



Bee and orange blossom

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Editorial: It is somewhat ironic that we are now able to identify at least nine former Cold Warrior leaders in the US who in different ways have detached themselves from current US & NATO nuclear policies. Among the first was Bruce Blair, a nuclear missileer whose task was to obey orders which, if acted on, would launch thousands of missiles and their warheads, resulting in the agonizing deaths of perhaps millions of human beings. The overall Commander of US Strategic Nuclear Forces, General Lee Butler, experienced a similar conversion, “who made the long and arduous intellectual journey from staunch advocate of nuclear deterrence to public proponent of nuclear abolition” (for more on his views see item 2, below).

Robert McNamara, a former US Defense Secretary, appealed for orderly disarmament such as proposed by the former UN Secretary-General for a nuclear weapons convention. Another former US Defence Secretary, William Perry, writing in “My Journey at the Nuclear Brink” states that nuclear weapons “no longer provide for our security... but are endangering that security.” He praises the work of former Senators Sam Nunn and Dick Lugar, whose Senate-supported Programs gave major assistance to Russia in dismantling nuclear weapons. “I’ve

voted for missiles, wrote Nunn. "I've voted for submarines and bombers. But the best money I ever voted for is the money that is now allowing us to work together (with Russia) to tear down these weapons of mass destruction and do it safely."

George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, together with Bill Perry and Sam Nunn, were known as the "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse" when the nuclear arms race was at its height. Now Shultz, together with Sid Drell, Henry Kissinger and Sam Nunn convened a number of conferences described in a recent book: *The Partnership: Five Cold Warriors and their quest to Ban the Bomb*. What is significant is the increased emphasis given by all nine on the urgency of prevention. Though not openly admitted, they must recognize and eventually agree that a process for comprehensive disarmament is essential, increasingly supported by ex Cold Warriors, providing reasons for real hope in these troubled times.

1. Canada on the wrong side of the anti-nuke movement

May 31/17. by Douglas Roche, Edmonton, via *The Hill Times*: Leaders of the Canadian government who in the past few months have contented themselves with vapid excuses for not supporting efforts at the United Nations to prohibit nuclear weapons will have to work overtime to find credible reasons to maintain resistance, now that the draft text of a convention has been released. The heart of the matter is contained in Article 1 (a) in which each state party undertakes never under any circumstances "to develop, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices."

In other words, nuclear weapons are stigmatized, put beyond the pale, and never to be part of a nation's armoury. The Canadian government, tied so closely to the nuclear policies of Washington and NATO, will not accept this. The integrity of the Canadian position, that it really wants to do away with nuclear weapons, but not just yet, is in tatters. For the past three years, a humanitarian movement, led by like-minded states and civil society activists, has gathered support from a majority of nations to develop a legal instrument prohibiting nuclear weapons because of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of such weapons. A resolution to start such negotiations was adopted at the United Nations last fall with 113 states in favour, 35 opposed, and 13 abstentions. Canada voted no and refuses to participate in the process.

The United States instructed all its NATO partners to vote against the resolution on the grounds that the negotiations aimed to "de-legitimize the concept of nuclear deterrence upon which many allies and partners depend." The US was quite correct in this assessment. Delegitimizing nuclear weapons is exactly what this effort is all about.....

It's hard to imagine that Canada – that most trusted of world states – is boycotting a process to develop a legal measure to prohibit nuclear weapons just because the

United States insists on maintaining its nuclear arsenals. The issue is not legality, but humanity.

2. General Lee Butler: from Cold Warrior to Outspoken Disarmer

The remarkable conversion of a Four Star Air Force General, George “Lee” Butler, Commander of the US Strategic Air Command, is worthy of special attention. Here are excerpts from interviews of Butler by the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation. For Butler, a sense of abhorrence began to encompass nuclear weapons in general as he became privy to more secrets about them. Then his life changed in a way that he never had anticipated. The decorated Vietnam War pilot, considered one of the most knowledgeable experts on nuclear weapons and strategy in the world began talking like the most passionate of anti-nuclear activists. A fascinated media listened all over the world. Butler was speaking freely about the “scourge” of nuclear weapons as being sinister and irreligious, recommending they be dismantled everywhere they existed through international agreements.

