

**The Paris Peace Conference 1919 Remembered... 100 Years on**  
**18 January to 28 June 2019**

Sponsor: Peter M. Southwood (Dr)  
[www.directionofconflict.org](http://www.directionofconflict.org)

**PRESS RELEASE: Embargo until 00.01 hrs on Sunday 14 April 2019**

Open Letter to:

Editors or Controllers of Newspapers, Radio & Television in England

Dear All

**Re: Background to the Publication of Communique No. 1 on the Prosecution of Soldier F**

I am writing to give advance notice of the publication of Communique No. 1 on Good Friday, 19 April 2019, to address the following question:

Is the Prosecution of Soldier F for the Public Benefit from an Irenical Perspective?

This question has arisen from the decision of the Public Prosecution Service in Northern Ireland, which was announced on 14 March 2019, that Soldier F would be prosecuted on two counts of murder and four counts of attempted murder in relation to events in Derry/Londonderry on 30 January 1972 known as Bloody Sunday.

The multi-party Belfast Agreement, involving the British and Irish governments, reached on Good Friday, 10 April 1998, had aimed to end the violent conflict in Northern Ireland.

Background

My position as the *de facto*, but not yet *de jure*, Law Officer for Public Benefit arose from the activities of the Project on Demilitarisation (Prodem) in the early 1990s. During the period 1992 to 1995 I wrote an extended editorial contained in four out of six Prodem Briefings explaining why Western triumphalism at the end of the Cold War was misplaced. (As you may recall, this triumphalism was widely reported, and even promoted, by sections of the media at that time.) In the ensuing legal case against the Attorney General the principle of applying an 'irenical perspective' was judicially defined and upheld in 1998.

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**Sponsor's Purpose:**

To forewarn the public one more time that the world is heading for another Great Power war.

As in 1919, the reason is the failure of political institutions to apply 'an irenical perspective' even-handedly. Post-Cold War, the term was first defined in English charity law on 9 October 1998, drawing on a United States case of 1917, and affirmed by the Court of Appeal on 28 June 2000.

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Most newspaper editorials, I respectfully suggest, are forgotten soon after they are published unless they are so spectacularly wrong, as with The Times' famous editorial about Neville Chamberlain's Munich agreement with Hitler in 1938, that the falsification of their analysis by subsequent historical events is only months away and incontrovertible. In my own case the editorial, the legal case and subsequent events were largely or wholly ignored even though no-one can now seriously dispute that relations between the West and Russia are much less peaceful than they were with the Soviet Union when the Cold War ended.

I am content for newspapers, radio and TV to continue to ignore this historical background for they are powerless in the long term. Their views, like mine, cannot help to secure a state of peace unless they are in accord with the application of an irenic perspective to the material facts of an international conflict without fear or favour to any party concerned.

The conclusions so far adduced, as part of the series of open letters and linked articles commemorating the centenary of the Paris Peace Conference 1919, illustrate the point:

- Letter to Members of the former Iraq Inquiry – published on 18 January 2019

H.M. Government's rejection of the central finding of the Iraq Inquiry Report.

- Letter to H.M. Attorneys General, 2000 to 2018 – published on 6 March 2019

Replacement of the rule of law in English charity regulation by the rule of government lawyers. As Law Officers in England and Wales, Attorneys General were able through three legal cases I prosecuted, to perpetrate at the most strategic level a fraud – in the common or garden sense of that term – upon an unsuspecting public involving the rejection of the High Court's definition and application of an 'irenic perspective', with the willing complicity of the same Court of Appeal that approved the principle in the first place.

It is this sacrifice of the public benefit of an irenic perspective, as affirmed in the case concerning Prodem on 28 June 2000, which has necessitated my taking on the role of *de facto* Law Officer for public benefit which the *de jure* Law Officers had abandoned.

Communique No. 1 will provide an illustration of this point and its potential consequences.

Yours faithfully,

Peter M. Southwood (Dr)

Law Officer for Public Benefit in England and Wales (*de facto* but not yet *de jure*)

Signed: 12 April for public release on 14 April 2019 when it will be uploaded to the website.

### Linked Article no. 3: 'The Last Press Release'

A celebration of the vindication of the principle of peace – a judicially defined 'irenical perspective' on 9 October 1998 – yet rejected by the Law Officers in England and Wales and their respective governments despite the Court of Appeal's affirmation on 28 June 2000.

Article no. 3 illustrates the role of media organisations in England in ignoring this development or supporting, whether deliberately or unwittingly, efforts to undermine or marginalise the primary role of education in securing a state of peace and avoiding a state of war. Hence the unreformed political media can have only a marginal role in achieving a triumph very different from the Western triumphalism claimed at the end of the Cold War.

This Article no. 3 will be found at [www.directionofconflict.org](http://www.directionofconflict.org) where there is also a provisional timetable for the other letters and articles up to 28 June 2019.

References in this letter will be found in Article no. 3 *to be published on 14 April 2019*.

### Notes for Editors and Correspondents

Responses/questions invited to: [consultant@directionofconflict.org](mailto:consultant@directionofconflict.org) for written reply, if any.

The lack of any telephone number is deliberate. The sponsor prefers written to oral communication outside of a public audience.

This one-off letter can be copied to those who are or may be interested provided it is done in full, without amendment or financial charge. The letter may also be quoted with due acknowledgement.

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