

Withdraw the Troops Now!

Silence is Shame!

Number 5, 2005

An increasing number of people are demanding another world to the dangerous world of Blair and Bush and their warmongering crimes. More and more people are refusing to accept the disinformation and are themselves increasingly seeking the truth behind the terrible events that are unfolding in the world. The vast majority of the people are opposed to the illegal occupation of Iraq and want the troops withdrawn now.



***South Tyneside
Stop The War Coalition***



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Joe Scurfield

Joe Scurfield was many things to many people, a gentle man , a multi-linguist, a musician, a dancer, a comic, a writer, an environmentalist, a political activist, but above all a warm human being, a man who cared passionately about injustice, about humanity and the Earth we share. For many years he was instrumental in organising the annual dance for peace and solidarity. Joe was taken from us too soon and it is a sad loss to us all. Our world needs more Joe Scurfields.

We respectfully dedicate this issue of Silence is Shame to the memory of Joe Scurfield.

Preface

If there is something that has impressed people over the last week it will be the shocking way the US government, under George Bush, responded to the hurricane that hit New Orleans and the Gulf Coast. People can't understand how a country which claims to be so rich and powerful cannot respond to such a tragedy and why it is now dispensing military solutions and dispersing people to the four corners of the USA instead of trying to help them recover their city and their lives.

Just as the people of the Middle East and Iraq demand an end to US occupation and redress from the United States for its illegal annexation and the massacres of its people and destruction of their country, the people of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, especially the poor, now demand redress from the same failed state which has failed in its responsibility to all the people of the United States.

This is the same way that a similar failed state in Britain has failed in its responsibility to the peoples of Britain over the illegal invasion and occupation of Iraq. When this is leading to increased tension and is the cause of individual acts and of state terror it can only respond with an offensive against the rights of the people, against their religious and other beliefs, with the attack on Islam and the right of progressive people to fight for a better world other than the one this failed state is trying to retain by disinformation and force.

The people must respond with an offensive of their own as one of the articles says. "We must prepare ourselves by continuing to keep the initiative in our own hands to consider these problems confronting humanity and make our own arrangements in terms of providing information and organisation to strengthen the anti-war movement and strengthen our unity to occupy this space for another world that we will create ourselves."

The Gap Between The Disinformation of the State and the Thinking of the People Opens Up the Space for Us

by Roger Nettleship

An increasing number of people are demanding another world to the dangerous world of Bush and Blair and their warmongering crimes. The gap in this between the constant disinformation of government and the monopoly mass media on the one hand and the thinking of the people on the other continues to grow and this further opens up the space for us and our aim that another world is not only possible but a necessity that we must go all out to achieve.

The lies about weapons of mass destruction and the alleged threat posed by Iraq have been followed by a sanitising, and control of the news, to hide the fact that the occupiers are responsible for and criminally liable for the mass slaughter and carnage in Iraq. Instead, government and media alike justify the occupation as if it is bringing democracy to Iraq and Afghanistan. The reality people see is the killings, torture and destruction in Iraq and Afghanistan for the aim of global dominance not democracy. In Britain the terrible bombing outrage of July 7th has become the focus of the government for targeting the Muslim community. This opened the way for using these events for the justification of the unjustifiable, the excuse for more and more coercion by the state over the people and the government's espousing of the "shoot to kill policy" which lead not only to the

assassination of Jean Charles de Menezes but to further lies attempting to justify his death

A feature of this period is that news and information have become a question of assertions by government and media. Instead of seeking truth from facts and finding solutions to the serious problems we are faced with, instant trial and conviction by media backed up by instant draconian legislation criminalising the whole of society is the preferred method. Then as soon as the lies start to unravel behind the invasion of Iraq, behind the actions of the state in Britain then instead of changing course something even more unaccountable, yet convenient, is asserted. What are the people to believe?

More and more people are refusing to accept the disinformation and are themselves increasingly seeking the truth behind these terrible events. The vast majority of the people are opposed to the illegal occupation of Iraq and want to bring the troops home. They are opposed to Britain's support for the warmongering plans of Bush. Whilst they are opposed to terrorism they know who is responsible for the rise in tensions and terrorist atrocities in the world. Most of all they are opposed to the targeting of the Muslim community, and the singling out of whole countries, such as Iran and DPRK for the threats of military action by George Bush and Tony Blair in order to impose their "values", their "vision" and their control of the world's economies and resources.

The gap between the increasing disinformation of the ruling circles and mass media and the concerns of the people as the facts emerge is one of the most important features of the present period. This is the space that is opening up for the workers and people movement at this time to occupy This is why it is vital that the anti-war movement must not only continue to carry on the work that its is doing but must strive to step up its work. Let the mass demonstrations taking place around the world on September 24th to demand an end to the occupation of Iraq, to demand the withdrawal of the occupying forces and to defend the Muslim community be a call to providing real information, informed discussion and well thought out actions.

We must oppose the government's targeting of individuals on the basis of race, nationality, language or religion and oppose what is undoubtedly aimed at inciting violence against and between communities. This has always been the proud tradition in our local communities. We must take those traditions forward. We must prepare ourselves by continuing to keep the initiative in our own hands to consider these problems confronting humanity and make our own arrangements in terms of providing information and organisation to strengthen the anti-war movement and strengthen our unity to occupy this space for another world that we will create ourselves.

Roger Nettleship - September 10, 2005

Interpreting Islam from a Eurocentric Point of View

By Sandra L Smith, National Leader CPC(ML)

Silence is Shame is publishing this article by Sandra Smith written in 2001. The article makes an important contribution, foreseeing the full context of the attack by Bush and Blair on Islam and Blair's recent comments attacking the religion.

