

World Focus – October 22, 2017

Blase's Commentary on Jimmy Carter, and the US Military Industrial Complex

Hello friends. Last week Jimmy Carter offered to speak with Kim Jung-Un to avoid a new Korean war. He offered his services. He is certainly one of the greatest presidents of all time, and the best ex-president we've ever had. John Quincy Adams was a good ex-president; he went back to congress. He wanted to end slavery. But Jimmy Carter is truly an amazing man.

Why is Jimmy Carter so totally ignored by our recent presidents? Why? He was ignored by Bill and Hillary Clinton. By Barack Obama. Why? He was not and is not a faithful member of military industrial government. Take a moment to think. Not one bomb fell during the period of Jimmy Carter's presidency. Not one missile was fired. He's a traitor to military industrial government, which is currently destroying the United States of America. He is the one who is ready to speak for us and who is speaking for us about how to proceed. So, rather than talk flippantly talking about killing 50 - 70 million people and probably ending life on the planet, he's telling us this week what he learned from North Korea's leaders. And he's learned a great deal. You'll see this report, actually in the Washington Post. He states, as the 39th president of the United States and founder of the Carter Center:

“As the world knows, we face the strong possibility of another Korean war, with potentially devastating consequences to the Korean Peninsula, Japan, our outlying territories in the Pacific and perhaps the mainland of the United States. This is the most serious existing threat to world peace, and it is imperative that Pyongyang and Washington find some way to ease the escalating tension and reach a lasting, peaceful agreement.

Over more than 20 years, I have spent many hours in discussions with top North Korean officials and private citizens during visits to Pyongyang and to the countryside. I found Kim Il Sung (their “Great Leader”), Kim Yong Nam, president of the Presidium of the Supreme People’s Assembly, and other leaders to be both completely rational and dedicated to the preservation of their regime.”

Let's just take a minute to think about what he just said. We are calling these people "mad," as we called Mossadegh mad in Iran. Anybody's mad who won't let us privatize their oil. That's how you become

mad. It is absolutely amazing how there is no rational process inside the beltway. Jimmy Carter spent hours in discussion with North Korean officials. We're saying we can't talk to them. That's what we said in Vietnam as we kill 3 or 4 million people. Who knows? We can't talk - but everyone who wants to talk could talk to them. Any one of our peace people could talk with them. We don't talk. We kill and kill and kill and kill. Jimmy Carter continues:

“What the officials have always demanded is direct talks with the United States, leading to a permanent peace treaty to replace the still-prevailing 1953 cease-fire that has failed to end the Korean conflict. They want an end to sanctions, a guarantee that there will be no military attack on a peaceful North Korea, and eventual normal relations between their country and the international community.

I have visited with people who were starving. “

I would add: why are they starving? They were starving because we destroyed every city in North Korea with one of the great bombing campaigns in the history of the world, killing mainly civilians. Twenty to thirty percent of the ENTIRE population of North Korea. A massacre. Jimmy continues:

“Still today, millions suffer from famine and food insecurity and seem to be completely loyal to their top leader. They are probably the most isolated people on Earth and almost unanimously believe that their greatest threat is from a preemptory military attack by the United States.

The top priority of North Korea's leaders is to preserve their regime and keep it as free as possible from outside control. They are largely immune from influence or pressure from outside. During the time of the current leader, Kim Jong Un, this immunity has also applied to China, whose leaders want to avoid a regime collapse in North Korea or having to contemplate a nuclear-armed Japan or South Korea.

Until now, severe economic sanctions have not prevented North Korea from developing a formidable and dedicated military force, including long-range nuclear missiles, utilizing a surprising level of scientific and technological capability. There is no remaining chance that it will

agree to a total denuclearization, as it has seen what happened in a denuclearized Libya and assessed the doubtful status of U.S. adherence to the Iran nuclear agreement.

Friends, we mustn't forget what was done to Libya. It was utterly destroyed - a country that offered free education, free health care, and divided the oil money with the people each year. Carter says:

“There have been a number of suggestions for resolving this crisis, including military strikes on North Korea's nuclear facilities, more severe economic punishment, the forging of a protective nuclear agreement between China and North Korea similar to those between the United States and South Korea and Japan, a real enforcement of the Non- Proliferation Treaty by all nuclear weapons states not to expand their arsenals, and ending annual U.S.-South Korean military exercises.

All of these options are intended to dissuade or deter the leadership of a nation with long-range nuclear weapons — and that believes its existence is threatened — from taking steps to defend itself. None of them offer an immediate way to end the present crisis, because the Pyongyang government believes its survival is at stake. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's statement last week that “we have lines of communications to Pyongyang. We're not in a dark situation” is a good first step to defusing tensions.”

