



South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition



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Neither Spectator Nor Victim

Whoever we are, whether Muslim or Christian, whether student or worker, whatever walk of life or political allegiance we have a common cause in defence of our dignity and the rights of all. We ought not to submit to the role assigned to us by the Bushes and Blairs of this world. We ought not to submit to the role of being spectators or victims....

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Preface

This issue of *Silence is Shame* comes on the eve of the National Demonstration in London, *No to Trident! Troops out of Iraq!* It also coincides with the discussion Forum: *Neither Spectator Nor Victim* which has been organised in South Shields on February 20th. One of the contributions says “Our intention is not to provide ‘answers’ for people to swallow, but to encourage people to think more freely and widely for themselves.”

The call for the Forum:

Whoever we are, whether Muslim or Christian, whether student or worker, whatever walk of life or political allegiance we have a common cause in defence of our dignity and the rights of all. We ought not to submit to the role assigned to us by the Bushes and Blairs of this world. We ought not to submit to the role of being spectators or victims.

Let us stand as one with the resistance throughout the globe, including the people of the United States who are defiantly resisting the wars and anti-humanitarian measures of the Bush administration. The task is to consolidate the anti-war movement to bring to power an anti-war pro-people government with arrangements that put human beings at the centre. This is the task of the hour.

Neither Spectator nor Victim – Defend the Rights of All!

by Roger Nettleship

The theme of the Forum on the eve of the No to Trident - Troops Out of Iraq national demonstration in London is: neither spectator nor victim. I want to concentrate these remarks on the issue that we are neither spectator nor victim but need to defend the rights of all.

I think it is very important to reflect on the fact that the government is attempting to create and incite divisions in Britain. The aim is to attempt to shatter the coherence and resistance to the wars of occupation and attacks on rights and freedoms as well as to the attacks on social programmes, the environment and the all-round well being of the people and render the people as spectators, or victims.

The depiction of the people as spectator is to say that history is made by someone else other than the people, that people are denied decision-making power and that the executive in power are the ones in the know, that tough decisions have to be made which are unpopular. It is a dictate that people should not have the power and should not be allowed to influence the course of events. That the government wants to assign us the role of spectators was very clear when they ignored the just

demand of the demonstration of two million against the invasion and occupation of Iraq on February 15th 2003. That the people defined these demonstrations in Britain and throughout the world as a defining moment in the unity of the world's people against the warmongers, turned it into its opposite and placed the issue of the demand for an anti-war government centre stage.

The depiction of the people as victims is that again the victims are powerless, and are also isolated, that this is just an issue to do with them and not the polity as a whole. The role of victims is to complain and in the polity at large just to list how bad things are. That the government wants to assign people and communities the role of victims is very clear in the feverish atmosphere of disinformation where they try to inculcate suspicion and prejudice, giving priority to prejudicial statements and reports. It is the case that the state is singling out those of the Muslim faith and outlook for attack under the guise of waging war against "Islamic extremism" and then criminally carrying out arbitrary arrest and detention with "anti-terror" laws. To call such measures "laws" is also travesty of justice itself when they are based on racial profiling which require little or no evidence, reducing legal process to one of the denunciation by secret police just as in the Middle Ages.

The antidote to both roles that the ruling circles are trying to assign to the people as spectator and victim is that the whole polity in Britain has to put forward solutions and strive to become the decision-making force. So the issue for the anti-war movement and all movements of the people is to take a bold step together in defence of the rights of all.

In this context of the government attacks on the polity and its unity, the government tries to brand the resistance to their wars in Britain and the world as "extremist" and calls on the "moderate" forces to defend its "civilised" values and defend the status quo which they claim are the values of the "host" community. This "way of life" of the "host" community is also used to attack the whole polity. The backward line, or backlash, to upholding the rights of Muslims, or other national minorities, is that no one upholds the rights and way of life of the "host" community, i.e. what is sometimes described as the "white working class".

Defending the rights of all smashes this. No culture is second to any other. This way of life of the people and values of these sections of the people united in the anti-war movement, the youth movement and the workers' movement – it is these values of the people which are in the ascendancy, which are a threat to the values of the executive power whose values are disintegrating in the modern world and which they try to impose by force. In this context, these old values of multi-party democracy (“representative democracy” as opposed to involving people in decision making), free-market economy (neo-liberal globalisation as opposed to an economy that meets the needs of the people) and rights based on private property (as opposed to being human) are fraudulently represented as universal values or those of the “host” community.

In conclusion, the resistance movements of the people in Britain and throughout the world is the order of the day – this is why people will once again take to the streets of London on February 24th against the warmongering government of Tony Blair. Also, it is a reflection of the growing resistance in the United States that over half a million demanded that the troops be brought home in Washington DC two weeks ago. In these mass anti-war manifestations of the people, the decisive issue the anti-war movement has to take on board is not to stand aside as spectator or victim at the hands of the executive, whether that be Tony Blair, Gordon Brown, or someone else. The issue is that the whole polity in Britain must put forward solutions and strive to become the decision-making force and bring to power an anti-war government. A government that puts in place arrangements that are pro-people and put the interests of human beings at the centre of all policies. So the issue for the anti-war movement and all movements of people is to take a bold step together in defence of the rights of all.