According to George W Bush, one of the demands of the “war on terrorism” is that every nation has to “prove” its loyalty to the US, or suffer the consequences. It is clear that one of the “results” which Bush is demanding from “moderate Arabs” is to show their ability to politicise the Islamic faith. This will “prove” they are not terrorists in return for which the administration of George W Bush will supposedly help them remain in power.

No sooner said, no sooner done. The brother of the former King of Jordan was showcased on *Larry King Live* to quote a verse from the *Qu'ran* that he and King declared proved that Islam is against terrorism and upholds the view of tolerance which is compatible with “western civilised values”.

Conversely, what the Western powers call Islamic fundamentalism is portrayed as uncivilised. Demonstrations in countries such as Nigeria or Pakistan against the US aggression against Afghanistan are called “fanaticism”. Newspaper headlines said “religious riots” are taking place.

The Anglo-American politicised notion of tolerance is that minorities within a society and whole nations and countries within the world are to be tolerated so long as they accept the Anglo-

American values and institutions and serve them. In this way they prove they are “fit to govern”. It has nothing whatsoever to do with Islam, the Islamic development, traditions or conceptions they give rise to.

Creating a demand worldwide where people of Islamic faith have to take a defensive posture by “proving” that Islam is compatible with the Anglo-American imperialist notion of tolerance will not do. Why should the 1.3 billion people who are said to espouse the Islamic faith have to “prove” their “loyalty” to these arrogant big powers?

Anglo-American Definitions of Secularism and Tolerance

The necessity to oppose the Anglo-American definitions of “secularism” and “tolerance” cannot be overestimated given the manner in which the world is being taken to the brink of war over “values”. They are used to justify imposing Anglo-American institutions onto the entire world. It was on this basis that the British used the policy of “divide and rule” on the Indian subcontinent and fomented devastating communal massacres, creating the modern states of India, Pakistan and others. The rights of nations, nationalities and tribal peoples were trampled underfoot by politicising language rights and religious affairs amongst other things. The states in the Middle East were created in a similar fashion. Terrible consequences have been the result which must be addressed today if further tragedies are to be averted.

There is a blackmail not to oppose the Western conception of “secularism” and “tolerance” for fear of being accused of communalism or terrorism. But the Anglo-American notion of secularism *is* communalism just as the conception of “tolerance” is a form of racism. Both sanction state-organised racist attacks and state-terror and must be opposed. Similarly, all suggestions that Islamic Republics are medieval because they do not recognise the separation of Church and State and which condemn them on the basis of Eurocentric prejudices and considerations are purely for purposes of intimidating progressive people and stopping them from participating in the anti-imperialist struggle on one hand, and in the struggle for the renewal of their own societies by affirming their own right to conscience and their right to their own way of life, on the other. Looking at the Islamic experience from the angle of European

experience which mandated the separation of Church and State within concrete historical circumstances will not do.

Institutionalised Christianity has plagued humankind since the time of the Crusades and throughout the Middle Ages. It was institutionalised Christianity which imposed church dogma on the peoples of Europe and kept them in ignorance, not Islam. It is institutionalised Christianity which has been the refuge of all reactionary ruling circles since the Crusades, not Islam. Furthermore, to even suggest that in the United States or Britain there is a separation of Church and State is to not listen to the manner in which this “war on terrorism” is being waged. The reactionary forces which have come to the forefront in the US are pushing a version of Christian fundamentalism seen in the manner in which the “war on terrorism” is being portrayed in a messianic fashion against “the forces of evil”.

What purpose will it serve to take what Islam stands for completely out of context of the historical development which was and is completely different to the development of what is called Western civilisation? Islam has given rise to very concrete beliefs, traditions and customs, many brought forth to solve very definite problems of the societies which gave rise to it or espoused it and others because of an inability to do so. Needless to say this human experience is very different to the one which arose in the European context. If Islam is to be discussed and its contributions appreciated and if it is to be helpful to the peoples of Islamic belief and of the entire world in providing today’s problems with solutions, it must be on its own terms and on the terms of the experience and problems which the people from these countries and the world experience.

Islam like everything else in the world needs renovation, but not on the basis of the western experience, let alone Anglo-American imperialist “Western values” given the status of “universal values”. The pressure on people who espouse the Islamic faith is very great. This is a period of reaction, of counter-revolution, of retrogression in which the US imperialists are fighting to impose their hegemony over the entire world. Their demand for adherence to Anglo-American imperialist values and institutions is reactionary. The Islamic world is retaliating against the pressure exercised by Christian fundamentalism or what are called Western values or the values of

the civilised world and the Anglo-American economic and political agenda. Far from criminalising such attempts to work out their own way of life, these attempts should be supported and provided with the kind of guidance and theory they require.

To defend Islam on its own terms is a necessary task today. All attempts to defend Islam on the basis of considerations which George W Bush and the like consider to be “civilised values” should be rejected with all the contempt they deserve. There is no need for human beings, no matter what their beliefs, to be apologetic. All human beings and their beliefs are valid and only Hitlerites will argue otherwise.

Sandra Smith - Source: WDIE No.100 July 21, 2005

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For The Record ... Filling In The Memory Holes ...

by Philip Talbot

Among the now almost forgotten details of the 7 July bombing events in London is a surprising claim, first reported by the BBC, then barely reported again in the mainstream media, that a pre-arranged 'crisis management' exercise was taking place on the London Tube network on that day.

Shortly after 5pm [bst] on 7 July 2005, BBC Radio 5 interviewed Mr Peter Power, managing director of Visor Consultants, which describes itself as a 'crisis management' advice company.

Mr Power told the BBC that earlier on that day he had been running an exercise involving 'over a thousand people in London based on simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened this morning'.

