



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.40, No.32

August 20th, 2004

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

"I am done with great things and big things, great institutions and big success, and I am for those tiny invisible molecular moral forces that work from individual to individual, creeping through the cran- nies of the world like so many rootlets, or like the capillary oozing of water, yet which if you give them time, will rend the hardest monuments of man's pride." – William James.

"There is less talk just now of Mr. Bush playing Alexander the Great and pouring molten democracy down the throats of 200 million Arabs. Faced with a shortage of ready cannon fodder, Mr. Bush may have to change his foreign policy and abandon the conquest of the Middle East."

– Nicholas Von Hoffman, The New York Observer, 8th August, 2004

LIES UNCOVERED by Jeremy Lee:

Yesterday (Sunday, August 8TH) was definitive for me. I saw Michael Moore's film Fahrenheit 9/11. Amongst criticisms of Moore's film, two are most common - that there is no mention of Israel's part in the Middle East crisis; and that the film made no mention of America's 'partners-in-crime' in the Coalition of the Willing, Australia and the UK.

That being said, the film should still be seen by as many Australians as possible. It lifts the lid on an administration which makes the Mafia pale by comparison. The sheer agony of the war in Iraq, with its harrowing family tragedies among Americans and Iraqis alike, cannot fail to have an effect. The technological dimensions of war have long since eradicated any notion that it offers - if it ever did - a way of resolving human conflict.

The most glaring omission from the film was the story of Depleted Uranium (DU) which is only just beginning to leak into the public domain. Depleted Uranium, a residue from the Nuclear Industry, is now used to coat bullets, shells and rockets. It will instantly penetrate heavy armour, multiplying the impact of conventional ammunition. But it coats the environment in proximity to targets with a dust containing high radiation. The result is a series of diseases and genetic disorders which emerge over subsequent years.

Over half the US troops involved in the first Gulf War, "Desert Storm" have now been struck with "Gulf War Syndrome". A variety of afflictions have appeared, with leukaemia, cancers, tumours, stress disorders and chronic fatigue syndrome. A huge jump in genetic mutations among children of Gulf War veterans has also appeared.

IN THIS ISSUE: • *Thought For The Week* • *Lies Uncovered* • *Be Alert!!! But Not Alarmed????* • *Grand Jury Hears Testimony From Powell* • *Not Good Enough Mr. Butler* • *Political Power*

"ON TARGET"

August 20th, 2004

Page 1 (125)

The same ghastly results are appearing among the Iraqi people, now dealing with the victims of the First Gulf War, let alone the Second. In the first, 375 tons of DU were used in Iraq. So far, 2,200 tons have been used in the current conflict. It has also been used in Afghanistan and the Balkans with similar health results. Western authorities know this story will break sooner or later. Attempts are being made to clear the environment in Iraq, and bury the evidence – years too late. Thousands of bombed and burnt-out vehicles are massively contaminated – and for every one carried away to "vehicle graveyards" a new one appears from the continual fighting. Contaminated soil is carried away into the desert and blows back into the cities on the desert winds.

Moore's film catalogued in unmistakable fashion the procession of lies, as the story was changed from month to month. It outlined the "state of denial" among many Americans, who preferred to believe the unbelievable sooner than concede the failings of a country they want to believe can do no wrong.

The potency of a film such as this will be among the young people who see it, no longer prepared to countenance misplaced patriotism. If you haven't seen it, you should.

Reflecting on what I'd seen, the ABC 7 o'clock News gave reasons for further reflection. Forty distinguished former Australian Ambassadors, consular staff and military leaders, led by former Commander in Chief General Gration, issued a statement deploring the lack of honesty in Australia's government, particularly in committing Australia's troops to war. It was the Australian counterpart to the 50 former British Ambassadors who had chided the Blair government in similar fashion, and the host of prominent former US leaders who have written and spoken in protest against the Bush programme.

If this does not lead to reflective introspection among our elected politicians there is little cause for hope. Our current Prime Minister, who, I believe illegally, took upon himself the personal decision to send Australians to war, has told us he'd "do it all over again". This is the defiance of the incorrigible. But within his own party not one National or Liberal was prepared to risk salary and pension by speaking out on conscience – thus betraying the very responsibility for which each had been entrusted. Moore's film confirmed, to my mind, the accuracy of the reports *On Target* has provided on a weekly basis in the period leading up to, during, and since the so-called "end" of the Iraqi war. Much of the material now coming out in the media, in government inquiries and reports, was carried in *On Target* months, if not years ago.

One month ago we reported the remarks of Dr. Tom Frame, Anglican Bishop to the Australian Defence Force, who originally supported the commitment of Australians to Iraq. He had the integrity to confess that he had been deceived, concluding: *"...Men and women from a country claiming to be civilised have shown that they are just as capable of the barbarism that characterised Saddam's Baathist regime. I continue to seek God's forgiveness for my complicity in creating a world in which this sort of action was ever considered by anyone to be necessary."*

It is not weakness to admit to being wrong. It is the beginning of civilised manhood. It is the start of self-respect, which in turn gains the respect of others.

Barbarism? Are we really barbarians? Let's put it another way. Can any of us forego some personal blame for what is happening in the Middle East? Even if we disagreed with what's happening - what did we personally do about it? It's all very well to blame our leaders – the Howards, Bushes, Blairs, Downers of this world. But we put them there and paid the taxes that they used for evil purposes. Repentance is a national, as well as a personal requirement.

Like America, Australia is at the cross-roads. The coming election is important – but our real problem lies deeper. Whoever wins, can the people regain some input into their own future? If not, it will be too late. We have yet to learn that voting for the lesser of two evils is *still voting for evil*.

