



FROM THE WILDERNESS

*A Nonpartisan, Non-sectarian, MAP from the Here That Is,
Into the Tomorrow of Our Own Making*

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Here Comes The Draft

Across the Rubicon

There is not much joy this month in seeing that events over the last year have unfolded exactly the way I said they would. Having just returned from my 25th and 26th lectures since last November in New Haven, Conn. and at nearby Wesleyan University, I look back and see that for seven months I have been publicly stating that we would be invading Iraq by fall 2002.

I see that since last December, and in every lecture since my first at Portland State University, I have said clearly and unequivocally that we are witnessing a sequential war to control the largest reserves on a planet that is running out of oil.

I look back at our economic analyses and the two warnings we published on Sept. 9, 2001 and July 8, 2002 and see that the U.S economy is behaving exactly the way we predicted it would behave. And from our stories last month on Iraq and Saudi Arabia I see politics being played as a kind of theater of the absurd, as all of the pieces fall into place for a swift invasion of Iraq and a likely simultaneous occupation of Saudi Arabia's oil fields.

And there is no glee at all in the fact that, as we had clearly stated as early as mid-September of last year, that Afghanistan, which had virtually no opium growing on Sept. 11, is once again the world's leading producer. The great heroin epidemic we predicted is now flooding across Russia and Western Europe.

I note with little satisfaction that plans for mass vaccinations are moving ahead even as the federal government announces on the one hand a plan for "voluntary" immunization of the population within days of an alert, while at the same time pushing MEHPA (The Model Emergency Health Powers Act) through state legislatures. MEHPA would make it a crime -- possibly a felony -- to refuse those same "voluntary" vaccinations. And the punishment would be carried out by the states.

And a recent AP story headlined "Evidence Contradicts Bush 9-11 Denial," following on the heels of dramatic testimony by the charismatic and eloquent 9-11 widow Kristen Breitweiser, along with ever
(continued on page 17)

From The Wilderness

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FTW News

Mike Ruppert Signs Book Deal

FTW Publisher/Editor Mike Ruppert has signed with Feral House of Los Angeles to write a book covering the events of 9-11 and since. "Across the Rubicon: Oil, Empire and 9-11" is scheduled for release in spring 2003.

Ruppert said, "We had offers from several publishing houses, but we went with Feral House because of its aggressive marketing program and our conviction that Feral House would remain immune to interference from potential government attempts to block the publication of this book."

Upcoming Speaking Engagements

October 4th - San Francisco, CA

WHERE: Lowell High School
1101 Eucalyptus Drive
MAP: Off 19th Avenue, 2 blocks south of
Sloat, 7 blocks down Eucalyptus on
the left. Easy, free parking!!
TIME: Lecture starts at 7:00PM
TICKETS: \$15
CONTACT INFO: (707) 824-9933

October 6th - Sebastopol, CA

WHERE: Sebastopol Vets' Hall
282 South High Street
TIME: Lecture starts at 7:00PM
TICKETS: \$10
Advance tickets: mail check to
POB 4963, Santa Rosa, CA 95402.
Pick-up at event.
CONTACT INFO: (707) 824-9933

November 19th - Chico, CA

WHERE: Chico State University
Bell Memorial Union Auditorium
(Hazel & West 1st)
TIME: Lecture starts at 7:30PM
TICKETS: University box office, 2nd & Salem,
(530) 898-6333
CONTACT INFO: (530) 898-6005, AS Presents

Correction: In the Aug. 27, 2002 essay titled "No Way Out", U.S. Sen. Bob Graham, D-Fla., was erroneously referred to as "Daniel Graham." This error has been corrected.

Sizing Up the Competition -- Is China The Endgame?

by Dale Allen Pfeiffer, *FTW* Contributing Editor for Energy

Sept. 25, 2002, 16:00 PDT (FTW) -- In the last 50 years of the United States' quest for hegemony, it has viewed its chief antagonists either ideologically (the Soviet Union and Red China), or economically (Germany and Japan). These antagonists were either overcome or co-opted. In the last decade of the 20th century, the U.S. occupied the unparalleled position of being the world's only superpower. Now, as we enter the 21st century, this unopposed superpower -- at the peak of its military supremacy -- may have an Achilles heel. It is running out of energy and so is the planet as a whole.

The 20th century was an era of technological, industrial and economic progress predicated upon the virtually unrestricted consumption of resources. But the rampant consumption of the 20th century cannot last, not on a finite planet where such consumption is dependent upon nonrenewable resources. The coming century will be an era of resource depletion, as the greed of the last century takes its toll upon the planet.

Be this as it may, the world public does not yet recognize this change. Consumer demand is ever increasing. In fact, the capitalist economy is dependent upon ever increasing consumption -- without it, the economic base will stagnate and collapse. And while consumer demand for the key item of energy is expected to increase over the next couple of decades, energy production has reached a plateau and will begin an unalterable decline within the next decade. Very soon there will not be enough.

In the coming years, continued U.S. hegemony will depend upon maintaining control and access to the world's dwindling hydrocarbon reserves, most of which are contained in the Middle East. In achieving this goal, the U.S. will have to find some way to deal with those countries which are expected to take the lead in rising energy demand. Those countries just happen to be the world's most populous countries, and all three are Asian. Ranked by population and projected energy demand, they are China, India and Indonesia.

INDONESIA

With a current population of 228.4 million, Indonesia has proven oil reserves of 5 Gb (billion barrels), and in 2001 was producing oil at a rate of 1.49 million bbl/d (million barrels per day). Oil consumption for Indonesia currently stands at 1.022 million bbl/d.¹ Oil production has actually declined over the past five years by an average of 2 percent per year. Of an ultimate 30 Gb in oil reserves which this country is expected to contain, 19.4 Gb have already been produced, leaving an estimated 10.6 Gb in independently assessed reserves (1.6 Gb of that yet to be found). There is, however, some discrepancy in the reporting of Indonesian reserves. The Oil & Gas Journal reports 5 Gb, while World Oil reports 9.67 Gb; independent review of industry assessments by C.J. Campbell suggests 9 Gb of reserves. Indonesia reached peak production in 1977 but did not hit the midpoint for depletion of its oil reserves until 1992. It is currently depleting its oil reserves at a rate of 4 percent per year.² Natural gas reserves stand at 92.5 Tcf (trillion cubic feet). Natural gas production is 2.34 Tcf per year, and consumption is 0.97 Tcf per year. Indonesia currently exports 30 percent of its oil production and 51 percent of its natural gas production.³

Indonesia is a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, though it may have to withdraw in time as production declines from its aging oil fields. U.S. oil companies have been heavily invested in Indonesia's oil resources. Unocal, Conoco and Exxon-Mobil are involved in new projects slated to begin production within the next couple of years. However, even with these major new projects, Indonesia could become a net importer of oil by the end of the decade.⁴

On the other hand, Indonesia is the world's largest exporter of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Exxon-Mobil, Conoco, BP, Shell and Italy's Agip are all involved in Indonesian Natural Gas production. McDermott International has been awarded a contract for a major gas pipeline to Singapore. Yet despite its natural gas reserves, Indonesia still relies on oil for half of its energy needs. It is attempting to shift to domestic natural gas for power generation, but this attempt has been thwarted by lack of domestic natural gas distribution infrastructure.

Indonesia's energy demands have lessened slightly in response to the Asian financial crisis of the late-1990s, which severely impacted the Indonesian economy. The growth rate of the Indonesian gross domestic product (GDP) in 2001 was 3.1 percent, down more than a third from 4.8 percent in 2000. The GDP growth rate is expected to be 3.5 percent for 2002. Indonesia's economic collapse in 1998 saw 75 percent of Indonesian businesses filing for bankruptcy. The country is now indebted to the International Monetary Fund to the tune of \$43 billion.⁵

As a result of the economic collapse, a number of domestic power generation projects have failed, and several proposed projects were cancelled. The country is expected to run into a domestic power supply deficit within a few years, but up to now foreign investors have shown little interest in new power generation projects.

INDIA

With a current population of 1 billion, India is the second most populous country in the world.⁶ The population of India is growing much faster than the population of China, adding 16 million people per year.⁷ India has proven oil reserves of 4.8 Gb, a production rate of 734,000 bbl/d and a consumption rate of 1.9 million bbl/d. The difference yields a net import of 1.1 million bbl/d. India's natural gas resources are likewise meager, with 22.9 Tcf of proven gas reserves. Domestic natural gas production is just keeping up with current natural gas demand, at 752 Bcf.⁸ However, natural gas demand has risen faster than any other fuel in recent years, and domestic production cannot keep up with this growing demand. India is currently the world's sixth largest energy consumer.⁹

In total contrast to its population and the size of its economy, India is an energy poor country. India's ninth Five-Year Plan stated that India would run out of oil reserves by 2012. The plan emphasized the need for new discoveries. However, there have been no new major finds in recent years. In the late-1990s, India advertised the sale of 48 oil and gas blocks, in an effort to boost international investment in exploration. The initial response was extremely disappointing, with no bids received from major international oil companies. The domestic energy picture is further clouded by low recovery rates, averaging only about 30 percent. This is far below the world average.¹⁰

Natural gas does not fare much better. The proven gas reserves peaked a decade ago. Bangladesh is considered the most likely source for natural gas imports. However, Bangladesh is very sensitive to the idea of selling off its natural resources. India is also considering importing gas from Myanmar.¹¹ Then there is the more costly idea of importing LNG, most likely from Indonesia and the Middle East. However, before this would be possible major investments in LNG infrastructure would be necessary.

