

Auckland, 01/01/95

Dear Harold

Hello! Best of wishes for a happy and successful year to you and Lillian. It is summer here, of course, and today is fine and warm with a pleasant cooling breeze. I try to imagine what it is like in Frederick, given differences in time of the day and season.

Last night we went out to see friends who live on a small farm about 45km south of Auckland. They have a son called Timothy who is seven years. Our son Karl (who is six in few weeks) had a good time with him racing buggies and bikes around the house. Karl is standing beside me as I write this and he is anxious I tell you that Timothy calls himself Timmy. These things are important to get right. We saw some hares who ran away when we got too close or made a noise. The great excitement of the night came around 9.00pm when Karl, Timmy and Hannah (Timmy's small sister) went out to see the pet ram who was in a field near the house. The ram, whose name is Bolger, did not know Karl and butted him a few good hard prods in the stomach. (Bolger is named after our NZ Prime Minister.) Luckily Timmy's mother came along and helped Karl get away from Bolger. Nothing like this had ever happened to Karl before and he was very upset. Karl has helped me write this paragraph. He says "hello" to you both.

You will see today I am using a new printer, and a new PCW. My school bought me a small laptop personal computer last year which I am using. I am having to learn a new word processing programme which is loaded onto it. The computer I have used at home here for the last eight years was an English make, Amstrad, and it had a word processor programme called "Locoscript" which I know pretty well and liked. The computer I used to write on at school had another programme called "Word Perfect". Now I have to get to learn how to master this new programme, "Microsoft Word for Windows". I am getting too old to keep relearning all these things when all I need is a simpler straightforward means of writing letters and a book.

I am enclosing a few things for you to look at, and I'll comment on them here and now.

1. I found a spare copy of a newsletter "Nuclear Free" that a friend passes on to me with an article in it by Don Craig, and I took out the pages for you,
2. copy of the news item in the NZ Herald of 07/11/94 reporting on the Anthony Summers story in Vanity Fair (the December issue has not reached NZ yet). It seems rather incredible, about the Castro thing.
3. copy of the letter from Continuing Education telling me my application had been turned down. As I mentioned to you on the phone, a friend told me that my course had been approved by the Centre for Continuing Ed. and approved by whoever it is in the History Dept who checks courses on US topics, only to be rejected by the University Senate. Usually the Senate just rubberstamps its approval, but in this case Nicholas Tarling, Dean of Humanities and himself an historian, a very formidable and very conservative person,

send him the Mauser 2.

important

flatly said "I've not having anything of this!" and that was that. My friend and informant tells me not one voice was raised to question this outright rejection by Tarling.
4. copies of pages from Josiah Thompson's book and another on German military Mauser rifles. It used to puzzle me how anybody could confuse a Carcano with a Mauser until I saw this comparison the Commission used. This is a 1888 model Mauser, obsolete even before the 1st World War. The three examples of a WWII German Mauser shown here, the famous Model 98, are what 99.99% of people would refer to as a Mauser, not the almost unknown and unseen model 1888. The Mauser Model 98 is as I am sure you will know a high velocity weapon, while the poor old model 1888 is about on a par with the Mannlicher Carcano. There are almost no points of comparison between the German 98 Mauser and the Mannlicher Carcano, apart from them both being rifles with a barrel and a stock.

Since I spoke to you on the phone I have mentioned again to my College Principal that I would like to teach the course through our Community Education programme next year and she was quite happy to support it, as long as I could run it on a 'full cost recovery basis'. That should not be a problem. Our Community Education programme operates at nights and at weekends through the academic year, and is open basically to anybody who wishes to enrol over the age of seventeen years. When school starts again in February I am going to contact the Auckland History Teachers Assn and try to get them involved in promoting the course if I can. Certainly I would like their involvement.

I have been late in getting this letter off to you because I started to sort out this room I work in at home, a combination study and workroom, library and storeroom, and general repository for everything I seemed to have collected in my life. I have not cleaned this stuff out for years and years. Last week it started out as a sorting of my small mountain of papers and books dealing with the assassination, but it developed into a general cleanup, mostly as a means of creating more clear space. I now have three empty shelves!

