

# Tropical

BRINGING YOU THE LATEST NEWS  
FROM OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS  
AROUND THE WORLD

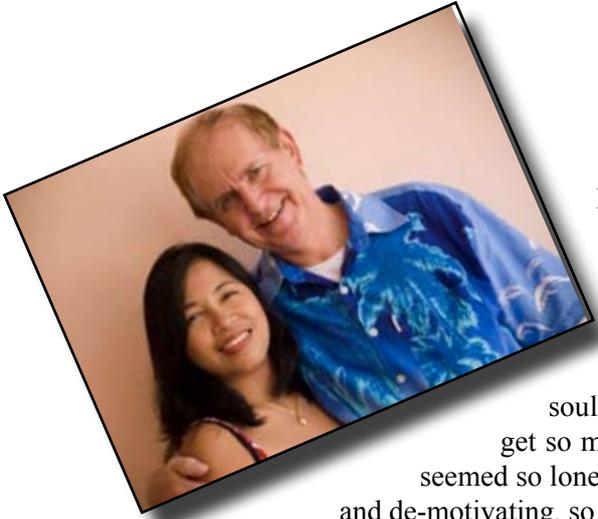
*news*

MAY 2008



*Paul in Afghanistan*

# Editorial Ramblings



It's been a strange month. Even stranger than usual. Princess Grace and Little Lad disappeared on one of their expeditions to the family farm just before the start of the month, which is always unsettling for me. Grace is the only one in her family that actually achieves anything (apart from Nadia, who is in Qatar), so off she went to get some construction and land projects back on track and solve the family problems. However, that left me without my soulmate; my other half. Now, you'd think the peace and quiet would enable me to get so much done and that this newsletter would be about 100 pages long! Wrong! It seemed so lonely here without Grace - and not a soul to talk to, that I found it mind-numbing and de-motivating, so much so that I hardly left the house at all while they were away - and achieved very little, made even worse by not finding it easy to sleep without her alongside me.

I've also been through another mind-numbing experience as we were all set to return to Qatar where I'd been offered a very highly paid, 3-year, direct hire contract with one of the world's largest oil/gas companies. I'd have been working on a new project that would have been immensely interesting, in a position that was right up my street. I turned it down! Judging by the telephone calls and e-mails I've received from them, I think they're still getting over the shock too! Of course, we'd have loved to return to Qatar as it is like a second home to us - and it would have got us out of the Philippines too, so killing two birds with one stone. Now that would have given us a *real* reason to celebrate! All of that in the first week of the month.

Princess Grace and Little Lad returned from their expedition just before LL's third birthday (10 May), so we had a small party for him here. As he'd already had a birthday party whilst at the farm, he now has no idea when his real birthday is, and will now expect two birthday parties every year! Didn't I say it was a strange month? Even Little Lad is confused!

Then, on the 14 May we had a package delivered by the UK Visa section of the British Embassy with Grace's UK Visa entered into it. WOW! We were so delighted. So, now we're all set to go and start a new life in England. We wonder what adventures God has planned for us there.



On the 15th, Grace disappeared once more to the wilds of Pangasinan to get the projects back on track once more. This time she left Helen and Little Lad at home with me, where we faced some serious weather problems (but nowhere near those as bad as Grace and her family faced) - a typhoon and severe rain which, as usual brought about even more power failures than usual. In fact, some of this magazine was worked on by candlelight while the battery in my laptop computer continued to function. Grace's family still have no electricity and it is estimated that it will take at least 2 MONTHS for them to be reconnected! Grace returned after being away for a week - very pleased to see her.

On 28 May, we booked our flight to the UK so that we are due to arrive there on 13 June. Then - DISASTER! On 29 May, I received an e-mail from the British Embassy saying they had issued Grace with the wrong visa! Thank goodness I'd been following up on this after she'd received it. I had felt that something was wrong and had contacted the embassy via one of our friends who is an Honorary Consul. They had failed to take into account that Grace and I have been married for more than the 4 years required for her to have indefinite leave to remain. Here is their e-mail: Mrs. Cook's Entry Clearance should have been endorsed as SETTLEMENT:SPOUSE (KOL REQ), given the length of your marriage and cohabitation outside the UK, in accordance with paragraph 281(i)(b). The error in endorsement was due to an administrative oversight. The requirement to demonstrate Knowledge of Language & Life (KOL) in the UK was introduced from 2nd April 2007, which means that Mrs Cook cannot be issued settlement Entry Clearance with Indefinite Leave to Enter. She will still be issued a 2 year valid visa with the above endorsement and will have to take and pass the KOL test in the UK within the 2 year validity of her Entry Clearance. During this time she can, at any point, satisfy the knowledge of language and 'life in the UK' requirement. If successful, she can then apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK. Now we just have to get her passport back to the Embassy and wait for the correct visa to be put in. Hassle and stress we could have done without. Watch this space!

**Cover photograph:** Paul. in Afghanistan.

**Inside back cover:** Little Lad opening one of his birthday presents.

**Back cover photograph:** Little Lad in the pool - photograph taken by Grace.

# *Your prayers are needed...*

## *for Gerry:*

Gerry is still in poor health and needs your prayers for his ulcerated leg and the pain he is suffering from arthritis. Please also pray for Sylvia (his wife) who is doing all she can to take good care of him. They both need your prayerful support.

## *for Kate:*

We ask you to pray for Kate who has Cancer and is attending a pain clinic to relieve her suffering.

## *for Bilal:*

We ask you to pray for Bilal who has undergone surgery on his back. Also include his wife, Sawsan, in your prayers, to give her the strength she needs to take care of him after he returns home from hospital.

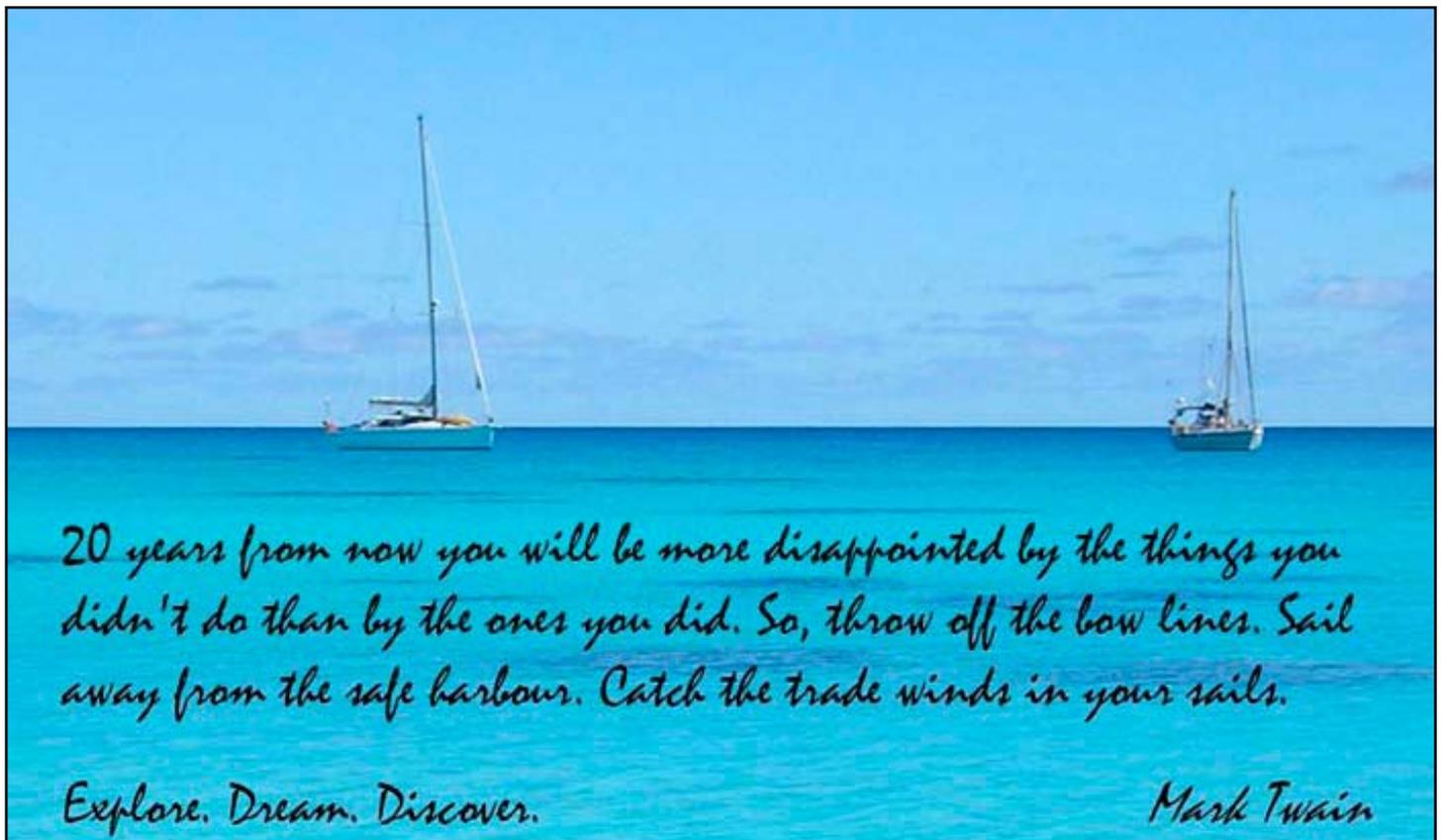
## *for Marc:*

We ask you to pray for Marc who is in very poor health and who suffered a seizure just a day or two ago. Marc is an American friend now living in the Philippines. Please also pray for Tessa, his wife, who is taking care of him.

*and thanks.....*

## *for Paul (Alan's son):*

We are extremely pleased - and thankful - to report that Paul is now home in the UK and enjoying his leave before returning to duties other than being in Afghanistan. Praise the Lord, indeed.





Paul's troop (2 Troop) - all soaked to the skin in front of the memorial at the end of their very last patrol on the day they left Inkerman. *The memorial is something our lads built for the guys that died at FOB Inkerman. We felt it needed something as a few do fall at our place. Their names are all inscribed below the cross.*

## Ready for another operation





### A lucky escape!

The blown up Land Rover I am sat in is in fact an EWMIK (Enhanced Weapons Mounted Installation Kit), a very well armed vehicle with .5 Heavy Machine Gun, Grenade machine gun and a general purpose machine gun all mounted on it. They are built with armoured panels under the Rover that are designed to take the force of mines, IEDs etc. Rather like an F1 car they disintegrate on contact, therefore taking a great deal of the force of the mine away from the passengers. I am sat in the seat that I was in when the mine went off, and it was a very big bang. One of the wheels was found 250 metres away as were other bits and bobs. The only injury was a broken thumb. EWMIK's are an awesome piece of kit that can cross desert quickly and quietly to carry out reces and to ambush the enemy. I "lived" in one for 20 days on one particular op and had no trouble at all considering the conditions.

Paul (left) with one of his colleagues kitted out and ready to go.





Home! - Forward Operating Base Inkerman





## On operations

This Viking on its side in the desert got blown over by a 6 stacked mine.  
Luckily there was almost no damage and no injuries.





R&R in Cyprus on the way home

### 3 Commando Brigade

The Royal Marines' 3 Commando Brigade is the Royal Navy's amphibious infantry on permanent readiness to deploy across the globe, and is a core component of the UK's Joint Rapid Reaction Force. Together the Royal Navy's amphibious ships and the Brigade represent a highly mobile, self-sustained and versatile organisation, with a strategic power projection capability that is unique among the British armed services.

Since the end of the Cold War, the outbreak of crises is usually less predictable, and needs to be met by forces that are flexible, highly mobile and capable of a broad spectrum of operations, and which must be capable of contributing to Alliance and multi-lateral commitments as well as national needs.

Based mainly in the south-west of England, 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines stands in constant readiness to move anywhere in the world to meet emergencies which threaten Britain's vital security interests, and those of its allies. As the landing force of the nation's amphibious force, it provides a unique national capability: independently or as an integrated part of a maritime contribution to a joint force. It has utility in all phases of a campaign, from benign presence to the conduct of forced theatre entry combat operations.

# Human rights laws can be applied to British troops even in combat, a High Court judge has ruled.

Many of you will remember the case brought to court recently regarding the level and standard of equipment issued to personnel in the armed forces serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. These are some of the snippets of news about this case that made the press:

*In Friday's (11 April 2008) landmark judgment against the Ministry of Defence, Mr Justice Collins ruled that sending British soldiers on patrol in Iraq and Afghanistan without adequate protection is a breach of their human rights.*



No one could have viewed his judgment with more direct concern than Sue Smith of Tamworth, Staffs, whose son (left) was killed by a roadside bomb in Iraq three years ago, in a Snatch Land Rover. Ever since her son, Private Phillip Hewett, and two other soldiers died on July 16, 2005,

Mrs. Smith has endured a nightmare, dealt one blow after another by the Army and officialdom.

*Also:*

**The government should have acted sooner to clear the backlog of inquests for soldiers killed in Iraq, the armed forces minister has said.**

Adam Ingram admitted that long delays had caused distress to the families of those who died. Mr Ingram told the BBC's Panorama programme: "I have not been happy with the wait."