There is strong evidence that Mr Power is in fact a former Scotland Yard police officer, working at one time with the Anti-Terrorist Branch. According to his own Visor Consultants website, while working for the Anti-Terrorism Branch Mr Power 'was deputy forward control coordinator at the Libyan People Bureau siege and leading the team behind the existing police street philosophy for dealing with terrorist bombs'.

He would seem to be no stranger to other strange and terrible events on the Tube network either. According to the BBC he was an

inspector co-ordinating police operations at the King's Cross fire 18 November 1987, where he worked alongside the present commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Ian Blair, also at that time an inspector.

Three years earlier, also according to the BBC, he himself had been trapped underground, while off duty, in a serious fire at Oxford Circus Tube station in London on 23 November 1984. [The BBC later reported Mr Power as saying: 'That was the last time I ever set foot on a Tube train.']

In the 7 July 2005 interview Mr Power told Mr Peter Allen, host of the BBC Radio 5 'Drive' programme, that at the time of the London bombings that morning, his company was running a '1,000 person' exercise simulating the London Underground being bombed - at exact same locations, and at exact same times, as bombings were happening in real life.

The BBC has never issued its own transcript of that interview, and 'listen again' versions of that day's BBC Radio 5 Drive programme were only available from the BBC website for only week following the original 7 July broadcast [<http://www.bbc.co.uk/fivelive/programmes/drive.shtml>].

This is a transcript of part of the 7 July interview:

MR POWER: 'At half past nine this morning we were actually running an exercise for a company of over a thousand people in London based on simultaneous bombs going off precisely at the railway stations where it happened this morning, so I still have the hairs on the back of my neck standing up right now.'

MR ALLEN: 'To get this quite straight, you were running an exercise to see how you would cope with this and it happened while you were running the exercise?'

MR POWER: 'Precisely, and it was about half past nine this morning, we planned this for a company and for obvious reasons I don't want to reveal their name but they're listening and they'll know it. And we had a room full of crisis managers for the first time they'd met and so within five minutes we made a pretty rapid decision that

this is the real one and so we went through the correct drills of activating crisis management procedures to jump from slow time to quick time thinking and so on.'

Over the following days, somewhat surprisingly it might be thought, Mr Power disappeared from the airwaves, and the only reports of this interesting BBC interview were in the radical sections of the independent non-mainstream media. It was almost completely ignored by the mainstream media.

Then in the middle of July Mr Power started issuing the following standard message reply to the many interested people who are flooding his email box with questions: 'Thank you for your message. Given the volume of emails about events on 7 July and a commonly expressed misguided belief that our exercise revealed prescient behaviour, or was somehow a conspiracy (noting that several websites interpreted our work that day in an inaccurate / naive / ignorant / hostile manner) it has been decided to issue a single email response as follows: It is confirmed that a short number of 'walk through' scenarios planned [sic] well in advance had commenced that morning for a private company in London (as part of a wider project that remains confidential) and that two scenarios related directly to terrorist bombs at the same time as the ones that actually detonated with such tragic results. One scenario in particular, was very similar to real time events. However, anyone with knowledge about such ongoing threats to our capital city will be aware that (a) the emergency services have already practiced several of their own exercises based on bombs in the underground system (also reported by the main news channels) and (b) a few months ago the BBC broadcast a similar documentary on the same theme, although with much worse consequences [??]. It is hardly surprising therefore, that we chose a feasible scenario - but the timing and script was nonetheless, a little disconcerting. In short, our exercise (which involved just a few people as crisis managers actually responding to a simulated series of activities involving, on paper, 1000 staff) quickly became the real thing and the players that morning responded very well indeed to the sudden reality of events. Beyond this no further comment will be made and based on the extraordinary number of messages from ill informed people, no replies will henceforth be given to anyone unable

to demonstrate a bona fide reason for asking (e.g. accredited journalist/academic).Peter Power.'

The Visor Consultants [V.C.] website describes Mr Power as having 'considerable front-line crisis experience' and that he is 'uniquely, a Fellow of the Emergency Planning Society, Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute, Fellow of the BusinessContinuity Institute, Fellow of the Institute of Risk Management and a member of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London'.

V.C. describes itself as a 'totally independent company formed in 1995 and based at Piccadilly in the centre of London'. [212 Piccadilly, London, W1J9HG. Email: info@visorconsultants.com Tel: 0044 (0)20 7917 6026.]

Its team leaders include Dr Tony Burns-Howell previously Assistant Chief Constable, Metropolitan Police, and David Bawtree, who was appointed the Civil Emergencies Advisor to the Home Office in 1993 for four years.

The V.C. website goes on to say: 'He [Mr Power] is the author of the present UK Govt. (DTI) advice booklet 'Preventing Chaos in a Crisis' and the new British Bankers Association / KPMG guide on Crisis Management. He is the Founding Chairman of the Survive Crisis Mgt. Special Interest Group, and is also engaged as a Special Advisor to a number of key organisations including the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Management Forum (UK) and the Business Continuity (BC) Institute London Forum. Peter has a senior Scotland Yard background which includes setting up the multi agency operational management structure at the Kings Cross fire,secondment to the Anti Terrorist Branch, deputy forward control coordinator at the Libyan People Bureau siege and leading the team behind the existing police street philosophy for dealing with terrorist bombs. He is also the primary author / promulgator of the present UK Police command methodology Gold, Silver & Bronze and a founder member of the UK judging panel for BC Awards. Peter lectures world wide on all aspects of Crisis Management (CM) & BC. His name also features in the bibliography to the new BC guide - PAS 56

- and in many similar guidebooks. He also talks extensively on perception, the impact of terrorism and effective Media Handling and is a regular panellist and contributor to many UK magazines on CM, Disaster Recovery, Crisis Creative Media Handling and Leadership. He is also engaged as a Special Advisor to the editorial board of Continuity Professional Magazine in the USA. In addition he is listed in the UK Register of Expert Witnesses.’
[<http://www.visorconsultants.com/index.html>]

Silence is Shame makes no claim that Mr Power was involved in any conspiratorial activity at the times of the bombings in London on 7 July 2005, but we do believe his under-reported activities on that day should be put on the record in a relatively permanent form.

