



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
- BACKGROUND INFORMATION
- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

Print Post Publication Number 381667 00258

Vol.38, No.24

June 28th, 2002

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"Those who believed that gold was a hedge against the uncertainties of life failed to understand that the pursuit of eternity is not to be satisfied by gold, or by anything else we choose to replace gold – dollars, euros, whatever. Gold as an end in itself is meaningless. Hoarding does not create wealth. Gold and its surrogates make sense only as a means to an end: to beautify, to adorn, to exchange for what we really need and really want.

"Perhaps the wisest heroes of our story were the simple natives of Jenne and Timbuktu who silently swapped gold for the precious salt that would keep them alive."

– "The Power of Gold: the history of an obsession" by Peter Bernstein, 2000

"If you will bear this simple but very important idea in your mind you will rapidly get a much clearer idea of the real nature of money, and I think that for ordinary purposes the simplest and most satisfactory conception of money is that it is simply a ticket which enables the holder to obtain goods and services upon demand."

– "Warning Democracy" by C.H. Douglas

MUGABE AND SHARON – BIRDS OF A FEATHER? by Jeremy Lee:

The war drums are beating louder. It is now clear that Sharon intends to permanently re-occupy the West Bank and Gaza. The building of the concrete wall between Israel and the Territories has already started. What, then, of the hundreds of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian Territories? Over 140 of these have been built – and are still being built – against all international opinion and the terms of the Oslo Accords. Over 200,000 Israelis live in fortified encampments, linked to each other and to Israel proper by fortified concrete roads. The Palestinians, balkanized by this network, live huddled in refugee townships without cohesion or economic viability.

Are these settlements, which will lie outside the new wall of exclusion, to be abandoned? It is highly doubtful. As we have shown in the June *New Times Survey*, the new settlements still being built are heavily subsidized and still gathering new settlers. What then is the new wall going to achieve?

It appears to be Sharon's intention to sever any connection between Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories and those still resident in Israel with citizenship, even if second-class. Once the wall is

IN THIS ISSUE: • *Thought for the Week* • *Mugabe and Sharon – Birds of a Feather?* • *Bush Backing Away* • *Target Iraq* • *Israeli Aid To Zimbabwe* • *Threatening Free Conscience* • *"I Have A Vision!"*

built, the slightest resistance from the territories will be met with the 'scorched-earth' destruction seen in Jenin; the obliteration of the whole infrastructure, schools, hospitals, telephones, water, power, commerce, sewerage, garbage disposal, etc. – essential for the most primitive type of existence. Without a roof over their heads it is expected that the population will be forced into Jordan, which Sharon and some of his cronies have always claimed, against all the evidence, is the only legitimate Palestine.

Sharon is intent on reversing the very few steps that have been made towards the idea that the West Bank and Gaza should become a Palestinian State.

BUSH BACKING AWAY: President Bush, whose Middle East policy has been a series of back-downs, has at times given an indication that a Palestinian State must be one of the ingredients of a future peace, if such is to be. But any declaration in that direction is immediately knocked on the head by the pro-Israel bridgehead in his own administration, led fiercely and implacably by Deputy Defence Secretary Paul Wolfowitz, and chairman of the Defence Policy Board Richard Perle. Both are Zionists. It is incredible that the US could claim any sort of mediator role between two warring parties when its own policy initiatives are designed by one of the antagonists.

So George Bush dithers between what he knows privately should happen and what the foreign warlords in his administration, with their incredible lobby and media machine reinforcing them, and their enormous financial control of Congress adding to their fire-power, demand of him.

As Sharon blurted out in the Knesset towards the end of last year, "Don't worry about America! We control America!" It's happening before our eyes.

TARGET IRAQ: The same duo – Wolfowitz and Perle – are at the forefront of the escalating demand for Saddam Hussein's blood. To date there is no evidence of Iraq's complicity in the events of last September 11th in America. There is plenty of evidence that most of those involved were from Saudi Arabia. But the Saudis are not targets for attack. Their oil, and the bases they have provided for American troops have given Saudi Arabia temporary immunity.

There now seems little doubt of two developments over the next few months – the re-occupation of the Palestinian territories by Israel and a race between the obliteration of its people and the ability of the suicide bombers to maintain their ghastly and tragic programme of attrition; and the invasion of Iraq, whether or not the rest of the world continues in its reluctant support of the US-designed "war against terror". If there is any crumb of comfort it lies in the fact that more and more are getting the picture. But it's one thing to know what's coming; it's quite another to breach the Israel/US nexus that is carrying us all inexorably towards global war and the possibility of nuclear reprisals.

ISRAELI AID TO ZIMBABWE: In Zimbabwe a megalomaniac in the form of Robert Mugabe is intent on reducing his own people to the level of the unfortunate Palestinians in Jenin. Forty percent of the population have AIDS. There is 60 percent unemployment. Compounded by drought, the destruction of white farming, the main provider of the staple diet in Zimbabwe, has been rendered impotent. With its cupboard bare, Zimbabwe is now entirely dependent on food imports. The people, with the knowledge that the recent election was rigged, show signs they have suffered enough. But Mugabe and his thugs don't intend to relinquish control.