Some 130 personnel have been killed since 2003, but inquests are still to be held into more than a third of them.

The Oxfordshire coroner handles the majority of military deaths because their bodies are flown back to RAF Brize Norton.

But a backlog means that more than 50 families are still waiting to hear details of how their relatives died, some as long as three years ago.

"It's something that should have been addressed earlier on," Mr. Ingram told Panorama.

"It has now been addressed because I think the pain which is out there is deepened by the length of time that families have to wait."

And he added: "I think we should have acted as a government sooner and better in all of this."

*Courtesy of The Telegraph at URL: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?view=DETAILS&grid=AllYourView&xml=/opinion/2008/04/13/do1307.xml> and:*

*Courtesy of the BBC at URL: [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk\\_news/6377193.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/6377193.stm)*

## Paul's Opinion

*I feel that these parents that lose their sons in war are trying to find someone to blame. It's as if they think their son joining the forces is going to give them a good wage and pension, not understanding that the price of this could be their sons lives.*

*This human rights breach is utter rubbish. Just because he was in a Land Rover rather than a tank is neither here nor there! Everything is dictated by the situation on the ground. It seems that when people have to do things that they don't like, then it's breaching their human rights. What utter crap!*

*The snatch is not faulty equipment, it does its job which is to be a quick response wagon. It is highly effective in its role and if it gets blown up then that's war. We can't all be issued our own personal tank. Soon we will stop all foot patrols, as getting blisters seems to breach our human rights.*

*These parents should stop wasting my tax money that I have bled to earn and accept their son died doing the job he loved with his closest mates in a horrible war. He joined up knowing the risks, as did everyone else!*

*But hey, it's easy for slimy, money grabbing lawyers to blame the MOD because I'm sure they have seen what war is really like.*

*Lets all sue the MOD for sending the boys over the top in WWI and breaching their rights, I'm sure the payout can be backdated.*

*All the armed forces think that the kit is rubbish because there is nothing we like more than to have a good moan. We moan about the food, the accommodation, the kit and the pay. But everyone in the World has a whinge at their jobs don't they?*

The photographs below are from the UK Government website at URL: <http://www.royalmarines.mod.uk/server/show/ConGallery.404> and show a Heroin Factory found by 40 Commando on 'Operation Ghartse Dagger'



# MOD backs plan to boost recognition for the Armed Forces

The Ministry of Defence has today, Monday 19 May 2008, welcomed the publication of the independent National Recognition of the Armed Forces study by Quentin Davies MP.

Following a wide consultation the report makes 40 recommendations to enhance public awareness and appreciation of the Armed Forces. The MOD will respond in detail to all of these recommendations later in the year, but has already implemented some, and work is underway on others. The recommendations being worked on now include:

- Greater encouragement for the military to wear uniforms in public where circumstances and Service rules allow;
- Creating a British Armed Forces and Veterans Day;
- Introducing extra Local Authority engagement for Homecoming Parades; and
- Strengthening cadet organisations by:
  - Expanding combined cadet forces in Comprehensive Schools; and
  - Introducing a Cadet Ambassador in London to encourage schools to get their pupils involved in cadet forces.

The MOD will now engage with other Government departments and external organisations to take forward these recommendations.

Bob Ainsworth, Armed Forces Minister, said:

*“Our Service Personnel continue to demonstrate the tremendous bravery and courage that makes them the best in the world. This report provides firm foundations to ensure that the work of our Armed Forces is better understood and recognised by the nation they serve.*

*“To complement Quentin Davies’ detailed study, we will soon publish the cross-Government Service Personnel Command Paper. This will set out the Government’s vision for further improving the lives of our troops, their families and veterans.”*

General Timothy Granville-Chapman, Vice Chief of the Defence Staff, said:

*“Mr Davies’ Report highlights the huge debt the nation owes to its sailors, soldiers and airmen. There is increasing public acknowledgement of this, and support for the Armed Forces in terms of homecoming parades and charitable giving has been received very well by those in uniform. And every week people see just what being on operations means – they see people, many of them young, giving real meaning to the idea of service and sacrifice, enduring hardship and often displaying remarkable bravery.*

*“The Report complements the work going on in the Services, is comprehensive and makes firm recommendations which my fellow Chiefs of Staff will find very useful in harnessing appropriate public recognition and understanding of what we do.”*

The National Recognition of the Armed Forces Study was conducted at the invitation of the Prime Minister by Quentin Davies MP. The study team consulted with members of the Royal Family, Parliament, devolved assemblies, civic leaders, serving and retired military personnel, Service charities, religious leaders, businesses and the media.

*Courtesy of the UK MOD web site at URL: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/DefencePolicyAndBusiness/>*

*The full report may be downloaded from URL: <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/PersonnelPublications/DutyofCare/NationalRecognitionOfOurArmedForces.htm>*

# Royal Marines Honoured For Afghanistan Campaign



Royal Marines from 40 Commando will be awarded their campaign medals today (14 May 2008), following a six-month tour of Afghanistan's Helmand Province on Operation Herrick 7.

The Commandos will take part in a ceremonial parade in front of hundreds of friends and family, followed by a barbeque for all the families and a number of displays that aim to show the conditions the Marines lived in and the kinds of tasks they could expect while deployed.

The Royal Marines from 40 Commando, based in Norton Manor Camp, Taunton, Somerset, worked alongside the Royal Marines of the Armoured Support Group and their colleagues from the Royal Navy's Fleet Air Arm as part of 52 Infantry Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Birrell, Commanding Officer of 40 Commando, said: *"This day for families is hugely important to us because without their support we simply could not do the job we do. It is their letters and parcels that keep us going when times are hard and we have missed them over these past months. Today we have a chance to thank them, with the entire 40 Commando community invited to join us at Norton Manor Camp."*

40 Commando took on the responsibility for Battle Group North in Afghanistan's Helmand Province from September 2007 until April 2008, where they operated from forward operating bases in the Gereshk and Sangin valleys. They conducted numerous operations and were instrumental in the taking of Musa Q'ala

Lieutenant Colonel Birrell RM said: *"The Unit worked extremely hard in challenging conditions over a long period, so I am pleased that families have an opportunity to see the men presented with medals they richly deserve."*



Paul with Julie and Emily

The Band of the Royal Marines



*Happy Birthday, Emily*





A birthday trip to Paignton Zoo,  
and a ride on the steam train on the  
West Somerset railway to Dunster.



**1** Year Old!

# Your Letters

*We hope that ALL of you will contribute a few words to this page. All letters published will be done so anonymously. Letters may be edited a little, although nothing will be done to change the meaning or context of anything submitted for publication.*

*The stamp (left) depicts the Hundred Islands National Park which is in Pangasinan, Grace's home province, and near to where used to we live, in Alaminos.*



Hi Alan & Grace,

I hope this email finds you all safe and well. Not a lot to report from this end.

Well you seem to excelled yourself with the news this month. Quite long one. My problem was finding time to read it all. Well most of it anyway. For some reason, there does not seem to be enough hours in the day for me to try and get through all I want to do. It seems to take me longer to do things now. I think they call it "GETTING OLDER". Why, I don't know.

Some excellent photographs included again in the news, but I think you will soon have to stand to one side now JP has got the feel of the camera. He seems to look more mischievous as he gets older. Good news that Paul is back home and safe. I bet he will enjoy his leave very much after being out in that Opium growing shithole? I can think of no other name for it.

I loved Nelson's column. Think it is very much to today's truth. If only Nelson could come back. I think he would turn on this government and ship them out to the colonies. But there; they would only send them back to us in the UK, saying they don't accept British immigrants in the Commonwealth any more. As far as Pirates are concerned; can you tell the difference between them and the British government. I can't. Gordon Brown, Blair and their cronies are nothing but a bus load of robbing bar-stewards in my opinion!!

Keep well all of you. Look after yourselves and regards to all.

Dear both,

Happy b-day to JP! Once again - lots of celebration over there, Philippine style!

Nice reading.

Anyway, please let us know when you will be in UK. Hope to see there this summer!

GREAT - thanks for the newsletter - terrific photos again and good to keep up with all the news. Delighted to hear Paul is safe and sound for a bit.

Pollution still bad over here - goodness knows what the Olympics will be like - hope there are no ball games - you'll never see the thing!

We went into frenzy of patriotism last week with the Olympic torch burning its way around the place...and no protesters, obviously!

Lately we've had masses of news of pro and anti thoughts re Tibet including reports of manuals on how to cause a disruption being distributed to professional protesters and all said to be backed with US dosh. You wouldn't know who to believe but I did once think it's amazing how sophisticated the Tibetans have become when I saw them in action in Paris and other capitals, compared to the Tibetans we see in China?

Oh well no doubt it takes the focus off Iraq for a while - so I guess change is as good as a holiday or something and certainly better for the home side during an election year in US.

How's the Qatar possibility coming along? Not sure going back there would be all that attractive...UK has far more action if you can get it, surely? Let's know what you're up to.

Keep up the good work with the newsletter - It's always great to receive and putting a slightly different slant on it last time was very apt, as it specifically tied in with your family's activities. Well, that's what I thought; and now your son is home, mercifully, things will probably change again.

As they say - that's as good as a holiday ...and as close as I'll be getting to one for a good while now, I suspect, having blown the budget on that last jaunt!



We were delighted to receive this photograph from our friend, Diane, whom many of you will know.

Celebrating Christmas a little early!!! Or was it last year?

Hi Alan,

My comment on your last newsletter. I would say it is quite an eye opener about Islam. It does appear that the Middle East and the West will come into one hell of a battle at some point in the near future. What a frightening thought!!! But the facts are such that it is impossible to reason or negotiate with an enemy whose goal is either to subjugate or kill.

No reasonable person wants a war. But then, there is nothing reasonable about jihad. Our world is in much greater peril than we dare think, isn't it?

Good article, Alan. Keep up with your informative newsletters.

Hi Alan,

Before I even open your newsletter, I am going to write. It is funny, but not travelling from country to country and staying for 3 years in the same place, the time just meshes together. You look forward to Spring and finally it arrives. You look for the end of the semester and now it is just two weeks away and we made it.

You mark your time by events. You have been living close to Grace's family so you must know what I mean. Yesterday I bought a new lawn mower and cut the grass. Not too exciting but that was the event of the day. Today I will see a former Senator speak who was important in the United Nations. Tomorrow is the Artfest downtown. It is a day to day process.

I still do get the wanderlust and if things hadn't turned out yesterday with making my adjunct full-time I was seriously thinking of hanging up this job and go abroad again. Especially because I got an e-mail yesterday about a job offer in Qatar.

Being around my daughter and family I guess would be the cement that keeps me here. Sometimes though I feel that with the time I have left I am not doing all I would have liked to do in this world. I guess all of us feel this time to time. I am going to South America this summer for 6 weeks so hopefully this will quench my thirst for travel. I am planning on floating down or up the Amazon.

I will view your newsletter later. Your March newsletter was great. Say hi to Grace and the little lad.

You are so blessed to have both of them.

## THE TELEPHONE

After having dug to a depth of 10 meters last year, Scottish scientists found traces of copper wire dating back 100 years and came to the conclusion that their ancestors already had a telephone network more than 100 years ago.

Not to be outdone by the Scots, in the weeks that followed, English scientists dug to a depth of 20 meters, and shortly after, headlines in the London newspapers read: "English archaeologists have found traces of 200 year old copper wire and have concluded that their ancestors already had an advanced high-tech communications network a hundred years earlier than the Scots."

One week later, "The Western Mail," a Valleys Welsh newspaper, reported the following:

"After digging as deep as 30 meters in peat bog near Ton y Pandy, Dai Digger Davies, a self taught archaeologist and eminent worrier of sheep, reported that he found absolutely nothing.

Taffy has therefore concluded that 300 years ago Wales had already gone wireless."

### The Test

Most recently - last week - I went to a documentary type movie which the New Age world is buzzing about -- The Moses Code - a type of sprout from the Dan Brown Da Vinci code - I felt it had milked the thing too much and came away wondering why I'd wasted my money etc. and dismissed it in a comment to another person as Evangelical mayonnaise ... of the thick and overly sweet goo.

However the line it pivots on -- is ages old and one we are all aware of - I AM THAT, I AM...from Moses. You can interpret that in many ways ...but on my wall I have a poem which also incorporates that - a friend sent it to me about two years ago - I don't know who wrote it but after seeing that movie I suddenly decided to read it again and felt particularly struck by the parable of the man making his choice...

Now, of course, it has struck me again and accordingly I feel I must send it to you.

### The Test

Early one morning  
I had a strange but lovely dream:  
I went astray in the forest by night  
When I at last came upon a track  
leading in different directions.

By the left a young girl  
was playing a flute  
By the right an old man bent  
under a heavy burden  
It was as if he carried  
the whole world on his back.

"Where are you headed," asked the Girl.  
"The trills of the flute  
point to the road!"  
I did not answer, but  
took the road to the right.