Phil Talbot – September 10, 2005

Watch Your Backs

by Alan Trotter

The natural law of justice is on its head when a bully nation can invade and destroy other countries, and can turn a blind eye to its soldiers who torture, rape and murder, but when a woman who is a pacifist objects to American bases in Britain she feels the full clout of British law.

When Lindis Percy (a Quaker in her sixties) objected to American bases on British soil by peacefully demonstrating at Menwith Hill (one of the largest intelligence gathering and surveillance facility in the world), the North Yorkshire Police and the Ministry of Defence [MOD] Police Agency wanted the courts to implement an Anti-Social Behaviour Order [ASBO] on her. The court decided not to impose this, but still ordered her to be electronically tagged and had a curfew put on her.

Although this sentence is on 'hold' at the moment until her appeal, what does it tell us? The judge in this case said 'none of the incidents were violent, or accompanied by bad language or threats'.

Is this woman such a huge threat to the MOD or North Yorkshire Police? Is this sentence heavy handed? ... you decide ...

Alan Trotter

Talking to the Wall

by Colum Sands

South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition gratefully thanks Mr Colum Sands, one of the stars of the International Folk Scene, and a real gentle man of peace, for his free contribution. It was given to us after his recent performances at South Shields Folk Club and other North-East folk venues.

“Superpowers play God, drive crisis to the brink
Sell weapons to both sides, then stand back, condemn the stink,
But ask them to condemn the greed that drives them one and all,
You might as well be talking to the wall.”

Everytime I look back to the Spring of 2003 I remember an afternoon that I spent in the town of Matlock near Derby. It was on a Thursday - a clear day, but with enough of a bite in the wind to remind us that it was still only the 20th of March - and I had just arrived in the town with Israeli storyteller Sharon Aviv for a performance of a show “Talking to the Wall”. We had parked the car to go and look for the venue when we heard the sound of children singing and chanting - an unusual sound in any town during school hours. As we walked towards the town centre we could hear that they were chanting “No War” and, as they came into view, we could see that they were carrying placards with the same message.

Later that day, as we joined less youthful Stop the War campaigners, we spoke to some of the same young people and discovered that they had walked out of school, on their own initiative, and taken to the streets to let their thoughts be known to all who cared to hear. It was one of those moments when you feel genuine hope for the future and when all those tired old negative cliches about “the youth of today” seem to evaporate.

Unfortunately, while we stood there in a “Stop the War” group on that cold evening, a much smaller but more powerful “Start the War” group, with representatives in Downing Street and the White House, was pushing ahead with other plans. Disguised in suits of respectability, they handed out lies to anyone willing to swallow them and then, regardless of the opinions of the millions who had voted them into power, these “leaders” set about betraying the youth of today as well as the youth of yesterday and tomorrow. Looking back today, I wonder how long it will be until enough people feel the same sense of courage and outrage as those children in Matlock felt in 2003. Perhaps that moment will come sooner if we realize that it’s time to say no, not only to war, but also to governments that trade in war and to economies that wheel and deal in the whole sordid business of the arms industry. The sooner that day comes, the sooner we can cut off the power supply to the few who cause misery to millions - the same few for whom “Start the War” is a way of life. Wouldn’t it be nice for a change to let them know how it feels to be talking to the wall?

For more of Colum’s work visit:
<http://www.columnsands.cjb.net/>

Blair – Moral Cripple Or Moral Idiot?

by John Timmouth

People probably expect their politicians to sometimes lie to them – after all, they are human like ourselves, and it would be both unwise and unfair to demand impossibly high standards of them. What, then, constitutes a politician of honesty and integrity? The public probably regard an honest politician with integrity as one who continually performs a balancing act between the desirability of the ends with the relative dirtiness or otherwise of the means, while maintaining some mental moral line which he or she endeavours never to cross.

There are of course degrees of moral transgression, when that moral line is crossed. There can be no graver charge against a prime minister than that he lied to the nation and to parliament to deceive them into going to war. Did Blair do this? Only one telling example is necessary. Blair took us to war on the basis that Iraq posed a serious and imminent threat. In September 2002 the government published a dossier giving the case for war with Iraq, which included a claim that Saddam Hussein could use weapons of mass destruction within 45 minutes. It's publication led to alarmist newspaper headlines that Saddam could attack, for example, British bases in Cyprus within 45 minutes, and the claim was hugely influential 6 months later in influencing parliament to vote for war. The intelligence chiefs inserted the claim, which was based on a single uncorroborated source, into the dossier at the government's suggestion. The dossier included a

foreword by the Prime Minister himself, in which this claim figured prominently. It is now known that the claim related only to short-range battlefield weapons which could not be delivered the distance necessary to attack British interests. Yet Blair now says that he did not know until after the war began 6 months later that the claim related only to short-range battlefield weapons. He didn't know, he didn't think it important enough to ask, and the intelligence chiefs didn't think it important enough to tell him. No one could seriously believe this – Blair is guilty “beyond a reasonable doubt”.

It is the nature of Blair's transgression, his great unforgivable lie, which is intriguing. Specifically, is he a moral cripple or a moral idiot?

