visits, physicians barely have time to respond thoughtfully to commonplace ailments, much less the rare and complex diseases that come their way. More than ever, patients and doctors need to collaborate on health-care knowledge and decision-making—and the Web, cautiously used, can be a vital tool in that partnership.

I am among the lucky ones with the means and know-how to scour the Web for medical information. The Pew survey reports that some 24 million Americans still have no access to the Internet, while many others lack the health literacy skills to make good use of it. Rather than malign the Web for its medical frailties, let’s figure out how to make it more accessible, user-friendly and responsible. For like it or not, the Internet is becoming a critical form of health insurance. Let’s make sure we get the coverage we need.

**[JR: I can vouch for the massive sources of medical information on the Internet. I too check out diseases for their symptoms and recommended treatment, vaccines and medications for their side effects and alternative treatments. There are a number of medical information Websites, including the FDA but you should check at least three or more before you start drawing logical conclusions. Of course the drug manufacturers will emphasize the positive side and minimize side effects. Others may have stronger warnings and testimonials from people who have had serious side-effect problems as a result of the medication. You can often find a variety of warnings so you should print out your findings and take them with you on visiting your physician so when you ask him questions you are doing it with some prior knowledge and the physician will give you a much greater clarification. I often bring questionable reports or articles to my doctor’s appointments and he is glad to answer them in detail. The same applies with your dentist. Most doctors and dentists are more respectful of you when you do your own research and they can discuss your case or questions intelligently. If you want straight and clear answers, do your research. Remember, knowledge is power.]**

MOCK BIOWEAPONS LABS SEEN AS KEY IN ANTHRAX INVESTIGATION

By Scott Shane, *Baltimore Sun*, 07/05/03

BALTIMORE—In the months before the anthrax attacks of 2001, **Dr. Steven Hatfill helped design and set up mock bioweapons laboratories for U.S. agencies to train commandos and intelligence officers on how to recognize germ factories in Afghanistan, Iraq or elsewhere.**

The scientist’s work won him a government commendation. But it may also have given the FBI a reason to spend thousands of hours scrutinizing every detail of his life, searching for a link to the anthrax-laced letters that killed five people.

For training sessions he led in West Virginia, Hatfill provided an anthrax simulant called *Bacillus globigii*, defense officials say.

The non-toxic relative of the deadly anthrax bacteria was sprinkled around so that trainees could use high-tech equipment to detect the germs.

For labs set up on the Pacific island of Guam, at a Western U.S. base and at the Special Forces training facility at Ft. Bragg, N.C., Hatfill reportedly scavenged discarded biological equipment of the kind used to turn germs into weapons.

But the labs never manufactured any germs and were not capable of making the anthrax mailed in the attacks, according to defense officials and contractors involved in the projects. ...

Nor have investigators found a single spore of anthrax on the equipment or among Hatfill’s belongings, law-enforcement officials said.

So the critical question about Hatfill's work on mock bioterror labs remains unanswered: Does it have any relevance to the deadly letters that drove U.S. senators and Supreme Court justices out of their offices and gave the nation a taste of the devastation a bioattack could cause?

Or, does it merely help explain why one of the biggest criminal investigations in history has focused so closely on one man while the case remains unsolved? ...

Agents have repeatedly searched the Frederick apartment where Hatfill lived until last August and his girlfriend's Washington apartment, where he lives now. Most recently, they spent \$250,000 to drain a pond in the woods near Frederick, sifting the muck and pumping dirty water into a tanker truck to be tested for anthrax. ...

Most of Hatfill's training work was for Science Application International Corp., a defense contractor that employed him from 1999 until March 2002. According to those familiar with his work, FBI agents infiltrated some of his classes to size him up as a suspect after the anthrax mailings.

**Agents spent two weeks studying a mock mobile biolab he helped build on a truck chassis on the property of a Frederick contractor, AFW Fabrication, then halted the unit for another look while it was going to Ft. Bragg, according to a source close to the case.**

Even as Hatfill came under FBI suspicion, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the Special Forces Command permitted him to work on Science Application International Corp.'s contracts.

At the same time, he was completing training as a United Nations biological weapons inspector, though he never was deployed to Iraq.

