

# SUBMISSION TO THE 2008 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION ON DEFENCE

## **A New Paradigm of Defence**

The skill in this case is to stay out of war...**war is not useable in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**...Let us skip the war and start the negotiation.

*Germaine Greer speaking about Russia and the US and Georgia on QandA 14.8.08*

Our world is undergoing rapid change as we move from an old to a new paradigm; known to some as the Paradigm Shift heralding a shift in human consciousness to a more awake, more aware level. This is becoming evident as climate change forces us to wake up to the devastation that our lack of awareness has caused. This shift in consciousness as it expands will affect many things, including how we resolve conflict.

The honest truth is: violence, aka military force, can never be a solution to international problems, any more than it can be a solution in the playground, the home or the workplace. No amount of military force can keep us safe from a terrorist attack, nor can we ever muster enough state of the art military hardware to guarantee safety in the unlikely event of a major conventional invasion. So why squander our treasure?

Violence belongs to the old paradigm; it is an unconscious impulse that cannot effect real change. At best it creates an illusion of solving a problem. Today as our leaders consider defence policy into the future they can choose to operate out of the old consciousness and so be part of the problem, or they can embrace the new paradigm and become part of the solution. My submission urges the latter as the old is too dangerous; it has brought us Climate Change, the Iraq war and economic meltdown.

While we can recognize that in the immediate future, violence is still very much a reality for governments to contend with, we must at the same time begin to make a real, hands-on contribution to building a conflict-free world so we can work together to salvage our planet.

This is the work of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Be not afraid, this is not an old world dying but a new world being born.

*Pope John Paul II.*

## OLD PARADIGM

War is a necessary evil

War is an effective if drastic solution to intractable problems.

Wars can be won and lost.

Reactivity shows courage resolve and strength.

We can divide the world into allies and enemies.

Attacking and counter-attacking those designated The Enemy keeps us safe.

Our Enemies are wrong and bad and must be overcome by fighting and killing them.

The greatest threat to our national security is a WWII style invasion by The Enemy.

We need our ally the U.S. to help us fight The Enemy.

Might is right and the mightiest is mightily right.

## NEW PARADIGM

War is evil and rarely if ever necessary

War is never a solution; war is part of the problem.

Wars accomplish only loss

Reactivity is unconscious, immature and dangerous.

There is only one humanity and every soul is of equal value

An attack on others is an attack on ourselves for we create an attack cycle.

Enemies come and go. They are creations of the mind and are illusory.

Climate change is now the greatest threat to our national security.

America seeks "full spectrum dominance" of the planet and outer space, this includes Australia. Our "ally" exploits our weakness and our fear.

The boundaries between right and wrong, offence and defence, ally and enemy have become blurred.

## SOME EVIDENCE

Present day Iraq

What have the wars on drugs, crime, poverty and terror accomplished?

Hiroshima, Korea, Vietnam

US reacting to 9/11

Asian Tsunami, Burmese Cyclone, China earthquake

Germany at the end of WWII, The present state of the U.S. economy, 2001 Anthrax scare

England and France, Japan and the U.S. the European Union Osama bin Laden

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina wasn't attended to properly because U.S. treasury and efforts were focused on The Enemy in Iraq

The Project for the New American Century, Pine Gap, Guam, Talisman Saber

Hiroshima, Anti war movements of Vietnam and Iraq wars

Let us

Begin by choosing hardware that is flexible, that can still excite the boys but in reality can be deployed for peaceful purposes: for transport of cargo or for humanitarian and disaster relief.

Let us

Not continue our compulsion to prepare for World War II; terrifying and exciting as it was it ended 63 years ago. We haven't been attacked or invaded since.

Let us

Mind our own business and desist from military engagement in conflicts that don't concern us.

Let us

Heal our codependent relationship with the United States and speak truth to power. The US doesn't have friends; it has hostages. The only armed invasions of our sovereign land in recent years have been the repeated US invasions of our pristine wilderness north of Rockhampton – code named Talisman Saber, instigated under the auspices of the discarded and disgraced warmonger Donald Rumsfeld, architect of the Iraq War.

Let us

Not arrest and persecute those who justly and peacefully protest this abomination just as they vainly protested the Iraq War.

Let us

Honour their wisdom foresight and courage in defending this fragile piece of the only planet we have.

Let us

Not be bullied into behaving like the fearful bullies in our midst

Let us

Not join the chorus making Russia into Public Enemy Number One just because they resist US domination of their region

Let us

Set the benchmark for a peaceful planet. We are uniquely placed to demonstrate leadership in this regard and Kevin Rudd has shown himself willing and able to step up to this challenge.

Let us begin