Blair frequently has that messianic air about him, and is much given to quasi-religious utterances. Thus, in his muddled and rambling speech recently about the “war on terror” (itself a very incoherent concept which needs serious analysis), Blair spoke of nine-eleven being a “revelation” to him. Similarly, in his speech to the US Congress last July, speaking of the rightness of the war against Iraq, he spoke of his “belief with every fibre of instinct and conviction”. It may be appropriate, therefore, to use a religious analogy in examining Blair's great moral lapse.

Consider, therefore, a scene five centuries ago; Torquemada, the Grand Inquisitor of the Spanish Inquisition, is torturing some poor victim to death for, let us say, believing the world is round. The Inquisitor knows, as a matter of faith not requiring reason, that the world is flat – his infallible church has told him so. He does not therefore need any mere evidence of the flatness or otherwise of the earth. Furthermore, his absolute certainty allows him to take any measures against the victim – indeed, it is necessary to torture the victim for the victim's own good. Indeed, it is the Inquisitor's duty to torture the victim – he would be in default if he did not do so.

A similar situation may apply with Blair in relation to the Iraq war. Blair knows with conviction (beyond mere evidence of WMD or anything else) that it was right to proceed against Saddam, for reasons (the war on terror?; the serious and imminent threat?; some future potential threat?) which he has never told us. We, the British public,

are Blair's victims (to speak nothing of the unfortunate Iraqi people – some 20,000 dead, many more injured) or our own soldiers (more than 50 dead, more than that injured). The war is absolutely necessary, and that is that. Furthermore, in his infallible certainty, he is entitled to lie to us or take any other measures to get us to go to war.

This, then, is one possible explanation (Blair as prophet) of Blair's behaviour. No moral lines here, to be crossed or no – they just don't come into it. In such case, perhaps we couldn't even call him a moral idiot – rather, someone just slightly mad.

Another possible explanation relates to Blair's arrogant paternalism. Here is Blair on television within a few hours of the death of Princess Diana – he called her "The People's Princess". This little vignette, and the bite-sized cliché, at once toe-clenchingly embarrassing and deeply, insultingly patronising (Blair, of course, couldn't see it) is indicative of Blair's attitude towards the public. Go away and play, children, while we look after the country for you. This mental attitude may have led him into the error – no need to tell them the truth about the war, after all they wouldn't be interested, and they wouldn't understand it anyway. Blair then, as moral cripple – he knew he had crossed the line, but, hell, why trouble the poor dears?

Well, it has been fun, hasn't it, traversing Blair's mental landscape – except that it's no laughing matter. It doesn't matter, of course, how Blair sees it himself. What matters is how the rest of us see it. There is thus no question – he lied to us over as grave a matter as going to war, and thus massively crossed that moral line. Objectively, he's a moral cripple.

Blair must go.

John Timmouth - March, 2004

The Puppet Master Gets Life

by Nader Naderi

“Puppet master gets life” scream the headlines, followed by elaborate stories about the convicted cad and bounder Freegard, whom deliberately went onto dupe, and defraud his victims, with fanciful notions of secret services covert ops playing on fears of alleged terrorism. The fact that Freegard’s victims were no puppets, in fact were intelligent students, psychologist, teacher, PA, and a lawyer, this goes missing by the authors of the numerous articles, due to the questionable naivety, and the exhibited credulity of this audience of the bogus secret services agent.

However, none of the mainstream media pundits have so far, drawn any comparisons with yet another eerily similar event in the recent past. That is the build up to, and the conduct of the latest war in Iraq. Which is sadly not likely to happen either, judging by the monotonous conduct of the main stream media, that in effect has been consolidated to a mere production line for mass manufacture of consensus as an aid to further the tack plotted (however disastrous) by the current international political elite, without any let or hindrance.

Through the stories that Freegard fed to his victims, he grew to put consistently and increasingly bizarre demands upon his victims, reducing these to cowering imbeciles living in the shadows, hoping to remain immune to the purportedly impending attacks from the terrorists. While bearing enormous financial losses, and tolerating drastically reduced quality of lives (misery all round). The comparisons of Freegard’s stories in fact have disturbing echoes in the build up and conduct of Iraq war, from publicised Dossiers on

Saddam and his WMD, to the 500 tonnes of Uranium, to Mobile Biological Warfare factories. The same Dossiers that were at the time of publication giving rise to questions as to their veracity and age, as well as origins. The fake documentation that was forged on a photocopier in an upper flat in Rome, by a junior diplomat and sold for \$4000, and nonetheless was publicised as the proof of the shipment of 500 tonnes of Uranium from Niger. In the event Uranium ore (soil with bits of raw uranium) in fact was further hyped-up to Uranium status for bombs.

The mobile hydrogen generation units for filling weather balloons were sold as Mobile Labs for production of deadly biological pathogens. That further was reinforced by the glass vile containing innocent castor sugar being waved into the lens of cameras present in the United Nations Security Council assembly, as the quantity of toxins that would lay waste to a city. Then there was the grainy film footage of an aircraft in flight, and broadcast on TV across the globe, and sold as the sample of unmanned drones of Saddam on their mission to spray the produce of the Mobile Biological Pathogen Factories. The Iraq war having started, and then declared as mission accomplished, did not yield to finds of any of the weapons array that had been built by Saddam Hitler Mussolini who had no less than eleven doubles to hide his whereabouts while getting ready for domination of the planet Earth.

One of Freegard's victims went onto sleeping rough and surviving on a daily diet of a single Mars Bar, while another of his victims found herself locked in a bathroom for three weeks, going without food for days on end. While Freegard wore designer suits, drove top of the range cars, and spent his Holidays in five star resorts in Brazil.