In the very moment  
a magnificent halo appeared  
over the old man's head  
illuminating his haggard traits,  
changing his whole appearance.

In a flash of a second he  
became young as a lark  
and more gentle and soothing  
than the rain of summer...

"Who are you? " was  
all I could ask...

Then I saw a star shining  
over his head, and he spoke:  
"I am the earth and the sky,  
the shadow and the light,  
the calm and the change,  
the ebb and the flow.

I AM THAT I AM

I am you and you are I,  
and we both are immortal  
and one with the  
Highest Being,  
one in the breath  
of the Great World Soul.  
We are one with the stone and  
the tree, the earth and the  
sea, one with the plants and  
the animals, birds and the bees -  
Always one with the rhythmic  
music of the Great Cosmic Heart.

Then he kept silent  
and in the great calm  
that ensued,  
a hymn of rejoicefulness vibrated  
and a glorious light  
filled my soul.

When I woke up, I felt  
like a newborn child,  
happy and renewed  
and when I arose  
to take up my clothes  
I felt as if my feet  
scarcely touched  
the ground, and I danced.

.....

*(sent in by one of our dear friends - many thanks - as  
was the joke on the next page)*

I felt you might like this little story from my friend in India where life is lived close to the streets...

You know the facts about the gentlemen's hairdresser who used to operate under the trees along our front compound wall where clients used to sit on an old blue wooden stool, and there he hung a small mirror on an appropriate branch and hoped that the breeze would gently move it so the client could not see what he was doing, and, he kept his bottles of water for shaving and other bits and pieces neatly laid out on the top of the wall. Well in more recent times he upgraded, and a new dark brown 'cabin' arrived with no windows and the barber's chair was so large that he could not move around the back of it, so he had to swivel the clients towards the door so he is able to ply his skills 'as best he could in this confined space' . . . well, a man went to him for a haircut prior to heading to Rome. When he told the barber he was off to Rome the barber replied 'ROME' why on earth would any one want to go there. . . it's crowded, it's dirty and full of Italians! So how are you getting there the barber asked? 'We're taking TWA, was the reply. 'We got a great rate.'

"TWA!" exclaimed the barber. That's a terrible airline. Their planes are old, the flight attendants are ugly, and they are always late. So where are you staying asked the barber. . . We'll be at the downtown Marriot International. That dump! That's the worst hotel in the city. The rooms are small, the service is surly and they are overpriced. So whatcha going to do when you get there?

We are going to see the Vatican and we hope to see the Pope.'

'That's rich,' laughed the barber. 'You and a million other people trying to see him. Boy, good luck on the trip!. 'You're going to need it.'

A month later, the man returned to the cabin again for his regular haircut. The barber asked about the trip to Rome.

'It was simply wonderful, not only were we on time in one of TWA's brand new planes, but it was overbooked and they bumped us up to first class. The food and wine were wonderful, and a beautiful stewardess waited on me hand and foot. And the hotel, it was great. They just finished a \$25 million remodelling job, and now it's the finest hotel in the city. They too were overbooked, so they apologized and gave us the presidential suite at no extra charge.

'Well, muttered the barber, 'I know you didn't get to see the Pope.'

'Actually we were quite lucky, as we were touring the Vatican, a Swiss Guard tapped me on the shoulder and explained that the Pope likes to personally meet some of the visitors and if I would be so kind as to step inside his private room and wait, the Pope would personally greet me. Sure enough five minutes later, he walked through the door and shook my hand. I knelt down as he spoke a few words to me.'

'Really?' asked the barber, What did he say?.

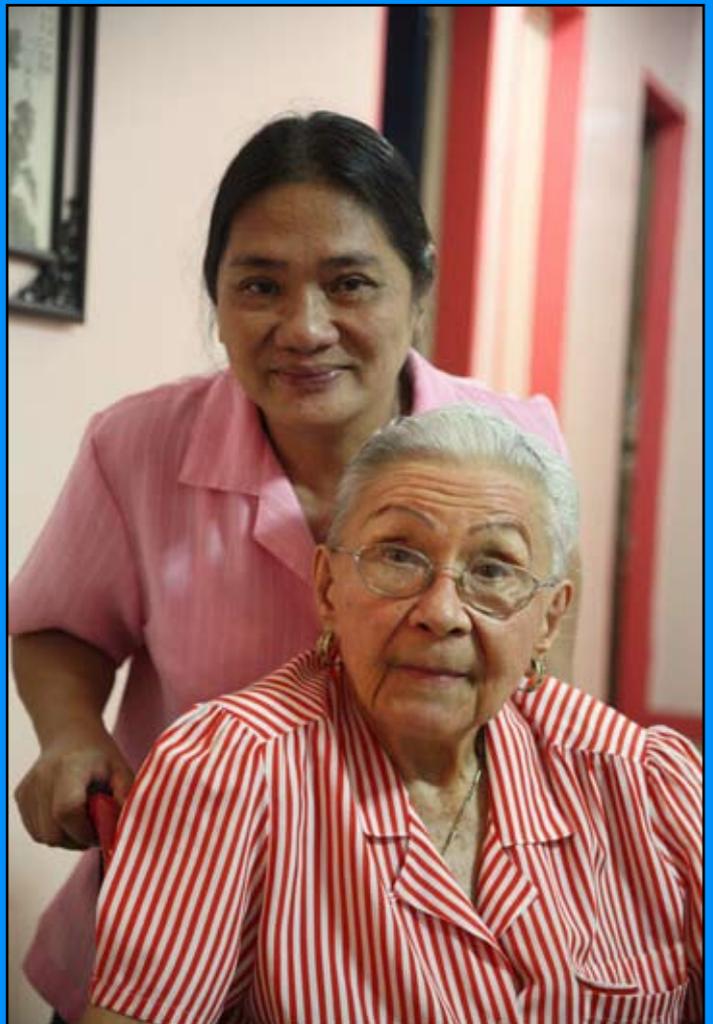
He said, 'Where the Hell did you get that haircut?'



# Happy Birthday, John

# 3 years old!







This section in our little magazine will bring to your attention some interesting web-sites that I've found. I hope you find this new feature interesting and informative.

This month I'm concentrating on the debate about the *Global Food Shortage*, something that concerns us all.

Whilst I'm certainly not qualified to make a judgement on anything you may read on these pages, I have given you some links where you can read more about this topic.

	<b>Executive Intelligence Review</b>
	<i>This article appeared as part of a feature in the <u>December 8, 1995 issue of Executive Intelligence Review</u>. See <u>Feature Introduction and Table of Contents</u>.</i>
	<b>Kissinger's 1974 Plan for Food Control Genocide</b>

## Who Is Responsible for the World Food Shortage?

### Introduction

by Marcia Merry Baker

This week's cover photo, showing corn piled on the ground, out in the open, near Minnesota grain elevators, is representative of the disintegration of the food supply system the world over. While the U.S. Midwest corn and soybean harvests were coming in this fall, the U.S. rail freight system broke down. After years of financial mergers, asset stripping, and rail track removal, such companies as Union Pacific, which are considered to be financial "successes," failed miserably on the economic front, and could not even supply engines to move the grain cars. Millions of bushels of grain are sitting, rotting on the ground.



This grain transport breakdown is but one recent example of breakdown in the food supply in what is considered the most food-secure nation in the world, and illustrates the fact that "natural disasters"—bad weather, floods, droughts—are not the cause of the world's food crises. These examples, and equivalent situations all around the world, are "unnatural" disasters, caused by years of takedown of agriculture infrastructure under wrong policies and assumptions, in

particular, serving the interests of private financial and commodities control circles, centered mostly in London.

The worldwide food crisis is measurable in the decline of grains, of all types, produced per capita yearly. To provide every person with a daily diet of their preference, with sufficient calories and nutrients, would require well over 3 billion tons of grain produced annually. But as of around 1990, less than 1.9 billion tons were being produced yearly, and since then, world annual production has declined.

An estimated 800 million people are suffering from some degree of malnutrition. Besides the nearly continent-wide food supply crisis in Africa, there are other locations, such as Russia and former Soviet bloc nations, plunged into crisis. Even under the Soviet command economy, Russia's annual grain production averaged 100 million tons. But output has fallen each year since 1991, to only around 65 million tons this year.

### No paradox.

What does the international community say? Officially, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and sister U.N. agencies—the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and the World Trade Organization (WTO)—blame hunger on "poverty."

The FAO gala conference in Quebec City in October, for the FAO's 50th anniversary, celebrated the fact that world tonnages of food have increased over five decades, but

lamented that 800 million people don't have enough to eat—a "paradox," according to the conference speakers. But most of the 100 or more agriculture ministers present knew better.

The last 25-30 years have seen a consistent decline of agriculture output potential in almost all countries. Necessary ratios of infrastructure (water, transport, electricity) and inputs (chemicals, mechanization, quality seeds and stock) have fallen, to the point where output per capita is sharply declining.

At mid-century, after World War II, there were mobilisations to improve agriculture output potential on every continent.

\* In western Europe, the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) of the European Community saw spectacular rises in agriculture productivity.

\* In Africa, the wave of newly independent nations, such as Sudan (1956), made technology-based agriculture the keystone of national development plans. The "Atoms for Peace" movement backed such designs as the continental electrification of Africa, and the provision of nuclear-power-based energy grids in Egypt, Iran, and other countries.

\* In North America, plans were drawn up for the North American Water and Power Alliance (Nawapa), which would divert river runoff from flowing into the Arctic Ocean, southward. The Mexico College of Engineers produced plans for sister hydraulic projects.

\* In Eurasia, blasting was started on Siberian water diversion projects to channel flow southward from the Ob and Irtysh watersheds, to relieve the endangered Aral Sea Basin.

\* Development of the Mekong River in Southeast Asia, and improvements in the Indian subcontinent, were outlined.

But by 1975, most of these projects were shelved. In the eyes of today's "counter-cultured" generation, they have receded into the mists of science fiction, if they've heard of these projects at all.

Over the 1970s, the shift was made to "post-industrial" policies, casino economics (speculation, derivatives), and free trade demands, enforced by the IMF Bretton Woods system. And now that financial system itself is in the process of blowout. The food crisis is the evidence.

Dozens of nations, once self-sufficient in many food staples, have been forced into food import dependency over the past 30 years. And now, neither the food stocks, nor the financing, exists for their food supplies. The GATT launched the "Uruguay Round" for free trade in 1986, under the slogan, "One World, One Market," which culminated in the creation in 1995 of the World Trade Organization. But

the cupboard of the "World Market" is bare.

Nevertheless, in 1996, the U.N. plans another World Food Summit, on the theme of "food security," while millions more people go hungry.

Behind the scenes, the private financial interests served by the U.N., IMF, and other Bretton Woods agencies, are making sweeping moves to acquire food stocks for hoarding, and to take controlling positions in food commodities production, processing, and shipping.

This is the last phase of an era of food-as-a-weapon politics, officially ushered in in 1974, when the then U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger (now Sir Henry KCMG) gave the keynote speech at the Rome World Food Conference, the predecessor to the 1996 Food Summit. In 1974, Kissinger publicly talked of food security, while privately he worked to use food control as a weapon against a target list of nations.

(See report: *National Security Study Memorandum 200: Implications of Worldwide Population Growth for U.S. Security and Overseas Interests*. Available to download from URL: <http://www.population-security.org/28-APP2.html>)

### **Name the names**

In this Special Report, we have assembled the documentation required to understand the crisis situation in depth, in order to intervene, and reverse it.

We provide:

1. the statistical overview of the past 30 years of forcing food import dependency on nations;
2. the record of Henry Kissinger and the use of food control as a weapon;
3. the names of the companies and individuals who make up the financial and commodities cartels controlling food supply lines.

These reviews are not the usual representation of today's food crisis. The "common-sense" reasons for food shortages that you usually hear—bad weather, backwardness, civil strife, etc.—are all wrong.

Worse, the "authorities" on food and agriculture who are usually presented by the media, will tell you specific lies that have been pre-approved for public consumption by the financial and commodities cartel interests that created and continue to back such bogus authorities. For example, Lester Brown, of Worldwatch Institute, who spoke at the U.N. FAO 50th anniversary, is constantly in the media, charging that the world's population has outstripped the world's resources base, and demanding that population be cut because it cannot be fed. We supply the pedigree of Lester Brown, and other hired hands of the food cartels, so you know where the lies are coming from.

## Emergency measures required

The information below (with more to come in follow-up reports in 1996), has been assembled in order to spur the mobilization for emergency financial and economic measures to deal with food shortages and the overall physical economic breakdown.

Several rear-guard actions were launched in 1995. They are well motivated, but they will not do the job. A bill is before Congress, sponsored by Sen. Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) and others, to create a special commission to investigate control over the U.S. food supply by a "concentration" of processors. An Agriculture Department investigation is under way of the monopolistic actions of IBP, the Nebraska-based, London-associated, largest meat processor in the world. The Justice Department Anti-Trust Division has grand juries working on international price-fixing charges against the London-associated cartel companies Cargill Inc., ADM, Tate & Lyle (A.E. Staley), and CPC.