Natural gas and oil pipelines from the Central Asian and Caspian Sea regions have been proposed, but these are complicated by the territorial dispute between India and Pakistan. The Enron-backed Dabhol power plant was to be powered with natural gas piped from Central Asia. This project, India's single largest foreign investment project, has significantly undermined foreign investor confidence in India. Troubled first by payment and contract disputes with the power plant's sole customer, the Maharashtra State Energy Board (MSEB), the Dabhol project was also troubled by a lack of cheap fuel. Enron-backed Dabhol Power Corporation notified MSEB in April 2001 that it considered MSEB in breach of contract. Construction activity was suspended in June 2001. Enron is still seeking a buyer for this asset, along with three offshore oil and gas fields.¹²

Even the coal situation for India is rather bleak. India is the world's third largest coal producer after China and the U.S. Coal satisfies more than half of India's energy demands. Power generation consumes 70 percent of Indian coal, with much of the remainder consumed by heavy industry. Unfortunately, India's coal is of a low quality with a high ash content and a low calorific value. All coking coal must be imported.¹³ In 1999, India became a net importer of coal.¹⁴

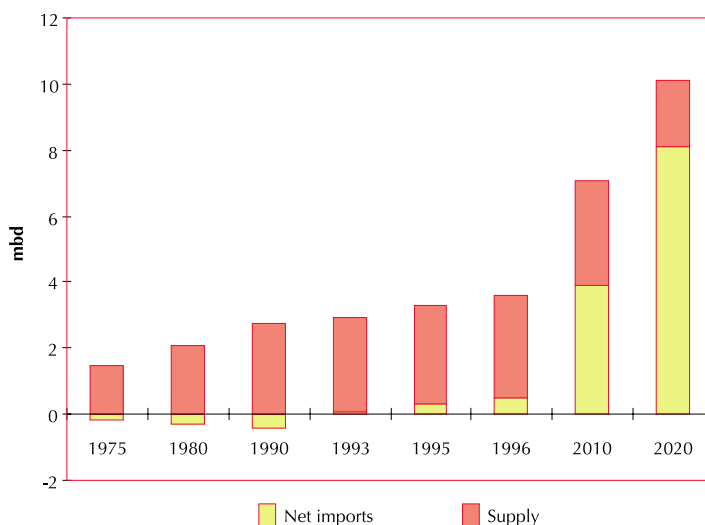
While India is energy poor, its energy demands have grown considerably and are expected to continue to do so. By 2020 India's energy demand is expected to increase by more than 2.5 times its present consumption. This will be the result of population growth, urbanization, higher living standards, growth of industry, and growth of transportation demands for both goods and people.¹⁵

CHINA

China is the world's most populous nation, with a current population of 1.3 billion. The GDP, currently \$1.27 trillion, is growing at 6.7 percent, down from 7.3 percent last year. Its major trading partners are Japan, the United States, the European Union, South Korea and Taiwan. China has maintained a trade surplus for some time, which is responsible for a significant portion of the bubbling U.S. trade deficit. While China's trade surplus has been falling in recent years, this is largely due to imports of capital goods needed to refurbish outdated industrial facilities.¹⁶ This is taken to be an investment which could lead to a resurgence in the trade surplus.

After the U.S., China is the second largest energy consumer in the world. The country holds 24 Gb in proven reserves with potential for significant new discoveries both inland and offshore. Oil production amounts to 3.3 million bbl/d. Oil consumption is currently 4.9 million bbl/d and rising. Net oil imports are currently 1.6 million bbl/d, and also rising. China

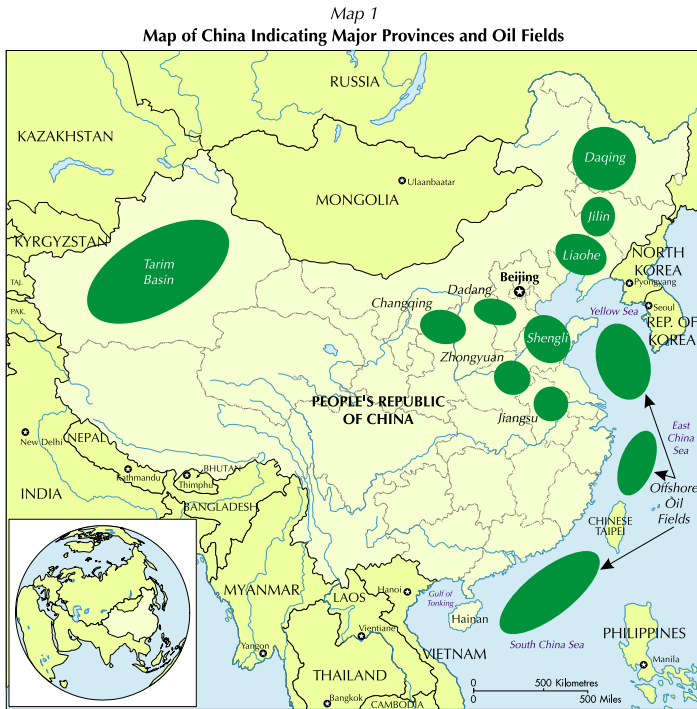
Figure 1.2: Domestic Supply and Net Imports of Oil



holds 48.3 Tcf of proven natural gas reserves, with production at 0.96 Tcf per year, even with consumption.¹⁷ However, natural gas consumption is also expected to rise. China is 10th on the list of countries ranked by conventional oil endowment. For the past five years, oil production has risen by 1 percent per year, which is well below the rise in demand. To date, China has produced 27 Gb of oil, out of 52 Gb so far discovered. Another 5.2 Gb are estimated to still be awaiting discovery, for a total of 57 Gb. They are expected to reach the midpoint to depletion this year, with the production peak following next year. The depletion rate is currently 3.9 percent per year.¹⁸

China's primary energy consumption is now equivalent to a fifth of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) total, and one tenth of the world's total primary energy consumption. The International Energy Agency (IEA) expects that China alone will account for 23 percent of world primary energy demand increase between 1995 and 2020. The OECD will account for another 23 percent, leaving a little more than half for the rest of the world (which will include India and Indonesia).¹⁹

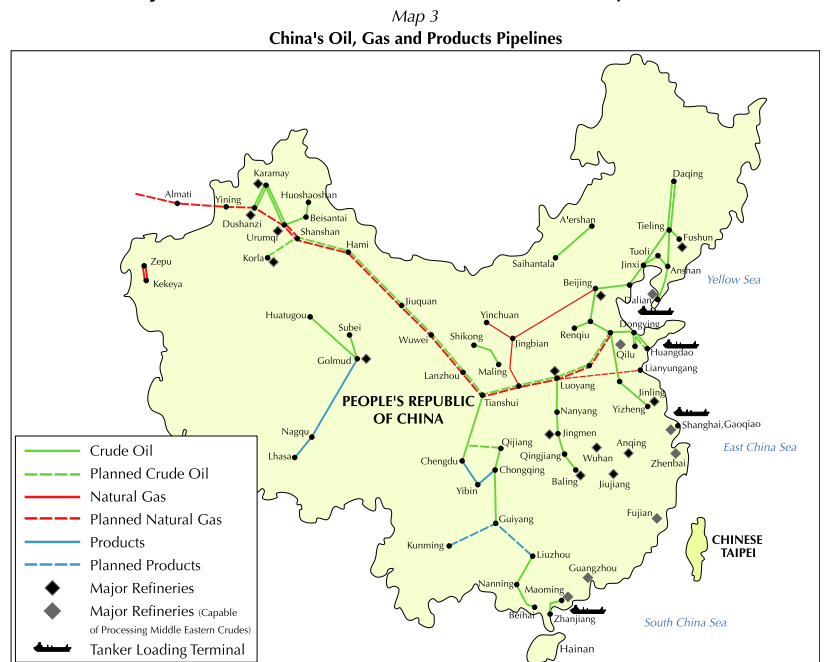
Currently, China is the world's third largest oil consumer, behind the United States and Japan. It is expected to surpass Japan within the decade and by 2020 reach a consumption level of 10.5 million bbl/d.²⁰ China only recently became a net importer of oil, as consumption exceeded production for the first time in 1993. By 2020, China is expected to import 8 million bbl/d, more than the projected net imports of Japan, Korea, New Zealand and Australia combined.²¹ Oil production in China was virtually nonexistent 50 years ago. Production rose from 0.5 mb/d (thousand barrels per day) in 1970 to 3.2 million bbl/d in 1997. In 1990, China exported five times more crude oil than it imported, yet by 1997 its imports had grown to twice the size of its exports.²²



TARIM BASIN

China has many other unexplored oil prospects, but the country seems to be pinning its domestic production hopes on the far western Tarim Basin. This is actually three separate basins in the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. This region, a desert the size of Poland, borders Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan to the west.²³ Estimates of its potential reserves still vary from a few billion barrels to 80 Gb. Many obstacles impede exploration and development: deep pay zones, high drilling costs, complex geology, high subsurface pressures and temperatures, a harsh climate (temperatures can hit 117 degrees Fahrenheit in summer and -86 degrees in winter²⁴), and lack of infrastructure.²⁵ Xinjiang also suffers from antigovernment violence blamed on its biggest minority group, the Uighurs.²⁶