Well, friends, I might add that the commercial news media goes on for two weeks talking about whether Rex Tillerson called Trump a moron, an oxymoron, a sophmoron, or some other kind of moron -- we're wasting a lot of time while such dangers evolve around us. Jimmy Carter continues:

“The next step should be for the United States to offer to send a high-level delegation to Pyongyang for peace talks or to support an international conference including North and South Korea, the United States and China, at a mutually acceptable site.”

Friends, this is our president, 1977-1981. Totally ignored by military industrial government, which is destroying the United States of America. It has ruined our healthcare, ruined our educational process, turned us into a military state frightening the rest of the world and making no friends; killing primarily civilians all over the world. And here is Jimmy Carter with an answer to the problem. Would you rather listen to Jimmy Carter, or to someone babbling irrational nonsense about killing 50-60 million people,

and which in the end may include ourselves, all of us. I think those words are extremely important, and the question of ignoring Jimmy Carter is extremely serious. To live, you have to be in the military industrial group or you'll get killed, as John Kennedy was, which is more and more clear. Trump is going to release some more of the JFK murder files and we'll find out more than we already know. There's absolutely no doubt that it was an inside job. For some reason, I don't know what, Trump is about to release more of the files.

What has been taking place while the commercial news talks about who called who what, or who spoke to whom when, or what about this or that, all this palace intrigue, what ring wing group did this pundit come from, or right wing think tanked, so called, or what level of military - we're surrounded by the beltway language of generals, right wing think tanks, and others who don't know what's going on, don't care, or are complicit in deception. What has been taking place for over three years has been a slaughter in the US air war. By April of this year, another month of mass slaughter of unimaginable terror for the people of Mosul in Iraq, and areas Raqqa and Tabkah in Syria - the heaviest, most sustained US bombing campaign since the American war in Vietnam. Now I don't think anyone listening to commercial news would know that. Recently the news came out about getting ISIS out of these cities - it's some of the most lightweight coverage of bombings I have ever seen. It's oh yes, we were there, we dropped a bomb or two, yeah...

Well, friends, we happen to know it is a silent slaughter. The US air war is no small thing. So where do we look. Well, we could look at Raqqa. Families have been running out of that town as the US-backed assault continued all through the summer. And here's the New York Times.

“The ousting of Islamic State militants this week from Raqqa was filled with symbolism. Raqqa was the de facto capital of the militants’ self-declared caliphate, and now it has fallen from their grasp. But there wasn’t much city left to save. While the full extent of the damage is still being assessed, drone footage and satellite images reveal mile after mile of damaged buildings, rubble-filled streets and destroyed landmarks.

Raqqa was once home to 300,000 people, but tens of thousands fled when the militants solidified control of the city in early 2014 and began staging public executions of those who ran afoul of their strict interpretation of Islam. By the dwindling days of the group’s rule, only about 25,000 residents remained.

At least 1,000 civilians were killed in the airstrikes, according to tallies by local activists and international monitors. American officials put the civilian casualties much lower, and say coalition strikes have killed at least 735 civilians in Iraq and Syria since operations against the Islamic State there began in 2014.

Five months of American-led airstrikes left conditions in the city dire, knocking out water and electricity. American officials have promised to help bring back basic services, but the scale of the damage is clear.

When soldiers of the Syrian Democratic Forces, a coalition of rebel militias, raised their yellow flags in one of Raqqa's central junctions this week, all that was left of the buildings that once surrounded it were bombed-out shells.

Similar scenes played out in Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city. Backed by American-led coalition airstrikes, Iraq government forces celebrated their recapture of the city in July. But Mosul's recovery is a tale of two cities."

And it goes on, talking about a little bit of bombing here, a little bit there. Of course, if we read what really took place and get comments from people who were there, it's entirely different. Mosul's liberation was actually it's death and destruction, if we read Global Research.

The expulsion of ISIS from Mosul by the US-led coalition did receive coverage, but the US role in killing civilians was uniformly ignored.

Friends, bombs aren't good for you. As you know, you can spend your life in prison for using a one pound bomb. How about people who use 30 ton bombs?

Then we see reports in recent weeks, another major city in Iraq has officially been "liberated" from the militants of the Islamic State. However, the result of the US backed Iraqi military campaign to retake Mosul, that country's second largest city, didn't fit any ordinary definition of triumph or victory. Why, you might ask? Because it was destroyed by bombs. The sheer scale of the killing makes the siege of Mosul one of the greatest war crimes of the post-WWII era. It had a population of 2 million people. By

the time the siege began, there were still 1.2 million trapped in Mosul. This population was subjected to horrific violence. Then we go on to Stephen Linman.