But dealing with the famine-scale food crisis, and financial disintegration, requires more than prosecution of isolated acts of wrongdoing, or mere "bigness." Read on, to find out what every citizen needs to know to do the right thing.

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# Change in Farming Can Feed World - Report

<http://www.enn.com/agriculture/article/34913>

Sixty countries backed by the World Bank and most UN bodies yesterday called for radical changes in world farming to avert increasing regional food shortages, escalating prices and growing environmental problems.

But in a move that has led to the **US, UK, Australia and Canada not yet endorsing the report**, the authors said GM technology was not a quick fix to feed the world's poor and argued that growing biofuel crops for automobiles threatened to increase worldwide malnutrition.

The report was issued as the UN's World Food Programme called for rich countries to contribute \$500m (£255m) to immediately address a growing global food crisis which has seen staple food price rises of up to 80% in some countries, and food riots in many cities. According to the World Bank, 33 countries are now in danger of political destabilisation and internal conflict following food price inflation.

The authors of the 2,500-page International Assessment

of Agricultural Science and Technology for Development [IAASTD] say the world produces enough food for everyone, yet more than 800 million people go hungry. "Food is cheaper and diets are better than 40 years ago, but malnutrition and food insecurity threaten millions," they write. "Rising populations and incomes will intensify food demand, especially for meat and milk which will compete for land with crops, as will biofuels. The unequal distribution of food and conflict over control of the world's dwindling natural resources presents a major political and social challenge to governments, likely to reach crisis status as climate change advances and world population expands from 6.7 billion to 9.2 billion by 2050."

*(Ed: I have been unable to find a copy of this report to download - anywhere! Rather strange isn't it? This is the nearest I got: [http://www.agassessment.org/docs/Synthesis\\_Report\\_261107\\_text.pdf](http://www.agassessment.org/docs/Synthesis_Report_261107_text.pdf) - see box on next page for details)*

Robert Watson, director of IAASTD and chief scientist at the UK Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, said: "Business as usual will hurt the poor. It will not work. We have to applaud global increases in food production but not everyone has benefited. We have not succeeded globally. In some parts of India 50% of children are still malnourished. That is not success."

Watson said governments and industry focused too narrowly on increasing food production, with little regard for natural resources or food security. "Continuing with current trends would mean the earth's haves and have-nots splitting further apart," he said. "It would leave us facing a world nobody would want to inhabit. We have to make food more affordable and nutritious without degrading the land."

The report - the first significant attempt to involve governments, NGOs and industries from rich and poor countries - took 400 scientists four years to complete. The present system of food production and the way food is traded around the world, the authors concluded, has led to a highly unequal distribution of benefits and serious adverse ecological effects and was now contributing to climate change.

The authors say science and technology should be targeted towards raising yields but also protecting soils, water and forests. "Investment in agricultural science has decreased yet we urgently need sustainable ways to produce food. Incentives for science to address the issues that matter to the poor are weak," said Watson.

The GM industry, which helped fund the report, together with the UN's Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Health Organisation and the British and US governments, abandoned talks last year after heated debate.

The scientists said they saw little role for GM, as it is currently practised, in feeding the poor on a large scale. "Assessment of the technology lags behind its development, information is anecdotal and contradictory, and uncertainty about possible benefits and damage is unavoidable," said the report.

"The short answer to whether transgenic crops can feed the world is 'no'. But they could contribute. We must understand their costs and benefits," said Watson yesterday.

The authors also warned that the global rush to biofuels was not sustainable. "The diversion of crops to fuel can raise food prices and reduce our ability to alleviate hunger. The negative social effects risk being exacerbated in cases where small-scale farmers are marginalised or displaced from their land," they said.

Responding to the report, a group of eight international environment and consumer groups, including Third World Network, Practical Action, Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth, said in a statement: "This is a sobering account of the failure of industrial farming. Small-scale farmers and ecological methods provide the way forward to avert the current food crisis and meet the needs of communities."

Lim Li Chung, of Third World Network in Malaysia, said: "It clearly shows that small-scale farmers and the environment lose under trade liberalisation. Developing countries must exercise their right to stop the flood of cheap subsidised products from the north."

Guilhem Calvo, an adviser with the ecological and earth sciences division of UNESCO, one of the report's sponsors, said at a news conference in Paris: "We must develop agriculture that is less dependent on fossil fuels, favours the use of locally available resources and explores the use of natural processes such as crop rotation and use of organic fertilisers".

#### **At a glance**

**Bio-energy:** The report says biofuels compete for land and water with food crops and are inefficient. They can cause deforestation and damage soils and water.

**Biotechnology:** The use of GM crops, where the technology is not contained, is contentious, the UN says. Data on some crops indicate highly variable yield gains in some places and declines in others.

**Climate change:** While modest temperature rises may increase food yields in some areas, a general warming risks damaging all regions of the globe. There will be serious potential for conflict over habitable land.

**Trade and markets:** Subsidies distort the use of resources and benefit industrialised nations at the expense of developing countries.

 International Assessment of Agricultural Knowledge, Science and Technology for Development

**"BUSINESS AS USUAL IS NOT AN OPTION"**

"Agriculture has a footprint on all of the big environmental issues, so as the world considers climate change, biodiversity, land degradation, water quality, etc. they must also consider agriculture which lies at the centre of these issues and poses some uncomfortable challenges that need to be faced. We've got to make sure the footprint of agriculture on climate change is lessened, we have to make sure that we don't degrade our soil, we don't degrade the water, we don't have adverse effects on biodiversity. There are some major challenges, but we believe that by combining local and traditional knowledge with formal knowledge these challenges can be met."

--Professor Robert Watson- Director IAASTD & Chief Scientist DEFRA

*URL: [http://www.agassessment.org/index.cfm?Page=Press\\_Materials&ItemID=11](http://www.agassessment.org/index.cfm?Page=Press_Materials&ItemID=11)*

As I couldn't find a full copy of the IAASTD report anywhere, I wrote to them. This was their response. Note: It has been answered by Pedro Marques - from the World Bank! (see his e-mail address). I find that very interesting. When I checked the synthesis report on 29 May, I found that it had been removed. However, you can still read it by clicking on the link on page 24, as I have uploaded a copy to our website.

Dear Alan

Summaries of the IAASTD reports are all currently available on the IAASTD Reports page of our website: <http://www.agassessment.org/index.cfm?Page=IAASTD%20Reports&ItemID=2713>

Final publication of all underlying chapters is scheduled for September. Draft versions of the underlying chapters are currently off the website for proofing and publication.

Thank you for your interest in the IAASTD,

Best Regards,  
Pedro Marques

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# A great victory but at what terrible price?

by Melanie Phillips

Courtesy of URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/684336/a-great-victory-but-at-what-terrible-price.html>

It was eminently predictable, but it is still a great victory. Today the Court of Appeal unanimously and emphatically declared that the ban under the Terrorism Act of the main Iranian opposition group, the People's Mojahideen of Iran (PMOI) (*Ed: also known as the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO)*), was illegal. Since the judges also refused to allow the Home Secretary even the possibility of an appeal, the government must now de-proscribe the PMOI as ordered by the court.

This not only brings to an end a shameful chapter in Britain's long appeasement of the tyrannical Iranian regime but also offers a sliver of hope that the regime might now be toppled. One might have thought that this was an outcome devoutly to be wished for by the governments of the west. Far better, after all, that the ayatollahs should be deposed by popular will of the Iranian people than that the west should be forced to go to war to prevent Iran from going nuclear and thus holding the entire world to ransom in pursuit of the mullahs' aim of bringing about an apocalypse and the defeat of the west. But the proscription of the PMOI, not only by the UK but also by the EU and the US, has meant that it has been unable to raise money and organise resistance to help the Iranian people to rise up against the regime that enslaves them.

That regime is weak, as can be seen from the (almost totally unreported in the UK) atrocities against dissidents who are being hanged or gruesomely mutilated almost every week. If the PMOI had been able to campaign publicly against the regime and to bring its atrocities to light, the pressure might already have brought about its demise. But far from helping bring this about, the UK government shamefully chose to suck up to the mullahs when, in 2001, the then Home Secretary Jack Straw banned the PMOI as a terrorist organisation at the request of the Iranian government — the true terrorists of Iran.

Yes, the PMOI has a past history of violence (renounced in 2001) but never against the west, only in defence of life and liberty in Iran — first against the cruel repression of the Shah's regime, and then against the unspeakable savagery of the ayatollahs. Forced to establish a base in Saddam's Iraq, the PMOI — Shia Muslims who are committed to uphold human rights, to renounce the death penalty and medieval Islamic punishment and to separate mosque and state, thus

replacing Islamic theocracy by secular democracy — are now using that base in Ashraf to encourage the Iraqi Shia to repel Iran and al Qaeda and to work with America in stabilising the country.

As a result, the US now affords the PMOI protected status in Ashraf. Yet in 2003, the US and the UK actually bombed the PMOI bases in Ashraf — having pledged to do so before the start of hostilities in Iraq as a quid pro quo for Iran staying out of the war. In the aftermath, however, coalition forces signed an agreement of 'mutual understanding and co-ordination' with the PMOI. This prompted General Odierno — then commander of the US Army 4th division and now the designated successor to General Petraeus as commander of the coalition — to say that the PMOI appeared to be committed to democracy in Iran and its cooperation with the coalition should prompt a review of its terrorist status. Yet although in Iraq the PMOI are now 'protected persons', the group is still proscribed in the US and EU.

War, as we all know, should only ever be a last resort; but sometimes that last resort is unavoidable. So it is with Iran. A nuclear Iran is — or should be — simply unthinkable and in the last resort war may therefore be unavoidable. But if that war should indeed come about, the governments of Britain, America and Europe will bear a very heavy responsibility indeed. Because such a war could have been avoided had they done everything in their power to bring about the end of the mullahs' regime by peaceful means. They did not do that; instead they tried to appease it by outlawing and even bombing the very people who offered the best chance of bringing about its end — and who also, incidentally, stand for the democratic and secular Islamic society which the western world purports to be so desperate to see develop.

The result has been the continued oppression and misery of the people of Iran; the death, torture and mutilation of tens of thousands of brave Iranian dissidents fighting for freedom; and a gift to the Iranian regime of that most precious of all commodities — time to build its nuclear arsenal while continuing to blow up western soldiers and attack western interests. Now, with the Israelis warning that Iran may be as little as one year away from building a nuclear bomb, time may simply have run out for the possibility of toppling the regime. If so, history will record the behaviour of the UK, US and Europe towards Iran ever since the revolution of 1979 as one of the most shameful, cowardly and lethal episodes of appeasement in western history.

One of the most distressing aspects of the war of civilisation is the way in which the west persists in appeasing its enemies while cutting off its allies at the knees. Today the English judiciary (for once) struck a blow for freedom and against tyranny and its appeasement. The beleaguered people of Iran who yearn to live in peace and freedom should know that today at least, Britain has said: 'We are with you'.

## Iran protests against Britain's decision to remove MKO from terrorist list Tehran Times Political Desk

TEHRAN -- Iran's Foreign Ministry on Monday summoned British Ambassador Geoffrey Adams to "strongly protest" against a UK Court of Appeal ruling that supported the removal of the Mujahedin Khalq Organization (*Ed: also known as the People's Mojahideen of Iran (PMOI)*) from Britain's list of banned terror organizations.

Last Wednesday, three senior judges at Britain's Court of Appeal rejected the British government's request to challenge an order that it take the MKO off its list of terrorist organizations.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for European Affairs Mehdi Safari described the verdict as "political and unacceptable".

Safari pointed to the MKO's major crimes against Iran, saying the group planted bombs throughout the country and killed a large number of Iranians over the past 30 years since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and warned Britain of the repercussions the decision would have on Tehran-London relations.

"The Court of Appeal's decision proves that the British government is applying double standards toward terrorism and toward the Mujahedin Khalq Organization as an example of terrorism. This is not acceptable for a European government that claims to be fighting against terrorism," he stated.

Adams rejected claims that Britain had revised its policy on the MKO, saying, "We still regard the organization as a terrorist group."

He expressed support for Iran's view on the MKO's "terrorist nature" and said he would convey Iran's protest to the British government.

"As the British secretary for foreign affairs earlier stated, the government believes that the MKO's terror acts are shameful and Britain's official policy is based on having no relations with this group," the ambassador added.

Earlier on Sunday, Foreign Minister Manuchehr Mottaki called on Britain to swiftly extradite a terrorist involved in the 1980 siege of the Iranian Embassy in London.

Six gunmen stormed the Iranian Embassy in London on April 30, 1980 and held 26 diplomats hostage. After a six-day stand-off, the Special Air Service (SAS) launched a dramatic attack on the hostage-takers, ending the siege with

19 hostages freed, seven dead, and many injured.

He expressed regret over the tragic incident which he said took place due to the then "British government's neglect and its support for terrorism."

"We hope the incident's one remaining terrorist will be extradited to the Islamic Republic for a fair trial," the foreign minister added.