They had no strategic value for any government in the post-Cold War. He particularly singled out the dangerous belief in deterrence and its underlying doctrine of mutually assured destruction (MAD). He was asked what he would do if given the opportunity to relieve the growing tensions in Europe. “The first thing I would have done would have been to begin standing down NATO – to wean European nations off of US largesse and have them begin to take responsibility for their own national security. The Warsaw Pact had been dissolved. The failure to dismantle the Alliance of the Cold War was a huge mistake. I smile when I hear people say ‘ Thank God we’ve got NATO, because we’ve got Putin’. My feeling is the reverse: we’ve got Putin because we didn’t dismantle NATO along with the whole attitude toward Russia, which was kind of kick ‘em while they’re down.

There may be a ‘fog of war’, but there is a fog of peace as well, where you still can’t see with any clarity exactly whom you are dealing with, or the belief systems that have built up on both sides, and how impenetrable the mythology has become. Our post-Cold War posture toward Russia was an enormous strategic blunder. We are still paying the price for it.

I expect more from our senior leaders. I expect them to see the larger picture, and play for the longer game. The longer game was establishing sound, cordial relationships with Russia, to shepherd them into the realm of democratic government. Instead, the whole thing just went off the rails. In the process, arms control got lost. The loss of momentum in nuclear arms control was the greatest price. You have only a short period of time to capitalize on those kinds of opportunities; then the door closes.

“First, I have no other way to understand the willingness to condone nuclear weapons except to believe they are the natural accomplice of visceral enmity. They thrive in the emotional climate born of utter alienation and isolation. The unbounded wantonness of their effects is a perfect companion to the urge to destroy completely. They play on our deepest fears and pander to our darkest instincts. They corrode our sense of humanity, numb our capacity for moral outrage, and make thinkable the unimaginable. What is anguishingly clear is that these fears and enmities are no respecter of political systems or values. They prey on democracies and totalitarian societies alike, shrinking the norms of

civilized behaviour and dimming the prospects for escaping the savagery so powerfully imprinted in our genetic code. That should give us great pause as we imagine the task of abolition in a world that gives daily witness to acts of unspeakable barbarism. So, however, should it compound our resolve.”
From “Death by Deterrence” by Lee Butler

3. What You can do today: Let your views be known by phone to:

Global Affairs Canada. Ask to speak with Chrystia Freeland, Foreign Affairs Minister. 613.992.5234

If unavailable then leave a message with one of her staff. Give your name, city, occupation & why you feel Canada should take part in the disarmament negotiations next week at the UN General Assembly... Be cordial; don't argue and keep it short. Remember, you're on the eventual winning side of this struggle! If you wish, tell us of your experience at 613.224.8155.

4. The 81-year-old woman inspiring a nation to recycle

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." - Margaret Mead

Will my calling Global Affairs make a difference? Margaret Mead believes so. Zeinab Makalled believes so – or at least she models the impact of individual action.

BBC Magazine on June 8 (<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-40191270>) shared the story of how Zeinab has spent the last 20 years inspiring and empowering women in her village to lead the way on a household waste recycling program that has attracted international support (Italy donated funds for a sorting warehouse, relieving her of the need to do it all in her own backyard) and visits from students and activists from all over Lebanon, a country struggling with massive mountains of waste. She and her fellow volunteers not only give their time, but each contributes \$40 a year to help pay for the costs of gathering the rubbish. They mastered the recycling of glass, paper and plastic and have now moved on to electronic waste and are exploring ways to make compost in hot, dry southern Lebanon.

Never doubt that our individual efforts can change the world – indeed they may be the only thing that will. 110 recipients of the Order of Canada have spoken. We can join them.

5. 110 recipients of the Order of Canada called on the Prime Minister to support UN negotiations to rid the world of nuclear weapons

One hundred and ten recipients of the Order of Canada, including 13 physicians, have called on Prime Minister Trudeau to support multilateral efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons, (see Advt.) First, however, Canada needs to end its boycott of the current UN General Assembly negotiations of a treaty to ban all nuclear weapons.