Since the start of Iraq war, at least 95 of our soldiers have died, with many more wounded, along with countless Iraqi dead ("we don't do body count," sayeth Rumsfeld), and maimed. While our cost of living has rocketed, and we have seen the steadily rising house prices, which due to creative accounting methods deployed, yet has not been classified as inflation. The costs have further soared up with more than the doubling of the price of oil, which have put further strain on our pockets, with resultant steady decline of an ever

decreasing quality of our lives. The extent of pervading financial difficulties and anxiety leading to a quiet epidemic of depression that has led to measures being taken in introduction of walk-in clinics for despondent population numbering one million of our people. Along with the atmosphere of fear, and uncertainty we have witnessed the steady erosion of our civil rights, and an ever-increasing control freakery by the state.

The fact that Iraq war was about oil is an open secret, which seems to be translated into expressions in all manner of semantics, ranging from spread of democracy to stopping Iraqis from killing each other, as well as a plethora of other stated aims propagated into public domain. Fact that oil is a finite resource, at the current levels, supply marginally leads the demand, and soon the demand will be outstripping the output is also stating the obvious. In other words, the current levels of violence associated with competing for resources will be an increasing feature of the international interactions. Therefore, the impending wars are going to be more frequent and bloodier. This destructive trend is based on the pursuit of the failed policies of the past that are in continuation of the abject failure of these policies, which are further sought to be remedied by recourse to even greater degrees of violence and bloodshed. Since the failure of the policies are found to be due to, want of sufficient application of force, and destruction.

The above proposition may be validated by examination of the latest Pentagon policy draft that makes first use of nuclear weapons a desired foreign policy objective of US. This sweeping aside of the deterrence doctrine is due to; what is the point of spending the money on weapons that are not to be used? Hence, the new tack of threats of imminent and present first use of nuclear and thermonuclear weapons.

Although the first use of the nuclear weapons' policy is in fact the continuation of the aggressive US expansionism, as exhibited in the invasion of Afghanistan, and Iraq (the latest in the long list of wars) with a view to secure its oil supplies, as well as designs to control the growth index of China, India, Russia, and ultimately the global growth index. However, this move conducive to US aspirations, in its all but thinly veiled imperial domination of the globe, is not an aspiration

for other nations who form the international community. This factor can be found reflected in the latest joint military manoeuvres by Russians and Chinese who conducted their first manoeuvre in the last quarter of August 2005 during which the army, navy and air force of both countries took part in various drills, including live fire exercises to aid a third country that had been attacked. Further, there are joint manoeuvres planned for Russian and Indian forces to take place in October 2005, with additional manoeuvres to include Common Wealth of Independent States, and other Central Asian countries that are in the planning stages.

These developments have been somehow ignored by the sycophantic mainstream media in the US, UK, and elsewhere in the West, that are too busy propagating the orthodoxies of the respective political elite, whose obtuse vision has so far brought about the current tense, and difficult international climate (lawlessness).

The competition for hydrocarbon as the primary source of energy, and other resources, translated to non-competitive measures adopted by the northern economic sectors with respect to limiting the access to technology or going as far as prohibition of transfer of technology from northern industrialised economic sector to southern developing economic sector. That in effect could be constructed as being a low intensity warfare conducted through technology as a weapons construct designed to fire now and kill in years to come, as evident in the horror of Aids in Africa, and Asia (due to the patent laws, and international agreements prohibiting production of generic drugs). In addition to introduction of policies to impede, the development of much needed infrastructure for provision of the necessities of life such as; water, food, and alternative energy resources by the developing countries.

The fact that the only credible sources of energy are to be found in the introduction of nuclear power production, based on the costs, and availability of the technology, which could also benefit the planet as a whole goes amiss in the ensuing polemics of double use technology and dangers of contamination. This doctrine is akin to prohibition of knives in the kitchen, due to the dangers of the double usage of such an item as a weapon, and or accidents that could happen in kitchen.

Evidently, the orthodoxies of the political elite find the increasing frequency of extreme weather events, and the havoc they wreak not attributable to the by-products of the fossil fuels emitted into the planets atmosphere, further, in their wisdom global warming is a natural cycle of the planetary life. However, dreaming, and praying will not stop the extreme weather phenomena from taking place, as well as replenishing the rapidly peaking hydrocarbon reserves.

Although cynically the connections with the global warming are found only for the benefit of greater taxation of the energy usage. While political elite engage in weak attempts in introduction of alternative sources of energy in the format of wind energy. This prime example of alternative energy is often accompanied with no reference to the temperamental nature of the wind as well as the useful production cycle of the wind turbines that amount to a whole 30% of the time. That is two thirds of the time the turbines remain inoperable, however, the financial imperatives brought on by political campaign funds (as in the case of the last elections' campaign fund donors), somehow find fitness of the expenditure to the tune of millions of pounds.

Semi literate second hand car salesman Freegard who pontificated; "*lies have to be big to be convincing,*" manipulated his audience through his "devious Charm," wreaking havoc on his victims lives. Judge Pillay found Convict Freegard "an egotistical and opinionated confidence trickster who has shown not a shred of remorse or compassion." Further judge Pillay maintaining; "There are substantial grounds for believing you [Freegard] will remain a substantial danger to the public." He went on to pass a sentence of life imprisonment on Freegard. Alas, the electoral system that does not allow a convicted Freegard to stand for office returns the culprits who have brought the world to the brink of total war to manipulate themselves into high office with Blair's party coming to power with the lowest percentage of the vote in history with only 21.6% at the last General Election.

Nader Naderi - September 13, 2005

Which Are the States That Are Really In Breach of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?

by Nader Naderi & Roger Nettleship

The proceedings of the 7th United Nations Review of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) held in New York took place during May. At the meeting, the majority of countries demanded the five declared nuclear states – the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain – eliminate their nuclear weapons as required by the treaty.