In between spells of shifting and sorting what was on my shelves and in my cupboards, and bouts of sneezing with all the dust I disturbed, I looked at two books Don Craig sent up to me to read. I am disappointed in both, especially "ZR Rifle" by Claudia Furiati, no wonder she could not easily find a publisher. This is a very lightweight bit of writing. The other book is one Don thought very highly of, "The Last Investigation" by Gaeton Fonzi. I do not share his opinion. I think Don is very interested in anything that points to the participation by the CIA's David Phillips (Maurice Bishop?) in events connected with the assassination. However the only really interesting parts I found in Fonzi's book were when he was quoting directly from Vincent Salandria. I would like to know a bit more about him, Salandria I mean, but I cannot find him mentioned in bibliographies.

I am starting to draft out my book on paper now. It has been in my head for months but now it is starting to take shape and I am thinking more clearly of whom I am writing it for. There has to be a good opening chapter to clearly set an area of reference for the student to look back to -and that is where I am at the moment.

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it was also interesting to read
how restricted the Mauser Assassinations

Looking forward to other parts, I thought as well as identifying and listing the main points the Commission selected to put up its case against Oswald I would somewhere list all the most important missing evidence, i.e. the evidence that is no longer accessible and presumed "lost". That seemed to me a good way of enlarging the period of time under analysis, building a base reference first around the Commission and its Report and then showing it as an ongoing 'problem' by referring to all the evidence lost or misplaced subsequently. I mean items such as the bullet smear from the kerbstone in Dealey Plaza, the tissue slides made during the autopsy, the brain itself, some of the X-Rays and photos presumably exposed at the time of the autopsy, the burnt first draft of the autopsy report, the absence of any official record of interrogation of Oswald by the Dallas Police, the bullet fragments from Connally's wrist, the bullet particles removed from inside the windshield of the limousine, Humes' autopsy notes, the files on Oswald that Military Intelligence reported it had destroyed in 1973, the complete files covering results of the neutron activation analysis, and so on.

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Could you add to this list of missing evidence?

I heard from "The Last Hurrah Bookshop" a few weeks back that they had a copy of Seth Kantor's "Who was Jack Ruby?" which I have bought. It was not in top condition and has some margin notes by a previous owner, but that does not worry me. I will be happy to have the book. Now I only need my own copy of Josiah Thompson's "Six Seconds in Dallas". I borrowed Don Craig's copy and enjoyed reading it but would like to have my own copy. I will ask David Wrone if he can help me.

This little laptop computer (they call it a 'Notebook') should help me write the book, I can take it nearly anywhere as it is battery powered. It is connected to mains power now. Really amazing technology.

I have been reading your "Post Mortem" again -every time I read your books I understand more. I got a lot out of this last reading. Something though caught my eye this time and I would like to ask you about it. On the bottom of page 374 you mention a first person account given to you by somebody who heard it from a Navy doctor who was present at the autopsy. What was this? Can you share it with me?

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re

I wondered if this may not be the source of your information that the wound in the upper back was probed by Humes while Kennedy's arms were held extended above his head. Is this so? This was a vital piece of information for me.

in Lull

Well, I must finish here. I hope you like the calendar and enjoy it throughout the year.

With love, and best wishes, you
and you,

Jan

A Tale of Two Coups:

Russia, 1993; USA, 1963

right

In August 1993, the *Nelson Evening Mail* was purchased by Independent Newspapers Ltd. The purchase highlighted the fact that "New Zealand's two biggest newspaper companies control nearly 90% of daily newspaper circulation" (*Sunday Times*, 29 Aug 1993). The *Sunday Times* continues:

"Concentration of newspaper ownership is regarded ... as a threat to the ability of newspapers to freely reflect the flavour and diversity of the communities they serve." One result: The same message coming out of the major papers, due to common ownership. Two recent events serve to illustrate this point. In both cases the major newspapers spoke with one voice.

• EVENT ONE

Coup in Russia - Ravages of Economic Darwinism

The first was the coup in the Soviet Union in September last year. President Boris Yeltsin and his supporters had experienced grass-roots resistance to the IMF economic alterations in the former Soviet Union. These adjustments have been characterised as necessary for the Soviet system to move to "free market" economy. The results have been savage:

* 30-50% monthly inflation, severely striking the elderly on fixed pensions. This equates to approximately 2,000% annual inflation. (*Business Week*, 18 Oct 1993, pp. 18-24, & *BW*, 3 May 1993, p. 23. Henceforth, *Business Week* will be referred to as *BW*).

