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US the Good world dominator says Howard, Prime Minister of Australia

PEJ News - Joan Russow - In Ottawa, May 19, 2006 John Howard, Prime Minister of Australia, proclaimed that "anyone who opposes the world domination by the US should be careful of what they ask for. The US has been a remarkable power for good."

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Let us count the ways that the US has been in its capacity of domination not been a "power of good" . Throughout the years, the US has done the following:

- (1) engaged in covert and overt "Operations" against independent states; from "Operation Zapata", and "Operation Northwoods" against Cuba, through "Operation Condor" in Chile, through years of euphemistic operations such as "Operation Just Cause" against Panama and more recently "Operation enduring freedom" against Afghanistan, and "Operation Iraqi Freedom" against Iraq
- (2) carried out provocative exercises such as "Exercises Trident Fury- a blatant display of militarism with the participation of nuclear arms capable Aircraft and war ships
- (3) end the propping up and financing of military dictators that furthered its vested national interests and targeted and assisted in the assassination of leaders of other sovereign states, who interfered with US national interests
- (4) continued to maintain over 750 military bases in sovereign states around the world, and to circulate nuclear powered or nuclear arms capable vessels throughout the world, and to berth these vessels in urban ports
- (5) produced weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear, chemical, and biological, in defiance of the global commitment made at Stockholm in 1972 to eliminate the production of weapons of mass destruction.
- (6) contravened obligations under the Outer Space treaty, and risked resumption of arms race, and weaponization of space.

In 1967, the Outer space Treaty came into force. Under this treaty states, including the US, incurred the following obligations:

The exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies, shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries, irrespective of their degree of economic or scientific development, and shall be the province of all mankind humanity....

(Art. 1 Outer Space Treaty of 1967 in force 1967)

(7) opposed disarmament, and profited more than any other country on the sale of arms
Recognizing the impact on development of enormous amount of material and human resources expended on the arms race

...In this respect special attention is drawn to the final document of the tenth special session of the General Assembly, the first special session devoted to disarmament encompassing all measures thought to be advisable in order to ensure that the goal of general and complete disarmament under effective international control is realized. This document describes a comprehensive programme of disarmament, including nuclear disarmament; which is important not only for peace but also for the promotion of the economic and social development of all, but also for the promotion of the economic and social development of all, particularly in the developing countries, through the constructive use of the enormous amount of material and human resources otherwise expended on the arms race (Par 13, The Nairobi Forward Looking Strategy, 1985)

(8) planted land mines throughout the world, and failed to sign and ratify the Convention for the Banning of Land mines

in disregard of the 1981 Convention on Prohibition or restriction on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and other devices;

Undertake to work actively towards ratification, if they have not already done so, of the 1981 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, particularly the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II), with a view to universal ratification by the year 2000

(9) withdrew from the ABT treaty and has not only failed, as a nuclear arms power, to reduce nuclear weapons as agreed under Article VI but also has resumed development of nuclear weapons (Article VI: commits all parties to pursue negotiations in good faith on measures to end the nuclear arms race and to achieve disarmament.); and even has not ruled out the use of nuclear devices in Iran

(10) used weapons such as Depleted Uranium and cluster bombs that would be prohibited under the Geneva Protocol II

Prohibiting or restricting use of certain conventional weapons which may be deemed to be excessively injurious or to have indiscriminate effects

Recalling with satisfaction the adoption, on 10 October 1980, of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, together with the Protocol on Non-Detectable Fragments (Protocol I), the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions

on the Use of Mines, Booby Traps and Other Devices (Protocol II) and the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Incendiary Weapons (Protocol III) (United Nations Resolution, 38/71, 1993)

(11) continued to support NATO'S first strike policy, and uses its control over NATO to circumvent the United Nations, and opposed the disbanding of NATO

(12) perceived justice in terms of revenge through military intervention rather than seeking justice from the International Court of Justice, and misconstrued Art 51 (self defence) of the Charter of the United Nations to justify premeditated non provoked military aggression engaging in the illegal act of invading against Afghanistan