Courtesy of URL: [http://www.tehrantimes.com/index\\_View.asp?code=168475](http://www.tehrantimes.com/index_View.asp?code=168475)

***After reading the Tehran Times article, I sent a link to it to Melanie Phillips and this is her response (at URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/701771/the-continued-appeasement-of-iran.shtml>):***

Despite last week's Appeal Court judgment instructing the British government to de-proscribe the Iranian resistance group the PMOI (also known as the Mujahedin Khalq Organization) which I reported here, Britain is still on its craven knees before the tyrants of Iran as The Tehran Times reported.

To repeat: the Court of Appeal upheld the decision by POAC (the Proscribed Organisations Appeals Commission) that the PMOI should be de-proscribed on the grounds that it renounced violence altogether in 2001; POAC found the government's decision to proscribe it 'perverse'. Among other things, POAC said:

***That the repressive nature of the present regime in Iran and its sponsorship of terrorism was something that the Secretary of State should take into account, certainly in the exercise of his discretion as to whether or not to maintain the proscription... That the democratic nature of the PMOI and the fact that the PMOI has provided information in relation to the Iranian regime's nuclear projects should be given account and its importance should not be underestimated.***

Indeed. In light of the fact that Iran declared war upon the west in 1979, has been pursuing that war ever since through acts of state-sponsored terrorism against western interests, has been killing British and coalition soldiers in Iraq, has announced its intention to destroy Israel and is hell-bent on acquiring nuclear weapons to hold the west to ransom, the grovelling of the British ambassador in front of a dressing-down by that enemy — indeed, the very fact that we still have an ambassador to Iran — is beyond shameful. It is treacherous to this country's own interests.



Courtesy of URL: [http://www.iranfocus.com/en/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1102](http://www.iranfocus.com/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1102)

### **Tank girls: the frontline feminists** **Tuesday, 28 December 2004**

These women have come from around the world to bring down Iran's ayatollahs. So why were they bombed by the West? Christine Aziz visits their desert HQ

#### **The Independent**

As the coalition bombs hit the flat salt plains on the north-eastern border of Iraq, members of a little known, female-led Iranian army huddled in a bunker. While the earth shook, showering dust on their neatly pressed khaki headscarves, 25-year old Laleh Tarighi and her fellow combatants tried to protect themselves.

Eighteen months later, recalling the terror of being attacked by British and US bombers during the invasion of Iraq last year, Tarighi, a former pupil of Parkside and Hill Road School in Cambridge, says: "We were puzzled more than afraid. We knew our officers had sent messages to the Pentagon insisting that we were neutral and shouldn't be attacked. We were only in Iraq to overthrow the Islamic fundamentalist regime across the border in Iran."

It is hard to imagine that Tarighi was once a typical British teenager who loved going to the cinema and socialising in cafés. Few of her friends knew that when she was a child in Iran, her father had been executed for being a member of the Iranian resistance, and that her mother was a high-ranking commander in the National Liberation Army of Iran (NLA). After A-levels, Tarighi had planned to study media at university, but then, aged 18, she decided to leave the comfort of the home she shared with her aunt to join her mother in the NLA in a military camp on the Iran-Iraq border.

The NLA is the military wing of the National Council of the Resistance of Iran (NCRI), a female-dominated, Iranian parliament-in-exile whose aim is to topple the Islamic fundamentalist regime and replace it with a secular, democratic government. The NCRI is led by a charismatic Iranian, Maryam Rajavi, 53. Security around her is tight for fear of assassination attempts, and she very rarely appears in public. Her organisation has kept a low profile until it recently started sharing intelligence reports on Iran's nuclear programme with America and Europe.

But, in spite of this co-operation, the NLA is still considered a terrorist organisation by the West. The coalition forces in Iraq have restricted its 3,800 combatants to their camps, and their weapons have been confiscated. Women make up 30 per cent of the NLA, but 70 per cent of the officers are female. The British Army has just one female brigadier,

while in the Navy there are four female captains.

Rajavi has long encouraged female participation in the army. She argues that, as misogyny is the mainstay of the Iranian government, who better to strike at it than women? Her female recruits, many of whom had been tortured and imprisoned in Iran, train alongside men in all aspects of frontline battle, including hand-to-hand combat and armoured vehicle operation. With the backing of wealthy Iranian exiles, they are preparing for the day when the order comes to march east over the frontier to liberate their land from the mullahs.

Tarighi is one of hundreds of sons and daughters of Iranian exiles in Europe, America and Canada who have volunteered to join the army since its inception in 1987, when Saddam Hussein allowed the NLA to build its camps along the Iranian border. Until Saddam's fall in March last year, the NLA had been able to build up its military force under the watchful eye of its host.

When Tarighi arrived in Iraq in 1997, she was still sporting a stud in her tongue and wearing trainers - very different to the army's uniform for women of khaki headscarves, combat trouser-suits and boots. It was not her first visit to the NLA camp at Ashraf; when her mother fled with her daughter in 1987, they escaped to this camp, where they lived for four years.

The Gulf War in 1991 meant that all the camp's children were evacuated to foster-carers in the West. "I grew up in Cambridge from the age of 10. My life was pretty much there," Tarighi says. "After I passed my A-levels, I decided to spend a gap year in France before going off to university.

"But I got news that my mother had sent me a letter, care of the NCRI headquarters in Paris. It was the first letter I'd received in a long time, and it was very affectionate. I talked to NCRI members and decided to go and join my mother. We hadn't seen each other for eight years. I knew her immediately I saw her, but she didn't recognise me. I looked like any other British girl, and she wasn't too pleased about my tongue stud.

"At first it was difficult living back in the camp, and I missed a lot of things, especially, believe it or not, the English weather. I love rain, and there wasn't a lot of it in Iraq. But it was the friends I made in the camp, and the support and encouragement I received, that carried me through. I did marching drills and learnt to fire a Kalashnikov. I had never seen a gun in England. I didn't join the NLA for my mother, but for Iran. The regime murdered my father, and my grandmother had been in prison there many times. Resistance is in my blood."

Ashraf is 14 square miles of impeccable tidiness. The first impression is of a holiday camp rather than a military base. Eucalyptus trees line long driveways, men and women tend gardens, and there's the smell of bread from the bakery. Since Tarighi arrived at the camp in 1997, a swimming pool and an exhibition room have been built.

But in that time the cemetery, decorated with plastic flowers, has expanded. In the past 18 months, 40 soldiers have been killed in coalition attacks and, after these assaults, by Iran's Revolutionary Guards, who then found it easier to

slip across into Iraq. The NLA tanks and artillery that once patrolled and guarded the base have disappeared; in their place, American military police guard the entry checkpoint with tanks and patrol the base in armoured Humvees.

The growing danger meant that Tarighi left the camp soon after the bombing. Now she works in NCRI offices around Europe, still hankering for her army life. But another British girl, Sharobeh Barooti, 19, stayed on. She is one of several hundred combatants with European passports or residency rights who remain at Ashraf. Born in France, Barooti is an only child whose parents are in the Iranian resistance. She doesn't know where they are, although she receives occasional letters.

Barooti moved to the UK in 1991 to live with an aunt and uncle, but by the time she was 15, at Edgware High School in north London, she knew she wanted to join the NLA. "I had heard a lot about the Iranian regime from my aunt and uncle, and I began to feel I should do something. I went to the NCRI office in London and told them I wanted to join. They gave me information and arranged for my travel to Baghdad." She dropped out of her GCSE studies and travelled to Iraq, where she was met by officials of the People's Mojahideen of Iran (PMoI) - the most significant group within the NCRI - and escorted to Ashraf camp.

Sitting in the camp's library, she recalls that her friends thought she was mad. "After all, families are not torn apart in Britain, people aren't tortured, and women can achieve anything," she says. "In Iran, women's lives are limited and they are punished for the smallest things.

"When I arrived here, it was the hardest thing to obey different rules. It was so different from my life in London. For a year, I thought about the future I could have had in Britain and compared it to my future here. I had thought about travelling the world and opening an art gallery."

Several weeks after the fall of Saddam, the US General Ray Odierno of the 4th Infantry division entered Ashraf camp to negotiate the disarming of the NLA. He found himself in a room lined with cream Regency furniture and Persian rugs, drinking coffee from white and gold china cups and eating homemade sweetmeats with a group of female army commanders considered to be terrorists by his government. In 1997, President Bill Clinton had declared the PMoI and NLA to be terrorist organisations, as a goodwill gesture towards Iran's newly elected President Mohammed Khatami. Recently, the NLA's potential to be used as a bargaining chip by Washington has been noted as tensions rise over Tehran's meddling in Iraq. But on his visit the US general, clearly impressed, said that he thought the terrorist status of the NLA combatants should be reviewed.

The disarmed NLA keeps up its training on computers, and the US military police in the camp are their sole protection against attacks by the Tehran-backed groups now moving freely around Iraq. "If the Americans don't protect them, there will be a bloodbath," says Capt. Ismael Ibrahim of the Iraqi National Gathering party.

Only in July, when the NLA came under the protection of the Fourth Geneva Convention (relating to the protection of civilians in wartime), did its members feel safer. They no longer face the possibility of being handed over to Tehran by

America in exchange for high-ranking al-Qa'ida members. As Captain Ibrahim says: "I think in a few years the US may think of doing to Iran what they have done to Afghanistan and Iraq, and will try to use the PMoI and NLA."

This is not what the resistance likes to hear, but in the long term this thinking could help the NLA and PMoI lose their terrorist tags. In May 2000, Britain included the PMoI in a list of 21 terrorist organisations under the Terrorism Act. A year later, the European Union added the PMoI to its list.

Mojgan Parsai, the secretary general of the PMoI, said in October: "From the outset, the terror label on the PMoI lacked a legal basis. We are blacklisted in the framework of commercial and political deals with Tehran." Her comments came as France, Germany and Britain were reported to have promised Iran that if steps were taken to halt work on completing its nuclear fuel cycle, the European side would continue to regard the PMoI as a terrorist organisation.

At a conference of human-rights lawyers in Paris last month, Bill Bowring, professor of human rights and international law at London Metropolitan University, said: "Under the definition of the Terrorism Act, Greenpeace and Amnesty International should be on the terrorist list. It was a completely arbitrary decision to include the PMoI on the list."

Also at the conference was the Danish human-rights lawyer, Anne Land. Earlier this year, she visited Ashraf camp. She is aware that the NCRI is accused by its critics of being a cult, and that some consider both the NCRI and the NLA to be militarily and politically ineffective.

"The real importance of this army has been overlooked," she says. "In Iraq, many women were able to go to school and university, to work and to wear what they wanted. Now, they are being intimidated in the streets for not covering their bodies, or for just being outside their homes. Groups of men strongly influenced by Iranian fundamentalists, who are apparently supporting some political and religious groups in Iraq, are making their lives miserable.

"The presence of a female-dominated army prepared to fight the mullahs and Iran's Revolutionary Guards is a powerful symbol to all women in the region. Its effectiveness is not in its military might. The fact that the army exists at all is a huge threat to all male-dominated fundamentalist regimes. It shows what women can do.

"The women in Ashraf say they don't want to leave until they have overthrown the regime in Iran. Unfortunately, they don't see their courage as having a wider, inspiring influence beyond Iran," Land says.

It was the treatment of women in Iran that moved Barooti and Tarighi to join the NLA. "My aunt used to tell me how Revolutionary Guards would stop women in the streets and wipe off their lipstick with the blade of a knife," Barooti says.

Tarighi says she cannot forget the harrowing pictures of a young woman her own age buried to her neck and stoned to death by a crowd. She asks: "Why am I a terrorist because I fight for my sisters' rights?"

# The Dispatches Scandal

by  
Melanie Phillips



The public apology and libel damages awarded to Channel Four's Dispatches programme over *Undercover Mosque*, its investigation showing Islamic preachers in UK mosques preaching jihad and calling for the

murder of nonbelievers, amount to much more than merely a victory for the programme and a complete vindication of its integrity. For the people who are having to pay the six-figure damages and costs are the West Midlands Police and the Crown Prosecution Service. This was a programme which uncovered disturbing evidence of incitement to murder of homosexuals, the killing of British soldiers and hatred of 'unbelievers' going on below the official radar in ostensibly respectable British mosques. But instead of prosecuting such fanatics, the WM police and the CPS turned on the Dispatches producers, accusing them of selective editing and distortion and undermining community cohesion. The police then referred the programme to the broadcasting watchdog OFCOM, who threw out the complaint. Today, as the Times reported, the West Midlands Police and CPS were due to:

*'apologise unreservedly for comments that they accept were incorrect and unjustified. They said that there was 'no evidence that the broadcaster or programme-makers had misled the audience or that the programme was likely to encourage or incite criminal activity'.*

This matter should not end here. The reason the police and CPS failed to investigate people accused of inciting murder and mayhem and turned instead on the broadcasters who exposed them was almost certainly due to the official police and establishment policy of turning a blind eye to Islamic extremism — as long as there is no evidence of an actual plot to kill people. This disastrous strategy arises from the refusal of the British authorities to acknowledge that Islamist terrorism is a religious war being waged against this country. The outcome is that, while the police are intercepting or monitoring actual terrorist plots and terrorist suspects, they refuse to take action against the radicalisation that creates the poisoned sea in which those suspects and plots can swim.