Bring the troops home from foreign soil!

End the attack on humanity!

Defend the rights of all!

Roger Netleship - February 17, 2007

Neither Spectators Nor Victims

by Phil Talbot

On our small local scale, in our forums and publications, South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition aims to widen the range of public debate.

Our intention is not to provide 'answers' for people to swallow, but to encourage people to think more freely and widely for themselves.

Our present theme 'Neither Spectators Nor Victims' aims to widen the range of the main Stop The War spring 2007 campaign themes:

- No Trident Replacement
- Troops Out of Iraq

Neither spectators nor victims.

Whoever we are, we all have a common cause in defence of the dignity and rights of all fellow human beings at a time when they are threatened.

We ought not to be submitting to the roles assigned to us by the so called 'power elites'.

We ought not to be 'spectators' or 'victims' in a violent and essentially nihilistic political narrative - devised by a small minority of rich and powerful people to maintain themselves in power.

We ought to be resisting the wars and anti-humanitarian measures of the Bushite administration and its allies.

Our task ought to be to consolidate the anti-war movement.

Our long-term aim ought to be to bring to power anti-war pro-people governments, with political arrangements that put the well-being of living human beings at their centre.

Politics ought not to be a spectator sport 'played' by a few. Yet it is often reported in the mainstream media as if the public is no more than a crowd of gapers - spectating the antics of a few significant 'players'.

Consider the U.S.-led 'Shock and Awe' bombing attack on Iraq in 2003. It was directed by a few rich and powerful people - against majority public opinion.

It was presented as if a spectacular 'firework display' for television viewers - far distanced geographically, culturally and psychologically - from the cruel realities of the bombings as actually experienced by fellow human beings.

Tens of thousands of civilians died or were maimed or were psychologically scarred in that 'spectacular tv show'.

Most of these 'victims' were given no real human identities in the mainstream media coverage - indeed, shamefully, their lives and deaths were barely acknowledged.

The bulk of the people experiencing the attack were reduced to the status of passive 'victims' or 'spectators' of an artificial reality - in which civilian deaths on a massive scale caused by American and British weapons were 'denied'.

With potential nuclear weapon use, this 'victim'/'spectator' process would be grossly magnified.

The nuclear weapons programmes are directed by a small 'power elite' - against majority public opinion.

They would be used on the decisions of small groups of people - lurking in bunkers.

In a nuclear war, the rest of humanity would be reduced to roles of victims or spectators of the 'spectacular' nuclear bomb-blast 'shows'.

The underlying thinking of modern 'power elites' is well illustrated by some comments by Ron Suskind, an American journalist:

'In the summer of 2002, after I had written an article in Esquire that the White House didn't like ... I had a meeting with a senior adviser to Bush ... he told me something that at that time I didn't fully comprehend - but which I now believe gets to the very heart of the Bush presidency. The aide said that guys like me were 'in what we call the reality-based community', which he defined as people who 'believe that solutions emerge from your judicious study of discernible reality'. I nodded and murmured something about enlightenment principles and empiricism. He cut me off. 'That's not the way the world really works any more,' he continued. 'We're an empire now, and when we act, we create our own reality. And while you're studying that reality - judiciously as you will - we'll act again, creating other new realities, which you can study too, and that's how things will sort out. We're history's actors ... and you, all of you, will be left to just study what we do.'

In Britain, politics is often reduced to a 'spectator event' centring on the Westminster Village 'political drama' - mostly trivial antics of a few 'significant players'.

Of late, for example, much attention has been focussed on the relatively unimportant issue of whether or not Tory leader Mr David Cameron did or did not smoke dope when a privileged Eton schoolboy two decades ago. Concentration on such 'personality'

issues seems nothing more than a massive distraction from real political issues.

Which of the following is the most truly significant question about Mr Cameron? Did he:

- a. smoke dope when an Eton schoolboy two decades ago?
- b. vote for the illegal invasion of Iraq in 2003?
- c. write considerable parts of the last Tory party 2005 general election manifesto - widely regarded as an extremely ultra-nationalistic reactionary document, particularly in its attacks on 'asylum seekers'?
- d. work as a political advisor in the Treasury at the time of Black Wednesday in September 1992, one of the worst examples of financial mismanagement in British political history?

While attention is focussed on such relatively trivial issues as whether a privileged public schoolboy smoked dope two decades ago, the somewhat more serious issue of the replacement of Trident is barely discussed at all.

Updating the Trident nuclear mass murder system will cost British tax payers an estimated immediate £25 billion - while the overall costs of maintaining Trident will be an estimated £75 billion.

