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Position Paper on National Security and Defense

Introduction

With trillion-plus dollar deficits staring us in the face, we have to make changes. We can no longer afford our current defense strategy, so we must adopt a new strategy that is effective but costs much less.

The greatest threat to our national security right now is our dependence on oil. All of our current economic problems – the sub-prime mortgage crisis, the banking crisis in general, and our economy’s downward spiral in employment – are the result of the hyperinflation in oil that was engineered by OPEC from 2002 through mid-last year.

The next greatest threat to our national security is attack from Islamic fundamentalists, such as the one that occurred on September 11, 2001 in New York City. Islamic fundamentalists are revolutionaries, operating under a cloak of religion, who want to transform countries into Islamic states like the one currently in Iran.

The third major threat to our national security is communist aggression. Communism is like a cancer in remission right now, but it will return given the right circumstances. We cannot let our guard down.

The national security and defense strategy proposed here is to (1) develop a military capability to strike quickly and effectively anywhere in the world at any time; (2) attack the seat of government power of the aggressor from the air rather than its army (attack the head of the octopus, not its tentacles); and (3) reduce our dependence upon oil and become a net exporter of oil. This strategy revives Teddy Roosevelt’s “Speak softly but carry a BIG stick.”

We also must re-evaluate our military participation in the United Nations and NATO. Russia, China, and the European nations must shoulder more of the burden. Their national security is more at risk than ours.

A New Defense Strategy – A Return to “Speak Softly but Carry a BIG Stick”

“We can no longer afford our current defense strategy. We must adopt a new strategy that is effective but costs much less.” – Roger Thoney.

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Our current strategy is one of containment. We are trying to contain communism within Russia, China, and North Korea by maintaining a troop presence in Europe and South Korea and providing protection for Japan and Taiwan. We are trying to contain Islamic fundamentalism within the Middle East by establishing democracies in Afghanistan and Iraq and fighting Islamic terrorists on their home turf.

This strategy is very expensive and spreads our defense resources thin. The world is too big for one country to defend, and we can no longer afford to try. We must change our strategy to one that provides a strong defense for our nation and the people of the United States, but relies upon other countries to defend themselves.

European countries must provide their own defense against Islamic fundamentalists and communist aggression. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and others must provide their own defense against the spread of Islamic fundamentalism. Japan and Taiwan must begin to provide their own defense against possible Chinese aggression. We can provide consulting assistance to help others build their defense capabilities, but we can no longer afford to be the world's defender and peacekeeper in a proactive strategy of containment.

To defend the people of the United States, we must develop a military capability to strike quickly and effectively anywhere in the world at any time. Instead of maintaining a military presence throughout the world, we must strike carefully selected targets "like a cobra," focusing our attacks on the seat of government power of the aggressor rather than on its troops. Instead of trying to defeat the army, our objective will be to have the troops recalled by the aggressor government under pressure.

We can bring our troops home, basing them inside the United States close to their families, and concentrate spending our money on developing advanced weapons and delivery systems (cruise missiles and drones), advanced fighters and bombers, satellite systems, missile defense systems, and a top-notch intelligence gathering network. We will shift our emphasis more to technology than troops.

The War on Terror – Take the Battle to the Decision-Makers

"The war on terror will not end as long as the clerics running Iran are still in power. We should hold Iran responsible for terrorism in the world." – Roger Thoney.

The war on terror will not end as long as the clerics running Iran are in power. Until we recognize this and address it, we will not be safe from terrorist attack and the unrest in the Middle East will not end.

The objective of revolutionary Islamic fundamentalists is to transform countries into Islamic states like Iran is today. The overthrow of the Shah of Iran in 1979 was their first major contemporary success. This Islamic-state movement underlies much of the unrest in the Middle East today.

Their current strategy is to work through terrorist organizations located within the target countries. Their terrorist network includes Hezbollah in Lebanon; Hamas in Palestine and Gaza; al-Qaeda in Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; the Taliban in Afghanistan; and perhaps more in other

countries. They use Israel, the Great Satan (the United States), and “The West” as demons to rally their supporters and expand their support base.

The central command for this revolutionary movement today is in Iran. The Iranian clerics are the opposition decision-makers in the war on terror; and we should take the battle to them. Attack the head of the octopus, not the tentacles. Take the battle to the decision-makers.