Even as the FBI was grilling him in May 2002, DIA sent him a commendation, and officials there still have a high opinion of his work.

But scrutiny by the media has uncovered an erratic and deceptive side to Hatfill's personality, reflected in falsehoods and exaggerations on his resume.

Most significantly, he never earned the doctorate he claimed to obtain research jobs at the National Institutes of Health and the Army's biodefense research center at Ft. Detrick. Nor did he serve as a Special Forces soldier as he claimed, having flunked out of training after one month.

This pattern, combined with his deep involvement in biowarfare research and training, appears to have prompted the huge investment the FBI and Postal Inspection Service have made in examining Hatfill.

**[JR: It seems to me that they tried really hard but couldn't legally connect Hatfill to any of the anthrax mailings. What he can be credited for is that he has given U.S. agencies and intelligence officers the potential for false evidence that could be used in case bioweapons laboratories could not be physically found in Iraq. Prior to this Bush invasion of Iraq, the Bushites had touted that Saddam had bioweapons laboratories mounted on truck chassis that could be constantly on the move to avoid detection by UN inspectors. If enough pressure comes to bear because of the absence of evidence of WMD to justify the war, then those mock mobile biolabs designed by Hatfill could be flown in from Ft. Bragg to show the world physical proof that Saddam had a bioweapons program. Who knows? These mock labs may have already been delivered to Iraq and we would have to take Bush's word that these "newly discovered" bioweapons labs were Saddam's. Everyone knows that Dubya would never lie to the American people or to the rest of the world. After all, he is a born-again Judeo-Christian.]**

### DADDY, WHY DID WE HAVE TO ATTACK IRAQ?

Q: Daddy, why did we have to attack Iraq?

A: Because they had weapons of mass destruction, honey.

Q: But the inspectors didn't find any weapons of mass destruction.

A: That's because the Iraqis were hiding them.

Q: And that's why we invaded Iraq?

A: Yep. Invasions always work better than inspections.

Q: But after we invaded them, we STILL didn't find any weapons of mass destruction, did we?

A: That's because the weapons are so well hidden. Don't worry, we'll find something, probably right before the 2004 election.

Q: Why did Iraq want all those weapons of mass destruction?

A: To use them in a war, silly.

Q: I'm confused. If they had all those weapons that they planned to use in a war, then why didn't they use any of those weapons when we went to war with them?

A: Well, obviously they didn't want anyone to know they had those weapons, so they chose to die by the thousands rather than defend themselves.

Q: That doesn't make sense, Daddy. Why would they choose to die if they had all those big weapons to fight us back with?

A: It's a different culture. It's not supposed to make sense.

Q: I don't know about you, but I don't think they had any of those weapons our government said they did.

A: Well, you know, it doesn't matter whether or not they had those weapons. We had another good reason to invade them anyway.

Q: And what was that?

A: Even if Iraq didn't have weapons of mass destruction, Saddam Hussein was a cruel dictator, which is another good reason to invade another country.

Q: Why? What does a cruel dictator do that makes it OK to invade his country?

A: Well, for one thing, he tortured his own people.

Q: Kind of like what they do in China?

A: Don't go comparing China to Iraq. China is a good economic competitor, where millions of people work for slave wages in sweatshops to make U.S. corporations richer.

Q: So if a country lets its people be exploited for American corporate gain, it's a good country, even if that country tortures people?

A: Right.

Q: Why were people in Iraq being tortured?

A: For political crimes, mostly, like criticizing the government. People who criticized the government in Iraq were sent to prison and tortured.

Q: Isn't that exactly what happens in China?

A: I told you, China is different.

Q: What's the difference between China and Iraq?

A: Well, for one thing, Iraq was ruled by the Ba'ath Party, while China is Communist.

Q: Didn't you once tell me Communists were bad?

A: No, just Cuban Communists are bad.

Q: How Are the Cuban Communists bad?

A: Well, for one thing, people who criticize the government in Cuba are sent to prison and tortured.

Q: Like in Iraq?

A: Exactly.

Q: And like in China, too?

A: I told you, China's a good economic competitor. Cuba, on the other hand, is not.

Q: How come Cuba isn't a good economic competitor?

A: Well, you see, back in the early 1960s, our government passed some laws that made it illegal for Americans to trade or do any business with Cuba until they stopped

being Communists and started being capitalists like us.