Life or death choices. Would £25 billion be better spend on a mass murder weapons system? or to pay for 120,000 new nurses each year for 10 years? or to pay for 60,000 new teachers each year for 20 years?

One Trident warhead could wipe out a city of 1 million people.

The UK has 200 Trident warheads. Trident ties UK to US foreign and military policy - and is essentially an American mass murder system, not an 'independent British nuclear deterrent'.

Trident replacement would violate the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty - the very treaty the UK government is accusing North Korea and Iran of 'violating'.

Those of us trying to encourage any kind of serious debate of this kind of serious issue often find ourselves faced by a widespread sense of political 'disillusionment' and 'disinterest'.

People seem resigned to their roles of 'spectators or victims' - and the 'power elite' get away with scandalous abuses of power on a huge scale.

For example, there is a widespread suspicion that the 2000 election that brought the Bushite administration to power was 'stolen', but most people did not seem to care whether the election was 'stolen' or not.

The 'indifference' relating to this and other serious 'political scandals' is revealing.

Studies of underlying public opinion reveal a deep political disillusionment.

A majority of people express opinions suggesting they view the electoral process as a 'charade' - played out by large contributors, party leaders and the advertizing and public relations industries, with crafted role-playing candidates saying almost anything to get themselves elected.

On most issues citizens cannot identify the precise policies of parties and candidates - as probably intended by those involved in the 'political spin' processes.

Issues in which popular opinions differ from mainstream 'power elite' opinion are excluded from 'political debate' as reported in the mainstream media.

Voters feel themselves directed to 'personal qualities' of candidates rather than 'issues'.

A majority of people feel themselves not to be truly 'active citizens', but at best 'powerless spectators', at worst 'passive victims' - and have little sense as to how they could be 'empowered'.

What remains of 'electoral democracy' seems a 'choice' between very similar 'commodities'.

Noam Chomsky, in *Hegemony Or Survival* [2004], suggests this is a quite deliberately and cynically contrived set-up:

'Business leaders have long explained the need to impose on the populations a "philosophy of futility" and "lack of purpose in life" to "concentrate human attention on the more superficial things that comprise much of fashionable consumption". Deluged by such propaganda from infancy, people may then accept their meaningless and subordinated lives and forget ridiculous ideas about managing their own affairs. They may abandon their fate to corporate managers and the PR industry and, in the political realm, to the self-described "intelligent minorities" who serve and administer power. From this perspective, conventional in "elite" opinion, the November 2000 elections did not reveal a flaw in US democracy, but rather its triumph.'

Mr Chomsky, goes on to clarify his view of the main contemporary 'political division':

'One can discern two trajectories in current history: one [American-led corporate capitalism] aiming towards hegemony, acting rationally within a lunatic doctrinal framework as it threatens [the] survival [of humanity]; the other dedicated to the belief that "another world is possible", in the words that animate the World Social Forum, challenging the reigning ideological system and seeking to create constructive alternatives of thought, actions and institutions.'

And that, on our small local scale, is what we in South Tyneside Stop The War Coalition are trying to do: 'challenging the reigning ideological system and seeking to create constructive alternatives of thought, actions and institutions ...'

Phil Talbot - February 17, 2007

AM I ANGRY?

by Alan Trotter

Neither spectator nor victim, maybe not, but I am angry. I am angry that my government have supported America in the invasion of Iraq and the subsequent occupation, that my government is responsible for the deaths of 650,000 Iraqi people and countless injures both mental and physical to the surviving population.

I am angry that my government caused the deaths of 130 British soldiers and are now trying to deny the deaths of 30 of them by a different calculating system, I'm angry that my government refers to slaughtered humans as collateral damage and I'm tired of the lies after lies after lies.

All this money I pay in taxes to support a bunch of lying politicians, to kill and maim innocent people, to rip the souls from our brothers and sisters and worst of all, the destruction of children (Save the children say up to 260,000 children may have died since the 2003 invasion), my friends we have all seen the pictures, we have all felt the heartache and shed the tears for the slaughter of the innocents, and we have been sending our own children into war, 17 year olds have been sent to Iraq to take part in the insane cruelty of war, these kids are unable to legally buy a pint of beer

at home but this government expects them to take part in the foulest of deeds and activities.

The abuse of human rights continues with the continuing occupation of Iraq and we now have the very real threat of the attack on Iran.

Many people around me still mock at the seriousness of this dreadful situation telling me I'm on the 'hippy highway for a peaceful paradise' that is not going to happen and the usual 'what can you do about it', your wasting your time.

I know that with the support of my brothers and sisters, from all walks of life, of all creeds, all colours and all religions my time is not wasted and together we can do something about it, so we can invite the doubters to join us on highway to peace.

Neither spectator nor victim?, maybe I am, I see it from the TV and computer and my government makes me pay my taxes to support their war, maybe I am a victim, a very angry one.