To get the oil out of the distant Tarim Basin and bring it to markets in the east and southwest, China has committed itself to a 2,604-mile pipeline system. However, with construction costs estimated at \$5.2 billion and Tarim's output growing more slowly than expected, Chinese officials are struggling to figure out how to make the pipeline pay for itself. The Chinese National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) has pushed on with smaller investments to build pieces of the network, hoping that these smaller investments will render the entire project unstoppable.²⁷ The pipeline is so costly that gas will have to be priced at 35 percent above what buyers say they are willing to pay. It is expected that this pipeline will link up with the even larger "Silk Road" pipeline proposed to bring oil and natural gas from Kazakhstan.²⁸ To finance the Xinjiang pipeline, China has formed a partnership with the Royal Dutch/Shell Group, Exxon-Mobil, and Russia's Gazprom.²⁹



THE ENERGY SILK ROAD

In partnership with Exxon and Mitsubishi, CNPC has submitted a preliminary feasibility study for the world's longest gas pipeline. Dubbed the Energy Silk Road, this pipeline would start in Turkmenistan, and stretch across Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan to Xinjiang's Tarim Basin, a distance of some 4,161 miles. In Xinjiang, it would link up with the Tarim pipeline to continue the journey eastward across China. The estimated cost of \$10 billion has stifled investor interest in the project.³⁰ Similarly, a proposed oil pipeline from Kazakhstan eastward across China has spurred little investor interest due to the high price and the difficult terrain which the pipeline would have to traverse.³¹

OFFSHORE OIL

While 90 percent of Chinese energy production is located inland, it is beginning to invest more money into offshore production, with significant prospects to be found in Chinese waters. The Chinese National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC) is the company which handles offshore oil production and exploration. Proven offshore reserves are currently 10.7 Gb in 20 offshore oil and gas fields. Offshore production quadrupled between 1994 and 1996, and doubled again by 2000. CNOOC has hopes of major increases in production from fields in the South China Sea. Unconfirmed Chinese reports place potential South China Sea reserves at 213 Gb. However, in 1994 the United States Geological Survey estimated resources at 28 Gb.³² Exploratory geologists who have worked in the area or who have reviewed studies of the area, say that the results are very disappointing and estimate the South China Sea area could contain as little as a few billion barrels in isolated fields.³³

Furthermore, the area is troubled by numerous territorial disputes involving China, Vietnam, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia. These disputes have prevented systematic exploration of the area. There is little indication that the disputing parties will come to an agreement any time soon.³⁴ There is some likelihood that increased U.S. military involvement in the Philippines is at least partially due to potential or perceived energy resources in the South China Sea.³⁵

IMPORTS AND SHIPPING LANES

Far from relying on inland pipelines for their future natural gas supply, China is planning on building and updating several LNG ports so that it might increase its imports of LNG. In a blow to Indonesia as the top world exporter of LNG, China has recently awarded a coveted natural gas supply contract to Australia.³⁶ Part of the reason for favoring Australia over Indonesia

Map 5
Energy "Silk Route" from Central Asia



Source: IEA and National Pipeline Research Society of Japan

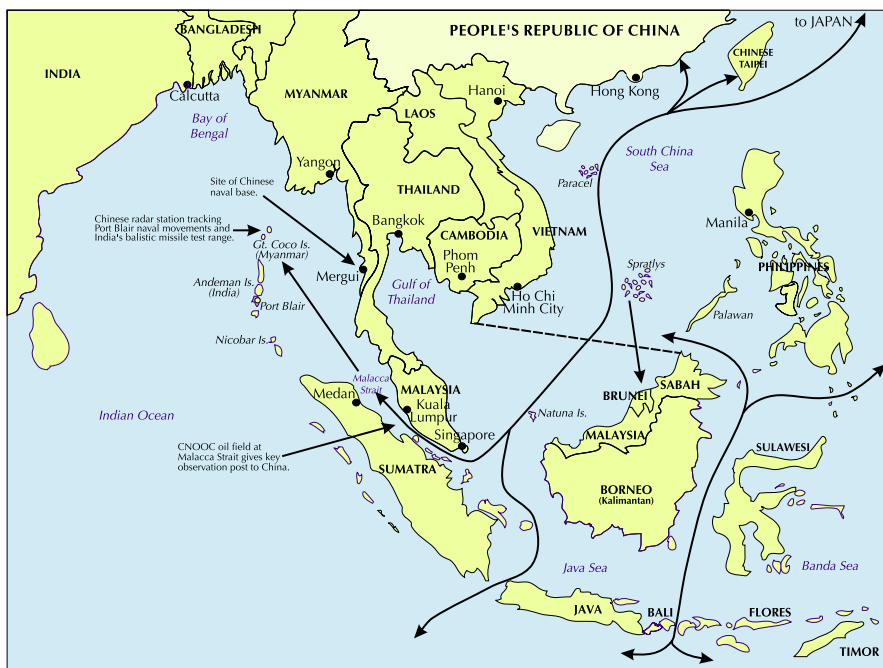
is probably due to the questionable ability to further crowd traffic in the Strait of Malacca shipping lane. Currently, 1,142 ships per day ply the waters through this entrance to the South China Sea. Virtually all Middle Eastern oil shipped to Asian customers must pass through the Strait of Malacca. A trans-shipment pipeline across the Malaysian peninsula has been proposed to ease congestion in the strait.³⁷

ENERGY TRADE AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT

China currently imports oil from many countries throughout the world, including Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Indonesia, Angola, Nigeria, Russia, Argentina, Bangladesh, Canada, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico, Venezuela and the United States.³⁸ China has attempted to diversify its energy imports for security reasons. However, like all other oil importers, it must turn to the Middle East for the bulk of its needs.

Likewise, China has had to open itself to foreign investment. This was one of the

Map 6
Security of Oil Shipping Routes



conditions for admission to the World Trade Organization. Among companies investing in China's domestic energy industry and infrastructure are Saudi Aramco, several Iranian companies, Enron (until their bankruptcy), Chevron, Shell, and Exxon-Mobil.³⁹

ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE AND GROWING DEMAND

China's energy problems are exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure. As mentioned above Chinese production is still growing at 1 percent, and production is not expected to peak until next year. However, energy consumption outstripped production in 1993. Even with all the domestic energy projects on the board, China's energy demand will still depend upon imports. Part of the reason for this is that energy reserves are located some distance from industrial centers and urban areas, and the infrastructure between energy sources and centers of demand have not been well developed.

Chinese industrial energy demand will more than double during the next 20 years. China's electricity demand has doubled within the last decade and is likely to quadruple by 2020.⁴⁰

CONCLUSIONS

If energy demand in China, India and Indonesia is allowed to grow as much as analysts say it will, then these three countries may very well crowd the rest of the world out of the energy market. Furthermore, the studies quoted here do not figure in oil production peak and beginning production decline by 2010. These studies are predicated on rising oil production until at least 2020. Even the Oil and Gas Journal is now issuing warnings that oil production will not be able to meet demand by the end of the decade. The IEA forecasts that world demand for oil will be at 119 mb/d by 2022. Yet even they offer no word about how this demand will be met.⁴¹

It is plain that growing energy demands will bring China, India and Indonesia into conflict with the developed world. The United States in particular, as the top world consumer of oil, will likely either have to curb consumption to make room for other countries or will have to find some way to curb the demands of the emerging energy consumers. Moreover, competition for diminishing oil resources could threaten the U.S. dollar hegemony over world oil transactions.

As competitors for diminishing oil exports, Indonesia and India might not present major problems. Being so energy poor, India may have no choice but to take what they can get. In August Pakistani President Gen. Pervez Musharaf broke from his nation's recent political course of exchanging nuclear threats with neighboring India. Musharaf said he did not object to India accessing a proposed Central Asian natural gas pipeline originating in Turkmenistan and running through Pakistan. "If the proposal is materialised, Pakistan could get [a] \$400 to \$500 million annual royalty, according to the Pakistan's DAWN English language newspaper. It is likely that the U.S. will have no serious problems in managing India's energy demands.

As for Indonesia, they are currently in the hands of the IMF and the World Bank. If these institutions stay true to their usual scam, Indonesia should soon be completely impoverished. However, Indonesia does control important shipping routes and valuable energy reserves. Therefore, it is likely that Indonesia will see continuing U.S. intervention for the foreseeable future. U.S. approved political leaders and foreign control of energy resources will keep Indonesia under control for at least a little longer.

As a starving world struggles for the remaining energy scraps, it is foreseeable that India and Indonesia may be left to starve, with much of the Third World. Or it is possible that a nuclear exchange and/or bloody war could be spurred on between India and Pakistan strictly for the purpose of population reduction. Such designs are despicable, but not out of the range of possibility for starving nations.

China, on the other hand, will be our major competition.

China is unlikely to become involved in an open war with the U.S. The annual Chinese military budget was \$32 billion in 1997, or roughly an eighth of the \$260 billion U.S. military budget for the same year.⁴² The U.S. has military bases throughout Asia, including the Philippines and Japan, and now in Central Asia. In the event of a war, the U.S. could easily cut off Chinese energy imports through the Strait of Malacca and from Central Asia. A direct war between China and the U.S. would be a disaster for both countries, and possibly for the entire world.

Though China will avoid open warfare with the U.S., they might become sucked into a war in the Middle East. Should the U.S. become involved in a protracted war in the Middle East, it is likely that the opponents would be supplied by China. In a U.S. military conquest of the Middle East, China would have to respond by aligning itself with the Muslim resistance. They would likely do anything short of sending Chinese troops to the Middle East to fight against the U.S.