Worse than that, there is evidence of collusion with the Islamists within the police. As a recent report by the Centre for Social Cohesion on honour violence revealed:

*Several women's groups, particularly in the Midlands and*

*northern England, say they are often reluctant to go to the police with women who have ran away to escape violence because they cannot trust Asian police officers. Zalikha Ahmed, director of the Apna Haq refuge, says: "We have to be careful with them especially the Asian ones. We don't visit the station when certain Asian officers are on because some of them are perpetrators, and one of them on record said that he would not arrest someone who used force on his wife. Some of them would just expose us for what we do." Another worker in a women's group in the North, who requested anonymity for safety reasons, said: "We had instances when a [Asian] chief inspector offered his help to a family by tracking a girl down – we were appalled." According to some women's groups such problems appear to be practically common in the West Midlands police force...*

And as the **Daily Mail** revealed last year:

*Up to eight police officers and civilian staff are suspected of links to extremist groups including Al Qaeda. Some are even believed to have attended terror training camps in Pakistan or Afghanistan. Their names feature on a secret list of alleged radicals said to be working in the Metropolitan and other forces. The dossier was drawn up with the help of MI5 amid fears that individuals linked to Islamic extremism are taking advantage of police attempts to increase the proportion of ethnic staff. Astonishingly, many of the alleged jihadists have not been sacked because -- it is claimed -- police do not have the 'legal power' to dismiss them. We can also reveal that one suspected jihadist officer working in the South East has been allowed to keep his job despite being caught circulating Internet images of beheadings and roadside bombings in Iraq. He is said to have argued that he was trying to 'enhance' debate about the war.*

The public admission by the West Midlands police and CPS that they made false allegations against Dispatches, and the implications that flow from this, should be discussed in Parliament as a matter of urgency.

*Courtesy of The Spectator at URL: <http://www.spectator.co.uk/melaniephillips/708356/the-dispatches-scandal.html>*

***Migrants coming into Britain are of little benefit to the nation's economy***, a House of Lords report has said.

The study, called ***The Economic Impact of Immigration***, found "**no evidence**" of the cash benefits of immigration to Britain. It may be downloaded from URL: <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200708/ldselect/ldeconaf/82/82.pdf> see also: [http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/lords\\_press\\_notices/pn010408ea.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_press_notices/pn010408ea.cfm) - and later in this magazine.

Its findings contrasted steeply with the similarly titled report, the ***Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration***, a government study published six months ago.

# *We were warned....but did not heed!*

The full text of Enoch Powell's so-called '*Rivers of Blood*' speech, which was delivered to a Conservative Association meeting in Birmingham on 20 April 1968.

**Forty years ago, Conservative politician, Enoch Powell, made one of the most controversial speeches in British history - and effectively ended his political career.**

**The '*Rivers of Blood*' speech outlined his fears at the numbers of immigrants coming into Britain, and their impact on society as he knew it. Now we can see that his fears have been fully realised.**



“The supreme function of statesmanship is to provide against preventable evils. In seeking to do so, it encounters obstacles which are deeply rooted in human nature.

One is that by the very order of things such evils are not demonstrable until they have occurred: at each stage in their onset there is room for doubt and for dispute whether they be real or imaginary. By the same token, they attract little attention in comparison with current troubles, which are both indisputable and pressing: whence the besetting temptation of all politics to concern itself with the immediate present at the expense of the future.

Above all, people are disposed to mistake predicting troubles for causing troubles and even for desiring troubles: “If only,” they love to think, “if only people wouldn't talk about it, it probably wouldn't happen.”

Perhaps this habit goes back to the primitive belief that the word and the thing, the name and the object, are identical.

At all events, the discussion of future grave but, with effort now, avoidable evils is the most unpopular and at the same

time the most necessary occupation for the politician. Those who knowingly shirk it deserve, and not infrequently receive, the curses of those who come after.

A week or two ago I fell into conversation with a constituent, a middle-aged, quite ordinary working man employed in one of our nationalised industries.

After a sentence or two about the weather, he suddenly said: “If I had the money to go, I wouldn't stay in this country.” I made some deprecatory reply to the effect that even this government wouldn't last for ever; but he took no notice, and continued: “I have three children, all of them been through grammar school and two of them married now, with family. I shan't be satisfied till I have seen them all settled overseas. In this country in 15 or 20 years' time the black man will have the whip hand over the white man.”

I can already hear the chorus of execration. How dare I say such a horrible thing? How dare I stir up trouble and inflame feelings by repeating such a conversation?

The answer is that I do not have the right not to do so. Here is a decent, ordinary fellow Englishman, who in broad daylight in my own town says to me, his Member of Parliament, that his country will not be worth living in for his children.

I simply do not have the right to shrug my shoulders and think about something else. What he is saying, thousands and hundreds of thousands are saying and thinking - not throughout Great Britain, perhaps, but in the areas that are already undergoing the total transformation to which there is no parallel in a thousand years of English history.

In 15 or 20 years, on present trends, there will be in this country three and a half million Commonwealth immigrants and their descendants. That is not my figure. That is the official figure given to parliament by the spokesman of the Registrar General's Office.

There is no comparable official figure for the year 2000, but it must be in the region of five to seven million, approximately one-tenth of the whole population, and approaching that of Greater London. (Ed: *Excluding dependants born in the UK: according to 2001 census data, 4.9 million of the UK's population was born overseas*). Of course, it will not be evenly distributed from Margate to Aberystwyth and from Penzance to Aberdeen. Whole areas, towns and parts of towns across England will be occupied by sections of the

immigrant and immigrant-descended population.

As time goes on, the proportion of this total who are immigrant descendants, those born in England, who arrived here by exactly the same route as the rest of us, will rapidly increase. Already by 1985 the native-born would constitute the majority. It is this fact which creates the extreme urgency of action now, of just that kind of action which is hardest for politicians to take, action where the difficulties lie in the present but the evils to be prevented or minimised lie several parliaments ahead.

The natural and rational first question with a nation confronted by such a prospect is to ask: "How can its dimensions be reduced?" Granted it be not wholly preventable, can it be limited, bearing in mind that numbers are of the essence: the significance and consequences of an alien element introduced into a country or population are profoundly different according to whether that element is 1 per cent or 10 per cent.

The answers to the simple and rational question are equally simple and rational: by stopping, or virtually stopping, further inflow, and by promoting the maximum outflow. Both answers are part of the official policy of the Conservative Party.

It almost passes belief that at this moment 20 or 30 additional immigrant children are arriving from overseas in Wolverhampton alone every week - and that means 15 or 20 additional families a decade or two hence. Those whom the gods wish to destroy, they first make mad. We must be mad, literally mad, as a nation to be permitting the annual inflow of some 50,000 dependants, who are for the most part the material of the future growth of the immigrant-descended population. It is like watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre. So insane are we that we actually permit unmarried persons to immigrate for the purpose of founding a family with spouses and fiancés whom they have never seen.

Let no one suppose that the flow of dependants will automatically tail off. On the contrary, even at the present admission rate of only 5,000 a year by voucher, there is sufficient for a further 25,000 dependants per annum ad infinitum, without taking into account the huge reservoir of existing relations in this country - and I am making no allowance at all for fraudulent entry. In these circumstances nothing will suffice but that the total inflow for settlement should be reduced at once to negligible proportions, and that the necessary legislative and administrative measures be taken without delay.

I stress the words "for settlement." This has nothing to do with the entry of Commonwealth citizens, any more than of aliens, into this country, for the purposes of study or of improving their qualifications, like (for instance) the Commonwealth doctors who, to the advantage of their own countries, have enabled our hospital service to be expanded faster than would otherwise have been possible. They are

not, and never have been, immigrants.

I turn to re-emigration. If all immigration ended tomorrow, the rate of growth of the immigrant and immigrant-descended population would be substantially reduced, but the prospective size of this element in the population would still leave the basic character of the national danger unaffected. This can only be tackled while a considerable proportion of the total still comprises persons who entered this country during the last ten years or so.

Hence the urgency of implementing now the second element of the Conservative Party's policy: the encouragement of re-emigration.

Nobody can make an estimate of the numbers which, with generous assistance, would choose either to return to their countries of origin or to go to other countries anxious to receive the manpower and the skills they represent.

Nobody knows, because no such policy has yet been attempted. I can only say that, even at present, immigrants in my own constituency from time to time come to me, asking if I can find them assistance to return home. If such a policy were adopted and pursued with the determination which the gravity of the alternative justifies, the resultant outflow could appreciably alter the prospects.

The third element of the Conservative Party's policy is that all who are in this country as citizens should be equal before the law and that there shall be no discrimination or difference made between them by public authority. As Mr. Heath has put it we will have no "first-class citizens" and "second-class citizens." This does not mean that the immigrant and his descendent should be elevated into a privileged or special class or that the citizen should be denied his right to discriminate in the management of his own affairs between one fellow-citizen and another or that he should be subjected to imposition as to his reasons and motive for behaving in one lawful manner rather than another.

There could be no grosser misconception of the realities than is entertained by those who vociferously demand legislation as they call it "against discrimination", whether they be leader-writers of the same kidney and sometimes on the same newspapers which year after year in the 1930s tried to blind this country to the rising peril which confronted it, or archbishops who live in palaces, faring delicately with the bedclothes pulled right up over their heads. They have got it exactly and diametrically wrong.

The discrimination and the deprivation, the sense of alarm and of resentment, lies not with the immigrant population but with those among whom they have come and are still coming.

This is why to enact legislation of the kind before parliament at this moment is to risk throwing a match on to gunpowder. The kindest thing that can be said about those who propose

and support it is that they know not what they do.

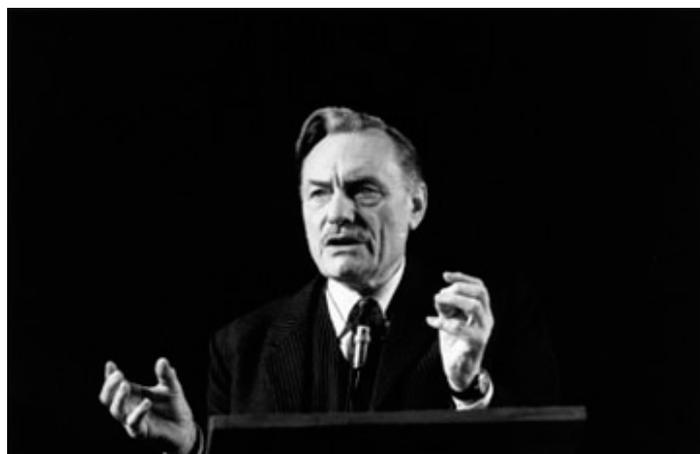
Nothing is more misleading than comparison between the Commonwealth immigrant in Britain and the American Negro. The Negro population of the United States, which was already in existence before the United States became a nation, started literally as slaves and were later given the franchise and other rights of citizenship, to the exercise of which they have only gradually and still incompletely come. The Commonwealth immigrant came to Britain as a full citizen, to a country which knew no discrimination between one citizen and another, and he entered instantly into the possession of the rights of every citizen, from the vote to free treatment under the National Health Service.

Whatever drawbacks attended the immigrants arose not from the law or from public policy or from administration, but from those personal circumstances and accidents which cause, and always will cause, the fortunes and experience of one man to be different from another's.

But while, to the immigrant, entry to this country was admission to privileges and opportunities eagerly sought, the impact upon the existing population was very different. For reasons which they could not comprehend, and in pursuance of a decision by default, on which they were never consulted, they found themselves made strangers in their own country.

They found their wives unable to obtain hospital beds in childbirth, their children unable to obtain school places, their homes and neighbourhoods changed beyond recognition, their plans and prospects for the future defeated; at work they found that employers hesitated to apply to the immigrant worker the standards of discipline and competence required of the native-born worker; they began to hear, as time went by, more and more voices which told them that they were now the unwanted. They now learn that a one-way privilege is to be established by act of parliament; a law which cannot, and is not intended to, operate to protect them or redress their grievances is to be enacted to give the stranger, the disgruntled and the agent-provocateur the power to pillory them for their private actions.

In the hundreds upon hundreds of letters I received when I last spoke on this subject two or three months ago, there was one striking feature which was largely new and which I find ominous. All Members of Parliament are used to the typical anonymous correspondent; but what surprised and alarmed me was the high proportion of ordinary, decent, sensible people, writing a rational and often well-educated letter, who believed that they had to omit their address because it was dangerous to have committed themselves to paper to a Member of Parliament agreeing with the views I had expressed, and that they would risk penalties or reprisals if they were known to have done so. The sense of being a persecuted minority which is growing among ordinary English people in the areas of the country which are affected is something that those without direct experience can hardly imagine.



I am going to allow just one of those hundreds of people to speak for me: "Eight years ago in a respectable street in Wolverhampton a house was sold to a Negro. Now only one white (a woman old-age pensioner) lives there. This is her story. She lost her husband and both her sons in the war. So she turned her seven-roomed house, her only asset, into a boarding house. She worked hard and did well, paid off her mortgage and began to put something by for her old age. Then the immigrants moved in. With growing fear, she saw one house after another taken over. The quiet street became a place of noise and confusion. Regretfully, her white tenants moved out.