"US forces are directly involved in combat operations and, in their aftermath, aware of the brutality inflicted on detainees and maybe encouraging. Civilians held hostage by ISIS endure similar or even harsher treatment by their Iraqi captors.

This is really awful. The press has made light of this as if the bombing was "light." It was not light. Massive. Mosul and so much of Iraq has suffered miserably under ISIS, but it's hard to spot the difference from how Iraq suffered under the US and UK violence that led to the creation of ISIS. They are again suffering. The US bombed the city during th 2003 invasion, murdered Saddam Hussein's sons and 15 year old grandson. No judge or jury; just US ISIS-style summary executions across the nation.

Then we have the depopulation and destruction of Mosul. The end result is not the liberation of Mosul, but rather the destruction of Mosul for the perceived benefit of criminal, genocidal imperial warmongers who had their crimes beneath the big lies of *war on terror and humanitarian invasion.*"

Friends, you see how important Jimmy Carter is. He's not in the club. He didn't join the military industrial club in order to save his life. No, he risked his life by making it clear he was not part of that club. No bombs fell. No missiles fell. Other nations thanked him. Argentina said afterwards, "Please come to Argentina so we can give you a prize for helping us get rid of those stupid generals who have been running Argentina savagely."

So these are the situations we're facing today. It's time for us to wake up. Everybody loves to talk about, you know, mindfulness - well, let's get mindful, let's wake up and realize what is being done in our name by people who have no idea what they're doing. Father, forgive them. They have no idea what they're doing, who they are, where they are, what they are. These are mindless mannequins. And we have in the midst of all this people who are very much awake. And we celebrate these people because of their wonderful work. We celebrate the scholars like Marjorie Cohn. Marjorie Cohn is professor emerita at Thomas Jefferson School of Law, former president of the National Lawyers Guild, deputy secretary general of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, and a member of the national advisory board of Veterans for Peace. The second, updated edition of her book, [Drones and Targeted Killing: Legal, Moral, and Geopolitical Issues](#), will be published in November. She writes:

During his presidential campaign and throughout his nine-month presidency, Donald Trump has been fixated on ending the Iran nuclear deal, which he called “one of the worst and most one-sided transactions the United States has ever entered into.”

Under the [2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action](#) (JCPOA), Iran agreed to curtail its nuclear program and in return, it received billions of dollars of relief from punishing sanctions. Iran has allowed 24-hour inspections by officials from the UN International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

“Iran has gotten rid of all of its highly enriched uranium,” Jessica T. Mathews [wrote](#) in the New York Review of Books. “It has also eliminated 99 percent of its stockpile of low-enriched uranium ... All enrichment has been shut down at the once-secret, fortified, underground facility at Fordow ... Iran has disabled and poured concrete into the core of its plutonium reactor — thus shutting down the plutonium as well as the uranium route to nuclear weapons. It has provided adequate answers to the IAEA’s long-standing list of questions regarding past weapons-related activities.”

Yukiya Amano, director general of IAEA, refuted Trump’s allegation that Iran had kept IAEA weapons inspectors from entering military bases. Amano said, “So far, IAEA has had access to all locations it needed to visit. At present, Iran is subject to the world’s most robust nuclear verification regime.”

But in spite of the fact that the IAEA has affirmed eight times — most recently in August — that Iran is meeting its obligations under the deal, Trump refused to certify Iran was in compliance and he decided the deal is not in the U.S. national security interests.

The [U.S. Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act](#) requires the president to determine every 90 days whether Iran remains compliant with the JCPOA and whether the agreement still serves U.S. interests. Trump reluctantly certified Iran’s compliance in April and July. But on Oct. 13, to the consternation of his secretary of state, secretary of defense, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, he refused to certify Iran’s compliance with the deal.

France, Britain, Russia, China, Germany, the United States and Iran are parties to the historic agreement. After Trump’s Oct. 13 announcement, the leaders of Britain, France and Germany said in a joint statement that retaining the Iran deal “is in our shared national security interest.”

They stated, “The nuclear deal was the culmination of thirteen years of diplomacy and was a major step towards ensuring that Iran’s nuclear program is not diverted for military purposes.”

Trump Walks in Lockstep With Netanyahu

Trump walks in lockstep with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has consistently opposed the Iran deal. The Christian Zionists, who await Christ’s second coming in Israel, constitute a significant portion of Trump’s base.