This being said, China will have to deal with the U.S. empire, and it will need to force the U.S. into recognizing China as an equal power. This will most likely be achieved through economic means, and possibly through a series of minor wars in third-party countries. Economically, China is in a very strong position with regard to the U.S. The Chinese control the U.S. trade deficit, while the U.S. has very little economic control over China. Should the Chinese step up the production and export of consumer goods, the U.S. would have no choice but to swell its trade deficit even farther. And should China supply more goods than the U.S. can consume, the economy will suffer. Likewise, should China move away from the U.S. dollar as the international currency of trade, the results for the United States would be disastrous. Ethnic Chinese control 50 percent of the private capital in the Philippines, 70 percent in Indonesia, 80 percent in Thailand and Malaysia. The countries of the Pacific produce 60 percent of the world GDP. In recent sessions of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit there has been a lot of discussion about a Pacific alternative to the U.S. dollar. The golden Yuan has been the leading contender.⁴³

THE FAILURE OF COMPETITION

In the competition for declining oil reserves, ultimately everyone will lose. In the process of struggling for world domination and energy domination, both militarily and economically, we will drain the world's remaining energy supplies without preparing for the coming transition. The net result will be a tremendous increase in suffering throughout the world, the further impoverishment of the world's population, and a semi-secure, semi-comfortable position of limited power for the elite few who manage to stay on top. Yet it does not have to be this way.

If the United States would cut its energy consumption back to sane levels, there would be enough to build a better world for everyone. Instead of maximizing profits and trying to corner the market, we need to undertake a program to restructure our society. We need to increase energy efficiency and conservation. We need a massive program to provide more energy-efficient housing, transportation and industry. And we need to move from energy-intensive, export-oriented, and hydrocarbon-based agriculture to more sustainable, locally oriented, organic agriculture. Along the way, we can build a more socially responsible, and more democratic society, where everyone will benefit -- or at least not as many will perish.

First we have to deal with our own greed and indifference. And we need to realize that competition will only result in misery. To get anywhere, we must act from a foundation of cooperation and mutual aid. There is very little time left to avoid a catastrophic future.

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Bush Advisers Planned Iraq War Since 1990s

by Joe Taglieri, *FTW* Staff

Oct. 1, 2002, 17:00 PDT (FTW) -- The George W. Bush Administration's intentions of removing Saddam Hussein from power are not a recent development by any stretch of the imagination. Top White House officials affiliated with conservative think tanks and past administrations have been developing strategies for removing the Iraqi leader since the 1990s.

One such think tank, the Project for the New American Century (PNAC), published a report in September 2000 recommending policies for preserving and expanding U.S. dominance in world affairs, including an aggressive policy for deposing Saddam Hussein. Members of this group include Vice President Dick Cheney, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, convicted Iran-Contra perjurer and current National Security Council (NSC) staffer Elliot Abrams, Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz and I. Lewis Libby, Cheney's chief of staff and assistant for national security affairs.

Referring to the Persian Gulf region the report states, "Indeed, the United States has for decades sought to play a more permanent role in Gulf regional security. While the unresolved conflict with Iraq provides the immediate justification, the need for a substantial American force presence in the Gulf transcends the issue of the regime of Saddam Hussein."

The crux of the report advocates bulking up America's military so it can be "able to rapidly deploy and win multiple simultaneous large-scale wars." It lists southern Europe, the Middle East, Central- and East Asia as targets for increased military deployments.

Gary Schmitt, one of the report's project co-chairmen and a former Reagan policy adviser, told *FTW* that a U.S. invasion of Iraq is inevitable. "We will definitely be involved in Iraq for two reasons," said Schmitt. "One is because of issues myself, the administration and others have laid out for a number of years, and two, there isn't a snowball's chance in hell Saddam will allow inspections that matter."

ALL THE VICE PRESIDENT'S MEN

U.S. military action against Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein has long been a goal of members of the present Bush Administration. The PNAC report was based upon a 1992 draft of the Pentagon's Defense Planning Guidance, which was prepared for then-Defense Secretary Cheney, Wolfowitz and Libby. At the time Libby and Wolfowitz were part of Cheney's policy staff.

Libby has an extensive background in international relations and defense policy. He joined President Reagan's State Department in 1981 as a member of the Policy Planning Staff and then became the director of special projects in the department's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Libby was a deputy undersecretary for policy in President George H. W. Bush's Defense Department headed by Cheney.

He has a law degree from Columbia University and during the Clinton years was a managing partner for the Washington, D.C. international law firm Dechert, Price & Rhoads. Libby was also a legal consultant for the "Cox Committee," the congressional body that investigated Chinese breaches of U.S. national security and trade secrets in 1999.

Wolfowitz has worked for the government as a defense policy strategist since 1973. He was head of the State Department's Policy Planning Staff from 1981 to 1982 and was deputy assistant secretary of defense for regional programs from 1977 to 1980.

During his time with regional programs Wolfowitz helped establish the force that would become the United States Central Command. He also contributed to the creation of the Navy's Maritime Pre-positioning Ships, which his Defense Department bio describes as the supply ships program that provided "the backbone of the initial U.S. deployment twelve years later in Operation Desert Shield."

Under Reagan, Wolfowitz served as U.S. ambassador to Indonesia and assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, where he was responsible for shaping U.S. relations with all Far East nations.

Along with five fellow signatories of PNAC's 1997 statement of principles, Wolfowitz is affiliated with Johns Hopkins University. He was the dean and professor of international relations at the university's Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Thomas Donnelly, the principle author of the 2000 report advocating aggressive U.S. military policies, holds a masters degree from the Nitze School.

SAIS is also home to foreign policy behemoth Zbigniew Brzezinski, the author of a 1997 book foretelling current U.S. conflicts with Iraq and terrorists called "The Grand Chessboard." Brzezinski, a trustee of the Trilateral Commission and a member the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank, is billed by SAIS as a Robert E. Osgood professor of American foreign policy.

PNAC member Elliot Abrams is a former assistant secretary of state who was a major player in the Iran-Contra scandal of the 1980s. He was convicted of several felony offenses including lying to Congress but was later pardoned by President George H. W. Bush.

Abrams has recently served on the U.S. Commission on Religious Freedom and was appointed to the NSC staff position several months into George W. Bush's tenure. Given his controversial background, it was widely known that Abrams would

never have survived a Senate confirmation hearing for a deputy or assistant secretary position at either the Department of Defense or State Department.

'RICHARD'S STRING OF PERLES'

Richard Perle is another key Bush policy maker at the center of the administration's push toward war with Iraq. He is the chairman of the Defense Policy Board, which reports policy recommendations to Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz.

Perle was assistant secretary of defense for international security policy during both terms of the Reagan Administration. He has been a frequent contributor to national media publications and television programs.

He is also a resident fellow of the American Enterprise Institute, a think tank which has a member list that reads like a who's who of conservative politicians, academics, and policy makers.

Some contend Perle is a major puller of defense policy strings. Jude Wanniski, an analyst who focuses on the politics of "supply-side economics," claims Perle controls the "brass" of the Bush Administration's defense policy team -- Rumsfeld, Wolfowitz, Libby and National Security Adviser Condoleeza Rice.

"It is a badge of honor among the Warrior Class to be identified as one of Richard's String of Perles," Wanniski wrote in a memo posted on his Polycomomics, Inc. website.

Two PNAC men cited by Wanniski as faithful Perlites are William Kristol and Frank Gaffney.

Gaffney is a Washington Times columnist and a contributor to Defense News and Investor's Business Daily. During the Reagan Administration he was an assistant secretary of defense under Perle.

Gaffney, who holds a Masters Degree from Johns Hopkins' SAIS, is the founder and president of yet another think tank known as the Center for Security Policy.

Conservative commentator Kristol is the editor of the Weekly Standard magazine and a frequent pundit on TV news programs. He is also the PNAC chairman and, according to Wanniski, part of a network of opinion makers who answer to Perle. Kristol's network consists of many editorial page writers and journalists for national publications and television programs.

The vast majority of PNAC's money comes from funds forwarded through the New Citizenship Project, another organization founded by Kristol. Watchgroup Media Transparency reports PNAC has received a total of \$600,000 between the organization's founding in 1997 and 2000.

The New Citizenship Project is primarily funded by grants from the Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, the John M. Olin Foundation, and the Sarah Scaife Foundation. All are conservative philanthropic non-profits.

Tim Barker, FTW Staff, contributed to this report.

Biowarfare: CDC Issues Plan for Mass Smallpox Vaccinations

Questions Raised on MEHPA and Microbiologist Deaths

by Joe Taglieri and Michael C. Ruppert

Sept. 24, 2002, 19:00 PDT (FTW) -- Federal officials today released a plan instructing states to deliver smallpox vaccinations should an outbreak occur due to a terrorist attack.

The plan details how states can inoculate up to one million people in 10 days after confirming only a single smallpox infection in the entire nation. Medical professionals, academics and state health officials have expressed doubts about the effectiveness, timing and costs of the plan issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Dr. Len Horowitz, a healthcare researcher who recently authored a book on deadly viruses, noted the possibility of the Bush Administration using a biological attack to further an agenda of suppressing civil liberties.