"The day after the last one left, she was awakened at 7am by two Negroes who wanted to use her 'phone to contact their employer. When she refused, as she would have refused any stranger at such an hour, she was abused and feared she would have been attacked but for the chain on her door. Immigrant families have tried to rent rooms in her house, but she always refused. Her little store of money went, and after paying rates, she has less than £2 per week. "She went to apply for a rate reduction and was seen by a young girl, who on hearing she had a seven-roomed house, suggested she should let part of it. When she said the only people she could get were Negroes, the girl said, "Racial prejudice won't get you anywhere in this country." So she went home.

"The telephone is her lifeline. Her family pay the bill, and help her out as best they can. Immigrants have offered to buy her house - at a price which the prospective landlord would be able to recover from his tenants in weeks, or at most a few months. She is becoming afraid to go out. Windows are broken. She finds excreta pushed through her letter box. When she goes to the shops, she is followed by children, charming, wide-grinning piccaninnies. They cannot speak English, but one word they know. "Racialist," they chant. When the new Race Relations Bill is passed, this woman is convinced she will go to prison. And is she so wrong? I begin to wonder."

The other dangerous delusion from which those who are wilfully or otherwise blind to realities suffer, is summed up in the word "integration." To be integrated into a population means to become for all practical purposes indistinguishable

from its other members.

Now, at all times, where there are marked physical differences, especially of colour, integration is difficult though, over a period, not impossible. There are among the Commonwealth immigrants who have come to live here in the last fifteen years or so, many thousands whose wish and purpose is to be integrated and whose every thought and endeavour is bent in that direction.

But to imagine that such a thing enters the heads of a great and growing majority of immigrants and their descendants is a ludicrous misconception, and a dangerous one.

We are on the verge here of a change. Hitherto it has been force of circumstance and of background which has rendered the very idea of integration inaccessible to the greater part of the immigrant population - that they never conceived or intended such a thing, and that their numbers and physical concentration meant the pressures towards integration which normally bear upon any small minority did not operate.

Now we are seeing the growth of positive forces acting against integration, of vested interests in the preservation and sharpening of racial and religious differences, with a view to the exercise of actual domination, first over fellow-immigrants and then over the rest of the population. The cloud no bigger than a man's hand, that can so rapidly overcast the sky, has been visible recently in Wolverhampton and has shown signs of spreading quickly. The words I am about to use, verbatim as they appeared in the local press on 17 February, are not mine, but those of a Labour Member of Parliament who is a minister in the present government: 'The Sikh communities' campaign to maintain customs inappropriate in Britain is much to be regretted. Working in Britain, particularly in the public services, they should be prepared to accept the terms and conditions of their employment. To claim special communal rights (or should one say rites?) leads to a dangerous fragmentation within society. This communalism is a canker; whether practised by one colour or another it is to be strongly condemned.'

All credit to John Stonehouse for having had the insight to perceive that, and the courage to say it.

For these dangerous and divisive elements the legislation proposed in the Race Relations Bill is the very pabulum they need to flourish. Here is the means of showing that the immigrant communities can organise to consolidate their members, to agitate and campaign against their fellow citizens, and to overawe and dominate the rest with the legal weapons which the ignorant and the ill-informed have provided. As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see "the River Tiber foaming with much blood."

That tragic and intractable phenomenon which we watch with horror on the other side of the Atlantic but which there is interwoven with the history and existence of the States itself, is coming upon us here by our own volition and our

own neglect. Indeed, it has all but come. In numerical terms, it will be of American proportions long before the end of the century.

Only resolute and urgent action will avert it even now. Whether there will be the public will to demand and obtain that action, I do not know. All I know is that to see, and not to speak, would be the great betrayal."

*Courtesy of The Dispatches Programme of Channel 4 at URL: <http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/dispatches/rivers+of+blood+speech/1934152>*

## **Rivers of blood**

***"As I look ahead, I am filled with foreboding; like the Roman, I seem to see "the River Tiber foaming with much blood'."***

What's the story behind the line that cemented Powell's reputation for racist rhetoric?

Powell is quoting a prophecy from Virgil's Aeneid, a Roman epic telling the mythological tale of the founding of Rome.

On arriving in Italy after many trials and tribulations, the Trojan warrior Aeneas consults a priestess, the Sibyl, to find out how his plans to create the new empire will turn out. Her reply includes the line quoted by Powell: she tells Aeneas that in the process of creating Rome, she saw wars and the River Tiber foaming with blood.

*"She was saying that you're going to found a multicultural, cosmopolitan state - and in the eyes of the Romans, Rome was the greatest civilisation - but it will be a painful process,"* Mary Beard, professor of classics at the University of Cambridge.

Could this suggest a slightly more measured view of immigration - which may bring necessary problems in order to achieve a greater end - than the rest of Powell's speech?

There are other examples of rivers being used in Roman literature as a metaphor for mixed nationalities, giving the idea of a flood of new people coming in - although Powell's quote comes specifically from the Aeneid.

*"If it was any old person, you might think they'd just picked a line they liked the sound of and used it, but Powell was one of the best classicists of the twentieth century, He'd have been well aware of the meaning of the line."* said Mary Beard, professor of classics at the University of Cambridge.

Either way, any nuances of the Latin were lost on Powell's audience.

*Courtesy of URL: [http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/politics/domestic\\_politics/factcheck+enoch+powells+1968+speech/1960847](http://www.channel4.com/news/articles/politics/domestic_politics/factcheck+enoch+powells+1968+speech/1960847)*

# GOVERNMENT CLAIMS OF ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF IMMIGRATION UNFOUNDED - LORDS COMMITTEE

The House of Lords Economic Affairs Committee, in a report published today, reject the Government's argument that a high level of net immigration is of economic benefit to the UK. In the light of this, they call on the Government to set an explicit target range for net immigration to the UK.

The Committee argue that while the high level of net immigration of recent years has inevitably increased GDP - the measure the Government uses - there has been little or no positive impact on the living standards of the existing population. The Committee show that the economic effects of immigration should be judged not by its impact on GDP but by the impact on income per head of the resident population. On this measure, immigration has had a largely neutral effect on economic well-being with the income of some groups of low-paid workers actually falling.

The Committee also reject the Government's position that a high level of net immigration is needed to prevent labour shortages. They point out that in the long run net immigration simply increases the size of the economy with no impact on the level of vacancies. The report points out that the labour shortage argument in favour of new immigration is often put forward by employers who benefit from greater access to cheap labour from overseas.

The Committee argue that by providing ready access to cheap imported labour the Government risks discouraging employers from adopting alternative solutions to labour shortages such as increasing investment in new technology to make work less labour-intensive or increasing their spending on staff training to meet skills shortages.

The report asserts that arguments made in favour of immigration as a way to defuse the 'pensions time bomb' do not stand up to scrutiny. The Committee point out that over time immigrants too will grow old and, having lived and worked in the UK, be eligible to draw pensions. They argue that raising the pension age is the only viable way to deal with pension issues caused by an ageing population.

The Committee also considered the impact of net immigration on demand for housing. They heard evidence that under current plans for house building, the level of net immigration assumed by the Government Actuary's Department over the next 20 years (190,000 per year) will lead to house prices being more than 10% higher than would be the case with zero net immigration.

Based on their findings that the Government has overstated the economic benefits of immigration to the resident population, the Committee's recommendations for government action include:

- \* The Government should review the implications of its projection that net immigration in future years

will be 190,000 people a year. It should adopt an explicit target range for net immigration and adjust immigration policies regularly in line with that objective.

- \* There must be more clarity on the objectives of the new partially points-based immigration system. The Committee are not persuaded that this represents the radical overhaul of the present system claimed by the Government.
- \* The Government should review its immigration policies and then explain the reasons for them and their objectives. They should also explain how they relate to other policy objectives such as improving the skills of the domestic workforce
- \* The Government should do more to enforce the minimum wage and other employment conditions to protect immigrants and the resident population.

Commenting Lord Wakeham, who Chaired the inquiry, said:

"The argument put forward by the Government that large-scale net immigration brings significant economic benefits for the UK is unconvincing. We have found no evidence to support their position.

*"The Government's use of impact on overall GDP as the key measure is preposterous and irrelevant because it does not reflect the economic well-being of the existing population.*

*"We feel the time is now right for the Government to review the implications of its projection that future net immigration will be 190,000 people a year. Such a high level of immigration, and consequent rise in population, has major impacts in a range of areas from demand for housing to the use of public services. These impacts should be recognised and examined.*

*"Decisions about the level of net immigration that is desirable must also take into account important non-economic considerations such as the impacts on cultural diversity and social cohesion. These are clearly important but were beyond the scope of our inquiry. Immigration from the EU cannot be controlled and the UK must continue to honour its human rights obligations towards asylum seekers. So controls on immigration from outside the EU is the most appropriate way to achieve a level of immigration that really does meet the UK's economic needs."*

Courtesy of URL: [http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary\\_committees/lords\\_press\\_notices/pn010408ea.cfm](http://www.parliament.uk/parliamentary_committees/lords_press_notices/pn010408ea.cfm)

# Alan's Reflections

## Alan's Reflections

I often marvel at the lack of intelligence displayed by our leaders and others in positions of authority. Take the current food shortage (and rising costs) as an example. So many of the aforementioned people are running around like chickens with their heads cut off wondering why this has happened. Isn't it obvious? Of course, there are many reasons, but let's consider one in particular.

Let's look back in time a little while. When I was a boy, there was still a British Empire and colonialisation wasn't a dirty word. In fact, many of the more intelligent people of the colonised countries realised that they were better off with the British ruling their country than having it managed by their own people. Some years ago, an Indian gentleman told me that he wished that the British still ruled India. Of course, colonialisation wasn't perfect, but maybe it was better than the state that many of those countries are in today.

Let's consider the advantages that those countries gained under colonialisation by the British. All countries received a good infra-structure of roads, railways, communications (and often ports) - vital to the needs of any country, as well as a well respected legal system. There was little corruption. They were also provided with hospitals and education. However, there was one other factor that was vital, not only to that country, but to the world. **Agriculture**. Wherever possible, the British established farms that were managed properly and were highly productive and most of those colonised countries were not only self-sufficient in their basic food requirements, but were exporters of food too.

As time marched on, some African countries that had recently become independent (and more corrupt - and frequently embroiled in a civil war - maybe a deliberate method of reducing the world's population?) also suffered because they were so concentrating on growing products for export, that they neglected their own, local food crops, which meant that there was some food shortages at home - and in fact some people were starving. However, the better managed countries (mainly those still colonised) got the balance correct and it was beneficial to all.

Roughly 65% of sub-Saharan Africa's population relies on **subsistence** farming. The typical farmer in the region, however, is a woman with no fertilizer, no high-yield seeds, no irrigation, and no medication for her animals. Sub-Saharan Africa adds less than 10 kilograms of fertilizer per hectare of land; in comparison, Asia employs 144 kilograms, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). Cereal yields for sub-Saharan African farmers have declined or stagnated since the 1970s, and now stand at roughly one-third of those in South Asia, according to the World Bank. In the late 1960s, most sub-Saharan countries were net food **exporters**; as of 2002, sub-Saharan Africa **imported** 19 million tons of food a year. The region's governments did not devote enough funding to agriculture from the 1980s onward. While many countries prioritized expanding food production in the 1970s, national government funding on agricultural science fell by 27% on the continent between

1981 and 2000 (in the rest of the developing world, it rose by 30% during the same period). Many governments currently allocate less than 1% of their national budgets to the sector. Some experts attribute this drop in funding to austere macroeconomic programs imposed by lenders such as the IMF that precipitated budget cuts in the mid-1980s. (Courtesy of URL: [http://www.nytimes.com/cfr/world/slot2\\_20080528.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/cfr/world/slot2_20080528.html?_r=1&ref=asia&oref=slogin))

Despite relatively **high agricultural potential**, food supplies in the region **fell constantly**, as figures supplied by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) show. Between the 1960s and the 1970s, **imports** of cereals rose by 38%, from 5.3 to 7.3 million tons. By 1970, food **imports** accounted for 15% of the domestic production of the region, and 20% of food staples were imported.

What do we have now? Most of those former colonies are unable to provide for their own food needs and are major importers of food. Why? Apart from civil wars and corruption that have ravaged these countries since their independence, there is one major factor that has changed these countries from being exporters to becoming importers. That is: **Land Reform**. The white farmers have been forced to give up their productive farms and the land has been given to the locals who are now **subsistence** farmers - NOT **productive** farmers. Nearly half of the world's potential agricultural land is unused. Take Zimbabwe as an example. Formerly one of the biggest exporters of food, it now relies on food imports. Isn't that a disgrace? Zimbabwe was one of the major food-bowls of Africa. Now it is one of the biggest begging-bowls. Apply this scenario to almost all of Africa and you will realise that the impact of this on the world's food resources is massive. I suggest that Africa alone, if managed properly, would be more than capable of feeding the whole world. Now, the few countries that are capable of exporting food are now expected to **feed** Africa, as well as help out the rest of the world. This, of course, has a double affect on the world's food resources. Not only are these countries not exporting food, thereby making it available for other countries to buy, but they are now depleting the world's food stocks by importing food themselves. From being a supplier they are now a consumer and the shelves in the world food store contain less food than they did in the past. That is why food is now becoming so expensive. Following the laws of supply and demand.