The fact that these government leaders are Islamic clerics should not deter us because religion is not intended to serve as a cloak to cover acts of power, aggression, and revolution. When religious leaders assume secular positions of power, they become secular government leaders and lose the special respect that is given to religious leaders.

We can take the battle to the decision-makers simply by firing cruise missiles into Tehran and other strategic targets in Iran on a regular basis, such as one every two hours or so, until the terrorist activity in Afghanistan ends or the people of Iran get tired of being bombed and revolt. Twelve cruise missiles a day would cost about \$5 billion a year.

The objective of this strategy is to turn the people of Iran against the clerics and weaken their ability to put down a revolt. We should follow the decision-makers wherever they go, dropping cruise missiles nearby and turning them into pariahs (terrorize the terrorists). We should bomb government offices and meeting places; strategic military targets; police stations; and critical infrastructure such as bridges, power generating stations, electric transmission lines, communication centers, etc. to disrupt the economy. Iran cannot afford to finance terrorists, contain an internal revolt, and defend itself from outside attack at the same time.

Oil Independence

“Never again should we allow ourselves to be vulnerable to oil-price manipulation. We must become a net exporter of oil.” – Roger Thoney.

Our current economic problems are directly related to our dependence on oil. OPEC engineered the hyperinflation in oil prices after we invaded Iraq, and that hyperinflation is the underlying cause of the current world economic downturn.

In order to prevent OPEC from manipulating oil prices ever again, we must reduce the worldwide demand for oil by switching to alternative sources of energy to fuel our cars and trucks and increase the production of oil outside OPEC. The United States must become a net exporter of oil.

We must build into our cars and trucks the capability to switch to a non-oil-based alternative fuel when the price of oil increases. We also must accelerate our efforts to run our cars and trucks on hydrogen. The fuel of the future must become the fuel of the present as soon as possible.

Non-corn-based alcohol will displace the use of oil as will hydrogen. Electric hybrids will help reduce the demand for oil, but will not displace the use of oil. Natural-gas-fueled vehicles will displace the use of oil, but will not put pressure on OPEC because OPEC produces natural gas, too. All-electric cars will displace the use of oil, but they have limited range and the recharging times are much too long to be practical.

The best plan is to switch to non-corn-based alcohol now and accelerate the development and introduction of hydrogen-fueled vehicles. The next best plan is to switch to natural-gas-fueled vehicles, followed by electric hybrids. See *The "Switch and Drill" Plan to Reduce the Price of Oil* for more details. This plan was introduced through Sonny Landham's U.S. Senate campaign in 2008.

Note that switching to wind, solar, and nuclear power will not displace the use of much oil. These sources of energy will displace the use of coal and other fossil fuels. They relate to global warming and are intended to reduce carbon emissions. They will increase the cost of energy at a time when we need to reduce the cost to create more jobs and bring financial relief to Americans struggling to make ends meet. Price is the issue with energy today, nothing else.

Conclusion

With trillion-plus dollar deficits staring us in the face, we can no longer afford our current defense strategy of containment. We must change to one that is effective but costs much less – one that relies more on other countries to provide their own defense.

The approach proposed here is to develop a military capability to strike quickly and effectively anywhere in the world at any time and to change our attack strategy to attacking the opposition decision-makers from the air rather than their armies (attack the head of the octopus, not its tentacles). The objective is to get the opposition troops recalled rather than defeat them on the battlefield and to precipitate a revolt in the aggressor country. This strategy should cost much less and will allow many more of our troops to be based in the United States near their families.

This strategy can be applied to the war on terror by firing cruise missiles into Iran on a regular basis until the terrorism stops or the people of Iran revolt. The war on terror will not end as long as the Islamic clerics currently running Iran remain in power. Their objective is to make countries Islamic states like that in Iran, and they will not stop until they are defeated.

We also must reduce our dependence on oil so that we are no longer vulnerable to price manipulation by OPEC. We must develop the capability to switch to non-oil-based fuels to run our cars and trucks when the price of oil rises. We also must accelerate the development and introduction of hydrogen-fueled vehicles. The fuel of the future must become the fuel of the present as soon as possible.