



ON TARGET

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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance —

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "As a staunch believer in our country's system of government as a constitutional monarchy, I yield to no republican in my commitment and my loyalty to Australia and in my belief in our national identity as a free and sovereign people. I am proud of, and grateful for, the British institutions we have inherited - parliamentary democracy, the rule of law, freedom of the individual, our language and our culture ... We have every reason and every right to be proud of the origins of our Australian heritage, and mere ideological prejudices provide no justification for change, particularly as we are being asked to adopt a system of government which, in world-wide terms, has produced more failures than successes, at least for the ordinary people, if not for those in power over them, for the simple truth is that most of the world's monarchies are free and democratic societies and most of the world's republics are not."

- Sir David Smith

RUPERT MURDOCH AND THE GLOBAL MEDIA REVOLUTION: C.H. Douglas observed that the control of news and finance was concentric. Media magnate Rupert Murdoch is, with the establishment of his global media enterprise, dramatically demonstrating the truth of the Douglas comment. Writing in the Herald Sun of October 18th, well known finance commentator Terry McCran provides the following "puff" for Murdoch: "By any measure Rupert Murdoch is a remarkable man who has led, and continues to lead, a truly extraordinary life. He ranks among the outstanding business figures of all time on the global stage. Starting with one small afternoon newspaper in Adelaide, over 40 years he has built one of the biggest media groups in the world, which is now valued on the stock market at \$20,000 million. And it stands on the threshold of an even more dramatic future in the great media revolution sweeping the world."

McCran's eulogy set the stage for the much-publicised media interview last week during which there was no mention of how the Murdoch empire was financed by the international bankers, of how only a short time ago the same bankers had to rescue the empire from threatened collapse. A study of Murdoch's strategy reveals that he both caters for all tastes while at the same time he helps to create those tastes. His mass circulation tabloids often border on the pornographic, while

there are the high quality papers like The Australian. But through this vast media what is termed news is carefully subjected to a programme of filtering. When the Manchester Guardian was regarded as one of the world's leading liberal newspapers, it carried the boast, "What Manchester thinks today, the world thinks tomorrow". The late Malcolm Muggeridge provides some fascinating stories of what took place when he was a young Guardian writer, still influenced by the Fabianism of his relatives. Occasionally, of course, a rare newspaper editor of the 'twenties did show some independence and deal with subjects which have long since become verboten. But such independence has been progressively killed with the increasing centralisation of media control.

What type of "news" will the world received from Rupert Murdoch's global media empire? It is instructive to recall how having paid a big sum for the fraudulent Hitler diaries, Murdoch personally insisted on his papers serialising the diaries even after it was shown that they were fraudulent. Murdoch is an internationalist who promotes the New World Order concept. We have no doubt that Murdoch is a man of considerable talent and energy. But his financial backers would not be supporting him if his media started to criticise the "grand design" for attempting to shape the future of mankind.

While it would appear that mankind is faced with a growing threat by a global media monopoly, made possible by modern technology, that same technology is making it possible to decentralise communications. The video film is proving a most powerful tool for both teaching truth and communicating it to a wide audience. All centralisation contains the seeds of its own destruction. The Murdoch media empire provides both a threat and a challenge to those who believe in freedom.

THE UNITED NATIONS "PEACE-KEEPING" DISASTER: Since 1989 there have been 14 "peace-keeping" missions run ostensibly as United Nations operations, but many of which have been principally American imperialist adventures designed as much to bolster the domestic fortunes of U.S. Presidents as to right intolerable wrongs in other countries. Few such ventures can be marked down as "successful". Even the apparent initial success of the Gulf War has left a legacy of anti-Western bitterness throughout the Middle East and, in particular, a strong anti-American bitterness. While the Cambodian operation, in which Australia's Foreign Minister, Mr. Gareth Evans, played a prominent part, has produced elections and a new constitution re-introducing the monarchy, there remain many fundamental problems without solutions.

The Somali debacle presently dominates the news, with the pall of disaster hanging over it as well. This United Nations effort has been racked by in-fighting between the nations involved, and serious allegations of human rights violations against Somali citizens by the "peace-keeping" troops. Italy has announced that it will withdraw all

participation, virtually in protest at the way the United States has handled the "U.N." effort. This is significant, because as a former colonial power in Somalia, the Italians have some genuine understanding of the Somali people.

