



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: *"What a rumpus the New Age created in the Socialist and Labor camps when first defense of dividends for everybody, irrespective of work, made its appearance. Mr. And Mrs. Sidney Webb were touched to their puritanic quick. Never, they said, would they countenance a proposal to give every citizen his birth right of an annual share of the communal production. Such a distribution would make future social reforms unnecessary; and where would the Fabians be then, poor things?"*

"Mr. George Bernard Shaw, with his workhouse scheme of a universal dividend in return for a universal industrial service, was silently contemptuous of Douglas..."

"But the most bitter objection came, of course, from the Labor officials and the class Socialists whose bread of life depended upon diatribes against 'unearned incomes'. Our simple little proposal to put everybody upon an 'unearned income' threatened to take the bread out of their mouths; and tart and many were the comments we drew from them."

– A.R. Orage quoted in *"Clifford Hugh Douglas"* by Anthony Cooney, 1996

THE TANGLED WEB OF MIDDLE EAST POLITICS by Jeremy Lee:

*"Oh, what a tangled web we weave,
When first we practice to deceive"*

The stench of corpses in the West Bank town of Jenin now rises like a silent cloud to accuse all those who have played with truth and the lives of the innocent in the Middle East. Statements from Kofi Annan, the Red Cross and the homeless in the refugee camp are echoing across the world. The most compliant of Arab nations are now warning the United States not to rely on their support, even if only passive, in any expansion of the war against terrorism.

President Bush has been exposed, not as a resolute world leader, but as an apologetic, dithering appendage to the Israeli cause, intimidated by the Israeli lobby on his home soil, committed willingly or unwillingly by the massive financial and arms injections made over three decades to the Israeli "cuckoo-in-the-nest". The spokesmen who, on his behalf, face the customary barrage of microphones are in many cases Jewish and seen to be committed, rightly or not, to the Israeli cause.

The still-to-be-publicly-acknowledged Israeli penetration into the US espionage, intelligence and communications system, exposed in December by Carl Cameron of Fox News, hangs like a time

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bomb over Bush's stated Middle East policy, if such exists. Sooner or later the minority of journalists prepared to report dispassionately will discover it, and battle editors for space to report it. The resulting resistance will pass swiftly along the journalistic grapevine, creating more doubters.

After initially holding back reporters until it could do so no longer – or, perhaps, until the last faint cries of those buried beneath the rubble died away – the Israelis must now muster the most intense 'counter-propaganda' campaign in its chequered history to smother the eye-witness accounts of what has been discovered so far, and what is yet to come.

".... As of late last week, that destruction remained barely visible to the outside world. On Friday morning, a small group of reporters managed to enter the center of Jenin city by following a circuitous route along dirt tracks through vegetable fields. The streets were utterly deserted and wrecked, a scene common now to many West Bank towns: smashed cars, broken electrical poles, buildings pocked by bullets or more seriously damaged by rockets. The tight military cordon round Jenin camp, however, made it impossible to substantiate or refute claims of atrocities committed there by Israel" wrote Dan Ephron in **The Bulletin** (23/4/02).

".... On Monday the Hart al-Hawashin neighborhood, the heart of the Jenin refugee camp, was a silent wasteland, permeated with the stench of rotting corpses and cordite. The evidence of lives interrupted was everywhere. Plates of food sat in refrigerators in houses sheared in half by Israeli bulldozers. Pages from children's exercise books fluttered in the breeze Alleys leading off the square deepened the image of wanton destruction: entire sides of buildings gouged out, stripped to the kitchen tiles like discarded dolls' houses. The scale is almost beyond imagination: a vast expanse of rubble and mangled iron rods, surrounded by the gaping carcasses of shattered homesFor the Palestinians, the battle for the Jenin refugee camp has become a legend" said the front page of **The Guardian** (UK, 18-24/4/02).

".... UN officials said that (Kofi) Annan has abandoned the diplomatic niceties because of the worsening humanitarian situation in the West Bank and Israel's refusal to address UN complaints that Israeli forces have targeted and harassed international relief workers and UN employees, including a UN staff member who was killed by Israeli forces on March 7..... 'Our field office director had guns pointed at him at least seven times' last Thursday, said Maher Nasser, a spokesman for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East, which employs more than 11,000 relief workers in the West Bank and Gaza. 'We have only four ambulances in the West Bank, and each one has been hit by gunfire more than once.....'" said the inside pages of the same issue.

"The war that Sharon is currently waging on the West Bank, fraudulently named Operation Defensive Shield, is in some ways a replay of his war in Lebanon. It is directed against the Palestinian people, it stems from the same stereotypes that the Palestinians are terrorists, it is based on the same denial of Palestinian national rights, it employs the same strategy of savage and overwhelming military force, and it displays the same callous disregard for international opinion, international law, the United Nations and the norms of civilized behaviour," stated Avi Shlaim, Professor of International Relations at Oxford.

"Outside Washington public opinion shows 71% support for Bush's demand for a withdrawal. Exactly the same percentage believes the US should not pick sides in the conflict, according to a Gallup/CNN poll. But the pro-Israeli lobby has influence far beyond its numbers, both through its sway on Christian conservatives and through its potential tie-breaking power in the even-split State, Florida.

"But while the White House has made a dash for political safety, the logic of the worsening situation in the Middle East is likely to drag it back into dangerous waters. There is an imminent danger of a wider war" wrote Julian Borger from Washington (**The Guardian**, 18-24/4/02)

".... Palestinians say they won't forget what happened here. The terror infrastructure Israel says it has destroyed is already being replaced by a new kind of militancy" (*The Weekend Australian*, 20-21/4/02).