The Zimbabwe Standard (12/5/02) reported:

*"In its ongoing efforts to silence its opponents, the government has acquired state-of-the-art military equipment and anti-riot gear to help crush anti-government demonstrations. Investigations by **The Standard** revealed that heavy riot control equipment has been purchased from Israel, a country traditionally denigrated by the ZANY PF government as a repressive Zionist regime and 'puppet' of the United States. The equipment has already arrived in Zimbabwe and includes customized anti-riot tankers, gas-masks and microscopic 'laser-guns', similar to those used by Israeli forces against the Palestinian protesters. The tankers, called Riot Control Vehicle model RCU 4500I, were supplied by the Beit Alfa Trailer Company and have been undergoing tests at the Police Support Unit Headquarters in the capital.*

*"The anti-riot vehicles include the latest in water cannon technology based on an advanced computer-controlled jet pulse system. Highly accurate pulse firing can be done in three different modes – short pulse, long pulse and continuous stream. The water is shot up to 500 metres. The command control panel allows the operator to mix additives like scorching tear gas, pepper spray or dye to the water 'according to operational needs'. They are also equipped with surveillance cameras. When **The Standard** visited Harare's Support Unite base, police officers were being trained in the use of the lethal cannons, under the watchful eye of an Israeli expert*

"The deal to buy the anti-riot equipment was mooted last year when police sought authority from treasury to make a \$105 million down payment to Israel's Beit Alfa Trailer Company, for the purchase of the arms to the tune of \$1 billion. BAT is one of the world's leading manufacturers of riot control vehicles. However, the deal almost collapsed when the police experienced difficulty securing foreign currency to pay for the equipment. Frantic efforts by the police, including a trip to Israel by police deputy commissioner, Godwin Matanga, just before the presidential election, resulted in the deal being resuscitated"

(Three senior **Standard** personnel, including the editor, Bornwell Chakaodza, were arrested and held for reporting that story. Our acknowledgement to The Aida Parker Newsletter, PO Box 91059, Auckland Park, 2006, South Africa, for this news item.)

THREATENING FREE CONSCIENCE: The Howard Government has come up with the most bizarre response to the International Criminal Court (ICC). It has designed a 'set of conditions' to be attached to its ratification of the Treaty. Australia will decide, it says, the conditions that will apply to Court action when applied to Australian citizens. Furthermore, no Australian serviceman fighting anywhere in the world will be liable for charges by the Court.

The Government **MUST** know, surely, that such conditions will be illegal under international law. Do we really imagine that we will be the only nation among the scores that have ratified the Treaty that will be allowed to make qualifications as to how it will affect us?

But it has been enough to cow the back-benchers who had reservations into silence. The most telling ploy by Howard in the growing dissent against a number of Bills, from the infamous "anti-terrorism" legislation to the excision of Australia's borders for refugee purposes has been the threat of a "double-dissolution". The threat is enough to quell the heart of any trouble-maker. Not only does each member have to face the possible shortening of his \$100,000 a year salary (plus perks), he must consider the possible "missing out" or, at the very least, reduction of his life pension. He must remain in Parliament for 18 years to qualify for his full salary for life. His pension drops *pro rata* for every year he serves under this figure. The longer he can stay in Parliament with a clean nose, not rocking the boat, and doing what the Party Whip says, the better his chances of life-long benefits.

This will only change when a minority of voters rebel against such parliamentary subservience. When electors start voting honestly themselves, they will begin to receive honest voting in Parliament. When politicians know that dishonest self-serving is being watched, and will result in a drop in their vote at home, we will have a few more parliamentary heroes and statesmen.

The Senate and minor parties are beginning to create the first cracks in major party blackmail. The Democrats are still suffering from former leader Meg Lees' flirtation with 'major-party-politics' over the GST. She *knew* that millions of Australians were against it. But she sached onto the dance floor with the desire to be a power-broker instead of an independent representative. She was putty in the hands of Howard and Costello. Whatever else is said about Green Senator Bob Brown, he looks at this stage a little more resistant to seduction by the major parties; as does Senator Len Harris. We don't seem to have heard much from Bob Katter and his two fellow independents in recent times. They could be doing much more to make a few waves.

At the moment a cynical John Howard is playing all the blowfies with ease. His motto? "If you want to gather honey, don't kick over the beehive!"

"I HAVE A VISION!" by Betty Luks:

Remember 'iron bar' Tuckey announcing the Liberal's plan ("I have a vision...") to 'improve service deliveries to local communities' the Liberals plan to bypass State Governments and set up Local Governments to 'run police forces, hospitals and schools'? At the time, Tuckey said the "Federal Government was willing to bypass the States ..." In fact, one unnamed source was quoted as saying: "What do state governments do anyway?" ("Howard's plan gives councils wider powers" *Sunday Mail*, May 5th, 2002.)

In the light of the above we thought the following snippet would be of interest:

"The present financial agreement between the Commonwealth and State Governments must be replaced with a new three part agreement including local government." The speaker "called for arrangements which would make Local Government an equal partner in the Australian Federal system." In fact, "the Commonwealth should make direct revenue grants to Local Government – but on a regional basis."

Who said that? When? The speaker was none other than old Fabius Maximus himself – Fabian Socialist Gough Whitlam. When did he say it? He opened a symposium on outer suburban development at La Trobe University, November 30th, 1970. The League's *On Target* reported the event on December 4th, 1970!

The (contemptible) Liberals have now completed their turnaround. But try as I might, I can't quite picture little Johnny as the new Fabius Maximus – maybe Fabius Minimus, or 'fabius minimouse'? However one pictures him, the fact is he has utterly rejected the original Liberal Party's stated beliefs of 1949 and should not claim to be a Liberal.

"ON TARGET" is printed and published by The Australian League of Rights, 145 Russell St., Melbourne.
Postal Address: GPO Box 1052, Melbourne, 3001. Telephone: (03) 9650 9749, Fax: (03) 9650 9368.
Subscription \$40.00 p.a.