* Foreign debt was non-existent 5 years ago, now it is US 84 billion (*BW*, 3 May 1993, p. 23).

* Violent crime and the mafia are out of control. Jim Moody, of the FBI, likens it to "New York in the 1920s". "Russia's murder rate has nearly tripled" (since '95). In a letter to Boris Yeltsin, five top Russian banking executives demanded action, "noting that 10 bankers have been murdered recently".

"Russians are inured to economic hardship, but they didn't see shootouts in broad daylight under the communists." (*BW*, 30 Aug 1993, pgs 24-5).

* \$US14 billion in commodities were smuggled out of the former USSR in 1992. This is a direct theft from the people by corrupt officials. (*Metals Bulletin*, 27 September 1993). "By some estimates, \$US40 billion now sits in foreign banks, squirrelled away by exporters." (*BW*, 6 September 1993).

* Health standards have fallen dramatically. "Last year 2,000 cases of diphtheria were reported in Moscow alone compared to 4 in

the United States. Between 1990 and 1992, suicides tripled." (*Current*, September 1993, p.21).

Democracy Is Dead - Long Live Democracy

The examples above help explain why democratically elected Parliamentarians in the Peoples Congress resisted the economic structures imposed by the West. The result was President Yeltsin dissolved the Peoples Congress and outlawed Nationalist, Communist, and Democratic opposition parties.

If this had occurred in a democratic country, it would be called a coup and the one man leader a dictator. Instead, all Western leaders endorsed "the bold move". And if you weren't sure which Commies were the bad guys, a Reuters despatch of 24 September referred to Yeltsin "dissolving the Soviet-era parliament," as if this alone was justification. There was little to suggest in

media reports that the reservations of the public and elected officials were well founded. Yeltsin was quoted as saying "I will not agree to any compromise with any body. Categorically not". (*New York Times*, Sep 28, 1993).

A violent confrontation was inevitable, and true to form, the AP and Reuters reverted to Cold War speak, labelling the parliamentarians

"hardliners" and "rebels". These are examples of loaded language and politically charged labels intended to prejudice the reader. Radio New Zealand, to its credit, featured live despatches from their correspondent in Moscow. He provided much of the background information missing in other media reports.

"Tyranny is Freedom" (cf. George Orwell)

In the words of media analyst Michael Parenti:

"Here we have an executive leader who tears up the constitution, disbands parliament, abolishes the Constitutional Court,

"AP and Reuters reverted to Cold War speak, labelling the parliamentarians "hardliners" and "rebels". These are examples of loaded language and politically charged labels intended to prejudice the reader."

launches an armed attack on the parliamentary building, kills hundreds of resisters and demonstrators, jails opposition leaders without bail, arrests and detains tens of thousands, puts hundreds of elected and appointed officials under investigation, expels thousands of non-Russians from Moscow, bans labour unions from political activities, exercises monopoly control over all broadcast media, suppresses dozens of publications and television shows, permanently outlaws 15 political parties, and is hailed by US leaders and the US press as a champion of democracy."

(*Lies of Our Times*, February 1994).

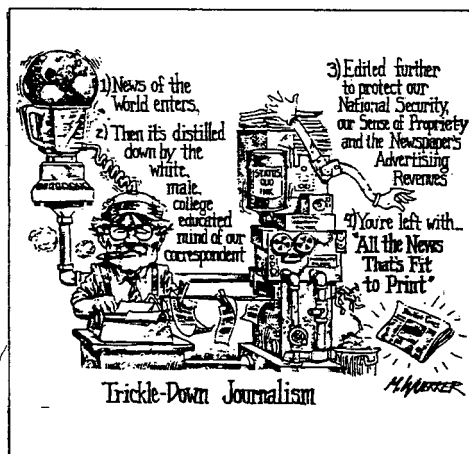
A Business Perspective: Unemployment Wanted

So what forces are at work in the former USSR? According to *Business Week*, several. (10 January 1994, pp. 16-17). "The IMF argues that Yeltsin hasn't followed through on his commitments."

