

Greetings from Tyler,

The practitioners of radical Islam have bombed two symbols of America in Jakarta, the Ritz Carlton and the Marriott. Several are dead, many are wounded and the details will be reported over the coming days. If there was some expectation that America's new leadership would cause these murderous animals to hate us less through the use of teleprompted rhetoric, forget it. This is the latest proof that the terrorists are not amused. Unfortunately, there will be more to come.

Israel is conducting naval maneuvers that many see as preparatory to a strike against Iran. Reports have Israeli vessels traversing the Suez Canal with permission from the Egyptian government. For obvious reasons, Egypt denies it. There have also been reports that Saudi Arabia may have agreed to turn a blind eye if Israeli jets should traverse its airspace en route to or from Iran. And the Saudis deny that. A report out of Vienna today concludes that Iran has the means to test a nuclear explosion within the next six months.

Israel remains very tightlipped about any plans, refusing to confirm or deny. Iran's re-elected (or not) president is boisterous as usual, this week threatening to strike Iran's enemies "in the face." Defense Secretary Robert Gates said that Iran presents the world's greatest threat. His point is that there is no scenario that avoids horrific consequences. Protests continue to break out in Tehran, calling Ahmadinejad's reelection a fraud. They are met with teargas and billy clubs and are apparently without support from any western power.

The Pope released his "encyclical" last week and calls for a "world political authority." He says that business and enterprise need to be viewed from a whole new perspective geared toward long term social justice. He says the UN should create a "business council" to deal with worldwide economic issues. Why didn't he just call for the UN to institute the mark of the beast? Actually, though cloaked in diplomatic language, that is exactly where this is headed.

We are facing a very critical time here in the days and weeks ahead. Our present array of politicians in power is working overtime to gain government control over the use of energy with their cap and trade legislation, and to take over the nation's private healthcare system. And they're trying to ram these radical changes to the American way of life through the houses of congress the same way they did the trillion dollar "stimulus" expenditures. URGENTLY. Our so-called representatives are voting for laws that will change the fabric of America without so much as reading them!

Even the Council on Foreign Relations (an organization that many conspiracy theorists claim is part of a plot to rule the world on behalf of international bankers) issued a statement bemoaning the U.S. slide into socialism and the fact that a great many people seem to think it's no big deal. Clearly, the mainstream media believe it's no big deal, and have failed to inform the public about what is taking place and how life in the U.S. will change dramatically once we're green, broke, hog tied and harassed by government agencies. Pat Buchanan wrote an excellent article on the subject, and it can be found on

Worldnetdaily.com.

In the dead of night, last night, a “hate crimes” bill was reportedly attached to a funding measure for our military. This so called “hate crimes” business is a matter that may be crucial. In England, Canada and numerous other countries these kinds of laws have been construed to make it a crime to insult someone or some group. That would clearly strike at the heart of our freedoms, and inhibit the commission of the church. Besides, there are so many individuals and groups that rightly deserve to be insulted!

As stated earlier, these days and weeks ahead are critical to the very future of America. We need to watch, to understand, and to pray for what’s left of our country’s future.

The Garner Ted Armstrong broadcast this week brought 539 requests with one hundred seventy five new contacts. Mr. John Mitchell is visiting Tyler this Sabbath. We’re looking forward to hearing from him, and will get his message to you in short order. Hope all you folks have a good Sabbath in spite of, and because of the crucial period we’re in.

We’ll be in touch next week, if not before.

Mark Armstrong