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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Excerpt from 'Space Aliens From The Pentagon'

From: **Jerome Clark** <jkclark@frontiernet.net>
Date: Sat, 08 May 99 10:37:42 PDT
Fwd Date: Sat, 08 May 1999 21:22:55 -0400
Subject: Re: Excerpt from 'Space Aliens From The Pentagon'

>Date: Fri, 07 May 1999 02:49:05 -0600
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalseve.net>
>From: Don Allen <dona@amigo.net>
>Subject: Re: Excerpt from 'Space Aliens From The Pentagon'

>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalseve.net>
>>From: Jerome Clark <jkclark@frontiernet.net>
>>Subject: Re: Excerpt from 'Space Aliens From The Pentagon'
>>Date: Thu, 06 May 99 17:33:17 PDT

>>>Date: Thu, 06 May 1999 08:30:10 -0600
>>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalseve.net>
>>>From: Don Allen <dona@amigo.net>
>>>Subject: Re: Excerpt from 'Space Aliens From The Pentagon'

>>>>Date: Wed, 5 May 1999 08:13:10 -0400
>>>>From: Bruce Maccabee <brumac@compuserve.com>
>>>>Subject: Re: Excerpt from 'Space Aliens From The Pentagon'
>>>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalseve.net>

>Mr. Clark,

>There are many instances in the world in which tyrants have run
>free without so much as any kind of provocative action by NATO.
>Congress did not vote on any bombing, until it was well into the
>campaign. Prior to the bombs, the US had the KLA listed as a
>terrorist group with known drug dealing connections. While I was
>a bit sarcastic about some of my examples, the fact is there is
>a basis for looking at what we're told versus what they do.

>Yes, we have been dealing with Milosovic for quite some time and
>no I don't condone what he's done with killing people.

I hope that you will educate yourself on the long, tortured history of the West's efforts to deal with Milosevic, with whom we ought to have gone to war long ago, even as the West frantically sought to avoid that option; meantime, Milosevic's killers were acting with virtual impunity as they conducted mass murder of Bosnians and others. All you can manage to say, significantly, is that you "don't condone" Milosevic's policy of slaughter, surely as feeble a criticism as could possibly be expressed.

>I don't condone the bombing of innocent people, and their
>workplaces, places of worship like NATO has done. They have not
>limited the "precision bombing" to just military targets. The
>circus regarding the capture of the three soldiers was pure
>propaganda. It's "ok" for "us" to bomb Serbia, but the Serbs had
>better "take care of our POWS".

NATO has gone to extraordinary lengths not to hit civilian targets, probably to the detriment of its own mission. When NATO errs, as sadly is inevitable, it acknowledges its errors and apologizes for them. Presumably, if this were World War II, you would be criticizing Allied bombers for killing civilians in Axis countries, while ignoring, or only grudgingly acknowledging, the mass murder occurring on the ground in those murderous societies.

On the other hand, Milosevic, with whom you seem to have only the slightest of quarrels, continues to deny the very existence of ethnic cleansing. According to the best estimates, Milosevic is responsible for at least 250,000 deaths and the displacement of hundreds of thousands more of his countrymen. That you continue to focus your attacks on NATO, the West, and the United States in the face of horrors like these tells us much about your own values, which frankly, for the sake of a better next century than this one has been, I hope few share.

>There are many documented instances of our government supporting >dictators for it's own ends. It was our own government that made >it possible for Saddam Hussein to possess and develop >biochemical weapons. It was the CIA who has conducted drug >running operations, carried out mind control on it's own >citizens under MK-Ultra and other ops. It was factions of our >govt that traded drugs for arms in the Iran-Contra affair.

And these crimes were exposed by our free press and Congress, and many of those responsible were either prosecuted or ruined professionally.

No government, even a free government, is perfect, which is why the architect of American democracy, Thomas Jefferson, warned that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance. The difference between a free society and the unfree ones for which you apologize is not that the former never does wrong, but that mechanisms exist for exposure, protest, reform, and prosecution against these wrongs. Power corrupts in free societies just as it does in police states. As someone who vigorously and actively protested U.S. involvement in Vietnam, I am all too aware of how it works. The absence of Serbian protest against mass murder in Kosovo tells us in itself what we need to know about the distinction between a free society and one ruled by oppression and terror.

