

Date: Fri, 01 Jan 2010 13:10:28 -0500

To: "Dr. Baruch Fischhoff - Chair, National Academy of Sciences Study on Social & Behavioral Science and Improving Intelligence for National Security" <baruch@cmu.edu>

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

Subject: Grand Strategy: A special NIC study re US leadership for conventional arms control, limiting military budgets.

Dear Dr. Fischhoff and Colleagues:

With US leadership it might be possible to leverage the current global recession to slow the global trade in conventional armaments and rebuild initiatives for regional arms control and security. There are many dimensions involved: A special study by the National Intelligence Council, for President Obama and general discussion, could be worthwhile.

Background: Issues of Data

There are limits on the ability of academic social scientists to develop a proposal. Traditionally, the world's intelligence services have managed to put basic information in the public domain - for example, the Janes (UK) series on world military systems. However the SIPRI Yearbook - a traditional source for military expenditure and arms sale data - now expresses doubts about the reliability of its estimates: this ought to be rectified. If there is anything that US intelligence services should know, it is the distribution of the world's armaments and the major suppliers. In some areas of the world - e.g., Africa - the suppliers of small arms are accelerating the failure of governments and increasing the human and economic cost of UN and US peacekeeping. The democratic decision processes of leading nations cannot build discussions and agendas for progressive causes and changed emotional consensus in the world's politics without timely and reliable information.

Social Science Lessons: A New Historic Opportunity?

We are entering a new historical period where old habits of mind could change. Once, national governments could, during the eras of agrarian and industrial technology, imagine economic benefits of conquering other nations - agricultural land, slaves and serfs to work the land at minimal cost, and/or access to industrial raw materials. But today, with rare exceptions like oil supplies, invading or occupying other countries has no inherent economic (and, usually, limited security)

benefit. Where progress in regional arms control is possible, most governments could have better uses for their money.

However, there has to be a strategic package. Preaching will not be enough: Two elements are in place or becoming available: 1.) An Arms Trade Treaty [conventional arms] has been slowly under development via the UN; 2.) President Obama has proposed to reduce or eliminate nuclear arsenals, worldwide.

Thus: What does the DNI system know about the demand and supply of conventional arms, and Smart Power? And how can this knowledge bring together a strategic package and steady progress over the next 4-8 years?

Step-by-Step

It may take a long time to get a freeze - and then a reduction - in military budgets and conventional arms purchases for countries that are not at war. But we know that we are headed in the right direction. And mass publics around the world also will recognize that the proposal is in the right direction and that America is a leader of a progressive coalition.

- Over the past decade military budgets have been increasing in countries that, de facto, may not need more capabilities: China, India, South Korea, Taiwan, Algeria, Brazil. The world's leading suppliers of weapons to other countries are - by SIPRI's estimates - the US (#1), Russia, Germany, France, and the UK.

Lloyd Etheredge

Dr. Lloyd S. Etheredge - Fellow, World Academy of Art & Science

Policy Sciences Center Inc.

127 Wall St., Room 322 - Box 208215

New Haven, CT 06520-8215

URL: www.policyscience.net

301-365-5241 (v); lloyd.etheredge@policyscience.net (email)