Q: But if we got rid of those laws, opened up trade with Cuba, and started doing business with them, wouldn't that help the Cubans become capitalists?

A: Don't be a smart-ass.

Q: I didn't think I was being one.

A: Well, anyway, they also don't have freedom of religion in Cuba.

Q: Kind of like China and the Falun Gong movement?

A: I told you, stop saying bad things about China. Anyway, Saddam Hussein came to power through a military coup, so he's not really a legitimate leader anyway.

Q: What's a military coup?

A: That's when a military general takes over the government of a country by force, instead of holding free elections like we do in the United States.

Q: Didn't the ruler of Pakistan come to power by a military coup?

A: You mean General Pervez Musharraf? Uh, yeah, he did, but Pakistan is our friend.

Q: Why is Pakistan our friend if their leader is illegitimate?

A: I never said Pervez Musharraf was illegitimate.

Q: Didn't you just say a military general who comes to power by forcibly overthrowing the legitimate government of a nation is an illegitimate leader?

A: Only Saddam Hussein. Pervez Musharraf is our friend.

Q: What did Afghanistan do to us on September 11th?

A: Well, on September 11th, nineteen men, fifteen of them Saudi Arabians hijacked four airplanes and flew three of them into buildings, killing over 3,000 Americans.

Q: So how did Afghanistan figure into all that?

A: Afghanistan was where those bad men trained, under the oppressive rule of the Taliban.

Q: Aren't the Taliban those bad radical Islamics who chopped off people's heads and hands?

A: Yes, that's exactly who they were. Not only did they chop off people's heads and hands, but they oppressed women, too.

Q: Didn't the Bush administration give the Taliban \$43 million back in May of 2001?

A: Yes, but that money was a reward because they did such a good job fighting drugs.

Q: Fighting drugs?

A: Yes, the Taliban were very helpful in stopping people from growing opium poppies.

Q: How did they do such a good job?

A: Simple. If people were caught growing opium poppies, the Taliban would have their hands and heads cut off.

Q: So, when the Taliban cut off people's heads and hands for growing flowers, that was OK, but not if they cut people's heads and hands off for other reasons?

A: Yes. It's OK with us if radical Islamic fundamentalists cut off people's hands for growing flowers, but it's cruel if they cut off people's hands for stealing bread.

Q: Don't they also cut off people's hands and heads in Saudi Arabia?

A: That's different. Afghanistan was ruled by a tyrannical patriarchy that oppressed women and forced them to wear burqas whenever they were in public, with death by stoning as the penalty for women who did not comply.

Q: Don't Saudi women have to wear burqas in public, too?

A: No, Saudi women merely wear a traditional Islamic body covering.

Q: What's the difference?

A: The traditional Islamic covering worn by Saudi women is a modest yet fashionable garment that covers all of a woman's body except for her eyes and fingers. The burqa, on the other hand, is an evil tool of patriarchal oppression that covers all of a woman's body except for her eyes and fingers.

Q: It sounds like the same thing with a different name.

A: Now, don't go comparing Afghanistan and Saudi Arabia. The Saudis are our friends.

Q: But I thought you said 15 of the 19 hijackers on September 11th were from Saudi Arabia.

A: Yes, but they trained in Afghanistan.

Q: Who trained them?

A: A very bad man named Osama bin Laden.

Q: Was he from Afghanistan?

A: Uh, no, he was from Saudi Arabia too. But he was a bad man, a very bad man.

Q: I seem to recall he was our friend once.

A: Only when we helped him and the mujahadeen repel the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan back in the 1980s.

Q: Who are the Soviets? Was that the Evil Communist Empire Ronald Reagan talked about?

A: There are no more Soviets. The Soviet Union broke up in 1990 or thereabouts, and now they have elections and capitalism like us. We call them Russians now.

Q: So the Soviets, I mean the Russians, are now our friends?

A: Well, not really. You see, they were our friends for many years after they stopped being Soviets, but then they decided not to support our invasion of Iraq, so we're mad at them now. We're also mad at the French and the Germans because they didn't help us invade Iraq either.

Q: So the French and Germans are evil, too?