A statement by Malaysia, representing the Movement of Non-Aligned countries, by the Bahamas on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), and Cuba, Vietnam, Iran and many others, all emphasised the serious concern among the world's people with the refusal of the nuclear states, especially the US, to eliminate nuclear weapons.

These and others brought out that the nuclear powers have not fulfilled the unequivocal commitment to totally eliminate their nuclear arsenals, made during the 2000 UN Review Conference. Cuba added, "Everybody should be aware of the fact that the so-called 'strategic pre-emptive doctrine' [of the US] contradicts the letter and spirit of the NPT."

Malaysia stressed, "Pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-

weapon States should be pursued as a matter of priority. The Non-Aligned Movement, whose members make up a large majority of the States Parties to the NPT, wishes to reaffirm the importance of achieving the total elimination of all weapons of mass destruction globally, in particular nuclear weapons.”

The large majority of states reiterated this demand for the elimination of nuclear weapons and for a legally binding instrument prohibiting the nuclear states from using nuclear weapons against non-nuclear states. As well, participants repeatedly emphasised the need for the full and non-selective implementation of all three pillars of the NPT – nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology. Iran in particular spoke to the rights of all countries, consistent with the treaty, to pursue peaceful uses of nuclear energy and technology.

The US has systematically refused to eliminate any nuclear weapons and is now going forward with new weapons. Its nuclear first-strike policy¹ is also in direct breach of the treaty. And while the US targets Iran for pursuing the peaceful use of nuclear energy at this time, the US itself just lifted a 30-year ban on reprocessing of nuclear materials. This is clearly a move toward war preparations using nuclear weapons.

The US rejection of the views of the large majority of participants nearly prevented an agenda from being reached which would have ended the review. However, through intense negotiations, the majority succeeded in having an agenda which enables the review to be conducted in light of decisions and resolutions of previous conferences. This is specific reference to the general demand that the 13 points agreed to in 2000, including the elimination of nuclear weapons, be utilised. On this basis, the US failed in its effort to focus strictly on non-proliferation and detract from the role of itself and other nuclear states.

The British government is itself in breach of the NPT² – what is more it has not condemned and is fully supporting the US in this great criminal scenario³. The US possesses the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons and is the only country to have used them twice. It has now announced its “right” to use nuclear weapons against so-called rogue states and has named Iran and the DPRK. This threat

must be vigorously condemned by the world's people. Britain's part in this Anglo-American crime against humanity, its close co-operation with the US on the deployment of and blackmail with nuclear weapons, and the British government's stand that the monopoly over nuclear weapons must continue must be condemned.

This issue raises the urgent question that in the US, Britain and other the nuclear states the people must intensify their struggle for anti-war government and as a first step demand that these implement the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, end the use of and eliminate their nuclear weapons once and for all.

¹ **CONPLAN 8022** is a series of operational plans prepared by Startcom, the U.S. Army's Strategic Command, which calls for preemptive nuclear strikes against Iran and North Korea.

Ever since the terror attack of September 11, 2001, the Bush administration has gradually done away with all the nuclear brakes that characterized American policy during the Cold War. No longer are nuclear bombs considered "the weapon of last resort." No longer is the nuclear bomb the ultimate means of deterrence against nuclear powers, which the United States would never be the first to employ. In the era of a single, ruthless superpower, whose leadership intends to shape the world according to its own forceful world view, nuclear weapons have become an attractive instrument for waging wars, even against enemies that do not possess nuclear arms.

² In 1970, the British government ratified the non-proliferation treaty. Article VI of this binds the nuclear states to work in good faith towards the elimination of their nuclear arsenals. As a quid pro quo, the non-nuclear states agreed to forgo the acquisition of nuclear weapons. Since then, UK nuclear policy has been a cynical game of "new lamps for old". Thus the old RAF WE 177 free-fall bombs were replaced with the more advanced Polaris missiles, which in turn were replaced by the vastly superior Trident system. Now this will be replaced with smaller (and consequently more usable in pre-emptive strike) mini-nukes.

³ "Britain's special nuclear relationship" - Mark Townsend *Observer* Sunday June 12, 2005
The level of collaboration between US and British nuclear weapons scientists is revealed in new figures that have raised concern over the direction of each country's atomic defence programmes.

The figures reveal that British scientists visited key US nuclear laboratories on 180 occasions last year. In the same period US nuclear experts made 128 separate visits to Aldermaston, the Berkshire base where Britain's nuclear weapons are stored. Parliamentary answers also confirm UK and US nuclear scientists are currently on 16 joint working groups, including 'nuclear weapons engineering' and 'nuclear weapon code development'.

by Nader Naderii & Roger Nettleship - 2005

The Alternatives To War

by Peter Murray

If war is not the answer, then what is?

There are lots of alternatives to military force, such as:

1. Governements of the world should cooperate with law enforcement agencies around the world in bringing to justice those involved in terrorism to the full extent of international law.

2. The international community should work together to stop the flow of finacial resources that support violent terror networks.

3. All terrorism must be internationally condemned, whether it is by an individual or by a state, by 'enemies', or by allies. [During the 1980s Osama bin Laden used terrorism against the Soviet Union. CIA gave him support. The United States called him a 'freedom fighter'.]

4. The United Nations Security Council should establish a special international tribunal to investigate and prosecute those responsible for crimes against humanity. Cases should be tried before an international tribunal rather than a lone country or military tribunal.

5. Vulnerable groups around the world should be protected from racial prejudice, hate crimes and other forms of harrassment. We must demonstrate real commitment to freedom, democracy, and human rights, and pursue justice through the rule of laws applicable to everyone.