"What shock therapy?" argues Ernesto Hernandez-Cata, who directs IMF negotiations with Russia. "They have an unemployment rate of 6% or so. That's lower than anywhere in Western Europe."

In the same article, Richard Porte, of the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London warns, "Such an approach could be perceived as the West endorsing the creation of unemployment". A huge reservoir of unemployed is a prerequisite to the extremist free-market model. The former USSR has enormous resources to be exploited, and lots of cheap labour.

(*Continues, next page*)



1) News of the World enters.
2) Then it's distilled down by the white, male, college educated mind of our correspondent.
3) Edited further to protect our National Security, our Sense of Propriety and the Newspaper's Advertising Revenues.
4) You're left with "All the News That's Fit to Print".

Trickle-Down Journalism

H. WINTER

(Continues from previous page)

With an educated workforce, the attraction of creating a Hong Kong along the Volga is an opportunity not to be missed. The plundering of the former USSR may one day rank with Spain's conquistadors, the opening of the American West, or the rape of African colonies. For the Russians, their worst nightmares are yet to come.

• EVENT TWO

JFK's Assassination Anniversary

(Today's Propaganda, Tomorrow's History)

The second media event was the 30th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. The response was subdued, for the subject could not be completely ignored. Once again, the New Zealand media and overseas despatches spoke primarily with a single voice. *The New Zealand Herald* and the Wellington *Dominion* both published the same Reuters article.

It was based on Gerald Posner's book, "Case Closed", which claims that John F. Kennedy was killed by a lone assassin, Lee Harvey Oswald. Like many theorists, Posner invents evidence to support his hypothesis while suppressing any information which contradicts it. The Assassinations Archives and Research Centre published a media alert in the United States citing the unreconciled contradictions in Posner's book. No matter. The US government and media have seized upon this book, acclaiming its dubious hypothesis as the solution to Mr. Kennedy's assassination.

Down the Memory Hole: The Conquerors Write the History

Not one newspaper mentioned the House Assassinations Committee findings that Kennedy was "probably killed as a result of a conspiracy." In the history books of the New World Order, the House Assassinations Committee did not exist.

Having taught a course on the JFK assassination at the University of Canterbury, I offered a serious article outlining the issues to two publications. Both declined.

One, *The Listener*, contacted me asking for details of the course. Eager to see a balanced presentation, I followed up by sending my course notes to the journalist, Mr. Tony O'Hare. Fastpost, I received a letter from Mr. O'Hare thanking me for the notes but noting that "I'm afraid you might be disappointed in my article, which is a fairly light-hearted piece on conspiracy theories. However, that's what the editor required."

Parroting the American Media

The result was an article portraying the class and its students as "paranoiacs" delving into "arcane assassination facts." In a letter to the editor, I outlined the missed opportunity *The Listener* could have had informing its readers rather than smearing

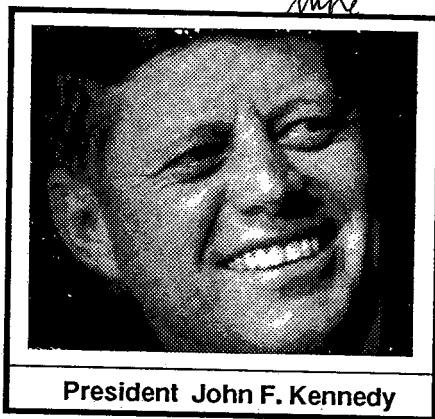
those interested in the topic.

The editor responded in the column by stating "We felt the fact that there were at least 3 people in New Zealand studying Kennedy assassination theories in depth was indeed more newsworthy than the possibility of a conspiracy." (*Listener*, 27 November 1993, p.15). But as journalist O'Hare acknowledged prior to the article appearing, an article rubbishing conspiracy theories was "what the editor required."

This should give readers some insight into how at least one editor operates. Inane balderdash is commissioned and spewed forth as "news". Yet *The Listener* is a magazine with an overall reputation for integrity and fair presentation.