"This is standard Machiavellian theory in practice," said Horowitz. "These political and public health problems

are created to effect outcomes that have been prepared for in advance and are consistent with economic, political and ideological orientations consistent with population control, better known as genocide. In summary, it is managed chaos and very deadly."

According to press reports, the CDC's plan does not specifically say what kind of attack would warrant a nationwide vaccination program, nor does it specify who would issue the decision to begin one.

The CDC's vaccination guide also neglects to address the "vexing and politically delicate issue" of whether to vaccinate emergency personnel or public health workers, the New York Times reported. Health and human services secretary Tommy G. Thompson expects a decision from the White House on this by the end of September.

According to the Washington Post, the number of medical personnel to be vaccinated ranges from 20,000, as recommended by one CDC advisory panel, to another proposal's call for 500,000.

The plan does specify 75 million doses of the vaccine in the U.S. stockpile are to be delivered in one day and 280 million doses within one week.

It also provides guidelines for maintaining security and order at clinics in the event of an unruly, panic-stricken crowd, and advises on location and transportation issues. Buses or subways might transport people to shopping malls or sports arenas for vaccination, according to the CDC guide.

MORE BIOWARFARE DEVELOPMENTS

FTW's reporting on the mysterious post-9-11 deaths of 15 microbiologists, some of whom have done research on infectious diseases, has drawn the attention of and sometimes questionable rebuttals by major publications in the U.S. and Canada. The New York Times last month expended 7,800 words in an effort to explain away these recent deaths as coincidence.

However, the announcement of the government's ambiguously worded plan for voluntary smallpox inoculations provides more reason to question government motives in its support of the Model Emergency Health Powers Act (MEHPA). MEHPA has now been passed in 14 states, according to The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC). [See FTW's previous reporting on this topic at <http://www.fromthewilderness.com/free/ww3/index.html#bio>]

MEHPA makes it a criminal offense to refuse a state-ordered vaccination or medical procedure. In some states where it has already become law, refusing a compulsory vaccination is a felony. States have some leeway in determining the severity of the penalties, but in all cases the act permits the immediate confiscation and/or destruction of any private property without any procedural review in the event of a health emergency.

The act made its debut last year after research at Johns Hopkins and authorship by a Georgetown University law professor. It is strongly supported by the Department of Health and Human Services, which doles out federal funds for state medical assistance programs.

MEHPA has been passed in Utah, South Dakota, Louisiana, Minnesota, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Delaware, South Carolina, Arizona and Hawaii. The legislation has been introduced in California, Nevada, New York, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and North Carolina.

WEST NILE VIRUS

The recent, rapid spread of the West Nile Virus has raised concerns from health researchers that the virus might be either a test model for the spread of a disease agent, or a psychological preparation to condition the populace to be more receptive of state-mandated vaccinations.

NewsMax.com reported today that a letter sent in 1995 by President Clinton's CDC director listed West Nile Virus as "one of nearly two-dozen forms of viruses, retroviruses, bacteria and fungi provided by the U.S. to Iraq in the 1980s."

Earlier this month, Sen. Patrick Leahy described as "credible" reports that outbreaks in the U.S. of West Nile were an act of bioterror, and he suggested the attack's purpose was to test the nation's defenses against a biological attack.

CIVIL LIBERTIES AND PUBLIC HEALTH

There is an abundance of credible information to justify concern about the impact of recent government actions on civil liberties and the overall health of the population. Smallpox vaccinations contain significant risks for illness or death for people with certain skin or immune system disorders, cancer patients, pregnant women, and babies under a year old. The New York Times reported that millions of Americans have health disorders which put them at risk should they need or be required to have a smallpox vaccination.

On June 12, President Bush signed the \$4.6 billion Bioterrorism Response Act of 2002, which has allocated billions of dollars to major pharmaceutical companies for rapid development of new vaccines. This, despite the fact that since 9-11 a number of press sources have reported that the U.S. government has already acquired some 300 million doses of smallpox vaccine. The U.S. population is currently 288 million.

Last spring the FDA eliminated standard requirements that new vaccines be tested on humans for efficacy prior to use in the general population.

Also this year the federal Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that it was legal to forcibly drug a criminal suspect who has not been convicted even if the suspect had not exhibited violent behavior.

Today's smallpox vaccine announcement combined with MEHPA demonstrates that the U.S. government, through the state agencies dependent upon federal funding, will soon be in the position to compel Americans to take vaccines that might not work and pose a significant health risk. The government will also be able to impose legal punishment on those who refuse vaccinations.

According to the White House's proposal for a Department of Homeland Security, the federal government is also asking for technologies to determine via "non invasive" measures whether or not members of the population have received appropriate vaccinations.

WAR OF WORDS

Timeline of Notable Pre-war Voices Arguing For or Against U.S. Invasion of Iraq

by Joe Taglieri, *FTW* Staff

Oct. 1, 2002, 17:00 PDT (FTW) -- The Bush Administration and its supporters have been waging a war of rhetoric promoting war with Iraq since shortly after 9-11. And beyond all the talk from U.S. politicians, American and British warplanes have increasingly attacked Iraqi targets since early this year. The following timeline documents significant events as this war of words evolves into military action.

1. November 2001 -- January 2002 - Bush foreign policy and security advisers, including Richard Perle, Paul Wolfowitz, and Condoleeza Rice, say Saddam poses the greatest danger to the U.S. and should be the next target in the war on terrorism. Unnamed diplomatic and Pentagon sources say through press reports that the CIA and Defense Department are making plans for an Iraqi military campaign. The president remarks that Saddam will "find out" the consequences of refusing to allow United Nations weapons inspectors to return to Iraq. [Sources: Washington Times, USA Today, New York Times and the Observer (U.K.)]

2. Dec. 5, 2001 - Members of Congress John McCain, Richard Shelby, Jesse Helms, Henry Hyde, Harold Ford Jr., Joseph Lieberman, Trent Lott, Benjamin Gilman, and Sam Brownback send President Bush a letter urging military action against Iraq.

3. Jan. 29, 2001 - President Bush refers to Iraq, Iran, and North Korea as the "axis of evil" in his first state of the union address. He alleges these nations possess weapons of mass destruction, which will become a familiar battle cry against Saddam over the next year.

4. February 2002 - Vice President Dick Cheney prepares to visit the Middle Eastern nations of Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Turkey, and Kuwait, all of which border Iraq. On Cheney's trip Bush remarks, "There's nothing like looking somebody in the eye and letting them know that when we say we're going to fight terror, we mean it." Also in February on a trip to Japan, Bush reportedly tells the Japanese prime minister "We'll attack Iraq. We'll do it definitely." [Sources: The Guardian (U.K.), Kyodo News]

5. March 8, 2002 - United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan cautions Iraqi officials to allow the return of weapons inspectors. [Source: Washington Post]

6. March 11-13, 2002 - As Cheney travels on his Middle East trip, the leaders of Turkey and Jordan, two scheduled stops on the vice president's travel agenda, warn a U.S. attack on Iraq could destabilize the region. Cheney first arrives in London, where British Prime Minister Tony Blair pledges support for expanding America's war against terrorism to other nations. Jordan's King Abdullah meets with Cheney and states publicly that he does not support a U.S. strike against Iraq. [Source: Washington Post]

7. March 14, 2002 - President Bush gives his first press conference since 9-11 and says, "all options are on the table," including nuclear weapons, to confront states that threaten to use weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein "is a problem, and we're going to deal with him." [Source: Washington Post]

8. March 24, 2002 - Democratic Rep. Lindsay Graham of South Carolina is quoted by the State newspaper as telling a business audience in Columbia, S.C., "Before the end of the summer or fall, we'll be in a major entanglement with Iraq." He later said his comments were conjecture. [Source: Washington Post]