Alan Trotter - February 17, 2007

If the War goes on

by John Bell

South Tyneside Stop the War Coalition gratefully thanks John Bell for this contribution.

*Words and music by John L Bell (C) 2002 WGRG,
Iona Community, G2 3DH*

If the war goes on and the children die of hunger,
And the old men weep for the young men are no more,
And the women learn how to dance without a partner
Who will keep the score?

If the war goes on and the truth is taken hostage,
And new horrors lead to the need to euphemise,
When the calls for peace are declared unpatriotic,
Who will expose the lies?

If the war goes on and the daily bread is terror,
And the voiceless poor take the road as refugees,
And a nations pride destines millions to be homeless,
Who will heed their plea's?

If the war goes on and the rich increase their fortunes
And the arms sales soar as new weapons are displayed,
When a fertile field turns to no-mans land tomorrow,
Who'll approve such trade/

If the war goes on will we close the doors of heaven,
If the war goes on will we breach the gates of hell,
If the war goes on will we ever be forgiven,
If the war goes on....and on....and on...?

John Bell

Get Active

by Alan Newham

“Words and writing were all nothing and must die, for action is the life of all and if thou dost not act, thou dost nothing”

Digger, Gerrard Winstanly, 1649

Our forum has taken as its theme: Neither Spectator or Victim, referring as it does to ordinary people who are regarded as mere spectators of world events and to those more unfortunate who become victims of death and suffering at the hands of those whom they have no control over.

A sort of contradiction has developed in more recent times; despite claims that Democracy is in the hands of the voter a dangerous concentration of power and decision making has emerged in the hands of the equally dangerous few.

The continuous production of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear or otherwise together with globalised economic conflict seems to have taken on a momentum of such apparent inevitability so as to appear as if there is no alternative to the wars and conflicts inflicted on ordinary people.

Contrast this with the so called era of the “Individual” where we are told that we are free with the time and resources to live an “Individual” life and successfully pursue our goals without having to act collectively or to rely on others. This argument is especially put forward in advanced western countries. It’s as if power is telling us to get on with our individual lives so that power can carry out its own agenda without ever having to consult us.

If freedom and individuality can be argued as being the same thing then we should be able to determine the nature of that freedom. Power has no right to determine it for us.

We should not be fooled into believing in the inevitability of events, this will lead us over time to such an alienation from any involvement in events as to make us believe that it is the natural state of things.

The fly in the ointment of this gloomy picture is of course the millions of ordinary people around the world who stand up to wars and corruption. Public opinion is now against the war in Iraq both in the U.S. and elsewhere yet the U.S. continues a military build up for a possible attack on Iran. In the U.K. we have the prospect of paying £70bn for an upgraded Trident missile programme.

Meanwhile our soldiers continue to be killed and injured fighting an illegal war as part of the U.S. programme of world domination. Gerrard Winstanly was right – get active, ask questions, start a debate with friends and people at work, write to your newspaper and M.P. and join a demonstration. If we don’t, we do nothing.

Alan Newham - February 18, 2007

Letter to the *Guardian* and *South Shields Gazette*

by Alan Newham

Dear Madam/Sir

Frank Field former Labour Minister is urging South Shields M.P. David Miliband to stand for the Labour Party leadership (*Guardian* 10th Feb). Mr. Field asks whether the next stage of the New Labour Project is best taken forward “..by a candidate who is not linked in the public mind with what will be seen as stage one of New Labour’s journey. Step forward David Miliband.”

Could this be the same David Miliband who has never once rebelled against the Government, supporting everything it has done during stage one, and to my knowledge has never conceded that he was wrong about the invasion of Iraq after supporting the claim that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction?

The first thing David Miliband should do if he wants the respect and the votes of the people of South Shields is to acknowledge that he was mistaken in believing everything the Government told him regarding the reasons we went to into an illegal war with Iraq.

Yours faithfully

Alan Newham - February 15th , 2007

Iran Facts Versus “Secrets”, Lies, Deception and Disinformation

by Nader Naderi

“Journalism is not a profession or a trade. It is a cheap catch-all for fuckoffs and misfits - a false doorway to the backside of life, a filthy piss-ridden little hole nailed off by the building inspector, but just deep enough for a wino to curl up from the side-walk and masturbate like a chimp in a zoo-cage.” Hunter S. Thompson, delivers this lucid if not acerbic critique of the nature of the corporate media, in his “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas”.

Effectively highlighting the role of the corporate media as the public relations department of their political masters, and their proprietors’ proclivities. This inescapable, and ugly fact on its own is of no consequence (freedom of press means anyone can own one), however, when these public relations vassals of the administrations in the White House, and Number 10, beat the drums of war ever louder, there follows the untold deaths and sufferings of many hundreds of thousands of human beings (clinically classed as collateral damage).