News Management: a Way of Life

Why would the media seem to speak with one voice? It could be an independent consensus on interpreting the news. It could also be a result of relying on the same news sources, such as Reuters or AP, or it can also be the result of a policy decision. *Yes, but*



The JFK assassination offers a good example of a policy decision. In the 1970s, a document was released through the courts in America indicating how important the assassination issue was to the United States government and its image overseas. The communique, dated April 1, 1967, was sent to all CIA Station Chiefs at all United States embassies. The initial paragraphs outlined the concern about the speculation into JFK's death. "Innuendo of such seriousness affects the whole reputation of American government." Next, it outlined key steps to be taken by relevant embassy personnel:

"The aim of this despatch is to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims of conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries."

"Action. We do not recommend that discussion of the assassination question be initiated where it is not already taking place. Where discussion is active, addressees are requested: (a) To discuss the publicity problem with liaison and friendly elite contacts, especially politicians and editors. Urge them to use their influence to discourage unfounded and irresponsible speculation. (b) To employ propaganda assets to answer and refute the attacks of critics. Book reviews and

"The aim of this despatch is to provide material for countering and discrediting the claims of conspiracy theorists, so as to inhibit the circulation of such claims in other countries."

feature articles are particularly appropriate for this purpose."

The next 9 attachments listed arguments which could be useful in discrediting critics of the Warren Report. The Warren Report was the first official summary of the government investigation into JFK's murder. It found that Lee Harvey Oswald alone killed the President. The despatch suggested "Where possible, counter speculation by encouraging reference to the Commission's Report itself. Reviewers of other books may be encouraged to add to their account the idea that, checking back with the Report itself, they found it superior to the work of its critics."

One of my students on the course independently contacted the US consulate for information on the assassination. Yes, they replied, we have the Warren Report and information from the book "Case Closed". Did they have any information on the House Assassinations Committee findings? No, they did not. This suggests that a policy remains in place for responding to the JFK assassination. If muting media coverage on the 30th anniversary was anyone's performance objective, they have reason to be pleased with the result.

Standard Operating Procedure

The memo above indicates that it is the specific job of individuals within embassies to conduct a positive public relations campaign with the foreign media. In this instance, where charges are detrimental to the United States and its institutions, regardless of origin, there is someone responsible for challenging it. This may occur as an official response aired publicly or a more direct approach to government and media persons.

Media consumers would be unaware of an item's true origins. Take note of how casually the memo refers to the use of editors, politicians, and "propaganda assets". This is standard operating procedure, not a special requirement.

Kudos for Radio New Zealand

One bright spot: Radio New Zealand aired several long reports on both the Russian coup and Cuban data on the Kennedy conspiracy. The correspondent who reported live from Moscow highlighted numerous activities and undercurrents in Soviet society at the present. Much of this was missing from

Folk + my parents

(Concluding from previous page)

the other media.

Likewise, Radio New Zealand aired claims of Cuban knowledge of the assassination. In a Reuters despatch by Frances Kerry in Havana, the Cubans identified specific Cuban exiles, CIA personnel, and Mafia gunmen involved. While the Cubans did not provide proof, they offered to do so.

This issue is worth pursuing. It is believed by all parties that the Cuban G-2 intelligence agency had successfully penetrated the exiles and CIA contract agents in the early 1960s, to possibly a high level. Any such information could shed light on the origins of the conspiracy that most likely killed President Kennedy.

relevant

Damage Control NZ Style

The original Reuters bulletin was a full 2 pages. The Christchurch Press reduced this to a snippet of 2 or 3 sentences (26 November 1993). The brevity that this item received contrasts markedly with the mainly "one gunman, no conspiracy" approach overwhelmingly evident in the media. Balance or an even-handed presentation was never a consideration.

Why Care About the J.F.K Assassination?

One might ask: Who cares 30 years later whether or not Kennedy was killed by an internal conspiracy? It can forcefully be argued that Kennedy was killed as a result of attempts to defuse world tensions. In the Cuban missile crisis, he was under enormous pressure to settle the confrontation with nuclear war.

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By definition an assassination is a political act of murder intended to effect a change in policy. Once you see the event in terms of a political act of murder, you have identified a paradigm, a model for the times. You can then test the hypothesis to see if the assassination is consistent with other events in the same time period; either it is consistent or it is an aberration.