RESIGNED IN DISGUST: In a report from Britain's Sunday Times, a senior British political adviser, Mr. John Drysdale, resigned as an adviser to the U.N. in disgust at what he called incompetence, infighting and undeclared war. Drysdale commanded Somali forces in Burma during World War II against the Japanese, worked as a British diplomat in Somalia after the war, and then became an adviser to several Somali leaders after Somali independence in 1960. General Aideed invited Drysdale to stay with him for nine days last year, also to seek his advice. The following is from the Sunday Times report:

"As the only expatriate in the (U.N.) mission to speak Somali and know General Aideed personally, Drysdale said he was able to offer unique insights and advice to Admiral Howe (in charge of the U.N. operation) and other senior U.N. officials. His opinions were largely ignored. His advice included a warning in June, shortly after the U.N. decided to arrest General Aideed after the killing of at least 23 Pakistani soldiers by the general's militia, that any attempt to capture him would backfire.

"A memorandum he sent to Admiral Howe on June 7th reads: 'The history of colonialism has shown time and time again that Somalis coalesce in times of perceived acts of gumeer - foreign oppression. The resulting wide-spread guerilla war in Mogadishu would render the continued presence of UNOSM in this city untenable.'"

It appears that Drysdale's advice was ignored because the United States had already decided that General Aideed, who emerged as the likely leader of Somalia, was "too independent", was not regarded as an ally, and was not acceptable to the U.S. as Somali president.

As other crisis spots develop around the globe, Australia's part in "peace-keeping" forces should be reviewed. If South Africa does degenerate into open civil war, will Australians be sent as part of another United Nations/United States "peace-keeping" adventure? When the "international community" decides to step into Australia to keep the peace in any alleged conflict with "Aborigines", we shall have direct experience with the benefits of the U.N./U.S. international police force in its protection of a new world order.

REVISIONIST HISTORIANS IN COURT AGAIN: The authenticity of the diary of Anne Frank has again been challenged by Belgian revisionist, Siegfried Verbeke, in a new book, "The Anne Frank Diary: A Critical Approach". The Anne Frank Foundation is preparing legal action

against the author, whose book has been circulated in Holland since the beginning of the year. Verbeke is reported to be a representative of a Dutch-based group For Free Historical Research. This group has already been sued by the Anne Frank Foundation, for the distribution of pamphlets that cast doubt upon circumstances surrounding the holocaust. The pamphlet was banned by a Dutch court, and the publishers face a fine of \$A8,300 if they persist in disseminating their ideas.

British historian David Irving has attempted to establish the authenticity or otherwise of Anne Frank's Diary. Having met Anne Frank's father to discuss the question, Irving issued a formal request that the documents known as "the Diary" be submitted to a British forensic laboratory in which Irving expressed confidence, which was bluntly refused. Subsequently, the Dutch Government is reported to have carried out its own "tests", aimed at eliminating doubts of authenticity. The Dutch Government has a direct interest in the matter, as the former Frank home has become something of a shrine and international tourist attraction. The Anne Frank Diary is alleged to have been partly written in ball-point pen, not in widespread use until after World War II.

THE REPUBLICAN NIGHTMARE: Following Governor-General Hayden's comment in a television interview with Bob Hawke that if present restraints upon the Head of State were changed under a republic, we "could go through periods - intense periods sometimes, of quite unstable government", the republican cause had visibly suffered. Events in other republics have done nothing to weaken Mr. Hayden's views. In particular, events in Russia should be noted. President Yeltsin's conflict with the Russian Parliament make Charles I's conflict with the British Parliament, which led to his execution, seem mild by comparison. The bloody resolution of the Russian conflict is not a unique product of Russian circumstances, and could be duplicated in any other region. But the truth is, as Mr. Hayden commented, in Australia "the present system works well". This is the best argument for keeping it!

THE BASIC FUND: The Basic Fund moved forward by just over a thousand dollars during the week, taking it to approximately \$23,000. We urge that the rate of support be increased. The target is \$60,000. All donations to Box 1052J, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001.

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Telephone: (03) 650 9749 Fax: (03) 650 9368