Here in the Philippines, which used to be a major exporter of rice, we have a country which has now become the largest importer of rice. Why? Largely because of Agrarian Reform. A reversion to subsistence farming - such as Grace's family are engaged in. They can barely grow enough for their own needs and, in fact, if all the production costs were added up, they are probably making a loss! A friend of ours here in the Philippines has a large piece of unused land. When I was talking to her a few days ago, she told me that she'd love to make it into a farm and employ quite a few of the local people to work on it. This would not only give them a job, but would be growing food for them too. She went on to say that because of the Agrarian Reform Bill, she couldn't do that. She would lose her land, because the people she employed would be able to (legally) take it over and revert to subsistence farming - which wouldn't help them, or the country - let alone the world food shortage. Isn't that ridiculous?

I remember a quotation I once heard, although who said it, I can't remember. It went something like this: *What is knowledge without understanding?* Having been involved in training for much of my career, this question has always been highly relevant and somewhat thought provoking. We often hear something to the effect that *Education is the key to success*. Whilst there may be some truth in this, it is certainly not the be all and end all - and where does *wisdom* come into all this? Firstly, one needs to define *success*. Let's just say that one conventionally recognised version of success is in one's career.

One of our relatives is a now retired, multi-millionaire businessman who was also highly respected as a magistrate/senior magistrate (JP) with about 30 years on the bench in his home town (now city) in the UK. He grew up in poverty and served a seven year apprenticeship as a plumber. He hasn't a single academic qualification to his name. Is that making a success in life? Again, that depends on what parameters you use to measure success.

Not all academics are successful. It can also be said that not all people without qualifications are failures.

Professional advancement through training is something I've been involved in for many years - I started full-time technical training in the UK in 1974, although I've had breaks along the way in order to maintain my engineering skills.

At first, I only taught British citizens, who had been through the UK education system. Then, in 1997, I started teaching Filipinos. It took me only a short time to realise that their education system taught by rote and relied almost entirely on memorisation. Knowledge - NOT understanding. People in the Philippines can be graduates from Universities with B.Sc. Degrees and, whilst highly *knowledgeable*, have almost no *understanding* at all of their chosen specialisation - and they often have extremely low levels of intelligence (often related to understanding). Of course, this sometimes occurs in the UK too, but fairly rarely. I once knew a lady who had a UK university degree in French, yet she was one of the most unintelligent people I've ever met. To the point of being utterly stupid. Learning a language is one area of study that relies very heavily on memorisation (of vocabulary and grammar structures, for example). Aged about 40, she started a new job as a teacher of French in a fairly elite public school. Needless to say perhaps, but she didn't last long at the school. She was fired after a few months.

Just a few weeks ago, I was riding in a Jeepney going to town and happened to sit next to a young man who was reading. Peering over his shoulder, I discovered that he was reading examination questions in electrical engineering. Being an electrical engineer myself, I found this to be of great interest and read through several pages as he turned them. All the questions were of the multiple choice type - tick the box with the right answer. Not a single question required any understanding of the topic. Every question relied entirely on memorisation of facts. Contrast this with the examinations

that I had to sit where, in every paper, we had to answer six questions (from eight) in three hours. Every question required a great deal of understanding and took 30 minutes to wade through the resulting calculations or, in some topics, essays based on understanding. Apart from the usual need to have memorised a few mathematical formulas (and having the ability to transpose them) NONE of the questions could have been answered by just memorising facts before going into the examination. In many cases, just understanding the question was quite a feat!

When I was teaching a tanker familiarisation course to Filipinos, this education by memorisation of facts often came to light. One of the topics on the course I taught was *Safe Entry into Enclosed Spaces*. This topic required several hours of teaching time during which time they could practice using the instruments they'd need to use in real life, carry out exercises and see a video of what happened if they got it wrong (people would DIE! - Knowledge without understanding can be a very dangerous thing). Before entering an enclosed space a number of parameters must be measured. These were specified and explained in detail throughout the lessons. If I asked them to write down those parameters, they would all get full marks. If I gave them real life figures typical of what they might measure on their instruments when using them for real, then asked them to make a decision (to enter the space or not) based on those figures and explain why they made their decision, few would get it right. They had the knowledge but not the understanding. All of my students were adults, some of whom had worked on board tankers for some time and knew what the topic was all about. But they still couldn't *understand*. They had been brought up in an education system that relies on memorisation and had never been taught how to extract, evaluate and manipulate data in order to achieve a result or make a decision. They couldn't *think*. They could only *recite* - which they did perfectly. Of course, this problem disturbed me considerably, but you can't fully retrain students (to abandon their entrenched way of learning) to practice thinking during an intensive 56 hour course covering a wide range of technical topics. Surprisingly though, there were very few people who failed the course. In fact, they were some of the best students I've ever taught - especially when it came down to behaviour in the classroom and the hard work they put into their studies - despite their *thinking* difficulties. I guess I must have succeeded at something with them!

Just a few days after I'd written the first draft of this article, Grace was complaining about her fellow countrymen, with regard to getting some work done. She said that they just "*can't seem to think!*" She said she has to tell them everything as they can't work things out for themselves. I mentioned that it was because they weren't taught to think; just taught to memorise. She then went on to say that when she was studying at college, one of her teachers was so fanatical about memorisation that the students even had to memorise (and be able to recite) not only the text, but even the punctuation marks - everything!

When Grace and I were in the UK some time ago, we happened to be talking with someone who worked at a senior level in the UK employment service; who managed a team of specialists scattered around Europe. We were talking about the Filipino nurses now working in UK hospitals. She said that few of them got promoted because, although they were very good nurses (and followed set procedures religiously) they couldn't make decisions - the sort of decisions required to be made by Staff Nurses/Senior Nurses when situations demanded something rather different than following a specified procedure. As a result of this inability *to think*, nurses from European countries were often promoted 'over the heads' of the Filipino nurses, who might have several years more experience than their (say) Spanish colleagues.

Knowledge is knowing the facts. Understanding is the ability to lift the meaning out of the facts. Wisdom is knowing what to do with them. Those with knowledge are able to collect, remember, and access their memory for information. Those with understanding are able to extract the meaning from the information. They "see through" the facts to the dynamics of what, how, and why so they can manipulate data. Those with wisdom *know* what to do next.

I was discussing this with one of our dear friends who is a Filipina who spent most of her life in the USA and is now here sorting out some family business. She was saying that one of the main reasons why the education here is the way it is, is because the politicians don't want a large percentage of the population who can think, or they would be overthrown.

Politicians want a poor, non-thinking populace who are mainly focussed on getting their next meal and so will tolerate all the corruption and incompetence that exists here. This is also the reason why they positively encourage the bright Filipinos to leave the country. That way, they can't cause trouble here! One of the observations I've made is that most of the Filipino people I've worked with abroad have been very good at their jobs. They are a credit to themselves and their people. If only the same could be said of those left behind in the Philippines. As one of my Filipino friends once said, about those abroad, "*They've been Westernised.*" Maybe there is some truth in that, but one has to give credit to them for being able to adapt so well and also remember that it is mainly the bright, hard-working and highly motivated Filipinos who get out of their country as, whilst encouraged to do so, in reality, it is quite a difficult (and usually expensive) thing for them to achieve. The people who get out are the cream of the crop. These are just the sort of people needed by the Philippines to get their own country back on track - but not the sort of people the politicians want to have in this country, for obvious reasons. The politicians just want their money flowing into the country to prevent mass starvation and to support the economy. Without their financial support, the Philippines would go bankrupt!

Some readers may remember a time when American companies sent recruiting teams to the UK every year to

head-hunt the best graduates from our universities. I believe this was during the 60's and early 70's. It was called the '*brain drain*' as so many of our brightest people were leaving the country after being seduced by the very high salaries and good offers of employment in important positions the Americans were making, compared to the paltry salaries and employment packages they would receive in the UK - particularly as fresh graduates who had good qualifications but little experience. This started to become a serious problem for the UK, to the extent that the government stopped the Americans from continuing this practice. Of course, it made a very clear statement to the world about the British education system. At that time, it was so good that a huge country like the USA was head-hunting in a tiny country like the UK - at considerable cost - when it must have had hundreds of thousands of graduates from American universities to recruit from. Why choose the UK? Because UK graduates are renowned for their innovative skills and the fact that they can THINK!

Sadly, those days have largely disappeared. In fact I even complained about this to the Head Teacher of the well respected school that two of my children attended (in about 1989). His response was that thinking skills were only encouraged once a pupil got into the fifth and sixth forms (aged 15+). To my way of thinking, that is much too late! Of course, successive governments have promised educational reform, but no action has been the result. Instead, the education of our youngsters has progressively deteriorated even as they have been given ever more worthless qualifications. It would be too dangerous for our inept governments to permit everyone to receive a good education - AND be trained to THINK! Instead, knowing that some people must be allowed to think and receive a good education, those attending the better private schools and red-brick universities (the *establishment*) continue to reinforce their elitist positions whilst the rest of the population suffer at their hands, so widening the gap of the have's and the have-not's - and so keeping control of the populace. A family we know in the UK sacrificed a great deal to send their gifted son to a private school, just for the last year or two of his secondary education, so that he would have a chance of getting into Oxford University (NO chance otherwise). In fact, he was so bright that he received some financial assistance from the school concerned. Sadly, despite this, he failed to get into Oxford, and had to settle for a lesser university. He will do well, of course, but as well as he would have done had he completed his education at Oxford? Who knows. As someone told me who'd received a private education, it's not just the education you receive, but, and more importantly, it's the contacts you make during that time that make the difference. It's not what you know, but WHO you know that really counts.

It is sometimes said that scholars have knowledge, teachers have understanding and leaders have wisdom. Unfortunately, few of the current world leaders seem to be blessed with much wisdom, have very little understanding and not a lot of knowledge. Just where do they come from?



*Photograph by Grace*

*(The following was kindly sent in by one of our readers)*

All energies move forward in a continuum of invisible manifestation. No event is wrong or right that serves the higher creation. This sequestering all thoughts into doorways of right or wrong damages the birth process. One does not nor can not see what the outcome creations are in vibrational change. For all that is expected, births the unexpected. Everything leads to evolution no matter where the path begins. It is by walking your own creations that you will understand your dormant abilities.

As you walk into the wholeness and the holiness of the expression of who you know yourself to be, you will find that the lines that divide and sever your being begin to fade with time, with wisdom, with love. You will find that the expression of self that you know as the beginning and the ending of this life no longer are divided components. They become streamlined in the natural sense of the word flowing forward naturally. Issuing notices of cleansing and clearing. Issuing different levels of knowledge, of wisdom, of strength, of being of young, of old, of was, of will be.

Open the gate to the Allness that you have forgotten that you are. Open the gate to all that keeps separated in thoughts, in fears, and longings. Open the gate to a future in which you are totally in health, in love, in joy, in beauty, in youth. For it is only your belief systems that decay the body. It is only your belief systems that keep you from moving forward in leaps and bounds. It is your canyon that seems endless in a sky that seems cloistered. Open the gate and set free all that has once served you so that it can learn to fly, to swim, to tunnel deep into the earth. Open the gate to everything that your parents, your teachers, and your lovers told you that you could not be, you could not accomplish, you could not experience.

Experience the flowing of the trueness of your beginning without end, and your end without beginning. Let go of all self-imposed limitations and programs. Let go of all excuses that you have worn as medals. Un-pot the potential that you have kept sequestered away, growing root-bound in containers of thought that limit you, and containers of fear that only grow weeds. Open to see all that is happening in a single moment in any place in this universe.

What you seek is inherent within everything. What is of value to you? Is it diamonds? Is it gold? Is it wood? Is it water? It depends on what part of the universe you park. You can beckon to you all things that inherently hold the richness that you desire. The letting go of perimeters, of expectations, of boundaries, of containers, frees you up to be it all. Are you ready to become what you are in truth able to be, to conceive, to perceive, to birth, to create, to manifest? What about becoming a universe? Are you ready for such expansion? Are you ready to open your arms and your heart and your mind and your eyes to such a placement of totality??

When God, the Almighty One, the Source, the Prime Creator desires, that desire is enough to make it available. Your desires have great potential within them. It is one level of the Commandment of Creation; desire, passion, want, need – all of these are descriptions of Creation. God does nothing but desire an outcome and it is made so and so it is with you. Watch your world more closely and you will see what we speak is not divided truth, is not diluted truth, but expanded truth. Let go of the way you define yourself and allow your soul to re-define you in a way that serves the soul's illumination and soul path. The soul is deemed to expand, to re-create, and re-define your lineage of light. Be brave enough to run barefoot into your future.



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