Times for Democracy: Testing the Paradigm

For a brief period in the US in the 1960s and 1970s, elements of the mainstream press reported a number of crimes perpetrated by the US government in the name of democracy. These events included:

Support of systematic genocide, such as occurred in Indonesia and Indo-China. These two examples alone account for 2 million dead. You would have to look to Stalin, Mao, Hitler, and Pol Pot for crimes of comparable magnitude. Other activities included medical experiments conducted on unsuspecting civilians and military personnel.

Also, unprecedented intervention in the economies and governments of friends and foe alike. This included direct sponsorship of the assassination of foreign leaders and lower level persons.

"In a world of nuclear weapons, ... a public that is kept from the facts will be left powerless to influence events, let alone prevent disaster."

Other enacted strategies included arms and drug sales by government organisations outside of the reach of the law.

Overseas, ideologues encouraged hijackings in Communist countries and created the death squads in Latin American colonies where the population was in revolt.

At home in the United States, the time frame also included the massive subversion of groups devoted to peace and social justice. Government provocateurs incited violence as with Cointelpro and infiltrated groups with informers. A bureaucracy was established to manage the extensive dossiers on law abiding citizens exercising their right of dissent.

The above activities are on-going, and represent just the tip of the iceberg. If examined in the light of these events, one may logically conclude that the assassination of JFK was not an aberration. Rather, it was consistent with the paradigm in operation. The JFK assassination has irreversibly altered peoples' perceptions of how governments and the media operate.

Decoding the News in an Age of Propaganda

The case studies above offer classic examples of media filtering, loaded language,

and manufacturing consent. With the former Soviet Union, we can see a situation deteriorating towards conflict, with serious nuclear potential. In the absence of accurate or complete reporting, most media consumers would obtain a lop-sided picture of the forces at work. By consulting a wider range of news sources one can see that the economic model being imposed on the Russians serves outside interests rather than those of the Russians.

The alternative the Russians could develop for themselves is a more civilised German- or Japanese-style, managed economy. However, it is an option they are not permitted to pursue. The issue in Russia is not, and never has been, democracy. Rather, it is the enormous natural resources of the USSR, coveted by Western financial interests.

Peacemakers in the Valley of Death

Both former Soviet leader Mr. Gorbachev and American president Mr. Kennedy are reminders of what happens when leaders pursue a diplomatic or peaceful approach to conflict resolution. They may find themselves vulnerable when they cross vested interests. Mr. Gorbachev and his family were fortunate to be spared their lives; Mr. Kennedy's enemies were not so merciful and his life was forfeit.

For students of the media, it is highly significant if those who are behind such crimes can then control and distort reportage to cover up what they do. In the first of our case studies, the truth has been deliberately turned upside down; in the second, it has been suppressed for 30 years. In a democracy, a public that is kept in the dark about major events in their society can do nothing about them, and is effectively disenfranchised.

In a world of nuclear weapons, it is of the utmost importance that the public has an accurate picture of what is happening. A public that is kept from the facts will be left powerless to influence events, let alone prevent disaster.

For more details, order

- cat. no. 31-40, "The Kennedy assassination - evidence of conspiracy" by Don Craig.
- cat. no. 31-53 *Who killed J.F.K?* book by Carl Oglesby

Excerpts from NZ news reports

World government our only hope, says Asner

American actor and pacifist Ed Asner, on his first visit to New Zealand, said this country, despite its size, had shown the world the way with its anti-nuclear stance.

New Zealand's anti-nuclear stance and its ban on American nuclear warships was a "wonderfully important stand," actor-pacifist Ed Asner said.

New Zealand withstood all the pressures "from the bullies on the block" and won a lot of friends and respect in America, said

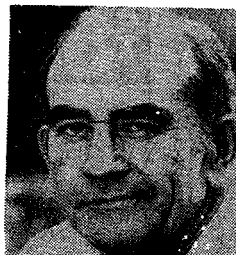
"I am one American who thanks you for the stand your country has taken," he said.

"It's important to every peacenik in the States."

New Zealand's refusal to allow American nuclear-powered warships into its ports got tremendous support from the peace movement across America.

"You guys got a lot of publicity out our way."

