



A WEEKLY COMMENTARY

ON TARGET



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The price of Freedom is eternal vigilance –

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THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "...Besides being a conflict between two peoples, the situation with Palestine and Israel has become an impediment to international stability. Without forging a solution, we will continue to be unable to secure lasting peace throughout the Middle East. And this turmoil, as we have all witnessed, will be echoed across the world.

Terrorists use the conflict to justify evil acts around the world. Extremists use the conflict to recruit people to their cause. If you could see what people in the Middle East see on television every night, your opinion would change dramatically.

For too long, the Palestinian people have endured great injustices and hardships. Many thousands live in hopeless poverty and thousands more have been uprooted from their homes. All have been deprived of minimum human and national rights.

Since peace is manifestly in the interests of the region and the world at large, it is that much more incumbent on leading powers, including Saudi Arabia and the U.S., to be consistent – and insistent – in moving Palestine and Israel towards the known outlines of a durable settlement."

– Prince Turk al-Faisal, Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the U.S., in a speech to the University of Scranton, Pennsylvania, November 28th, 2006

ISRAELI WALL IS A SIGN OF ALL THAT IS WRONG: The Israeli-built wall is "a sign of all that is wrong in the human heart", the Archbishop of Canterbury said on visit to Bethlehem.

Speaking to the town's civic representatives shortly after walking through the wall, Dr. Williams said the wall symbolised "the terrible fear of the other, of the stranger, which keeps us all in one kind of prison or another", from which God 2,000 years ago came to release people.

Delegation of U.K. Church Leaders: Dr. Williams was speaking on behalf of a delegation of U.K. church leaders to the town of Christ's birth, which included the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor; the moderator of the Free Churches, David Coffey; and the Armenian patriarch of Great Britain, Bishop Nathan Hovhannisian.

Accompanied by Christian church leaders from Jerusalem, the delegation made its way through the notorious checkpoint at the entrance to the town, which prevents all but a few Bethlehemites – who need special permits – from travelling and trading with neighbouring Jerusalem.

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Israelis ushered them through 'less humiliating' entrance point: The church leaders had planned to walk through the pedestrian checkpoint – an elaborate steel construction involving turnstiles, CCTV cameras, and gun-wielding soldiers.

But at the last moment, the Israeli security forces diverted them through the less humiliating vehicle entrance point, causing camera crews waiting on the other side to rush to get pictures.

The delegation walked from the checkpoint down Star Street to Manger Square, following the route said to have been made 2,000 years ago by Mary and Joseph.

Bethlehem now an 'open prison' says Mayor: They were greeted in the square by civic leaders at the International Peace Centre, close to the Basilica of the Nativity.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's remarks were in response to a speech by Bethlehem's Mayor, Dr. Victor Batarseh, which described how Bethlehem was now cut off from the outside world by the wall, causing economic hardship and the emigration of families. Bethlehem, he said, had been "transformed into an open prison" by the wall. He told the church leaders that future peace depended on "dialogue, not separation".

"Your presence is challenging this ugly wall," Mayor Batarseh told them.

The Archbishop of Canterbury said they were "here to say to the people of Bethlehem that they are not forgotten. We are here to say: what affects you affects us. We are here to say, your suffering is our suffering too, in prayers and in thought and in hope."

Justice cannot be at expense of another – Archbishop: "We are here to say, in this so troubled and complex land, that justice and security are never something which one person claims at the expense of another, or which one community claims at the expense of another. We are here to say that security for one is security for all. And for one to live under the threat of occupation or of terror is a problem for all."

Citing an Advent hymn which sings of "Jesus Christ, the one who comes the prison bars to break", Dr. Williams said it was the church leaders' "prayer and our hope for all of you that the prison of poverty and disadvantage, the prison of fear and anxiety, will alike be broken".

He added that the church leaders had come because the Incarnation "assures us that these prisons could be broken, broken by the act of God in whose sight all are equally precious – Palestinian, Israeli, Jewish, Christian and Muslim; and for whom all lives are so equally precious that the death of one is affront to all".

The delegates then made their way to the Basilica of the Nativity, where they prayed at the spot in a cave said to be where Jesus was born. As well as the Greek Orthodox-controlled Basilica itself, they visited the Catholic Church alongside, from where the delegates made their way down to the cave where St. Joseph is said to have received the angel's warning to flee Bethlehem. Alongside it is another cave where St Jerome made the first translation of the Bible.

SURVEY SHOWS U.S. CHRISTIANS IGNORANT: The visit by church leaders coincides with the release of surveys in the U.S. and in Bethlehem commissioned by Open Bethlehem. The surveys show widespread ignorance in the U.S. of Bethlehem and its plight. But the poll, which was carried out by Zogby, also revealed that if Americans knew that the wall had severed Bethlehem and Jerusalem and had led to the large-scale Israeli annexation of (mainly Christian-owned) land, they would oppose the wall.

Source: Open Bethlehem. Bethlehem, Palestine. www.openbethlehem.org

JIMMY CARTER: PALESTINE – PEACE NOT APARTHEID by Betty Luks: Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter has just published a book entitled "*Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*" (Simon and Schuster, New York, 2006). Jewish organisations have criticised the book as being "anti-Israel", which translates as "critical of Israel". Other reviewers have dropped the 'anti-Semitic' psycho-super-weapon. So, what does the book say?

According to article by Mr. Carter in *The Guardian* of 12/12/06: "The book describes the abominable oppression and persecution in the occupied Palestinian territories with a rigid system of required passes and strict segregation between Palestine's citizens and Jewish settlers in the West bank. An enormous imprisonment wall is now under construction, snaking through what is left of Palestine, to encompass more and more land for Israeli settlers. In many ways, this is more oppressive than what the black people lived under in South Africa during apartheid. I have made it clear that the motivation is not racism but the desire of a minority of Israelis to confiscate and colonise choice sites in Palestine, and then to forcefully suppress any objections from the displaced citizens."

