



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



- NEWS HIGHLIGHTS
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- COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance -

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: The spontaneous response of ordinary people to those affected by the tsunami has been magnificent, and goes some way to restoring one's faith in human nature. The tragedy was non-political and not embellished with 'spin'.

As the death toll has mounted from first reports to totals round 150,000, as the scenes of devastated towns and communities have impacted through the media, the human heart has opened with warmth and sympathy. Politicians have been left struggling in the wake of personal generosity. Helicopters, instead of dealing destruction, have delivered food and water. Battleships and destroyers have sailed in to help, not pulverize.

For one brief moment, swords have been turned into ploughshares. The peoples and nations of the world have come together to meet a natural disaster.

Yet the massive death toll is nowhere near that of the two wars and the intervening sanctions in Iraq - let alone the inclusion of Afghanistan and the Palestinian territories. There, the same helicopters have destroyed homes, obliterated water and electricity systems and left the same corpses littering the streets. The civilian death toll in Iraq - the women and children - is estimated at over 100,000, although no-one bothers to count. The gulf between the attitudes of politicians and ordinary people has never been greater.

The last great expression of the feelings of ordinary people came when Bush, Blair and Howard decided that war in Iraq was the way to go. The biggest and most spontaneous demonstrations in favour of peace that the world had ever seen failed to prevent the holocaust that has unfolded since. Are we approaching a period when the horrors of war are so repulsive that the feelings of ordinary people finally overwhelm the power-seekers? If the dimensions of this tragic tsunami disaster helped speed the advent of a peaceful world, it just might be worth it. Is it coincidence that it happened on Christmas Day? "Peace on Earth"?

Jeremy Lee - January 2005

WHAT HAPPENED TO EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS? by Betty Luks:

The revelation that many hours passed before the tidal waves hit the shores of some countries - and yet urgent efforts were not made to warn the people of the approaching disaster is appalling. A natural disaster of such magnitude is beyond human powers to prevent - but the subsequent loss of life is another matter altogether.

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A United Kingdom associate reveals the US had advanced warnings of the tsunami in the context of the American naval base at Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, and, unbelievably, the news of this impending disaster was not relayed to the peoples who subsequently bore the horrendous effects of it. There is evidence the news of this impending tragedy was broadcast on BBC Radio in the middle of the night and not repeated.

Although the Diego Garcia naval base reported 'no damage', it was directly in the path of the tidal wave – and close to the epicentre. If there was 'no damage', why has the US/UK aid been sent from the home bases? Why not from Diego Garcia, with personnel, equipment and stores more or less on the spot?

Even given an urgent warning, what chance would there have been for the naval island to escape the tide? And, asks my UK source, what fate of the garrison, as well as the prisoners incarcerated there? If there has been an unreported disaster on Diego Garcia, it should only be a matter of time before the next of kin start asking questions. But, will the authorities be able to keep the lid on such information getting out into the public domain – as witness what they have successfully accomplished with Coalition casualties in Iraq.

What of the Indian nuclear facilities? And, those who have studied the subject of nuclear power, must be asking what happened to the four Indian nuclear power stations situated right on the coast in the path of the tide? It has already been admitted that the water entered the buildings. The potential for radiation contamination can only be imagined.

OUR LINKS WITH THE PAST by Betty Luks:

It is not much good trying to convince people their liberties are now being seriously eroded if they have no clear understanding of what is liberty and why they should fight for it. It is not much good trying to convince people of the threats to their representative democracy if they have no concept of what a 'representative democracy' is, never mind its background historical roots.

Republicans will tell you they want to install a republic so that we can be a 'more democratic' nation. Not necessarily so. Many republicans confuse the *form* of government with the *type* or *substance* of government. Ours is a Constitutional Monarchical *form* of government, but as for its *type*, inherent within its *type* is *representative democracy*.

Australians don't know that they are the rich inheritors of a *parliamentary* tradition with roots reaching back at least 750 years. When setting up the legal framework for the Commonwealth of Australia, the founding fathers just didn't, from scratch, sit down and write the Commonwealth Constitution Act. They had access to the practical political wisdom and experience of their own British peoples to draw upon. The founding fathers brought with them the recorded parliamentary wisdom, knowledge, custom and experience of a people which stretched back over a thousand or more years. They placed the laws and customs in a local framework and modified and improved for a different age and time.

ONLY TWO BASIC PHILOSOPHIES: The philosophy influencing the trials and errors and undergirding the development of the British people in their striving for liberty, for freedom within the rule of law, stemmed from the Christian Faith.

Their history shows they were a people who had not compartmentalised their lives into the 'religious' and the 'secular'; their faith influenced their morals, ethics and their social and political life.

There are just two basic philosophies in the world, and, because these philosophies are diametrically opposed to each other they give rise to conflicting policies.

The first philosophy is one which conceives of all power and authority arising from a point external to the individual.

The second conceives of all power and authority arising from within the individual.

The first philosophy automatically gives rise to policies which require a certain type of organisation in order to impose certain conditions upon the individual. This philosophy results in the individual being subordinated to the State, the System, or some other abstraction.

The second philosophy which conceives of reality as an environment in which the individual can make the greatest progress towards self-development, gives rise to a social structure in which there is the greatest possible decentralisation of all policies.