In conclusion, perhaps the most haunting scene of all in *Fahrenheit 9/11* was a military patrol in Baghdad, setting out on a Christmas Eve patrol, armed with AK 47s, grenades, walkie-talkies, covered by choppers and artillery using Depleted Uranium shells, to the tune of

"Silent Night, Holy Night, All is calm, all is bright;

Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child –

Holy Infant so tender and mild. Sleep in heavenly Peace!"

That's the supermarket song for selling plastic toys from China, isn't it? Barbarians indeed!

BE ALERT!!! – BUT NOT ALARMED??? by Francis Elliott – Deputy Political Editor, *Independent Digital* (UK) 8th August 2004:

Blunkett issues rebuke to Bush on terror alerts: UK Home Secretary David Blunkett has issued a barely coded rebuke to President George Bush for issuing a terror alert that resulted in "ridicule".

The Home Secretary went on the offensive to explain why Britain did not follow suit when the US administration issued a warning on information that turned out to be four years old.

Ministers and senior figures in the security service are known to have been dismayed at the nakedly political use made of recent intelligence breakthroughs both in the US and in Pakistan.

There was widespread irritation in Whitehall at last Sunday's warnings, repeated by Mr. Bush, based on information captured by Pakistani intelligence agencies on al-Qa'eda's preparations for attacks on British and US targets.

The British response was markedly more low key, insisting that there was no specific information of an imminent threat: an assessment which looked far more credible as fuller details of the seized information emerged. Mr Blunkett comes close to openly criticising Mr Bush in a newspaper article published today in which he defended his refusal to comment on the latest assessments.

"In the United States there is often high-profile commentary followed, as in the current case by detailed scrutiny, with the potential risk of ridicule," writes Mr. Blunkett in *The Observer*.

"Is it really the job of a senior cabinet minister in charge of counter-terrorism? To feed the media? To increase concern? Of course not. This is arrant nonsense."

The remarks follow those made yesterday in which Mr Blunkett drew a contrast between "alerting people to a specific threat and alarming people unnecessarily".

The Home Secretary has clashed with Tom Ridge, the head of the US Department of Homeland Security, before. Mr. Ridge is the man who issued last week's warning.

He is known to have been furious when Mr Ridge grounded flights around the world causing travel chaos during the Christmas holidays without first warning him.

GRAND JURY HEARS TESTIMONY FROM POWELL: Readers will remember the ground-breaking story of the moves against George Bush and his neo-con cronies by powerful forces in high places by From the Wilderness. It's not that these powerful forces don't agree with the invasion of Iraq, they are just not happy the fools botched the job and in the process 'outed' CIA spy Valerie Plame.

According to the *New York Times*, 1st August, 2004: The U.S. grand jury investigating the leak of an undercover CIA operative's name has interviewed Secretary of State Colin Powell, but "he is not a subject of the inquiry", reassured State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Powell appeared on July 16 at the grand jury's invitation. He is the latest official from the Bush administration to be called.

Both White House counsel Alberto Gonzales and spokesman Scott McClellan have been summoned, and the grand jury investigators have interviewed President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney. Readers will remember "the grand jury investigation is to determine who leaked the name of Valerie Plame to syndicated columnist Robert Novak last July. Disclosure of an undercover officer's identity can be a federal crime.

Novak revealed Plame's work for the CIA a week after her husband, Joseph Wilson, a former ambassador, criticised Bush's claim in the 2003 State of the Union address that Iraq had tried to obtain uranium from Niger, a major uranium-exporting nation in Africa.

The CIA had sent Wilson to Niger in mid-1992 to check the allegation, and he concluded it was unfounded. The administration has acknowledged that its inclusion in the State of the Union address was a mistake.

In printing Plame's name, Novak wrote that two administration officials said Wilson's wife suggested that he be sent to Niger. Boucher has referred questions about Powell's testimony to the Justice Department because grand jury operations are secret.

NOT GOOD ENOUGH MR. BUTLER by Philip Benwell – *Mr. Phillip Benwell is the National Chairman, Australian Monarchist League:*

"The (forced) resignation of Richard Butler has brought to an end an odious experiment with an obvious purpose of demeaning the Tasmanian Vice-Regal Office. However it is not the reputation of the Office which has suffered but that of Butler and the Tasmanian Labor Government. An unfortunate side effect has been that the cost to the people has been roughly a million dollars.

Demonstrated by this exercise is the strength and resilience of our system of Government by Constitutional Monarchy, which has proven time and time again to be far above politics and totally impervious to the petty wrangling of politicians."

POLITICAL POWER: The forced-to-resign Governor of Tasmania, republican Richard Butler, demonstrated to those around him, including the Tasmanian people, he had no understanding of Christ's teaching on the use of power:

"He who would be greatest among you must be the servant of all."

Judging by the reports of his behaviour to others, as governor this man thought he was there to 'lord it over the people'. Mr. Butler would have done well to emulate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, who, as a very young woman vowed before God to serve her people. Her Majesty has done so these many years.

The Tasmanian people have long had Governors serving them who understood this concept. No wonder Mr. Butler was like a square peg in a round hole. As an ardent republican of the New World Order ideology, his concept of 'governing', i.e., 'of lording it over' them, is alien to the Tasmanian people. As a career bureaucrat, Mr. Butler is used to "swanning around the world", at taxpayers' expense of course, interfering in the affairs of, and giving orders to, the 'hirelings' and the underdogs of the various nations.

"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.