

Public Benefit Notice for:

Armed Forces Day

29 June 2019

To: Members of the Public in the Cathedral City of Salisbury

Dear All,

A. Need a political assassination lead to war?

On 28 June 1914, the assassination of an archduke and his wife did. It led to the Great War.

On 28 June 1919, the Treaty of Versailles contributed to conditions that led to World War II.

On 28 June 2000, an English Court of Appeal judgment laid the foundation to avoid a WWIII.

B. The public benefit of a state of peace (an 'irenical perspective')

It's now called the 'Peace Games': competitive evaluations of international conflicts which seek to predict peace or war in the short and long term. Alongside the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, they have the potential to prevent the drift to another Great Power war.

My claim, challengeable through the Peace Games, to be the preeminent expert writing in the English language, anywhere in the world, rests on the strength of these verifiable facts:

- (i) Writing 'Prodem' Briefings in the early 1990s, after the end of the Cold War, I foresaw:
 - * Relations between the West and Russia would become less peaceful and more militaristic, with the risk of war, because the peace process had been one-sided;
 - * Specifically, that Western interventions in the former Soviet Union including Ukraine (and Crimea) were future war scenarios;
 - * The military success of the first Gulf War with Iraq in 1991 would carry the risk of military interventions where the prospects of Western failure would be high.
- (ii) Acting in person from 1995-2000 through the English civil courts, in a case concerning the charitable status of the Project on Demilitarisation (Prodem), I persuaded:
 - * A Chancery judge on 9 October 1998, to uphold and define in his judgment an 'irenical perspective', contra the Attorney General, which affirms:

- 'The desirability of peace as a general objective...'; and, therefore,
- '... peace is preferable to war...', and, thus, education on that premise
- '... puts consequent emphasis on peaceful, rather than military, techniques for resolving international disputes'.

While rejecting Prodem's claim to charitable status (some of his facts were erroneous), he also affirmed in principle the framework for what came to be called 'Peace Games'.

* Three Court of Appeal judges on 28 June 2000, contra the Attorney General:

- Affirmed the public benefit of an educational programme based on an 'irenical perspective' and distinguished it from pacifism ('... that is not this case'.)
- Corrected the Chancery judge's factual errors bar one and provided the precise wording of an educational charity which could take forward my part of Prodem's activity, specifically the 'Peace Games' as they are now called.
- Acknowledged that I had denied that it was Prodem's purpose to promote 'demilitarisation', which it was common ground is a political purpose, though the judges said 'the evidence was firmly against [me]', (In so doing, they falsified one material fact and left out a relevant legal principle which the Chancery judge upheld.)

(iii) Setting up the International Peace Project²⁰⁰⁰ (IPP) in the early 2000s, I organised under an international body of trustees, the trial 'Peace Games' focused on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict after the unilateral Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in 2005. It was

- Held explicitly under the auspices of the legal framework of the Prodem case, thereby putting beyond argument the Game's politically impartial and objective authority.
- Published as Briefing no. 1 by IPP in January 2006, with my irenical analysis, alongside that from an Israeli and a Palestinian perspective, predicting '**periodic war**' between Israel and the Palestinians until peaceful initiatives can assume priority in practice over political and military strength. It's available at: www.ipp2000.org (base of home page).
- Shown to be true by the 'Court of history', unlike political predictions at the time, as a result of four wars between 2006 and 2014, the first of which was overshadowed by the subsequent and much larger conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

C. Why should this matter to you on Armed Forces Day 2019?

You, of all people in the United Kingdom, understand:

- * The seriousness of using a weapon of mass destruction in 2018 in an attempted political assassination, with widespread contamination, one killing and other victims as a result;
- * The essential role of the armed forces in addressing the consequences of that nerve agent attack in Salisbury and in deterring future such attacks; and that, therefore,

* The political attempt to secure a state of peace and avoid a state of war with former enemies at the end of the Cold War has failed: relations with Russia are less peaceful now than they were with the Soviet Union in 1989-90.

I believe I have demonstrated since the Cold War ended in 1990 that:

1. The direction of an international conflict towards peace or war in the short and long term:

- can be predicted with almost mathematical certainty (except on precise timing);
- does not depend on the adoption of any particular political policy;
- does depend on how conflicting states and parties evaluate each other's positions which is primarily a work of education in the legally charitable sense.

2. The only politically impartial and objective basis for determining whose evaluation is right over time is through the 'Peace Games', as laid down in the Prodem case, on an 'irenical perspective' for the public benefit and demonstrated to work through IPP.

3. The English Attorneys General, 2000-2018 have opposed, and sought to undermine, the judicial definition of an irenical perspective:

- most recently, in a claim for judicial review in 2018 which I brought against the Attorney General, as he was in March 2003 at the time of the invasion of Iraq, based on that principle and the findings of the Iraq Inquiry report. The foundational principle of an 'irenical perspective' was certified as '**totally without merit**' by the Administrative Court, at the instigation of the current and previous Attorney General, and endorsed by the Appeal Court in 2018 that had previously affirmed it in 2000.