Article 51

Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by Members in the exercise of this right of self-defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The fundamental purpose of the Charter of the United Nations is to prevent the scourge of war. Chapter VI --peaceful resolution of disputes of the Charter, provides the means to prevent war, including the application of article 27-the requirement for parties to a conflict to abstain from the vote, and the requirement under article 37 to take potential situations of conflict to the International Court of Justice

(13) misconstrued prevention of war by adopting a policy of pre-emptive/preventive attack to aggressively attack sovereign states that are designated as being on the axis of evil, by illegally invading Iraq in violation of

the UN Charter article 2 and international law and has committed the 'supreme' international crime of a war of aggression

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(14) attempted to undermine the international resolve to prevent the scourge of war by intimidating or offering economic incentives in exchange for support for military intervention; (the US continually cajoles, intimidates, and bribes other members of the United Nations)

(15) participated in the assassination of or assassinated state leaders who interfere with US interests or who are deemed to be a potential threat 9-1-73 (in Chile);

(16) promulgated propaganda for war in violation of the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights;

(17) ignored the provisions in the Convention on the Right to Correction which affirmed: ".,, to protect mankind [humanity] from the scourge of war, to prevent the recurrence of aggression from any source, and to combat all propaganda which is ether designed or likely to provoke or encourage any threat to peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression;

(18) failed to reduce their military budget and reallocate military expenses and transfer the savings into global social justice as undertaken through numerous UN Conference Action Plans and UN General Assembly Resolutions. (The US spends over 500 billion per year on the military and is the major exporter of arms);

(19) demonstrated disdain for the international rule of law, and refused to accept the jurisdiction or decision of the International Court of Justice; such as was the case in 1988 where the US refused to accept the ICJ's decision in favour of Nicaragua

(20) disregarded obligations incurred through conventions, treaties, and covenants; and made commitments through conference action plans related to Common security - peace, environment, human rights and social justice;

(21) failed to sign, failed to ratify, failed to enact the necessary legislation to ensure compliance with, or respect for Common Security international Conventions, Covenants and Treaties;

(22) undermined international obligations incurred through Conventions, Treaties, and Covenants, and commitments through UN Conference Action Plans, related to Common Security -peace, environment, human rights and social justice;

(23) failed to act on commitments made through UN Conference Action Plans, or failed to fulfill expectations created through General Assembly Resolutions;

(24) extended "human security" to mean "humanitarian intervention" and "Responsibility to protect have become a licence to intervene militarily in the name of humanitarian intervention; these expressions are used to legitimize military intervention;

(25) violated Geneva conventions on the treatment of civilians, and has violated both international human rights and humanitarian law during the occupations of both Iraq and Afghanistan;

Protecting victims of International armed conflicts

? Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity.

? Women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault.

? Without prejudice to the provisions relating to their state of health, age and sex, all

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protected persons shall be treated with the same consideration by the Party to the conflict in whose power they are, without any adverse distinction based, in particular, on race, religion or political opinion (Art. 27 Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949)

(26) violated the Convention against Torture through Cruel, Inhumane or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

counseling other parties to engage in torture, through being a party to the offence of torture, and through counseling another person to be a party to the offence of torture in Guantanamo Bay prison, and in Abu Ghraib prison; as well as instigating "Renditions" - sending prisoners or detainees to Countries in which torture has been tolerated

(27) condemned by the committee responsible for the implementation of the Convention Against Torture

(28) engaged in cruel and inhumane punishment through the practice of capital punishment, in violation of accepted international norms

(29) promulgated globalization, deregulation and privatization through promoting trade agreements, such as the WTO/FTAA/NAFTA etc that undermine the rule of international public trust law, and condoned and actively facilitated corporations benefiting and profiting from war;

(30) advocated and supported IMF structural adjustment program, and exploited vulnerable and indigenous peoples around the world;

(31) opposed an international commitment to transfer .7% of the GDP for overseas aid, and the canceling of third world debt;