The recent saturation reportage of “unnamed sources, in an unnamed location somewhere in Iraq, briefing about the use of ‘sophisticated improvised explosive devices’, supplied by Iran” are shamelessly regurgitated without any irony. How on earth any improvisation can entail ‘sophistication’ is not even hinted at? The word play games stresses the advanced and highly scientific use of you guessed it ‘improvised devices’. These chimps in the cage as Hunter S. Thompson points out, must take, we the audience for mugs.

Although the more sophisticated BBC, soon gets on with reclassification of these ‘Improvised Explosive Devices’, as ‘Explosively Formed Projectiles’ with Infra Red triggers (now there is a scientific thing, just like the telly remote control). The tragedy of it all masks the comedy unfolding, the photographs in evidence, showing an anonymous mortar shell (bearing HE that is High Explosives in English, and the year printed as 2006, while the Iranian solar year 1384 is conspicuously absent, never mind the odd size of the 81 millimetre shells that are used mostly by Pakistan’s forces) and bits and pieces of charred metal along with a metal cylinder topped with a copper cap, that we are told are the very sophisticated weapons systems that Iraqi resistance are incapable of putting together themselves. Yet these ‘insurgents’ using these ‘sophisticated’ devices, are challenging the supremacy of umpteen million dollars worth of assault vehicles, tanks, and a plethora of armoured machinery that evidently can be crippled by a fiver’s worth of crude home made ‘sophistication’.

None of the gatekeepers of truth even entertaining to table the question; why on earth were all the monies spent on developing these apparently useless machinery that can fall prey to five pounds worth of improvisation by the resistance in Iraq? However, everyone of the jerking chimps are in haste to point their finger of blame to Iran.

Remembering that the same bunch of luminaries, all informed us of the Saddam WMD, Chemical Weapons stockpiles, and the dossiers warning us all about the forty five minutes between us, and total annihilation by Saddam’s missiles, and his ambitions to

conquer the world just like Hitler wanted to! (what would these chimps and their masters would have done, if there were no Hitler in history? Heaven forbid!)

The jerking chimps and their masters still recant WWII as if it took place the day before yesterday, and just before the Operation Iraqi Freedom. We watched the telly, and all saw the commander in chief land on the aircraft carrier on the golden hour, and we all read the mission accomplished banner hastily nailed on the bridge of the same, while listening to the gushing reportage of the brave new free Iraq. The lands that were to be filled with honey, milk, democracy, and opportunity, with as much freedom as Iraqis could handle.

Then we heard Dunny Rumsfeld, telling us that; “freedom is the freedom to do good things, as well as bad things”, which can go some way to explain the disappearance of \$12 billions dollars worth of cash in Iraq, that is eighteen articulated truckloads of cash disappearing in Iraq. That is pallet loads of \$100 dollar bills of cash weighing 363 tonnes disappearing without so much as a hand written receipt from anyone’s friend, or accounts department. Way to go freedom to get rich quick for those whom trade in wars to hoard the tax payers tax pound and dollars, that otherwise would have landed these fraudsters in jail for a long time, a very long, long time.

The exhibitionist chimps pushing the agenda of the deluded wannabe masters of the planet Earth, have been busy spreading fear ever since the turn of the century which coincided with the beginning of the new millennium. The millenarian fears of total crashing out of the planet due to the Millennium Bug cost an arm and a leg for anyone whom fell for the narrative. The narrative remaining to scare the dickens out of the punters theme then moved onto Taliban, Saddam Hitler and his multi faceted WMD, not forgetting the terra-ists (terrorists) whom are so dangerous that can kill with only one look, and a handful of Chapati Flour. Although there has never been any Chapati Flour amnesty so far! Giving rise to likes of professor John Muller in his book ; Overblown, to quote statistics that find falling victim to a terrorist

The notion of secrecy is to invoke the dastardly clandestine, and nefarious shenanigans of Iranians, despite their inalienable right to civil nuclear power, based on their membership of IAEA (International Atomic Energy Authority) and being a signatory to NPT (None Proliferation Treaty) designed to discourage the signatory member states, from building nuclear bombs. Further as per the part one of the same treaty/contract unless there are 2 kilograms or more of enriched uranium being used/introduced to any facility, the signatory is under no obligation to inform the IAEA.

However, this fancy lawyer talk is not good enough for the chief cowboy in command, seeing as he went onto to declare Iran part of the "axis of evil" the term that was coined by his speech writer David Frum a rabid Zionist, whose wife was quiet fond of boasting about her husband's influence on Mr. President as narrated in the very communist Washington Post!

While David Frum was inventing new labels, his cohorts that is Doglus Office of Special Plans Feith, Under-secretary of Defence, and the leadership of the Defence Department, including Dunny Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, and the cabal of Richard, Iraqis will greet the invasion troops with sweets, flowers, and songs, Perle and his pal Kenneth cake walk to Baghdad Adelman whom under tutelage of chief hate monger Michael, Iraqi children will sing, songs about us for years to come Ledeen going on record by "Faster Please" articles, and memos urging Bush administration to hasten the attack on Iran, with other target countries to be specified after such an event.