Carter continues: "For the past 30 years, I have witnessed and experienced severe restraints on any free and balanced discussion of the facts. This reluctance to criticise policies of the Israeli government is due to the extraordinary lobbying efforts of the American-Israel Political Action Committee and the absence of any significant contrary voices."

A DICTATOR CREATED THEN DESTROYED BY AMERICA – taken from an article by Robert Fisk, December 30th, 2006: Saddam to the gallows. It was an easy equation. Who could be more deserving of that last walk to the scaffold - that crack of the neck at the end of a rope – than the Beast of Baghdad, the Hitler of the Tigris, the man who murdered untold hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis while spraying chemical weapons over his enemies? Our masters will tell us in a few hours that it is a "great day" for Iraqis and will hope that the Muslim world will forget that his death sentence was signed – by the Iraqi "government", but on behalf of the Americans – on the very eve of the Eid al-Adha, the Feast of the Sacrifice, the moment of greatest forgiveness in the Arab world.

But history will record that the Arabs and other Muslims and, indeed, many millions in the West, will ask another question this weekend, a question that will not be posed in other Western newspapers because it is not the narrative laid down for us by our presidents and prime ministers – what about the other guilty men?

No, Tony Blair is not Saddam. We don't gas our enemies. George W Bush is not Saddam. He didn't invade Iran or Kuwait. He only invaded Iraq. But hundreds of thousands of Iraqi civilians are dead – and thousands of Western troops are dead – because Messrs Bush and Blair and the Spanish Prime Minister and the Italian Prime Minister and the Australian Prime Minister went to war in 2003 on a potage of lies and mendacity and, given the weapons we used, with great brutality.

In the aftermath of the international crimes against humanity of 2001 we have tortured, we have murdered, we have brutalised and killed the innocent – we have even added our shame at Abu Ghraib to Saddam's shame at Abu Ghraib – and yet we are supposed to forget these terrible crimes as we applaud the swinging corpse of the dictator we created.

WELCOME BACK PAULINE: THERE IS PLENTY OF MATERIAL by James Reed: One year on from the racial violence of Sydney's Cronulla Beach, Pauline Hanson announces that she will "throw her hat in the ring" and run for office in the next federal election. This all happened in a week when Muslims and multiculturalism were in the news, with the incident of the Muslim boys urinating and spitting on a Christian Bible.

The principal of the school acted swiftly and very responsibly in expelling two of the boys. However, there remain concerns about "inculcation of hatred and radical attitudes towards non-Muslims" at the

school. (*The Australian*, 6/12/06, p.1) It appears that Islamic radicals are attempting to begin a quick march through these institutions to produce hardline Islamic young ("Lessons in 'Hate' Led to Bible Abuse", *The Australian*, 7/12/06, p.6). Herein lies plenty of material for Pauline.

Multiculturalists readily acknowledge Howard to be their man: Pauline has already tackled the African immigration issue, but she needs to broaden her attack upon Howard's silent Asianisation programme itself. The multiculturalist journalists readily admit that Howard is their immigration man. George Megalogenis (*The Weekend Australian*, 25-26/11/06, p.27) sees the resources boom as a major mechanism for increasing the size of our multicultural cities. I ask you: what sane country increases its ethnic population merely because of a resources boom. Are the immigrants the 'resources'?

Dramatic changes in immigration programme under Howard: Alan Wood, economics editor for *The Australian* (29/11/06m p.16), points out that a preoccupation with illegal migrants "has left most Australians ignorant of the dramatic changes in Australia's migration programme over the decade that John Howard has been in power".

Wood notes that since 1996/97 the total number of migrants annually has almost doubled: from 73,587 in 1996/97 to 142,993 in 2005/06. Wood in this article does not mention that the majority of Australia's migrants are Asian and most non-White.

Wood refers to the views of Peter Costello and various academics which note that in Europe where the ethnic composition of the population has changed there has been social disruption – but all of these parties do not see this happening in Australia. They are all optimistic to the bitter end.

Immigration is an issue that Pauline needs to intelligently tackle because all of the old immigration critics have given up in Australia from burnout and 'lack of political power frustration'.

All 'smoke and mirrors': In Europe anti-immigration parties are having considerable success. Here in Australia there is little or no opposition because of the John Howard smokescreen of focussing on heavy-handed policies on illegals (at least on paper) whilst pouring in the legals, and *supposedly* dumping "multiculturalism". But it is all smoke and mirrors to disguise the black magic of demographic warfare against Anglo-Australians.

Pauline should be encouraged to move on the immigration/cultural survival/globalisation issues. I would love to see her tackle the banking/social credit issue, but that is hoping for too much too soon from a simple decent person. Immigration and race issues are an immediate concern and relatively more simple to understand than international finance – alas. Go for it Pauline!

CHINA UNDER THE AXE by James Reed: "Have-Nots Threaten China's Stability" reads the headline (*The Australian*, 11/12/06, p.12). The picture tells a thousand violent words of the coming social chaos that China's rapid growth is bringing. A migrant worker raises an axe, poised to chop up the wife of his former boss, whom he has stabbed.

Riots by the poor and the economically displaced are threatening the Chinese Communist Party's ability to rule China. A party's position paper details these threats. There is one protest every six minutes with 74,000 "mass incidents" in 2004 involving 3.8 million people. China faces protests over "the loss of farmland, corruption, worsening pollution in the countryside, arbitrary evictions of property developers and lay-offs by state enterprises in the cities". Societies have collapsed from lesser problems.

Should Australia hitch its wagon on to what could ultimately be, only a shooting star? Do Australians really want to live under the axe as well?

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