

The Education of Nations... in Securing Peace and Avoiding War

January 2020 onwards

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(*de jure by the Court of history*)
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Open letter

Mr Orlando Fraser QC
Chair, Charity Commission for England and Wales
PO Box 211
Bootle L20 7YX

23 July 2022.

Dear Sir,

Re: My Letter to Parliament of 28 June 2022

Remember this?

Overall, the evidence suggested that Prodem [Project on Demilitarisation] has set out to advocate a certain line of policy. The style of the Briefings was propagandist, assuming that demilitarisation and disarmament were desirable and presenting arguments to support that view. Although there were occasional representations of views contrary to the prevailing message of the researchers, *no serious attempt to analyse and discuss the issues had been made...*

[Conclusion of the Charity Commissioners' Statement of Reasons for rejecting the application for registration as a charity, 5 September 1995.] [Emphasis added.]

As you may now see from my attached letter to Parliament, Prodem Briefing No. 1 and the Series A Briefings (1993-1995) provided the most or, perhaps, the only serious analysis of the issues *for the long-term* explaining the conditions for the current Russia-Ukraine war, and threat of a NATO-Russian war with a high risk of escalation to the nuclear level.

At the heart of my analysis was the application of 'an irenical perspective', rejected by the Commissioners but subsequently defined and endorsed by the High Court and Court of Appeal. My charge against you, your Board and forerunners since 28 June 2000 follows.

cont'd/...

My Purpose:

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

As in 1920, 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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That, after denigrating the work of Prodem, the Commissioners would not accept judicial correction of their understanding of the relevant legal principles is demonstrated thus:

- (i) They and your Board, after their abolition, *chose not to inform and educate the charity sector*, especially educational institutions, on an irenical perspective even though they were 'forced' on 6 February 2004 to register the successor body, the International Peace Project²⁰⁰⁰ (IPP) on that basis – thanks to the Court of Appeal *ratio* – to pursue the same two aims as Prodem, albeit legally clarified to underline:
 - a. The analysis of a peace process, being an educational object involving competitive forecasting; and
 - b. The benefits of peaceful means of conflict resolution, becoming a political object if it promoted certain laws, policies, or administrative decisions of government.

- (ii) They and, post-Charities Act 2006, your Board *chose not to defend and enforce the ratio* of the courts with respect to:
 - a. The Concordis decision of 23 July 2004 in which you required the Trustees to drop 'peace' from their objects clause as a condition for registration and wilfully omitted Mr Justice Carnworth's definition of an irenical perspective at paragraph 26 of his Prodem judgment of 9 October 1998 without excuse or justification.
 - b. Your Analysis of the Law (March 2008) containing a factual error and material omissions with respect to your summary of the Prodem case, as outlined in my letter of 10 July 2008, written on behalf of the IPP Trustees and with their authority in response to a Commission consultation on Public Benefit and the Advancement of Education. The Commission does not take the same approach as the courts.
 - c. The attempt by the IPP Trustees to seek the removal of The Atlantic Council of the United Kingdom from the register of charities in 2008-2009, *in keeping with the analogous example to Prodem in the Court of Appeal judgment of 28 June 2000*, had to be abandoned due to the alleged misconduct of Commission staff including Board member(s) and their legal representatives. In 2012 it formed the basis of my criminal complaint to the Metropolitan Police (including against a deputy judge of the Administrative Court, linked to a political party, who I regarded as complicit.) The Met accepted that a criminal offence may have been committed by the Commission, if not their legal representatives, but considered at that time an investigation to be impractical. However, the officer responsible for that decision has just been appointed as the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

- (iii) At a practical level this has held back the objective application of 'the balance of peace' (i.e. of each entity's peaceful means of conflict resolution in international disputes), to complement the traditional 'balance of power', to help achieve reliable forecasts of the 'climate' for peace or war being created at any given time and place.

The bloodshed in Ukraine is a *direct consequence of this climate for war* created since the end of the Cold War as foreseen in my four out of six Prodem Briefings. The Board of the Charity Commission, like the Commissioners before them, bear the responsibility for deliberately undermining this work and thereby contributing indirectly to the widespread death and destruction in that country. They are putting and have placed, their own reputations above the public benefit.

Conclusion

My charge is that you, your Board and forerunners since 28 June 2000 have deliberately misled the public and sought to undermine, limit, or nullify a judicially defined and endorsed irenic perspective without excuse or justification. Death and destruction have been the indirect consequences as the verdict of the Court of history reveals in the Russia-Ukraine war from 24 February 2022, as foreseen in my Prodem Briefing analysis of 1993-1995.

If this behaviour is allowed to continue the casualties arising from any NATO-Russia war, with a high risk of escalation to the nuclear level, would not be expected in thousands. Nothing short of a thorough-going purge of what I allege to be criminal fraud and/or misconduct in public office by the Board of the Charity Commission can remedy the situation. (The factual and legal case is on my website or contained in historical documents over the last decade.)

I am copying this to the Director of the Serious Fraud Office and to the new Metropolitan Police Commissioner for their urgent attention. If, as before, they decline to act or ignore the danger to public safety then the responsibility for a failure to act will not rest with me.

Yours faithfully,

Peter M. Southwood (Dr)

Note – the author is fully and solely responsible for this letter and the contents of his website.

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This 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. It is distributed to named individuals because I have a legitimate interest in the matters raised therein.

Further Information

Peter Southwood, General Editor and Editor Series A, Project on Demilitarisation (Prodem) Briefings:

The Triumph of Unilateralism: The Failure of Western Militarism, Briefing No. 1 (Prodem, March 1993), 69pp ISBN 1-898079-00-5; NATO's Military Supremacy: What is It For? Briefing A/1 (Prodem, September 1993), 44pp ISBN 1-898079-10-2; Western Generals: The Dangers from British and American Military Success, Briefing A/2 (Prodem, School of Business and Economic Studies, University of Leeds, April 1994), 53pp ISBN 1-898079-20-X; Military Adventurism: Learning From the Past – Looking to the Future, Briefing A/3 (SBES, University of Leeds, October 1995), 79pp ISBN 1-898079-25-0. All available through Legal Deposit libraries in the UK and Ireland.

Nuclear Crisis Alert – Amber warning (11 September 2014) available at www.directionofconflict.org

Prodem legal cases, *Southwood & Parsons v HM Attorney General*, (9 October 1998 and 28 June 2000) may be found on the BAILII website or at www.ipp2000.org/ipplaw.html