The expanded 'Northern Gulf Affairs Office' of Pentagon, renamed the 'Office of Special Plans' (OSP), and placed under the direction of Abram Shulsky, a contributor to the 2000 PNAC (Project for New American Century) report (almost by now everyone knows the Office of Special Plans as a rogue Administration faction determined to find intelligence to support the Iraq War). But the Iraq war was not the only remit assigned to it. Hence those employed in OSP not only were busy producing their own version of realities in Iraq, with respect to Saddam's WMD, without any

regards to facts. They had time left for setting-up unofficial meetings with Manucher Ghorbanifar, a known muckraker, liar, arms dealer implicated in the contra scandal of Regan presidency, now become Iranian dissident. Despite CIA discounting the veracity of any of the data from Manucher Ghorbanifar, however echoes of 'Curve Ball' (the Iraqi informer whom brought the mobile biological weapon factories of Saddam, the same trucks that were used for filling weather balloons with hydrogen gas).

Despite the fact that Michael Ledeen held no official US government position, yet he met Ghorbanifar in Rome, along with Larry Franklin an Iran analyst in the Pentagon tapped by Douglas Feith. Larry Franklin currently is serving a long jail sentence for espionage, passing sensitive information on Iran to employees of AIPAC (American Israeli Public Affairs Committee) and Israeli diplomats in Israeli Embassy in Washington. Further two of Franklin's partners in crime are currently facing trials in US, however diplomatic immunity has spared the diplomats involved from facing legal actions, although the Israeli Ambassador to US has since changed.

Larry Franklin started his career as a spy in August 2002 and began passing classified information involving United States policy towards Iran to two AIPAC employees and an Israeli diplomat. Franklin pleaded guilty to the charges in October 2005, explaining that he had been hoping to force the US to take a harder line with Iran, but AIPAC and Israel have continued to deny this.

Meanwhile the discussions in Rome in the cold December of 2001 were centred around allegations that Iranian forces were killing US soldiers in Afghanistan (not a very original current charge that has replaced the country of Afghanistan with Iraq, and keeping to the old narrative), as recollected by Mr. Ledeen, however Ghorbanifar recants the debate centring around regime change in Iran. Further, public domain data points to senior Administration officials, including then-Deputy National Security Advisor Stephen Hadley and the leadership of the Defence Department, including Rumsfeld, Deputy Secretary of Defence Wolfowitz, and Douglas Feith, allegedly authorized a series of meetings between Defence Department officials and Anti-Iranian agents abroad. The gamut

of the so called dissident stretched to even include Mojahedeen e Khalgh (MEK) whose military base (Camp Ashraf) was set up by Saddam, just outside Baghdad, with their sole aim being to attack Iranians alongside the attacking Iraqis during the bloody war that Saddam waged on Iran. The court photos of the leaders of MEK being granted audience with Saddam, and the usual photographs for posterity are plentiful.

The curious fact that MEK is classified as a terrorist organisation by successive US administrations, that is Clinton, as well as Bush administration, in addition to classification of this group as terrorists by the rest of International Community, somehow did not hinder the Pentagon leadership from authorising such contacts. At the same time, re-branding of MEK in August 2002, to the National Council of Resistance of Iran, substituted as political representatives began the efforts to influence Western (ie US, UK, Holland, and at times German) domestic political discourse. This motley crew of desperadoes, ne'er-do-wells, and terrorists, made their splash by holding a press conference in Washington and informing the world, that Iran had a 'secret nuclear' facility at Natanz, due for completion in 2003.

In early 2002, Ledeen set-up the Coalition for Democracy in Iran, along with Morris Amitay, the former executive director of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC). Subsequent to which the MEK members were introduced to Fox News, Sky News, etc. as Iran analysts, these rent an expert mob, including some so called journalists began the drip, drip of misinformation, and concocted fantasies, lies, and untruths as the realities concerning Iran. The result of which is the recent Senator Joe Lieberman (another Israel firster), comments retorting to Ali Larijani speech at the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy (11/02/2007), Holy Joe went on record; "the image portrayed by Mr. Larijani is not the image of Iran that we have".

Although Holy Joe relied heavily on the ignorance of his recipient audience of the facts that have been set out so far. Confident that the disinformation campaign has succeeded in obfuscating the facts surrounding Iran's attempts to satiate the energy needs of her population.

At this point revisiting the facts, and restating the actualities, could in effect clarify the situation.

A- Iran does not have any nuclear weapons capability.

B- Iranian crude oil is shipped out as exports, however, re-imported derivatives of oil (ie refined fuel oils, gasoline, petrol etc.) to Iran, have left Iran with massive bills, and their adverse effects on balanced budgets. This is mainly due to the eight years of war waged by Saddam at behest of his masters, mainly successive administration of US, UK, aka The West. During which Iranian oil refineries, were prime targets for destruction, as well as all the industrial oil infrastructure.

