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AN OPINION PIECE

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MILITARY SOLUTION A MIRAGE

I have been climbing out of a deep well of anger and depression at the loss of innocent lives on 9/11/01. Those persons responsible for this atrocity must be found and brought to justice. However, rather than a military rampage as presently being carried out by the Bush administration, I would have preferred cooperative international police work to bring the perpetrators to justice before the World Court or the International Criminal Court (ICC). Unfortunately, the United States frequently thumbs its nose at the World Court and has yet to support the ICC, perhaps for fear of having its own leaders one day charged for their crimes.

War itself is an atrocity that devastates innocent human beings everywhere. My experience as a combat pilot in the Korean War helps me understand that Asian anguish when their loved ones are killed is as painful and real as that in New York City and Washington. This is why I am so interested in Japan's law, its constitution's Article 9 renunciation of war. Article 9 implies that non-violent means be used to resolve our inevitable conflicts. We need to adopt this kind of law in all nations.

In my opinion, there is no military solution to the 9/11 atrocity, any more than there is a military solution to the huge demand for drugs in America. Unfortunately, history demonstrates that our leaders seem addicted to the drug of military-violence.

Martin Luther King Jr. said in his April 4, 1967 speech, "... the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today (*is*) my own government." Michael Sherry, a historian with whom I agree, describes the US in his 1995 book, *In The Shadow Of War* -- as a national-security-state engaged in "... the contradictory and tense social process in which civil society organizes itself for the production of violence."

Rather than leave fingerprints of violence around the world as our national legacy, I yearn for leaders who will leave fingerprints of hope -- people who will temper our arrogant super-power unilateralism and lead us under a more democratized United Nations umbrella on a multitude of cooperative paths.

We must ask ourselves many questions and where appropriate, clean up our own act so that we might have respectful credibility with others with whom we share this beautiful planet. Why is there such hate for the United States government out there? Notice, I said "government" and not "people." What is so vacuous about our culture that we have huge numbers of hopeless people needing "happy drugs" to carry on? How do poor Colombian peasants see us as our "made-in-America" helicopter gunships spray them with bullets and chemicals simply because their cash-crop is a "free-market" response to US drug demand? How do Palestinians feel about us when Israeli, "made-in-America," helicopter gunships and F-16s obliterate their habitat and hope?

This terrible 9/11 disaster could have one positive outcome, namely ending that dangerous folly called “national missile defense” (NMD) so lovingly embraced by the Bush Administration. Unfortunately as we have just seen in Bush’s October China meetings, he seems to have learned nothing. As I have long been writing, if I were a leader of a so-called “rogue state” who wanted to harm the USA, I would not be so stupid as to try and do it with a primitive missile. I would bring my “device” to my target in a suitcase, or in a Ryder Rental truck as did our US-military-trained terrorist McVeigh. Creative terrorist brains are awesomely mind-boggling. Should we set our engineers and scientists to work on devising a TBDS -- a “terrorist brain defense system” ?

In my opinion, key people in the Bush Administration have cynically always known that NMD was not a feasible technology that would protect Americans. They however do see it as a fantastic vehicle with which to frighten and mislead American and Japanese people, into spending multiple billions on this “stuff” so that ultimately they can achieve America’s manifest-destiny -- US militarization and domination of space.

Permit me to end on a note of hope at the wisdom of two women -- US House of Representative’s Barbara Lee and Burma’s (Myanmar’s) Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi.

Lee was the only Congressional person on 9/15 to vote against a blank check for Bush to unleash our military power wherever and whenever his handlers suggest. Lee stands tall with Senator Wayne Morse who wisely understood the folly of the 1964 Tonkin Gulf Resolution.

In order to leave “fingerprints of hope” rather than “fingerprints of violence” we need to listen to Aung San Suu Kyi who said, we must spend “...less on the war toys of grown men and much more on the urgent needs of humanity as a whole.”

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America At A Crossroads
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