



Peter Southwood MBA, Ph.D (in Peace Studies)

Consultant on the direction of conflicts towards peace (P) or war (W) in the short (S) and long (L) term



11 September 2014.

As a Great Power crisis looms....

United Kingdom Parliament Seeks to Rewrite History

1. The BBC Radio 4 news at 6.00am on Thursday 31 July 2014 accurately cited this statement from the Recommendations of the Commons Defence Committee report on NATO published that day:

The NATO alliance has not considered Russia as an adversary or a potential territorial threat to its Member States for twenty years. [HC 358, page 4]

The Committee knew this was untrue. The *fact* of NATO expansion eastwards towards Russia during this period contradicts this assertion – irrespective of whether such an expansion is considered good or bad and quite apart from Alliance intentions, which cannot be known with certainty. What is certain is the *fact* of NATO expansion towards the borders of Russia.

2. The Chair of the Defence Committee, Rory Stewart, has defended the statement on the grounds of Standing Order 133. However, this is a 'Power to report opinion and observations' not a power to falsify evidence or to assert as a fact that which the Committee knew or believed to be false. The above statement was not presented as an opinion nor was it in the BBC news report. Yet on the grounds of Standing Order 133 the UK Parliament refuses a demand for re-publication or insertion of an Erratum notice. In analogous manner German nationalists denied the *fact* of military defeat by the Allies in World War 1 and propagated an opinion that the German Army had been "stabbed in the back" by traitors at home. This *great deception* helped pave the way for the eventual collapse of the Weimar Republic and the onset of World War 2.

Conclusion

The amber warning of a nuclear crisis means that the first tangible signs of a potential, imminent and direct military confrontation between the United States, supported by NATO, and Russia has emerged, with the attendant risk of escalation to the level of threatened or actual use of nuclear weapons.

The basis of the warning is as follows:

- a.) Denial of fact: the UK Parliament's deliberate misrepresentation of *material fact*, which lies at the heart of the Commons Defence Committee's recommendations on NATO, will have a polarising effect on relations with Russia. Thereby Parliament seeks to rewrite the history of how the Cold War ended and why the current crisis has emerged. None of this is consistent with a state of peace.
- b.) Undermining the rule of law: the Commons Defence Committee's defence of its conduct puts a higher value on opinion than fact and amounts to a defence of falsifying evidence as being in the national interest. This is inconsistent with the rule of law and, therefore, with a state of peace.
- c.) Breach of the Golden Rule: the fact that the NATO States have no intention of engaging with Russia in a conventional military conflict at the present time is not relevant because the last twenty five years have demonstrated that even the most powerful State in the world is not in control of events. Public opinion is powerless in the face of the force of circumstances which are driven in the long term – as four Prodem Briefings illustrated – by the laws of God expressed in the *Golden Rule*. ["In everything do to others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets" (NRSV of the Bible).] A state of peace, and the avoidance of another Great Power war, is in the hands of God not humanity who must submit to His laws.

Thus the first and basic question to be answered to resolve this crisis is:

Who is the supreme sovereign: God or Parliament; His laws or theirs?

The author's forthcoming Briefing on the Iranian nuclear crisis seeks to answer this question and thereby switch the primary focus of human striving for peace from the political to the theological (or spiritual) level.

Notes

- (i.) The Commons Defence Committee does not include MPs from Irish, Scottish or Welsh nationalist parties nor certain minority parties. However, its Report HC358 was published on the authority of the House of Commons so is deemed to be consistent with UK Parliamentary standards as a whole. Correspondence between the author of this Alert and the Chair of the Defence Committee forms the basis for the statement attributed to him at the start of paragraph 2 above.
- (ii) The Code used in this Nuclear Alert is currently based on three phases:

Amber:-	Initial alert to a crisis potentially involving the threat or use of nuclear weapons
Red:-	Crisis involving a high risk of the threatened or actual use of nuclear weapons
Green:-	Ending of current crisis that had potentially involved the threat or use of nuclear weapons
- (iii) The author of this Alert, Peter Southwood, accepts full and sole responsibility for its contents. Any questions must be submitted to him in writing and may be answered in the same form.