C- Post the costly war of Saddam on Iran. All Iranian efforts to reinstate the lost infrastructures, through the various contracts by differing suppliers have been stymied (got nowhere). Through contractors dragging their heels, the equipment deliveries not taking place, additional costings introduced, etc. This being the result of unilateral unofficial sanctions imposed on Iran by US.

D- Iranian power nuclear reactor building programme started during the late sixties, early seventies, based on the estimated depletion of oil around the late eighties, and nineties, for replacing the oil based energy production (Iran has been in nuclear research since 1950). This nuclear power programme came to an abrupt halt after the revolution, by contractors upping sticks and walking out (breach of contract in international law). Also due to the sanctions put in place by US, subsequently no contractors were available to finish the costly initial stages put in place. Also Saddam had made sure whatever was put in place was heavily bombarded too.

E- Iranians have learnt through bitter experience, they cannot rely on any source for supply of their nuclear fuel to run their nuclear reactors. History has taught Iran that money does not necessarily talk, standing witness is the Iranian investment in a nascent nuclear fuel production company Eurodif (European Gaseous Diffusion Uranium Enrichment) in France.

E1- In 1973 France, Belgium, Spain and Sweden formed the joint stock company EURODIF. Sweden withdrew from the project in 1974.

E2- In 1975 Sweden's 10 per cent share in EURODIF went to Iran as a result of an arrangement between France and Iran. The French government subsidiary company Cogema and the Iranian Government established the Sofidif (Société franco-iranienne pour l'enrichissement de l'uranium par diffusion gazeuse) enterprise with 60 per cent and 40 per cent shares, respectively. In turn, Sofidif acquired a 25 per cent share in EURODIF, which gave Iran its 10 per cent share of EURODIF.

E3- In 1974, the Shah (Mohammad Reza Shah Pahlavi) lent 1 billion dollars (and another 180 million dollars in 1977) for the construction of the factory, to have the right to buy 10% of the production.

E4- Despite the ownership of the company Iran has no voice in the affairs of these companies, as well as others in Germany, and elsewhere. ie The Iranians are good enough as cash cows, but their wishes cannot be asserted, in other words; 'Iranians should pony up the cash, and not heard'. Hence no nuclear fuel either!

F- Considering the time lines of the long running nuclear power production, and considering the sanctions and arbitrary application of international laws. Iranians have learned to rely on their own infrastructure, hence the dogged attempts for in house nuclear fuel enrichment. As it is patently obvious that nuclear reactors do not run on biofuels ie Cow Dung.

G- This is further reinforced by the unsuccessful attempts IAEA in 1980s that sought to put in place a guarantee of nuclear fuel supply, and security of supply of fuel for nuclear reactors, by appointing a committee to explore such an aim. Despite the seven years long efforts of the appointed committee for this reason, no such construct was arrived at, and or proposed. Hence the sporadic and uncertain availability of nuclear fuel supplies, make the provision of nuclear fuel to be mandatory and indigenous for any nation seeking to develop civil nuclear programmes within

the frame of NPT.

H- In the current hysterical climate of rants and ravings of the current administration in the White House, and their mercenary proxies in Israel. The notions of a civil nuclear power in Iran has been successfully misconstrued as an attempt in production of nuclear weapons. Which in turn this fantasy has been the basis of the naked aggression and debates about attacking Iran.

I- Considering Israel has 400 nuclear bombs, including thermonuclear bombs (hydrogen bombs), and delivery vehicles for these weapons of mass destruction, in the shape of ballistic missiles, intercontinental ballistic missiles, cruise missiles, and aircraft, as well as the secondary retaliatory capacity of the dolphin class submarines donated by Germany. Israel's constant harangues of being in danger, of being over run, and or annihilation, despite its 400 time over plus the submarine launched secondary retaliatory for destruction of any probable adversary. Including adversaries even as big as Europe could not match this kind of fire power Israel has at her disposal, somehow are not classed as fantasies, and is never challenged.

I2- Further the heavy calibre propaganda, and evermore vociferous threats of attacks on Iran, by US, Israel, including the option of Israel attacking Iran on her own. As well as the debates about using nuclear weapons in these attacks. Astonishingly such a belligerent posturing by these bellicose operatives is going unchallenged in the corporate media. The firm belief that Iran cannot defend herself, in the face of the aggression of the belligerents, rooted in the confidence that Iran does not have any nuclear weapons, is edging the world towards a global conflagration.

J- The absurdity of an attack on Iran, a country that has followed the international laws to the letter, a signatory to IAEA, a country that has been subject to the most strict regime of inspections by the IAEA, in the history of this organisation. Is further compounded by the chapter seven resolution of the UN Security Council. All the while, Israel a country that manifestly and evidently has exhibited not to be bound by any constraints of international law,

and has never entertained to ratify NPT, or be subject to the scrutiny of IAEA, does not even get a mention in the same august council such as UNSC. So much for United Nations being part of any solutions, deja vu league of nations!