(32) promoted the privatization of public services such as water, and health care, and reduced funding for universities, and promoted corporate funding of education and corporate direction of research;

(33) deployed weapons systems to protect US global corporate interests

(34) subsidized and invested in companies that have developed weapons of mass destruction, that have violated human rights, that have denied social justice, that have exploited workers, that have destroyed the environment;

(35) failed to ensure that corporations, including transnational corporations comply .. with international law,

(36) opposed Mandatory International Ethical Normative (MIEN) standards and enforceable regulations to drive industry to conform to international law, and supported corporate "voluntary compliance";

(37) failed to revoke charters and licences of corporations that have violated human rights,

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including labour rights, that have contributed to war and violence, and that have led to the destruction of the environment;

(38) promoted the privatization of public services such as water, and health care, and reduced funding for universities, and promoted corporate funding of education and corporate direction of research;

(39) contributed to environmentally induced diseases and poverty related health problems and denied universal access, to publicly funded not for profit health care system;

(40) produced or permitted the production of toxic, hazardous, atomic waste, gutted and discarded the precautionary principle and failed to prevent the transfer to other states of substances and activities that are harmful to human health or the environment as agreed at the UN Conferences on the Environment and Development, 1992;

(41) produced, promoted, grown or approved genetically engineered foods and crops and led to a deterioration of the food supply, and heritage seeds;

(42) disregarded obligations to not defeat the purpose of the Convention on Biological Diversity which the US has signed but not yet ratified;

(43) ignored the warnings of the Intergovernmental panel on Climate change, disregarded obligations under the Framework Convention on Climate Change (to which the US is a signatory) and refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol;

(44) denied women's reproductive rights, in contravention of commitments made under the International Conference on Population and Development;

(45) denied fundamental rights through the imposition of religious beliefs; promoted the spread of Evangelical Christianity around the world, undermining local indigenous cultures, and instilling fear through the dangerous, and absurd belief in the "rapture", "Armageddon" and "left behind" and denigrating other established beliefs and practices

- catered to the fundamentalists inspired by Ed McAteer, recently raptured, who in 1983 stated that "nuclear weapons are part of God's design;

- promulgated "premillennial dispensationalism" "end times" scenario which has serious irreversible consequences.

(46) enacted anti-terrorism legislation that violates civil and political rights, and engaged in racial profiling

(47) targeted and intimidated activists and discriminated on the grounds of political and other opinion (a listed ground in the International Covenant of Civil and Political Rights- to which the US is a signatory):

The FBI has included the following in their designation of terrorists:

"... category of domestic terrorists, left-wing groups, generally profess a revolutionary socialist doctrine and view themselves as protectors of the people against the "dehumanizing effects" of capitalism and imperialism. They aim to bring about change in the United States through revolution rather than through the established political process."

"Anarchists and extremist socialist groups -- many of which, such as the Workers? World Party, Reclaim the Streets, and Carnival Against Capitalism -- have an international presence and, at times, also represent a potential threat in the United States. For example, anarchists, operating individually and in groups, caused much of the damage during the 1999 World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Seattle."

"Special interest terrorism differs from traditional right-wing and left-wing terrorism in that extremist special interest groups seek to resolve specific issues, rather than effect more widespread political change. Special interest extremists continue to conduct acts of politically motivated violence to force segments of society, including, the general public, to change attitudes about issues considered important to their causes. These groups occupy the extreme fringes of animal rights, pro-life, environmental, anti-nuclear, and other political and social movements."

(48) failed to distinguish legitimate dissent from criminal acts, and targeted dissidents; and has instituted surveillance programs against its citizens

(49) engaged in racial profiling, and discriminated against immigrants, and failed to sign the Convention for the Protection of Migrant Workers and their Families;

(50) Continued to be an international rogue state, intruding and intervening, unilaterally and abandoning multilateralism;

(51) Undermined the notion of democracy by couching a plutocracy/theocracy in democratic notions of "freedom";

(52) etc