>There is a 1994 Rockefeller report which investigated the >military's experimentation of dosing it's own members with >harmful chemicals. You can read about that here - ><http://www.gulfweb.org/bigdoc/rockrep.cfm>

Again, the point is not that power is not corrupted even in a free society, but that these abuses can be exposed and wrongs can be righted and misguided (or even criminal) policies changed. In an unfree society, far worse crimes occur, and nobody within those unfortunate societies (like Milosevic's) is free to speak, and those responsible are not held to account. All societies in the world, even free ones, have, in the course of their histories, committed acts of which they should be ashamed or for which they should be criticized. That's hardly news.

Look, for example, at the case of peaceable, democratic Switzerland, whose business and other relationships with Nazi Germany have come to light in recent years. Does this make Switzerland forever a pariah state, or this episode the defining one in its history? Of course not.

What I object to is your holding America to some unique account, while giving far worse regimes, such as the one Milosevic leads, what amounts to a free pass. Your last posting, frankly, read like something out of the Serbian Propaganda Ministry.

>It is a documented fact that Clinton has actively solicited the >Red Chinese dictatorship, for campaign re-election funds. You >can read ample documentation about this at --> ><http://www.softwar.net>

And this fact, of course, has been well documented in our free press. Those directly culpable will have to answer for their misdeeds, and Clinton's party (and mine) will likely pay the

price in our next election. Meantime, the Chinese flatly deny that they were engaged in espionage, massive evidence to the contrary notwithstanding. Therefore, in that spirit, I urge NATO to deny that yesterday its bombs fell on the Chinese embassy in Belgrade.

>This is the very same regime that ran tanks over the bodies of
>it's citizens at Tianmen Square; A regime that has brutalized,
>imprisoned, murdered its citizens for the crime of speaking out
>against tyranny. Yet we accord them "most favored" trade status

Are you suggesting that we not deal with China? That we pretend it does not exist? I don't like that regime any more than you do, but we also dealt with the Soviet Union and all sorts of other unsavory regimes. I even think we ought to have normal diplomatic relations with Cuba. Recognition does not equate with approval, just acknowledgement of reality. This world would be a far more dangerous place if we engaged in relations only with countries we like and have no prospect of armed conflict with.

>while we lecture Serbians on brutalizing Albanians. Our
>hypocrisy is beyond absurd - We train killers at the CIA "School
>of Americas" in Georgia, but we have the gall to lecture other
>countries about "genocide". Unbelievable.

The United States does not "train killers at the CIA School of Americas." That's garbage. If you want to discuss the (often dismal) history of the Cold War in Latin America, we can do it off line. Both sides have a lot to answer for here, on the American side some administrations more than others (i.e., Reagan's more than Carter's).

Whatever else might be said (and there is much more to be said; I said much of it as a left-liberal political activist on the matter in the 1980s), in the end there is only one surviving Stalinist state in Latin America, and its days are numbered. Other societies emerged, with U.S. help, from military dictatorships and have become (sometimes imperfect) democracies. Whatever its past faults and worse, the U.S. has become a firm friend of democracy in Latin America and deserves credit for that as much as it deserves criticism for its past sins. I realize that you'd like it all to be one-sided -- the U.S. as Great Satan in all its interactions with other nations and its own citizenry -- but reality and history are not going to oblige you here, I'm afraid.

Yes, we should lecture other countries about genocide, and you should stop the America-bashing. Genocide is a grave business which should be opposed wherever it occurs, by all civilized nations. Thank God the United States is out there in front on this, just as it was in World War II, when my uncle (as well as a lot of people's friends and relatives from NATO-coalition countries) died fighting the last episode of genocide in Europe.

>Quite contrary to your assertion that I am "bashing America", it
>would be more accurate to state my position as "anti-corrupt"
>government. There is a very distinct difference.

Not, as far as I can tell, in your overheated polemics. Most of us manage to oppose corrupt government without becoming de facto apologists for Slobodan Milosevic.

Let me close with these wise words from Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, from the May 17 issue of The New Republic:

"To the shame of the world -- particularly the Europeans and the United States -- no one intervened when the Hutus were committing genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda. To the shame of the United States and its allies, they stood by after defeating Saddam Hussein and watched him commit mass murder against the Iraqi Shia. The cost of inaction in a world where murderous rulers lead hate-filled people in eliminationist, even genocidal onslaughts is high enough that even those suspicious of, and reluctant to use, American or NATO arms should realize that there is no moral option but to defeat, overwhelmingly and finally, the genocidal killers of our day. Otherwise, the perpetrators will continue to kill and will likely begin to kill again. And future genocidal killers will think -- as all the recent ones have -- that they, too, will enjoy immunity."

Jerry Clark

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