K- The stupefaction of the captive Western Audiences, by the same corporate media, have further promoted venality of their respective Western Administrations, in which a handful of political leaders have been busy making grave decisions, based on partial information, and their gut feelings, resulting in the fiasco that we all witness in Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. As pointed out by Carne Ross the British diplomat whom resigned his post in protest, and is currently the voice of those without a voice.

L- The narrow world view brought about by such combination of propaganda, and acquiescence of those political leaders in the West, however is not shared by the rest of the world. Therefore, with every drum beat of war, it is becoming clearer that the never ending war that is currently under way. Further, appeasing these partially informed warmongers, has patently resulted in the growing appetites of these same warmongers, for even greater adventures, in those far flung lands.

M- Hence the almost maniacal and mad rhetoric that makes no sense to any other leader whom is remotely aware of the facts on the ground, bringing about the very real and high probability of a global war, which could very quickly and suddenly escalate into a full and final nuclear exchange.

N- This is reflected in the remarks of President Putin of Russia, in his speech at the 43rd Munich Conference on Security Policy (10/02/2007) during which he heavily attacked the unilateral approach the US was taking. Stating that her increasing disdain of fundamental principles of international law was provoking a new arms race in the world, he said. "The US have trespassed the limits in almost all concerns,". Putin went on to say; the monopolar world order had not proved to be efficient. Quite the contrary was the case – the end of the Cold War had produced by far more casualties and armed conflicts than ever before, he said. In his opinion this development was caused by the attempt

of the US to attempt to solve problems unilaterally, yet the results were human tragedies. The natural consequence according to Mr. Putin was that the fundamental principles of international law were disdained in a world where “nobody felt safe.” “Why is it necessary nowadays to start bombing and shooting on any given occasion?”

P- It is up to us all to start affording the majority of the people whom have been in the merciless clutches of our corporate media, and highest echelons of power. By teachings these masses, these victims of propaganda the realities, and actualities on the ground. Among our goals to remind people that being anti Zionist-Supremacy is not an anti-Semitic gaol, it is in fact aiding those poor Jews whom are suffering along with the rest of the world in the hands of the few Supremacist whom seem to shout the loudest, it is time we all joined together and out shouted the Zionist-Supremacists, and their paymasters. Remembering what colonel Wilkerson Chief of Staff to Secretary of State Colin Powell maintains; “The secret cabal got what it wanted: no negotiations with Tehran, in May 2003”

In May 2003, Iran made efforts to negotiate a peaceful resolution with the United States, these efforts were sabotaged by Vice President Cheneys office, and the usual suspects in OSP, now renamed to Iran Directorate, with subsequent increased anti Iran activity directed at Congress. An “Iran Freedom Support Act” was introduced in the House and Senate in January and February of 2005. Neoconservatives and individuals linked to the defence contracting industry formed an Iran Policy Committee, and in April and May presented briefings in support of MEK before the newly-created Iran Human Rights and Democracy Caucus of the House of Representatives. By setting up the Iranian Directorate within the Pentagon the administration has been able to avoid both Congressional oversight and interference from Director of National Intelligence who was sceptical about using force against Iran. The White House also successfully stalled the release of a fresh National Intelligence Estimate on Iran, which reflects there is no evidence of an Iranian nuclear weapons program.

In summation, the Bush Administration seems to have concluded

that, it can circumvent the US laws, along with International Laws, and attack Iran, transforming the Persian Gulf to Yankee Gulf, by continuing to maintain that the Persian Gulf belongs to Americans, and not to Persians, setting the stage for a potential military strike. Further the very recent remarks of US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said Washington needed sufficient forces to combat large armies and special units to fight terrorism, adding that developments in countries such as Russia, North Korea, Iran and China were unpredictable. That is on top of the establishment of Pentagons Africa Command Office that is assigned the task of containing China in Africa.

Finally, considering the vast untapped oil reserves in Falklands, Arctic, Antarctic, and elsewhere in the territories of US, UK, it is a stark choice that the rest of the world is faced with, total destruction of their nations based on the scenario surrounding the depletion of the current resources of oil, and then remaining at the mercy of the US, UK, for their energy needs, which increases the likelihoods of a global conflagration by many folds. Hence the next time you read the news rags, and or watch the nice man on the telly spewing drivel ad infinitum, remember, these little wars in those far flung lands, are creeping ever closer to home, and you and your loved ones have no underground shelters to survive the onslaught of the probable attacks, that have been long in provocation by our dear fearless political leaderships.

Nader Naderi - February 19, 2007

NO TRIDENT

TROOPS OUT OF IRAQ



DEMONSTRATE 24 FEBRUARY '07



Assemble 12 noon
Speakers' Corner
Rally in Trafalgar
Square, London

Organised by the Campaign for
Nuclear Disarmament, the Stop
the War Coalition and the British
Muslim Initiative.

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Silence is Shame!

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