6. Afghanistan authorities make progress in fight against corruption

Via the Good News Agency, New York: Special Representative for Afghanistan Tadamichi Yamamoto and Abdul Basir Anwar, Afghanistan's Minister of Justice, launch new report on the country's progress in addressing corruption. While enormous challenges remain, Afghanistan authorities have made headway in their fight against corruption, according to a United Nations report released today, which also finds that the country is making progress in other areas, such as restoring institutional control over the delivery of public services.

In its report entitled Afghanistan's Fight against Corruption: The Other Battlefield, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), highlights the country's progress in addressing corruption. Drawing on internationally recognized best practices, it provides recommendations for how the Government, with the continued support of the public and the international community, can build on those achievements.

A key component of Afghanistan's fight against corruption is the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre (ACJC). Its dedicated police and prosecution units, and a new national primary and appeals court, was established by Presidential Decree to operate with jurisdiction over the broad range of corruption offences specified in the current penal code.

The Justice Centre's scope also includes money laundering, destruction or selling of cultural and historical relics, crimes against internal and external security, illegal extraction of mines and land usurpation. In addition to outlining the advances made by the ACJC, which is actively investigating, prosecuting and adjudicating cases, the report indicates that Afghanistan is showing progress in restoring institutional control over the delivery of essential public services and management of public finances.
<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=56623#.WQ10m1Jabo>

7. UN Women's Executive Board visits Women's work in Rural India

28 April 2017 - New Delhi, India — The Bureau of UN Women's Executive Board concluded a three-day mission to India, where they gained first-hand understanding of UN Women's work in the country through meetings and interactions with

representatives from the government, development partners and media. The outcome of the mission will form part of an official report that will be presented to the Executive Board during its Second Regular Session in 2017. The purpose of the field visit was for member states to assess the contribution of UN Women and the UN System to support and help in the implementation of the national priorities of the Government of India.

<http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2017/4/news-executive-board-visitsindia#sthash.4Dbg1keH.dpuf>

8. Mexican Senate approves new law on disappearances of women

April/17, Mexico City: Senate's approval of a new law on enforced disappearances is a step forward which must be finalized soon. A bill on enforced disappearances approved today by the Mexican Senate could represent a step forward in the fight to tackle the country's human rights crisis. Now all that is needed for the bill to become law is the approval of the Chamber of Deputies. The definitive approval of the bill on enforced disappearances is crucial in order to begin to seriously address the nightmare which thousands of families face, searching for their loved ones in the face of serious threats.

9. RWANU helps Ugandan women grab life by the horns

3 May 2017 – Empowering women is smart economics. But in many parts of the world, tradition dictates the lives of men and women. Take the Karamoja region of Uganda, where many women are responsible for feeding their families, but lack purchasing power. When Joyce Owalinga first married, her husband Sagal chose when and how to spend the family money. Despite doing odd jobs and selling firewood and charcoal, Joyce failed to meet her family's basic needs. Then, the USAID-funded and ACDI/VOCA implemented Resiliency through Wealth, Agriculture, and Nutrition (RWANU) project brought opportunity in the form of a breed of goat called Galla, or "milk queens," from neighbouring Kenya.

The RWANU project, through project partner Welthungerhilfe, organized livestock groups for 2,000 women, including Joyce, to care for the goats and become empowered earners. Joyce attended trainings and received five "milk queens" of her own. But in Karamoja, men traditionally manage livestock. Even though the project won community buy-in from village elders and others, change came slowly. A fodder bank that Joyce's group used to feed their goats went up in flames, spurring rumours of arson, although no one was charged. Despite the setback, the group attended more trainings on health management and how to build shelters, and the goats thrived under their care. Soon Joyce grew her stock of goats from five to 15.

<http://www.acdivoca.org/2017/05/rwanu-helps-ugandan-women-grab-life-by-the-horns/>

10. Iranian President Rohani Wins Re-election in a Landslide - a Blow to Hardliners

May 20, 2017 Tehran. Reuters: Rohani is leading with 58.6 percent of the vote, compared with 39.8 percent for his main challenger, hardline judge Ebrahim Raisi

Iranians yearning for more freedom at home and less isolation abroad have emphatically re-elected President Hassan Rohani, throwing down a challenge to the conservative clergy that still holds ultimate sway.

Although the powers of the elected president are limited by those of unelected Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei who outranks him, the scale of Rohani's victory gives the pro-reform camp a strong mandate.

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