- 9. April 16, 2002** - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld disputes the effectiveness of a renewed U.N. arms inspection effort. He claims when inspectors were in Iraq until 1998, they only saw weapons sites discovered through intelligence, not information volunteered by Saddam Hussein. [Source: Washington Post]
- 10. April 18, 2002** - Bush tells Virginia Military Institute cadets that democratic nations must confront the "axis of evil." [Source: Washington Post]
- 11. May 24, 2002** - The six members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who are the highest ranking members of the U.S. armed forces, publicly criticize the president's desire for a swift strike against Iraq. The military commanders express fears that an early invasion would result in many American casualties, and that a cornered Saddam Hussein would not hesitate to use biological or chemical weapons. [Source: London Telegraph]
- 12. June 20, 2002** - Cheney says Saddam represents a "gathering danger" to the U.S. "Wars are not won on the defensive," he told an audience at a Republican fundraiser in Detroit. "We must take the battle to the enemy anywhere necessary, to preempt greater stress to our country." [Source: Reuters]
- 13. July 9, 2002** - Bush tells reporters, "It is the stated policy of this government to have a regime change [in Iraq], and we'll use all the tools at our disposal to do so." [Source: Associated Press]
- 14. July 21, 2002** - Senators Joseph Biden, D-Del., and Carl Levin, D-Mich., tacitly endorse "regime change" in Iraq, though under certain conditions. Biden, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on Fox News Sunday that he would be in favor of a military strike against Saddam Hussein if a link between the Iraqi leader and Al Qaeda could be established. Levin, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said on CNN's "Late Edition," "We continue to make it clear that we would like Saddam out of there." But he cautioned, "Our rhetoric has got to be much more complex, our thought processes more complex. There are a lot of real problems here, and the first ones to recognize that...are the uniformed military leaders, who are very cautious. Much more cautious than the president's rhetoric." [Source: Associated Press]
- 15. July--September 2002** - On numerous occasions, former U.N. Iraqi weapons inspector Scott Ritter criticizes the Bush Administration for its Iraq policy. Ritter maintains that Saddam's military capability is negligible and Bush wants to invade Iraq for political purposes. [Sources: CNN, Washington Post, New York Times]
- 16. early-August 2002** - Members of Congress begin to choose sides on the Iraq debate more publicly. Republican Senators. Fred Thompson of Tennessee and Richard Lugar of Indiana come out in favor of a preemptive U.S. attack. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, R-Texas, also chimes in support for Bush's war aspirations. Rep. Dick Armey, Republican House majority leader from Texas, breaks ranks with Bush and says the U.S. should not attack Iraq without legitimate provocation. Democratic Sen. Carl Levin toughens his anti-war stance, telling NBC's "Meet the Press" that Saddam does not pose a significant danger to the U.S. [Source: New York Times, Aug. 11, 2002]
- 17. Aug. 12, 2002** - The Washington Post runs an opinion article by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that warns of the potentially dangerous precedent for international relations set by the Bush Administration's "new principle of preemption." [Source: Times of India]
- 18. Aug. 15, 2002** - National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice continues the anti-Saddam mantra, telling BBC radio, "We certainly do not have the luxury of doing nothing. We believe the case for regime change is very powerful." Rice says Saddam had twice come close to acquiring nuclear weapons and refers to him as "an evil man who, left to his own devices, will wreak havoc again on his own population, his neighbors and , if he gets weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them, on all of us." [Source: Reuters]
- 19. mid-August 2002** - The New York Times runs a story outlining the Republican opposition to the Bush Administration's Iraqi war plans. Some of the dissenters listed include Brent Scowcroft, George H. W. Bush's national security adviser, along with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Henry Kissinger, and Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel of Nebraska. Richard Perle, a leading hawk who chairs the Defense Department's Defense Policy Board, defends the administration's pro-war stance. "The failure to take on Saddam after what the president said would produce such a collapse of confidence in the president that it would set back the war on terrorism." [Source: New York Times, Aug. 15, 2002]
- 20. Aug. 18, 2002** - Richard Perle is quoted in a Washington Post story by political reporter Dana Milbank headlined, "White House Push for Iraqi Strike Is on Hold." The subhead reads, "Waiting to Make Case for Action Allows Invasion Opponents to Dominate Debate." Perle says, "Timing is everything when you do this. If you launched [a public campaign] too far in advance and nothing followed, that would raise questions and fuel a debate that would not be helpful to the administration...If you join the debate now, but don't act for months, you pay a worse price."
- 21. Aug. 18, 2002** - Dan Bartlett, the White House communications director, says on ABC's "This Week" that if Bush decides "we need to take action to minimize the threat that [Saddam] now poses,...he will do so in a way that will clearly be articulated to the American people, clearly articulated to our friends and allies." Bartlett added, "The president hasn't asked for support because he hasn't made up his mind. But I think you'll find many people rallying to such a noble cause." [Source: New York Times]
- 22. late-August 2002** - The White House begins tempering its hard line position on an Iraqi invasion as a result of recent criticisms from leading Republicans in Washington and NATO allies, such as German Chancellor Gerhard Shroeder. [Source: Stratfor Global Intelligence Report, Aug. 19, 2002]
- 23. Aug. 25, 2002** - In a New York Times op-ed, former secretary of state under the president's father James Baker warns Bush not to "go it alone" against Saddam. "The costs in all areas will be much greater, as will the political risks, both domestic

and international, if we end up going it alone or with only one or two countries,” writes Baker. [Source: CNN, Aug. 26, 2002]

24. Aug. 25, 2002 - The Associated Press releases a story headlined, “White House Lawyers Say Iraq Decision is Bush’s.” The story is sourced by “two senior administration officials speaking on condition of anonymity” and reports White House counsel Al Gonzales advised Bush that the Constitution gives the president authority to wage war without the explicit consent of Congress. [Source: Associated Press]

25. Aug. 26, 2002 - Cheney tells another group of supporters, this time a veterans group in Nashville, Tenn., that America “will not live at the mercy of terrorists or terrorist regimes” and once again reiterated the warning on Saddam’s supposed intentions to use weapons of mass destruction against the U.S. “What we must not do in the face of a mortal threat is to give in to wishful thinking or willful blindness,” Cheney said. The vice president downplays the usefulness of U.N. weapons inspectors returning to Iraq, saying that would increase the danger by providing “false comfort.” [Sources: Associated Press, New York Times, Aug. 27, 2002, The Guardian, Sept. 2, 2002]

26. Aug. 27, 2002 - Sen. Chuck Hagel responds to the question of the president’s legal status for committing troops to an Iraqi invasion without Congressional approval. “I don’t play this game so much on what’s legal and what’s not legal,” said the senator. “If the president is going to commit this nation to war, he’d better have the support of the Congress and the American people with him.” [Source: Associated Press]

27. Aug. 28, 2002 - China, a member of the U.N. security council, says it does not support the use of military force to Iraq to settle its differences with the U.S.

28. Aug. 29, 2002 - French President Jacques Chirac and Democratic Senators Patrick Leahy of Vermont and Russ Feingold of Wisconsin decry Bush’s leanings toward a unilateral strike against Iraq. Cheney tells another veterans group, this one in San Antonio, Texas, that Bush welcomes a domestic debate on invading Iraq. “I know that he will proceed cautiously and deliberately and consider all possible options to deal with the threat that Iraq ruled by Saddam Hussein represents,” said the vice president.

29. Sept. 1, 2002 - Nelson Mandela urges Bush to show restraint and says a unilateral strike could destroy the United Nations. [Source: BBC]

30. Sept. 2, 2002 - Colin Powell in an interview with the BBC contradicts Cheney’s remarks from the previous week downplaying the return of U.N. weapons inspectors to Iraq. The secretary of state echoes the opinion of British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the European Union which holds that inspectors should return to Iraq as a “first step” toward dealing with the threat posed by Saddam. [Source: The Guardian]

31. Sept. 3, 2002 - The New York Times reports that the Veterans Administration (VA) decided in August to stop marketing its healthcare services to veterans who may not be aware of them. A VA official told FTW, “In order to free up hospital bed space and clinic appointments for wounded soldiers from the war zone in Iraq, VA halted the outreach and enrollment of new veterans in the VA healthcare system. Of course, VA and DoD will deny it, they’ll say there’s a budget problem.”

32. Sept. 8, 2002 - The United Kingdom’s Independent reports “more than 100 U.S. and British aircraft attacked Iraqi air installations last week in the biggest raid for more than three years.” [Source: The Independent (U.K.)]

33. Sept. 9, 2002 - Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld tells CBS’s “Face the Nation” that the U.S. can successfully execute multiple wars at the same time while maintaining a sound domestic defense. “We will have, and do have, a capability in the United States to provide for homeland defense, to undertake a major regional conflict and win decisively -- including occupying a country and changing the regime if necessary -- and simultaneously swiftly defeat another aggressor in another theater,” Rumsfeld said. [Source: New York Daily News]

34. Sept. 12, 2002 - President Bush addresses the United Nations and states his case for “regime change” in Iraq. Bush stated clearly that if the U.N. failed to act, then the U.S. would act alone. Bush’s strategy was to throw a series of un-enforced sanctions dating back to the Gulf War in the Security Council’s collective face. Few, however, expressed support for military action to oust Saddam Hussein. [Source: CNN]

35. Sept. 12, 2002 - Benjamin Netanyahu, a former Israeli prime minister, advocates a U.S. attack on Iraq in an interview with CNN’s Paula Zahn. [Source: CNN]

36. Sept. 13, 2002 - Democratic congressman Nick Rahall tours Iraqi hospitals beleaguered by a decade of economic sanctions and states, “What I want to give here is peace a chance.” While in Iraq, Rahall also addresses the Iraqi legislature. [Source: CNN]

37. Sept. 13, 2002 - Reps. Jim McDermott, D-Wash., and Dennis Kucinich, D-Ohio, declare Saddam’s efforts to amass weapons of mass destruction pose no immediate threat to the U.S., and Bush’ real motive for a military strike is to make a grab for Iraqi oil. “Oil is a factor. How much [of a factor] is anybody’s guess, but to discount it as a factor is, I think, misleading,” said Kucinich. “It’s not a conspiracy theory to bring it in because, after all, it is the second largest oil supply in the world.” [Source: CNN]

38. Sept. 14, 2002 - Leading Democratic senators offer support for Bush’s aggressive Iraqi stance. The list includes House Minority Leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri, Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, John Edwards of North Carolina, and John Kerry of Massachusetts. [Source: Washington Post]

39. Sept. 16, 2002 - Iraq says in a letter to Kofi Annan that it will allow U.N. weapons inspectors back into the country. In a statement the White House countered, “This is not a matter of inspections. It is about disarmament of Iraq’s weapons of mass destruction and the Iraqi regime’s compliance with all other Security Council resolutions.” The statement called the apparent

Iraqi capitulation to U.N. demands a ruse and “a tactic that will fail.” [Source: CNN, Washington Post, Sept. 17, 2002]

40. Sept. 16, 2002 – Nelson Mandela increases his verbal offensive against the Bush Administration hawks. “What right has Bush to say that Iraq’s offer is not genuine?” asked Mandela. “We must condemn that very strongly. No country, however strong, is entitled to comment adversely in the way the U.S. has done. They think they’re the only power in the world. They’re not and they’re following a dangerous policy. One country wants to bully the world.” [Source: BBC]