After his election but before inauguration, Trump inserted himself into U.S. foreign policy by criticizing Barack Obama for refusing to veto a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israel’s illegal settlement-building.

In 2015, before the U.S. joined the JCPOA, Netanyahu staged an end-run around then-President Obama and directly addressed the U.S. Congress, prevailing upon them to oppose the deal. “That deal will not prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons,” Netanyahu told Congress. “It would all but guarantee that Iran gets those weapons — lots of them.”

Netanyahu was thrilled with Trump’s refusal to re-certify Iran’s compliance with the JCPOA. “It’s a very brave decision, and I think it’s the right decision for the world,” Netanyahu said on CBS’s “Face the Nation.” The American Israel Public Affairs Committee also heralded Trump’s attack on the JCPOA.

The White House fact sheet outlining Trump’s new Iran policy accuses Iran of “unrelenting hostility to Israel.” In his speech announcing his refusal to re-certify Iran’s compliance with the deal, Trump stated that Iran “remains the world’s leading state sponsor of terrorism, and provides assistance to al Qaeda, the Taliban, Hezbollah, Hamas, and other terrorist networks.” In fact, Iran and al Qaeda, representing different sects of Islam, are sworn enemies. And after JCPOA was agreed upon in 2015, Noam Chomsky wrote in TomDispatch:

Other concerns about the Iranian threat include its role as “the world’s leading supporter of terrorism,” which primarily refers to its support for Hezbollah and Hamas. Both of those movements emerged in resistance to U.S.-backed Israeli violence and aggression, which vastly exceeds anything attributed to these villains, let alone the normal practice of the hegemonic

power whose global drone assassination campaign alone dominates (and helps to foster) international terrorism. Trump's refusal to re-certify Iran's compliance with the JCPOA came one day after the U.S. announced it would withdraw from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The United States accused UNESCO — which promotes worldwide literacy, clean water, women's equality, cultural heritage and sex education — of "anti-Israel bias." Israel said it would pull out of UNESCO as well.

UNESCO incurred the wrath of Israel and the United States in July when it declared the core of Hebron, a city in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, an endangered Palestinian World Heritage site. In 2011, UNESCO was the first UN agency to allow Palestine to become a member, which led to Palestine's upgraded legal status at the General Assembly the following year.

In 2015, UNESCO passed a resolution "strongly" condemning "Israeli aggressions and illegal measures against the freedom of worship and Muslims' access to their holy site." The resolution condemned the "continuous negative impact of the Israeli military confrontations" in Gaza as well.

Oct. 12 was also the day that Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, which control Gaza and the West Bank respectively, announced they were forming a unity government. Netanyahu opposes Palestinian unity. Iran is the only major power in the Middle East calling for the creation of a Palestinian state.

"President Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu are united in a shared agenda of escalation with Iran, with the goal of enabling increased U.S. and Israeli military aggression," Jewish Voice for Peace's Executive Director Rebecca Vilkomerson wrote in a statement. "Trump's hypocrisy is evident when he talks about caring about everyday Iranians, yet continually tries to ban them from entering the US."

Trump Punts to Congress

After he drove a stake through the heart of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and later, the Affordable Care Act, Trump punted those issues to Congress to clean up the messes he made. On Oct.13, he followed suit with JCPOA.

Trump did not urge Congress to reinstate sanctions on Iran, which would completely scuttle the JCPOA. But he placed the onus on Congress to add new terms not covered by the JCPOA, including sunset clauses and ballistic missiles.

If Congress fails to so act, Trump threatened that “the agreement will be terminated ... and our participation can be canceled by me, as president, at any time.”

In order to enact Trump’s requested legislation, GOP senators would have to muster 60 votes, including eight Democrats, which is unlikely.

Former Secretary of State John Kerry, who spearheaded U.S. diplomacy with Iran, called Trump’s decision “a reckless abandonment of facts in favor of ego and ideology from a president who would rather play a high-stakes game of chicken with Congress and with Iran than admit that the nuclear agreement is working.”

“Breaking the Iran agreement would not only free Iran from limits placed on its nuclear program,” Sen. [Bernie Sanders](#) (I-Vt.) said, “it would irreparably harm America’s ability to negotiate future nonproliferation agreements. Why would any country in the world sign such an agreement with the United States if they knew that a reckless president might simply discard that agreement a few years later?”

This is particularly disturbing in light of the volatile standoff between the United States and nuclear-armed North Korea.

Iran’s compliance with the JCPOA has made the world a safer place. We must apply pressure on both Congress and the White House to retain the Iran deal.

Friends, that's the great Marjorie Cohn. We should heed her words.

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