6. The U.N. Security Council shoud lead the international community in bringing diplomatic, political and economic pressue - and incentives - to bear on governments that give support or shelter to terror organizations. If sanctions are applied, they should be limited to those in political power, while avoiding doing harm to civilian populations.

7. The lies terrorist organizations spread must be exposed. Information about their methods should be shared. Called for revenge must be opposed.

8. Respond with compassion and generous humanitarian and development assistance to the suffering of the innocent people in Afghanistan, Colombia, Somalia, Congo, Iraq, Sudan, Pakistan and other areas of conflict. Victims of war, especially orphans and refugee children - the youth without hope, today in their millions - are vulnerable to recruitment by terrorist organizations.

9. Make efforts to secure a just and lasting peace in the Israel-Palestine conflict, which is a major source of deep anti-U.S. feeling throughout the Arab world.

10. Reduce and eliminate existing stockpiles of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons in the United States, Russia, and everywhere. To reduce the threat from weapons of mass destruction, all countries should support the pending protocol to the Biological Weapons Convention, maintain the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and keep the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. If this is not done, the danger from these weapons will continue to grow.

11. Stop the 'Star Wars' missile programme. Since 1983, the U.S. has spent 95 billion dollars on missile defence programmes that do not work. Since World War II, U.S. military spending has cost more than 14 trillion dollars. Despite America's mighty military, it could not prevent the horrific attacks on September 11 2001. War does not keep you safe. If you want peace, you must invest in peace.

12. Support an international code of conduct on arms transfers and a ban on the sale and transfer of weapons to countries at war. Weapons sales and transfers increase acts of violence, increase suffering, and lead to the collapse of civil society. Countries should not export weapons to regimes that are undemocratic and violate human rights.

13. Develop alternative environmentally friendly forms of energy and transportation to reduce the world's dependence on oil - a driving factor behind military interventions and violent conflicts in the Middle East.

Peter Murray

Where's The Target?

by Barry Clark

They definitely heard a rumble, or a roar
in the distance, charging, screaming.
Overhead, mouth gaping evil all around.
God save them all.
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe

Long nights, trembling, fearful nights.
Great nation, proud nation,
the Power Nation.
Torn, ripped, awash with force
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe

Black, always black, indiscriminate terror
In the distance, coming, strong
Rushing, slashing, tearing, taking
by the colour of night.
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe.

Littered dead and splintered buildings
Destruction, death, despair.
In the distance? No. Here not there.
God save them all.
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe.

They definitely heard a rumble, or a roar
loud and fast; a monsters roar.
Black Hawks, circling with laser light
To help? Liberate? Save them all?
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe.

The might, the right, the ring of steel
armoured, alert, aware.
Night goggled, flak jacketed heroes.
Where's the fight, where's the war?
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe.

Subdue the threat defeat the storm.
Democratically control them all
with bullets, bombs and military might
The reeking, retching, sewage of life
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe.

Bewildered faces; staring visions of hell.
Can't drink the bullets, can't ride the humvee.
Hopeful outstretched hands believing in help
receive only rifle-barrelled commands.
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe

From remote safe vistas a world recoils.
Human catastrophe delivered of nature.
No target for the mighty oiled machine
with only one response, only one reaction;
Shock and Awe, Shock and Awe.

Barry Clark

The Civilised World

by Les Barker

South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition gratefully thanks Mr Les Barker, who is a professional performance poet, and a true gentle man, for this free contribution. It was given to us after his recent performance at South Shields Folk Club.

How goes the war on terror, George?
Is Al Qaeda under control?
Does the world know peace, freedom and justice?
I think I'd say "No" on the whole.

In the days after 9/11,
The goodwill of the world was yours;
I might have opened a dialogue;
I might have pondered the cause.

I might have considered the issues,
Asked what the solutions might be.
Beating the crap out of everybody
Never occurred to me.

Justice had to be done;
George, who made that attack?
We know that most of them were Saudi;
Let's invade Iraq.

Well, they showed no respect for the United Nations,
Only contempt for that forum;
You can't keep ignoring the UN like they did;
George, we showed 'em the way to ignore 'em.

But Iraq has now turned against us;
I suppose it's what you'd expect;
Beating the crap out of everybody
Tends to have that effect.

There were links with Al Qaeda, you said;
Iraq? Not a chance, we said; never;
But thanks to your tactical awareness, George,
You might just have pushed them together.

Remember the day the war ended?
George, it just seems to drag on;
But we're going to liberate these people
If we have to kill every last one.

How shall we win hearts and minds?
Don't tell me, George; I think I know;
Beating the crap out of everybody;
I think we should give that a go.

Bomb the hospital, shoot the ambulance driver;
Knock the neighbourhood flat.
It's a good job that they aren't real people;
You can't treat real people like that.

Why not stop selling arms round the world;
Change the whole scheme of world trade;
Treat the disease, not the symptoms;
None of that's what you want, I'm afraid.

We could build a new world based on justice,
Do things according to law;
Beating the crap out of everybody?
It hasn't solved problems before.

How goes the war on terror, George?
It's a war, George; can anyone win?
The world needs peace, freedom and justice;
It's a long road; but why not begin?

Les Barker

For more of Les's work visit:
<http://www.mrsackroyd.com/>

MARCH
for
**PEACE &
LIBERTY**

24 SEPT

Assemble 12 noon, Parliament Square
College Green, London. March to Hyde Park for rally.
Called by Stop the War Coalition, Muslim Association of Britain and CND

 **Stop the War Coalition**
020 7278 6894 office@stopwar.org.uk www.stopwar.org.uk

**Contact South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition
for details, E-mail: STSWC@blueyonder.co.uk
Web: <http://philiptalbot.members.beeb.net/ststwc.html>**

Silence is Shame!

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