41. Sept. 19, 2002 - President Bush submits a draft of a congressional resolution authorizing him to take military action against Iraq. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., predicts Congress will vote on the resolution before November elections. The draft resolution says, “The president is authorized to use all means that he determines to be appropriate, including force, in order to enforce the United Nations Security Council resolutions [pertaining to Iraq], defend the national security interests of the United States against the threat posed by Iraq, and restore international peace and security in the region.” [Source: Washington Post]

42. Sept. 20, 2002 - The Bush Administration releases its “National Security Strategy of the United States” document, which outlines military strategy for preemptive actions against terrorists and nations hostile to U.S. interests. The document is the first of its kind to state that the U.S. will never allow its status as the world’s premiere military super-power to be challenged as it was during the Cold War. [Source: New York Times]

43. Sept. 20, 2002 - The president bluntly challenges the United Nations to expedite compliance from Saddam to completely disarm his weapons of mass destruction programs. “It is very important that the members understand that the credibility of the United Nations is at stake, that the Security Council must be firm in its resolve to deal with a true threat to world peace, and that is Saddam Hussein,” said Bush. “The United Nations Security Council must work with the United States and Britain and other concerned parties to send a clear message that we expect Saddam to disarm. And if the United Nations Security Council won’t deal with the problem, the United States and some of our friends will.” [Source: Washington Post]

44. Sept. 21, 2002 - Sen. Robert Byrd, D-W.Va., criticizes the administration’s proposed congressional resolution authorizing plans to invade Iraq on the floor of the Senate. “This administration, all of a sudden, wants to go to war with Iraq,” said Byrd. “The [political] polls are dropping, the domestic situation has problems...So all of a sudden we have this war talk, war fervor, the bugles of war, drums of war, clouds of war. Don’t tell me that things suddenly went wrong. Back in August, the president had no plans...Then all of a sudden the country is going to war.” [Source: Charleston Gazette]

45. Sept. 21, 2002 - Iraq says it will not agree to new U.N. Security Council resolutions favored by the Bush Administration that would require a deadline for the return of weapons inspectors or consequences if Iraqis fail to comply with U.N. mandates.

46. Sept. 22, 2002 - Prince Nayif ibn Abdulaziz, the Saudi interior minister says a U.S. attack on Iraq will create problems in the region “faster than any Iraqi operation against its neighbors.” [Source: Los Angeles Times]

47. Sept. 23, 2002 - Former members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff testify before Congress and agree that the U.S. should only invade Iraq as a last resort. “We must be very, very careful about going to war, and to do so only when all other attempts to resolve the threat to us have failed, and to do so only with the support of the United States Congress and the American people,” said retired Joint Chiefs of Staff chairman John Shalikashvili. [Source: New York Times]

48. Sept. 23, 2002 - Al Gore, the former vice president, delivers a speech to the Commonwealth Club of San Francisco criticizing Bush’s Iraq war intentions. “By shifting from his early focus after Sept. 11 on war against terrorism to war against Iraq, the president has manifestly disposed of the sympathy, goodwill and solidarity compiled by America and transformed it into a sense of deep misgiving and even hostility.” [Source: Washington Post]

49. Sept. 24, 2002 - Tony Blair unveils a dossier of evidence on Saddam Hussein’s possession of weapons of mass destruction. The dossier, based on British and U.S. intelligence, was criticized for not revealing convincing evidence pointing to the need for Saddam’s immediate removal. [Source: Associated Press]

50. Sept. 25, 2002 - Sen. Tom Daschle accuses President Bush of politicizing the Iraq debate. “That is wrong,” he said. “We ought not politicize this war. We ought to politicize the rhetoric about war and life and death.” [Source: Associated Press]

51. Sept. 26, 2002 - Defense Secretary Rumsfeld says at a Pentagon briefing, “We do have solid evidence of the presence in Iraq of Al Qaeda members, including some that have been in Baghdad. We have what we consider to be very reliable reporting of senior-level contacts going back a decade, and of possible chemical- and biological-agent training.” [Source: New York Times]

52. Sept. 26, 2002 - Former secretaries of State Madeleine Albright and Henry Kissinger testify before Congress on whether the U.S. should invade Iraq. Both agree that Saddam poses a threat to the security of the Gulf region as well as to the U.S. states through potential alliances with terrorists. [Source: C-SPAN]

53. Sept. 27, 2002 - House Majority Leader Dick Gephardt writes an op-ed in the New York Times calling for support for the president as he carries out the war against terrorism. Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., says “The administration has not made a convincing case that we face such an imminent threat to our national security that a unilateral, preemptive American strike and an immediate war are necessary. [Sources: New York Times, Los Angeles Times]

54. Sept. 27, 2002 - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) announces that the Bush Administration cited a non-existent report said to be from 1998 on Iraq’s supposed imminent nuclear capability. “There’s never been a report like that issued from this agency,” said Mark Gwozdecky, an IAEA spokesman. [Source: Washington Times]

55. Sept. 28, 2002 - The U.S. and Britain attempt unsuccessfully to get other permanent members of the U.N. Security

Council to back a resolution threatening Iraq with military action. China, France and Russia remain unconvinced of Bush and Blair's case against Saddam. [Source: The Guardian (U.K.)]

56. Sept. 28, 2002 - Between 150,000 and 400,000 protesters march against war in Iraq in central London. (Estimates vary according to which news organization is reporting). [Source: New York Times – CNN, The Guardian]

57. Sept. 29, 2002 - Congressmen Jim McDermott, D-Wash., and David Bonior, D-Mich., visit Iraq to assess humanitarian conditions and criticize Bush's war plans. "They [Iraqi officials] said they would allow us to go look anywhere we wanted," said McDermott on ABC's "This Week." "And until they don't do that, there is no need to this coercive stuff where you bring in helicopters and armed people and storm buildings." [Source: Reuters]

58. Oct. 1, 2002 (Time approximate 12:00 EDT) - In Vienna, Hans Blix, the head U.N. weapons inspector, announces a tentative agreement with Iraq to allow inspectors to return beginning in two weeks. Search protocols of Hussein's Presidential palaces remain unresolved. Source: Washington Post]

59. Oct. 1, 2002 (Time Approximate 16:30 EDT) - Within hours of the Blix announcement President Bush reacts negatively to the agreement reached between Iraq and weapons inspectors. "We're just not going to accept something that is weak," he said. Bush urges the U.N. to "put some calcium in the backbone" of an alternative resolution for dealing with Iraq. On an alternative congressional resolution drafted by Senators Biden and Lugar of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Bush says, "I don't want a resolution that ties my hands...What I won't accept is something that allows Saddam Hussein to continue to lie, deceive the world," Bush said. "I'm just not going to accept something that is weak. It's not worth it – the United Nations must show its backbone and we'll work with members of the Security Council to put a little calcium there, put some calcium in the backbone, so this organization is more likely to keep the peace as we go down the road." [Sources: Washington Post, Associated Press]

Arguments Against a War in Iraq

Congressman Ron Paul
U.S. House of Representatives
Sept. 4, 2002

Mr. Speaker;

I rise to urge the Congress to think twice before thrusting this nation into a war without merit- one fraught with the danger of escalating into something no American will be pleased with.

Thomas Jefferson once said: "Never was so much false arithmetic employed on any subject as that which has been employed to persuade nations that it is in their interests to go to war."

We have for months now heard plenty of false arithmetic and lame excuses for why we must pursue a preemptive war of aggression against an impoverished third world nation 6,000 miles from our shores that doesn't even possess a navy or air force, on the pretense that it must be done for national security reasons.

For some reason such an attack makes me feel much less secure, while our country is made more vulnerable.

Congress must consider the fact that those with military experience advocate a "go slow" policy, while those without military experience are the ones demanding this war.

We cannot ignore the fact that all of Iraq's neighbors oppose this attack, and our European allies object as well.

If the military and diplomatic reasons for a policy of restraint make no sense to those who want a war, I advise they consider the \$100 billion cost that will surely compound our serious budget and economic problems we face here at home. We need no more false arithmetic on our budget or false reasons for pursuing this new adventure into preemptive war and worldwide nation-building.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to offer another quote from Jefferson. Jefferson said: "No country perhaps was ever so thoroughly against war as ours. These dispositions pervade every description of its citizens, whether in or out of office. We love and we value peace, we know its blessings from experience."

We need this sentiment renewed in this Congress in order to avoid a needless war that offers us nothing but trouble. Congress must deal with this serious matter of whether or not we go to war. I believe it would be a mistake with the information that is available to us today. I do not see any reason whatsoever to take young men and young women and send them 6,000 miles to attack a country that has not committed any aggression against this country. Many American now share my belief that it would be a serious mistake.

First, there is a practical reason to oppose a war in Iraq. Our military now has been weakened over the last decade, and when we go into Iraq we will clearly dilute our ability to defend our country. We do not enhance our national defense by initiating this war. Besides, it is impractical because of unintended consequences which none of us know about. We do not know exactly

how long this will last. It could be a six-day war, a six-month war, or six years or even longer.

There is a military reason for not going to war. We ought to listen to the generals and other military experts, including Colin Powell, Brent Scowcroft, Anthony Zinni, and Norman Schwarzkopf, who are now advising us NOT to go to war. Some have even cautioned against the possibility of starting World War III. They understand that our troops have been spread too thin around the world, and it is dangerous from a purely military standpoint to go to war today.

