Subject: 229. Red Team: Post-Mubarak - Rapid Deployment Data Systems

Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

The National Academy of Sciences should recommend a quick review of (mostly non-existent) relevant NSF programs in the social sciences and a full package of rapid deployment data systems for Egypt and elsewhere in the Middle East in light of President Mubarak's departure. This is an historic event - perhaps like the French Revolution - and new ideas and futures for Egypt, the region, and international (esp. youth) politics may be underway using new routes and technologies of influence.

Request to Google?

The new data systems and analysis tools include content analysis. I am not aware that the recommendation that I made in September 2009 (# 15 at www.policyscience.net at II. D) has been acted upon, but these technologies are much needed.

A direct request from the National Academy of Sciences to Google would be timely:

Google News has translation capabilities and Google also has taken the lead to put content analysis tools for the humanities online in connection with its global library project. These capabilities, plus reference databases for the rapid development of specialized analysis tools, can help interested researchers to deepen our understanding of what is beginning.

NSF Rapid Deployment Funds

It also would be helpful to seek immediate NSF allocation of its rapid deployment funds for occurrences like earthquakes and volcano eruptions. Post-docs for current graduate students or recent graduates interested to develop language skills and do thesis research about the transition to a democratic regime in Egypt (and in Tunisia), the domino theory (reverse domino theory) and other naturally-occurring experiments ought to be available to interested research universities.

Activating Cross-Cultural Political Psychology

This also would be a good time to launch the comparative political behavior/psychology research program outlined decades ago by Gergen, Sears and others (e.g., #12). We should be learning what is similar, and what is different, compared to the US undergraduate subjects that populate the textbooks.

Donald Campbell's survey research program (# 9) surely is relevant to inter-group relations in the region, as is the #198) Brecke-Long research program on post-conflict reconciliation. None of these people should have to be waiting in queues at NSF or other programs to get answers in a year - and anticipate the prospect of being told there is no money.

<u>Grand Strategy + rapid deployment</u>

A Red Team/National Academy project should seek to have a Grand Strategy, and be allocating funds, within weeks and - for some projects - within days.

It also would be helpful to include, in these R&D plans, preliminary estimates of the new

Grand Strategy for Egyptian-American relations and investments that should be in the pipeline. There are likely to be many prototypes and experiments and lessons to be learned that can be used elsewhere in the Islamic world, and UDCs, as opportunities arise.

LE

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