A: Not exactly evil, but just bad enough that we had to rename French fries and French toast to Freedom Fries and Freedom Toast.

Q: Do we always rename foods whenever another country doesn't do what we want them to do?

A: No, we just do that to our friends. Our enemies, we invade.

Q: But wasn't Iraq one of our friends back in the 1980s?

A: Well, yeah. For a while.

Q: Was Saddam Hussein ruler of Iraq back then?

A: Yes, but at the time he was fighting against Iran, which made him our friend, temporarily.

Q: Why did that make him our friend?

A: Because at that time, Iran was our enemy.

Q: Isn't that when he gassed the Kurds?

A: Yeah, but since he was fighting against Iran at the time, we looked the other way, to show him we were his friend.

Q: So anyone who fights against one of our enemies automatically becomes our friend?

A: Most of the time, yes.

Q: And anyone who fights against one of our friends is automatically an enemy?

A: Sometimes that's true, too. However, if American corporations can profit by selling weapons to both sides at the same time, all the better.

Q: Why?

A: Because war is good for the economy, which means war is good for America. Also, since God is on America's side, anyone who opposes war is a godless un-American Communist. Do you understand now why we attacked Iraq?

Q: I think so. We attacked them because God wanted us to, right?

A: Yes.

Q: But how did we know God wanted us to attack Iraq?

A: Well, you see, God personally speaks to George W. Bush and tells him what to do.


Q: So basically, what you're saying is that we attacked Iraq because George W. Bush hears voices in his head?

A: Yes! You finally understand how the world works.

Now close your eyes, make yourself comfortable, and go to sleep. Good night.

Good night, Daddy.

[JR: These are the questions everyone should be asking. The only thing missing here is the

Israeli connection and its WMD.] 

## NEVADA CORPORATIONS:

# The Myth And Reality Of Dividend Double-Taxation

## Budget's "Tip of the Week" #13:

### Getting Money Out of a Corporation Avoiding Double Taxation on Dividends

"You don't want to take income into a corporation because there is double-taxation on dividends." This statement is only partly true and a half-truth is almost always intended to mislead. The truth is that a corporation earns money on which it is taxed; then, IF it pays out a dividend, the dividend is taxable in the hands of the recipient. Perhaps a better way to express the truth of the matter would be: You don't want to pay dividends out of a corporation because they are subject to double taxation. But there are many other ways of taking money out of a corporation, so the real question is why you would ever take it out in the form of dividends.

The primary method for taking money out of a corporation is in the form of payments for services rendered. Any such payment is a deductible expense to the corporation, reducing its taxable income. At the same time, however, such a payment becomes taxable income for the recipient. You don't want to receive much income personally because in all likelihood you will pay more in taxes on income received personally than the corporation would pay in retaining that income itself. On the other hand, if an individual keeps living expenses moderate and takes out only what he needs, his personal tax rate is often not much higher than that on corporate income, resulting in an effective income split and reduced overall taxation.

Keep in mind that a corporation can pay wages to any number of persons for services rendered, so it can be quite practical to have your spouse or children on the payroll, as long as they do, indeed, provide some sort of valuable service. And before you dismiss the possibility of payments to your children, consider the potential value of intellectual property. Yes, a good idea for developing the business is compensatable as "intellectual property". No spouse and no children and still need some income splitting? Perhaps you could acquire or pay for the "intellectual property" of another private corporation?

Don't forget that a corporation may hold assets in the form of retained earnings. Without stating a specific plan of development, it is considered reasonable for any corporation to keep up to \$250,000 in retained earnings for future business development. Earnings may still be retained above this level without triggering the accumulated earnings surcharge prescribed by *Internal Revenue Code 531-537* provided there is a plan for expansion of the business (this could include, for instance, the acquisition of another business); for paying off debts; for product liability loss reserves; for supplying loans to either customers or suppliers to maintain the viability of the business; or for the need for increased working capital (say, to acquire additional inventory for the business).

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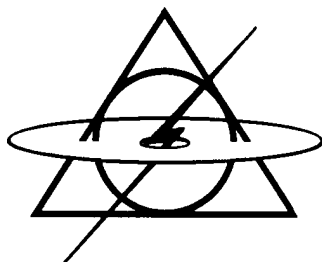
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