

Date: Sun, 02 Jan 2011 00:34:00 -0500

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, US National Academy of Sciences Committee on Improving Intelligence" <baruch@cmu.edu>

From: Lloyd Etheredge <lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net>

Subject: 194. Red Team: Is a Better Future [That Defies the Predictable] Possible Quickly?

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

A Red Team should be organized to challenge the conventional wisdom in the Director of National Intelligence's limited global forecast for 2025. My perception, that other social scientists also may share, is that a much better global future can be created quickly. The new variables involve public goods - creative applications of digital communications technologies on a global scale and a light touch of high-level leadership that engages the organizing capabilities of a networked international system.

. The thinking of the Obama Administration is being held back by too many conventional assumptions. A Red Team project - about opportunities to create (quickly) a future that defies the predictable - will help cognitively and to create an emotional consensus (# 85).

Specific Examples

I have outlined, in earlier submissions (<http://www.policyscience.net> at II.D), specific projects that a Red Team can use to make its case about digital age upgrade & breakthrough possibilities. Here, for example, are six examples of projects that include new variables and use combinatorial (as well as analytic) thinking: We should do all of them, and there are many more:

1.) Rapid Improvement in International Health. (# 147). Within two years, 250 million people in all countries can begin to benefit by the online patient registries for the 2,500 rarer diseases suggested (several months ago) by scientific leaders and physicians at NIH and the

academic research community. (We should do this.)

- This can be followed by global rapid learning systems for all medical conditions based on the electronic health records and “everything included” research databases whose (national) design already is underway in the Obama Administration. A Global Cancer Initiative - beginning, perhaps, with Breast Cancer, would help to knit our world together in common purposes and accelerate their achievement.

2.) Reducing Mistakes and Violent Conflict. Estimates that I discussed earlier (e.g., Karl Deutsch) and Dallek’s recent discoveries [e.g., # 2 and # 185] suggest that a wider, continuing, and cumulative international research program concerning behavioral science and national security could - when it is linked to professional training in diplomacy across the international system - reduce the rate of dangerous misperceptions and errors in the rest of the 21st century by 50%.

3.) Easier Environmental (and Other) Policy Development and Cooperation. The new G20 system, envisioned by the Obama Administration, can be brought richly, and more quickly, to life, and function more effectively, by new endowments and contracts to the Washington Post (for example) to develop specialized news, information, and agenda-building/policy link-up systems. [E.g., # 66, 75, 133, 169, 172] The investment could include support for an Internet equivalent of our domestic C-SPAN, linking agenda-building and policy analysis conferences, by topics, from podiums in the G-20 nations directly to desktops of government and NGO professionals across the G-20 system. In many areas - for example, environmental/ocean policy - it may be possible to move much more quickly than was required, in the 20th century, to build awareness and agendas to deal with the threat of global atmospheric warming. <1>

4.) Scientific Breakthroughs for Energy and Other Research: Large Scale Collaboration Systems. The National Institutes of Health has pioneered a global service (<http://www.videocast.nih.gov>) to bring the best and latest biomedical research ideas, as quickly as possible, to the desktops of academic and corporate researchers worldwide, 1-2 years before

print publication. This initial prototype to accelerate the global creative process can be extended to Energy Research and other fields where there are a new universe of information resources, and creativity-enhancing and productivity-enhancing tools, that can be brought to life for the entire international scientific community. These low cost initiatives (i.e., in the context of \$80+ billion/year DNI budgets) also can enhance the curriculum resources and access to state-of-the-art ideas for students and researchers at four-year colleges and research universities in all countries. <2>

5.) Faster and Better Foreign Language Learning Across All Countries

The same type of global R&D, rapid learning, system being pioneered at NIH can be brought online for R&D to improve foreign language education. [A current focus is K-12 STEM (science, technology, engineering & math) improvements, but advances in neuroscience also seem capable of improving education for foreign languages, including English as a foreign language.] The Gates Foundation is pioneering new metrics (and online databases) for science and mathematics and equivalent large-scale collaboration initiatives can be organized for foreign languages. (The US government (including the DNI system) also will benefit directly from these breakthroughs since it is one of the world's largest foreign language educators for its diplomatic and intelligence employees. See # 150.) Rapid worldwide improvement may be possible.

6.) Cultural Linkups and Resource Sharing. For cultural linkups: the US government has a global satellite television channel, 24x7 (WorldNet), that was built during the Cold War and has, today, almost no audience. It could be used - along with the global Internet - for a Cultural Affairs Channel, a kind of global PBS/Cultural C-SPAN that initially secures 5-6 hours/year of cultural programming from each country and makes it available to worldwide audiences without charge. If there is a catalyst to bring the vision to life, it seems likely that a new global system can quickly evolve and be supported by donations from large global advertisers. It also can be designed to linkup audiences and make the creative and performing arts more economically self-sustaining in most countries.

[This global cultural initiative does not address immediate problems of threat-oriented forecasting and dangers to national security. Nevertheless, it does help to knit together the world

in new and mutually beneficial ways, with a light touch of US leadership. A Red Team analysis can use this idea to show how the US can expand a new realm of imaginative possibilities that is far more engaging and enrolling than futures involving violent conflict.]

Best wishes for the New Year: Let us hope that the National Academy of Sciences project has a receptive audience!

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<1> I will place online, with a reference copy of this message, a more extended discussion and correspondence concerning draft ideas that are beginning circulation.

<2> [See footnote 1.]

<3.> [See footnote 1.] About \$107 billion is spent annually by the top 100 Global Advertisers, defined as those companies spending on three or more continents. A fraction of 1% would be enough to run this kind of cooperative system, whose foundation would be to convey respect for the creative and performing arts in each country and pay the marginal cost of obtaining 5-6 hours of performances, museum audio-slide tours, etc. from each country.

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