

March 15, 2003

Proportional Murder

Leszek and Olek, former “apparatchiks” of the Communist Party, used to be close neighbors in the “Bay of the Red Pigs” in Warsaw. In “solidarity” with their newfound friend George, they have unilaterally declared war on the far away country of Iraq. Like vultures they are now lobbying for lucrative construction contracts to cover the \$700 mln loss that Poland incurred pulling out of Iraq in 1991. Prior to the Gulf War, Poland had over \$1 bln of construction contracts in Iraq each year. Is Poland sending troops to Iraq to fight for this long lost money? Troops that could not possibly get a visitor visa to enter the U.S.?

A recently declassified 1948 document reveals a strategy of the American foreign policy, based on the fact that the United States has half of the world’s wealth and only 6.3% of its population. “We cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment”, the document reads. “Our real task in the coming period is to devise a pattern of relationships that will permit us to maintain this position of disparity without positive detriment to our nation’s security”. Given the growth in that disparity since 1948, this strategy is key to understanding U.S. foreign policy during the past half century.

OK, we can understand this strategy and the motivation of wealthy nations to keep all their marbles in their pockets but what does it have to do with poor Poland? Declaration of war has not been ratified by the Polish Parliament, this war has not been approved by the United Nations and both Premier and President - Leszek and Olek can now be accused of crimes against humanity for sending troops to Iraq.

There is a widespread sentiment in the Muslim world (1 bln people) that this war is for the strengthening of Israel, as part of George W. Bush’s plan to remake the Middle East. Consider that, last month, the New Yorker magazine reported on a policy paper circling among U.S. hawks, called: “A clean break: A new strategy for Securing the Realm”, written in 1996 by U.S. foreign policy analysts as advice for then Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The title refers to a foreign policy for Israel that would de-emphasize the peace process between Israelis and Palestinians and move “to a traditional concept of strategy based on balance of power”. One key item in the strategy, the paper implies, would be toppling Saddam Hussein.

But the real heart of the anger felt by Muslims is the violence that has been, and will be, meted out to the Iraqi people. The equating of Islam with violence by Western pundits is seen as the pinnacle of hypocrisy when you consider that 90,000 tons of bombs – the equivalent of 7 ½ Hiroshima bombs – were dropped on the people of Iraq in the 43 days of the 1991 Gulf War, and that UN sanctions contributed to the death of hundreds of thousands Iraqis afterward.

As images of Iraqi casualties mount during the coming conflict, the resentment can only increase and this is war is bad business for peace loving Poland. How could our poor country, in convulsions from a painful jump from communism to capitalism, declare war on another poor country to defend the wealth of the richest country in the world?

The answer lies in the dictatorial powers usurped by the former Communists with the aid of proportional election law. The members of parliament in Poland do not represent the interests of the individual voters but only the interest of the party. It is easy for Premier and President to usurp dictatorial powers and to declare wars as they please without a verification vote in Parliament. Who is going to stop them – unarmed and impoverished citizens who are not sure when the sick economy will stop this free fall? I am certain that if the peaceful and God loving Poles had a chance for a free vote, Poland true to the guidance of its Pope would not have declared war on Iraq or anyone else.

Saddled with proportional election law, Poles do not have true voting rights, as they never know who is going to represent them in the Parliament. The present rules allow political parties to prepare lists of “choice” candidates and those who are at the top are guaranteed seats in Parliament even if they receive only 10 votes. This perfidious proportionality has been written in the Polish Constitution to protect the interests of the former Communists and their new wealth, which they accumulated taking advantage of “free market” opportunities. Now this proportionality of the election law has dragged us into an unwanted war.

An observant person might notice that the former Communists have approx. three quarters of Poland’s wealth and only 5% of the population. They cannot fail to be the object of envy and resentment. War against real or imaginary terrorists is very handy for them to protect their political positions and private interests. However who is a terrorist for some, might be a partisan for others. Wealthy minorities are well advised to use dialogue instead of bloody coercion.

In my opinion, problems of resentment and aggression will intensify as the world is coming to the end. Not in a Biblical sense of Armageddon but in a sense of markets that have no money and will no longer provide for the growth of greedy nations. Days of 30% market growth are over as there is no fresh money in the Middle East, South America, Africa, Europe, India and Asia. Our world is in a phase of stagnant markets and for some, the war might be seen as a solution. But the war has never has been a long-term solution. Especially now when there are so many tools of mass destruction in hands of Russia, Ukraine, India, Pakistan, France, China, USA, Israel and North Korea. Is Poland also going to have nuclear arms on our soil?

A possible solution might be the new “Bretton Woods Act” promoted by the American presidential candidate Lyndon Larouche. (<http://larouchein2004.net>) A plan for a joint reconstruction of the world for the people and by the people. A plan for rich nations to preserve their wealth and poor nations to have opportunities to increase their standard of living to prevent needless suffering and deaths. This is what I pray one day will be discussed and lobbied in the United Nations hallways instead of yet another resolution for

or against the war. This approach requires honest and strong leadership and this is what our world needs the most today. I hope that the needless greed does not screw us all.

Stanislaw Tyminski
stan@transduction.com