There is a constitutional argument and a constitutional mistake that could be made. If we once again go to war, as we have done on so many occasions since World War II, without a clear declaration of war by Congress, we blatantly violate the Constitution. I fear we will once again go to war in a haphazard way, by executive order, or even by begging permission from the rotten, anti-American United Nations. This haphazard approach, combined with a lack of clearly defined goal for victory, makes it almost inevitable that true victory will not come. So we should look at this from a constitutional perspective. Congress should assume its responsibility, because war is declared by Congress, not by a President and not by a U.N.

This is a very important matter, and I am delighted to hear that there will be congressional hearings and discussion. I certainly believe we should have a balanced approach. We have already had some hearings in the other body, where we heard only one side of the issue. If we want to have real hearings, we should have a debate and hear evidence on both sides, rather than just hearing pro-war interests arguing for war.

There are even good political reasons for not initiating this conflict. War is not popular. It may seem popular in the short run, when there appears to be an immediate victory and everyone is gloating, but war is not popular. People get killed, and body bags end up coming back. War is very unpopular, and it is not the politically smart thing to do.

There are economic reasons to avoid this war. We can do serious damage to our economy. It is estimated that this venture into Iraq may well cost over a hundred billion dollars. Our national debt right now is increasing at a rate of over \$450 billion yearly, and we are talking about spending another hundred billion dollars on an adventure when we do not know what the outcome will be and how long it will last? What will happen to oil prices? What will happen to the recession that we are in? What will happen to the deficit? We must expect all kinds of economic ramifications.

There are countless diplomatic reasons for not going. All the Arab nations near Iraq object to and do not endorse our plans, and none of our European allies are anxious for this to happen. So diplomatically we make a serious mistake by doing this. I hope we have second thoughts and are very cautious in what we do.

There are philosophical reasons for those who believe in limited government to oppose this war. "War is the health of the state," as the saying goes. War necessarily means more power is given to the state. This additional power always results in a loss of liberty. Many of the worst government programs of the 20th century began during wartime "emergencies" and were never abolished. War and big government go hand in hand, but we should be striving for peace and freedom.

Finally, there is a compelling moral argument against war in Iraq. Military force is justified only in self-defense; naked aggression is the province of dictators and rogue states. This is the danger of a new "preemptive first strike" doctrine. America is the most moral nation on earth, founded on moral principles, and we must apply moral principles when deciding to use military force.

(continued from page 1, Across The Rubicon)

more damning revelations in the joint House Senate 9-11 intelligence committee have proved that **FTW's** allegations a year ago of foreknowledge were more than justified. Strange, isn't it, that it has now been classified as to what the president was told before the attacks? If he knew what we now know the intelligence agencies knew, he is at the very least a proven and untrustworthy liar. Bush's known actions before, during and since the attacks are impeachable offenses. Perhaps some brave member of Congress will ultimately take to the floor and say so.

Anything is possible as the economy approaches a near-certain meltdown this October, which may well see the Dow below 6000 after devastating third quarter earnings reports become official and the explosion of a \$50 trillion derivatives bubble occurs. I can see no better combination of factors than a bloody war, threats of or actual terrorist attacks, and draconian health legislation that will allow for the immediate confiscation of property and the uncontested quarantine of anyone as convenient methods to control an angry population that may soon be going hungry and cold. President Bush has made it clear that he wants the Homeland Security Act -- with all of its suppressive powers -- signed before the Iraqi invasion and, as of Oct. 1, we will have the Northern Command in place that will place both Mexican and Canadian troops under U.S. command.

There has been some hope that dramatic last ditch efforts in the U.N. and elsewhere, together with an increasing number of significant protests both in the U.S. and Europe might derail the plans for war. They may actually delay the invasion for a short while, but that's all. A wise analyst will follow the troops rather than the rhetoric. The massive buildup for the invasion has continued unabated. These troops cannot remain so heavily forward-deployed for long without being used. Recent convenient deployments to Yemen and Djibouti only confirm my previously-stated suspicions that Saudi Arabia is just as much a target as Iraq.

The Asia Times, in a story published Sept. 30, also confirms the position taken by **FTW** about eight weeks ago that the move against Iraq and Saudi Arabia is a move to break the back of OPEC and drastically reduce prices by increasing production from the only two countries in the world that can open oil taps wider. This position was also noted on a Sept. 28 Fox News

show by former CIA Director James Woolsey, who has had a habit of addressing **FTW** themes in interviews. Woolsey noted that Iraq is currently exporting only 1 million barrels of oil a day and that this could be increased by 3- to 4 million barrels per day as a price "control" measure. When asked if Saddam might scorch the earth and attempt to destroy his oilfields Woolsey replied, "Saddam is capable of anything." He then implied that the U.S. was prepared for that contingency by recalling that Saddam had tried that tactic in 1991, and the U.S. had quickly restored production. "But we could do the same thing again," said Woolsey and "get the fields online quicker than anyone thought."

As the invasion plans appear more and more unstoppable, the heavy shuttle diplomacy taking place in the Arab world between Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia and other Muslim states indicates that the OPEC/Muslim world sees the plan also. They want to slow the U.S. down and prevent the invasion. While staving off an inevitable collapse of the U.S. economy by drastically reducing oil prices (including heating oil and fuel for power generation) just before winter, the Bush Administration would also gut the national incomes of most countries in the region. Our immediate economic instability would be immediately transferred to the Middle East. The Saudi monarchy, awaiting the imminent passing of King Fahd, must see this clearly. The civil war between Princes Abdullah and Sultan that looms from that event alone might turn into anarchy if the Saudi government is suddenly unable to meet the domestic financial obligations that keep it in place.

What seems clear to me now is that the administration has thought through all of these contingencies and has prepared for them. The administration's arrogance is as frightening as its power. I have recently learned from trusted sources on Capitol Hill that the Armed Services committees have quietly begun planning for a reinstatement of the draft. That harkens back to my June 2000 essay, "When the Children of the Bull Market Begin to Die." The eventual drafting of our youth is to me as much a certainty as anything else I have written about thus far. Reserve units, now having been called up for more than a year, are nearing the breaking point. A bloody and protracted war -- something the rest of the world may now be hoping for -- will overextend our military, and the draft will be essential as the criminals occupying the Executive Branch desperately attempt to make their grasp meet their reach. I think that there is better than a 50-50 chance that nuclear weapons will be used on the battlefield by either the U.S. or Israel within the next six months.

Russia and China wait as close to the sidelines as possible. China will be the ultimate endgame as it competes with growing demand for dwindling supplies of energy. And should the U.S. stumble, China will exert herself even more on the world scene.

I am reminded of where this country was in 1967-68 as the U.S. government, faced with massive domestic riots over civil rights and anti-war protests, found that it had 550,000 troops overseas and not enough at home to keep the peace. It was then that the assassinations of MLK and RFK became both inevitable and necessary. As yet, no leader of such stature had emerged, and I don't know if one will. Rep. Cynthia McKinney of Georgia, ousted by a clever and well executed plan, was one hope. But the ruling elite's science of population and political control has come a long way since the 1960s.

Most of our critics, notably David Corn of The Nation and self-anointed media critic Norman Solomon, have gone silent as both our reporting and predictions have been completely validated by events. And both Corn and Solomon have also revealed themselves to be agents of the U.S. State Department run by Colin Powell and career covert operative and criminal Richard Armitage. Last November in a story published on Alternet Corn wrote, "I had been dispatched to Trinidad by the U.S. State Department to conduct a two-day seminar on investigative reporting for local journalists (your tax dollars at work!)..." And just recently Norman Solomon of the Institute for Public Accuracy traveled with sitting congressman Nick Rahall and others on what CNN described as an official delegation to meet with officials of the Iraqi government.

I make these points because it seems to me that the learning curve of activism has not matched that of the oppressor. It is true that the Internet may prove itself to be the saving grace of mankind. But I look back at all the dedicated activists of the last 30 years and ask what have they accomplished? Human rights are worse. The environment is worse. Globalization is batting near 1000. Military spending has skyrocketed. And there seems to be nothing that can stop the empire's progression. (That is what I labeled it in January 2001).

Visionaries like Catherine Austin Fitts (www.solari.com) continue to demonstrate how our government is not a government but a criminal enterprise run for the benefit of corporations and syndicates. Her writing about alternative economic models that succeed without killing attracts far too little attention. And while **FTW** is growing, we are constantly short of funds as we continue to provide the most accurate reporting, analysis and predictions in the marketplace of ideas.

This is all because most of the people in this country still avoid the hard realities and try to cure symptoms rather than the causes of this great illness that envelops our country. Just recently I was in Washington, D.C. and attended several seminars at the Congressional Black Caucus. One seminar, on COINTELPRO, the FBI's domestic suppression operation of the '60s and '70s, featured Martin Luther King III who said, "We are a sick nation. Every day we are getting sicker."

I could not agree more.

But Julius Caesar has crossed the little river called the Rubicon with his legions and is heading toward Rome. The Republic is dead. And throughout human history it was at these times, when answers were hard to find and darkness seemed unstoppable, that a part of the human spirit persisted -- "I will not give up. I will not go quietly. I will not surrender." It was at these moments that faith demonstrated its true power, that courage found itself in the heart, and that the human race justified its existence in the universe.