"It is a country of three million people who dictated a policy that was unheard of and went against the grain of all the



policy and no one has gotten hurt ... It is a wonderful thing His concern is the way the world is going: "We are floating

I wonder how we are going to land, be it America or Bosnia ... We have to find a way of life which is not based on mutual antagonism. The world is so unused to living that way. We're rediscovering the wheel."

He says a world government is needed, "that is probably our only hope. How else can you govern the world unless you have a government that oversees it all? How do you rein in the mavericks? Hopefully a

Challenge to peace movement, by Larry Ross

(Concluding, from page 3)

After 10 years of abuse and threats from American officials, New Zealand may regard President Clinton's statement as an endorsement for making its own decision to become nuclear-free in 1984. In their editorials to push New Zealand back into nuclear alliances, the major dailies don't mention Clinton's praise: "You have made a better choice - to live nuclear-free". Nor do they mention any of the many benefits to the world and to New Zealand of our nuclear-free policies.

Surely *now* is the right time for New Zealand's nuclear-free policies to be affirmed, emphasised and strengthened with new foreign and defence policies. Nuclear-free New Zealand has often been referred to as 'a beacon of hope', a disarmament motivator for other peoples, and an example to other states.

NZ Could Start an Association of Nuclear-Free States

New Zealand could become an initiator in nuclear-free peacemaking by promoting the development of nuclear-free zones and states, particularly in flash point regions such as the Korean Peninsula, Middle East, India-Pakistan and Tibet.

An initial step could be discussions with other nuclear-free states about forming an association to promote and help facilitate the development of nuclear-free zones and states, including provision of mediation and other peacemaking services if required. Should New Zealand take such initiatives,

the US and other allies could come to regard our nuclear-free status as very beneficial to the global community. President Clinton's statement may be taken as a green light for such initiatives.

That there is an urgent need for this type of international service was recently indicated by Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Assef Ahmad Ali. "He warned that nuclear war might engulf South Asia if his country's territorial dispute with India went unresolved" (*Christchurch Press* January 10, 1994).

At Last the Political Climate Has Changed

The political situation in New Zealand has changed with the MMP victory and the success of new political parties. Politicians are more open to discussion and to new ideas. Defence policy and profligate spending is being debated by MPs and in the media. Many are no longer bound by alliance and cold war thinking. There is much more support among MPs for an independent peacemaking role for New Zealand in place of a military alliance role (see 'Peace Issues and MPs' cat. no. 31-39).

There are no enemies on New Zealand's horizon - only opportunities to expand trade with our Asian neighbours and others. The climate has never been better for the peace movement to achieve more of its long-held objectives. Rational and objective thought - and change - is much more likely and possible during this time of peace and flexibility, than would be the case if New Zealand was

drawn into an international crisis or war.

The challenge facing all of us in this favourable climate is to *become active in promoting beneficial changes to Zealand's foreign and defence policy*, as agreed at the 1981 Annual Peace Workshop.

The Proposal and the Challenge

It was proposed to the Christchurch Peace Forum (Feb 4, 1994), that we reaffirm our support for the 1981 Annual Peace Workshop proposal mentioned above, and for the Forum to request that other peace organizations, such as Peace Movement Aotearoa, also reaffirm their support for New Zealand to withdraw from nuclear alliances, such as ANZUS, and develop a new foreign and defence policy based on neutrality and international peacemaking. The Forum approved this proposal, and requested we that take appropriate actions to implement it. Other groups are invited to do the same.

In affirming support, groups and individuals are encouraged to implement the proposal by writing and talking to NZ proposing resolutions at political party meetings, writing articles, and/or letters to editors, holding public lectures, meetings and debates, initiating petitions, and other appropriate actions.

Please write or phone about your own experiences, plans and proposals to help reform New Zealand's foreign and defence policies. Let us know if you require information, suggestions or resources.

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please call or write and we will send you our free product catalogues.

Use stickers and envelope recycle labels that express support for 'Keeping New Zealand Nuclear-Free' and 'New Zealand as a Neutral Peacemaker'. This is vitally important in maintaining and advancing these policies. Request our product catalogues today. Or send us \$5.00 and we will send you a selection of car stickers and envelope recycle labels.



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