"In a move that angered Palestinian officials, US President George W. Bush yesterday accepted the slow pace of Israel's troop pullout from the West Bank, and said he understood the Israeli blockade of Yasser Arafat's headquarters 'I do believe Ariel Sharon is a man of peace,' Mr. Bush said" (*The Weekend Australian*, 20-21/4/02).

One might ask, what else could President Bush say, after being treated with arrogant indifference by Ariel Sharon? But why, if he believes what he says now, did Bush imperiously demand Israel's swift withdrawal a couple of weeks ago, after sitting on his hands while an anxious world waited for his reaction? Why send Colin Powell to Jerusalem to hasten a withdrawal if he was content with the "pace" at which the invasion was proceeding? Bush has been publicly and internationally humiliated. The United States has been seen to be subservient to Israel, as Sharon himself claimed in the Knesset last year. The implications in heightened tension between East and West are ominous. We are witnessing but the beginning of disaster.

However, it will be much harder for a hitherto monopolistic Israeli-dominated media to enforce the silence. The Arabs have their own increasingly sophisticated media based in Saudi Arabia, which pours a constant stream of previously banned details across the Islamic world. The Internet continually expands the ranks of the freshly informed. Courageous Jews – still in the minority – denounce the warmonger Sharon in clear and concise terms. Sharon's nemesis yet may come.

(For full details of US aid to Israel, see the forthcoming New Times Survey for April, \$3.00 posted, The Heritage Bookshop, Box 1052, GPO, Melbourne, Vic., 3001).

LAW SOCIETY EXPRESSES CONCERN AT ANTI-TERRORISM BILLS: The Australian Law Society has expressed concerns at the wide-ranging implications, and the 'loose' terminology in a number of Bills which have already been forced through the House of Representatives and will be voted on in the Senate in its mid-May session.

The Bills in question are:

- The Security Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002 which defines a new offence of terrorism so broad that a range of currently lawful activities, such as picketing, public demonstrations and civil disobedience could be labeled "terrorist". For example, public demonstrations against globalism, the World Economic Forum, etc., could come under this category. Organisations can be banned, whether or not they have been tried and convicted. There is no concisely defined criteria to distinguish such organizations. Furthermore, the legislation is retrospective, applying to acts or statements prior to the existence of the law. Members, or individuals who assist such organizations face up to 25 years' imprisonment. The onus of proof is reversed, so that those accused must prove they are not terrorists. Allied to this is:
- The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation Legislation Amendment (Terrorism) Bill 2002, which gives ASIO vastly increased powers, including the power to detain people for 48 hours without a lawyer or the right to silence. The warrants for this procedure can be extended, if necessary indefinitely, without trial. The person detained does not have to be a terrorist, simply someone who may have information. The Administrative Affairs Tribunal, which oversees this Act is directly appointed by the Attorney-General who has designed and is pushing the legislation.
- The Espionage and Related Offences Bill 2002: Greatly expands the definition of "official information" which cannot be communicated. The definitions are so loose and vague that it can be applied in

any direction, even at material which should be in the public domain. It does not provide protection for whistleblowers.

- The Telecommunications Interception Legislation Amendment Bill 2002: Expands even further the power of the Government to 'intercept' private communications. Its excuses for doing so are not simply confined to Australia's defence, but includes two other categories, Australia's economic well-being, and promoting Australia's foreign relations. Such wide-ranging definitions give scope for almost any application, and could be used against the Government's opponents, however innocent they may be.

The Law Society's anxieties are justified. Attorney-General Darryl Williams seems to have the habit of producing some extraordinary legislation. Readers should ask their Senators to vote against these proposed laws.

LOVE FOR THE QUEEN 'MUM' by Phillip D. Butler:

The passing of HRH Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, at the age of 101 years certainly marked the passing of an era; two world wars, many other brutal wars, the Great Depression. I get depressed enough struggling to remain 'compliant' with Costello's 'simple' GST, let alone ponder on all the other depressing events of the last century.

However, the Queen 'Mum' was a woman the whole world learned to appreciate. She was, not only the supportive Queen Consort to her late husband King George VI and 'anchor' of our present Queen, but was the rock-like foundation upon which the ebb and flow of family and personal matters and troubles washed over.

Always under the blow-torch of a hostile media, the Queen Mother carried out her duties to her own people with charm, great dignity and flair.

The Weekend Australian, 13-14/4/02, wants us to believe that the outpouring of emotion at the Queen Mother's passing was "unexpected", and "should not be interpreted as for the monarchy".

Rubbish! Codswallop!

Not only was Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, an inspiration to us all, and we loved her, but so is her daughter, our present Queen, Elizabeth II.

And what of the Queen Mum's grandson, Prince Charles, our future king? What worries the 'one-worlders' and 'politically correct' is that Charles has a mind of his own – and courageously speaks out on issues deemed 'politically incorrect'; be they political, spiritual, agricultural or architectural. I believe Charles will be a King of the People and not a lackey of the politicians.

Speaking of the 'one-worlders', especially the republican-media kind – when is it going to sink in? Australians voted on the question of a republican system and voted overwhelmingly against it.

Queen Mum, rest peacefully. I for one will drink a 'gin and tonic' to your passing. You played your part in sustaining our heritage and we in Australia say 'thanks'.