Implications: The Prosecution of Soldier F (and like cases)

Consequently, I have had to take over *de facto* the role of Law Officer for Public Benefit (LawPB) in England and Wales which English Attorneys General abdicated *de jure* as both Law Officers and public protectors of charity.

In my Communique No. 1 as LawPB on 19 April 2019 (Good Friday) I have set out my case why I determine that it is NOT for the public benefit from an irenical perspective that Soldier F, a veteran of the Parachute Regiment, should be prosecuted for murder and attempted murder on Bloody Sunday (30 January 1972) during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

Conclusion


Educational bodies can only ever provide advice, which governments are free to reject. However, when they do so then, if the advice was sound, they will be unable to escape the consequences of rejecting sound advice: as in East-West relations, Iraq and Northern Ireland.

Education is a long-term process but every parent who loves their children knows that it is vital to their future peace and prosperity. If this country is not to slide towards and – God forbid – into another Great Power war then education must be allowed to play its part through the ‘Peace Games’ to ensure that, as with sound military advice to governments, the peace can be won, and war avoided. The two sources of advice should be complementary, and differences of view resolved through these competitions.

I commend the Call to Action below for your urgent attention.

God save the Queen and bless us all with peace and prosperity!

Yours faithfully



Peter M. Southwood (Dr)

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

Signed on 27 June 2019 for publication on 28 June when it will be uploaded to the website.

Correspondence

Responses/questions invited to: consultant@directionofconflict.org for written reply. If I cannot reply to all individually, I will try to answer common points raised on my website.

References

Sources in this Notice will be found in Article no. 7, ‘Forecasting Peace or War: A Layperson’s Guide’, to be published on 28 June at: <https://www.directionofconflict.org/what-we-do>

My Communique No. 1, on the prosecution of Soldier F, will also be found at <https://www.directionofconflict.org/what-we-do> concerning the benefit of ending all prosecutions of UK service personnel, and of alleged former members of paramilitary organisations who signed up to the Belfast Agreement of 10 April 1998, for any alleged offences committed during the Troubles between 1968 and that Good Friday Agreement. Subject only to the families of victims being entitled to learn to the greatest practicable extent the facts concerning what happened to their loved ones by whatever appropriate legal processes H.M. Government may determine.

CALL TO ACTION

If you share the view of the judges in the Prodem case, and mine, that education on an irenical perspective is for the public benefit – a view opposed by every English Attorney General since the appeal hearing on 10 March 2000 – then you are asked to do one or more of the following:

1. **To write to H.M. the Queen, as Head of the Armed Forces**, on this non-party political issue: to respectfully request that she become Patron of the Peace Games 2020 or appoint a member of the royal family who is willing to represent her in that role.

These Games are to be organised by the International Peace Project²⁰⁰⁰ (charity reg. no. 1101966) with any other educational bodies in England and Wales, which accept the judicial definition of an irenical perspective in the Prodem case and are committed to strict political impartiality and objectivity in resolving international conflicts.

2. **To write to your M.P. to request a statement from the English Attorney General** as to the reasons why he and his Government have rejected the central conclusion of the Iraq Inquiry Report which was implicitly based on an irenical perspective – B(ii) above.

For the Inquiry Chairman stated on the day their Report was published (6 July 2016) that: ‘We have concluded that the UK chose to join the invasion of Iraq before the peaceful options for disarmament had been exhausted. Military action at that time [19/20 March 2003] was not a last resort.’

3. **To make an annual ‘peace offering’ every year of your life towards the Peace Games**

This peace offering in the United Kingdom is to be paid annually by every willing adult and child starting after Armistice Day (11 November ‘19): £1.00 (adult); or £0.10 (child). If you are interested to be ‘*an agent for peace*’ to collect these small sums but ONLY from those you know – never from strangers – please contact me at IPP below.

These peace offerings for the Peace Games 2020 are to be made to any educational charity of your choice, such as the International Peace Project (charity reg. no. 1101966), which explicitly accepts and adopts a judicially defined ‘irenical perspective’ in England and Wales or inferred equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland (Ulster).

Citizens of the Irish Republic may like to consider similar arrangements in their own country with their President as potential patron and a ‘peace offering’ made in euros, perhaps around Easter Sunday.

Contact details for: Her Majesty the Queen, Buckingham Palace, London SW1A 1AA

[Rt Hon ---- M.P.], House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

The Member of Parliament for Salisbury is: Rt Hon John Glen MP. A data base of other MPs’ constituencies may be found at: <https://www.parliament.uk/mps-lords-and-offices/mps/>

Peter Southwood at: hon.secretary@ipp2000.org