This realistic philosophy is that which Jesus of Nazareth stated as the realistic philosophy: "The Kingdom of God is within you."

The undergirding values upon which this nation was founded are those in harmony with the Christian Faith, but we are now in great danger of having an alien philosophy overwhelm us.

Safeguarding our liberties: The Australian League of Rights, as a Christian-based movement, does not accept the totalitarian philosophy! Anyone who has read the book or seen the film of "Lord of the Rings," would know what is meant when I write: It is from the pits of Mordor itself!

JOIN THE TELSTRA CAMPAIGN: There is the very important Telstra issue which we must fight for – and win! On this issue, Mayor Peter Davis and his Council Members of Port Lincoln, South Australia have given us all a magnificent lead.

As true servants to their community, they have given us an example of service we should expect from all councillors and politicians.

The Telstra campaign is one that most people would be willing to take part in. At the same time, it will demonstrate to our fellow Australians just how a genuine democracy should work.

Mayor Peter Davis wrote: "The fundamental purpose of an elected Government is to provide the necessary infrastructure for people to live happy, healthy and prosperous lives in a safe environment. Thus Governments have built roads, ports, schools, hospitals, bridges, rubbish dumps and, over the years, our postal and telecommunications infrastructure. Thus, the old Post Master General's Department, later Australia Post and Telecom.

We, the people, need to remind our elected members of the fundamental responsibility of Government:

TO DELIVER INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE WHOLE NATION TO LIVE HAPPILY, HEALTHILY, PROSPEROUSLY AND SAFELY.

We should ask ourselves why has America required the full sale of Telstra as part of the Free Trade Agreement? America desires the colossal cash flow. Even by American standards, Telstra is a magnificent investment, a huge cash cow. Telstra delivers returns comparable with the banking industry.

ONLY ONE WAY TO PREVENT TELSTRA SALE: Under the Federal Constitution each of our States is represented by 12 Senators. The reason for this equality is so that each State Government can use its Senators to block legislation that they feel is not in the interests of their State population. Nowhere within our Constitution is there any mention of the Party political system now imposed upon us, particularly in the Senate.

It is beyond dispute the overwhelming majority of Australian people want to keep Telstra as a Government asset. The only way to ensure this objective is for our State Parliaments to require their elected Senators to vote against the Sale.

SUGGESTIONS FOR ACTIONISTS: Inform your federal politicians, both Representatives and Senators, you do not want him/her to vote for sale of Telstra. Insist Senators represent their State on this matter not a political party.

Contact all Local Government and State Government representatives and ask them to support the campaign to retain Telstra for the people of Australia.

Write to as many media outlets as possible informing the readers of what is happening and asking readers to join in campaign.

Write to local business leaders and community groups seeking their involvement in the campaign.

POLES SEEK JEW FOR TORTURE/MURDER by Paul Fromm, Canada:

We've long opposed the witchhunt against Slavs and Germans characterised as a search for "war criminals." It's now nearly 60 years -- more than half a century since the end of hostilities -- yet, you'd think that Hitler had just fallen from power yesterday when you consider the court cases and tens of millions of dollars spent bedevilling octogenarian Ukrainians and Germans in Canada.

Virtually, none of these men were officers or "players." One of the most famous cases, Volksdeutsche Helmut Oberlander of Kitchener, Ontario, was a 17 year-old in the Ukraine who spoke German, Russian and Ukrainian. He was ordered by the S.S. to accompany them as a translator. Yet, nearly 50 years after he emigrated to Canada to become a successful builder and developer, the Canadian government, agitated constantly by bitter Zionist groups, tried to strip him of his citizenship for lying about his affiliation with the SS. He claims that, like so many other would-be immigrants, he was never asked. Of course, all records of the interviews have long since disappeared. So, there's no proof he ever lied.

But, today, lying is no problem. The politicians do it all the time. Immigration officers are directed not to detain "refugee" claimants who have lied about their names or documents, unless they can be certain they're a danger to the public. However, the government is concerned about those who fought on the losing side in World War II who may have lied but who have lived blameless lives here. It's nothing more than ethnic vengeance and German and Slav-bashing.

No clamour for trials of monsters who ran the Gulags: You'll note that, since the fall of the Soviet Union, there's been no clamour for trials of the monsters who ran the Gulags and the Lubyanka torture chambers, or for those who perpetrated the vile brutalities against Slavs and Germans in 1944-1945, or of those Russians who massacred in cold blood 16,000 Polish officers in Katyn, or those who deported the intelligentsia and leaders of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia on June 14, 1941.

There have been only a few trials of communist-era torturers in Hungary, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia. We have no border watch for the thousands of Russians who participated in war crimes.

Nevertheless, Poland (is now) trying to put on trial one of the perpetrators of bestial torture and death inflicted on Germans, mostly civilians, after World War II in communist concentration camps in Soviet-occupied Poland. Somehow, Hollywood has never gotten around to doing a documentary or movie about the sufferings of these Germans. After all, they were only Germans. No "holocaust" or atrocity memorials in many Western cities for them! No lachrymose whorish politicians declaring a national day to commemorate their sufferings.

Well, the Poles are trying to shed some light on a sordid episode in their country during the long communist occupation.