

19 June 2009

Greetings to all,

Iran erupted with massive streets protests this week in wake of an election the public saw as fraudulent. You are, of course aware that the infamous threat spewing Ahmadinejad was declared the winner in Iran, well before the Iranian public thought the votes could even have been tabulated.

From a foreign policy point of view, i.e. nuclear weapons, sponsorship of terror, the election probably didn't matter. Domestically in Iran, however, the public was holding out hopes for more freedoms and some reforms to the heavy-handed theocratic police state atmosphere.

How surprising that our US leadership can't bring themselves to so much as express support for the oppressed Iranian citizens risking their very lives to voice their hope for at least a few scraps of freedom in a society ruled by weird "holy" men.

Could it be that such an expression of support could come back to haunt our leaders in the event that Americans one day wake up and similarly demand that our disappearing rights and freedoms be restored? Just a thought.

North Korean provocations are escalating. Not only has Kim Jong-il inferred the prospect of nuclear war against South Korea, the North is reportedly planning to launch a missile in the general direction of the Hawaiian Islands to coincide with July 4th. The UN resolutions, condemnations and sanctions have accomplished nothing.

Our response is to ready the antimissile defense batteries. We've just got to get these guys back to the negotiation table!

One year ago, we could not have imagined all that has transpired, domestically and on the international front. The US government has taken over the largest banks, insurance companies and auto makers. The American health care system is next in line for a government takeover and that will have consequences for every facet of our economy

Europe is moving rapidly in the other direction. They've been where we're being taken, and are beginning to trend back toward fiscal responsibility and conservative ideology as illustrated by the outcome of the EU elections last week. It may not stop there.

Nevertheless, Europe sees us, the United States, spending ourselves into oblivion with multiple trillions of dollars that have not been earned. That fact together with our new passive foreign policy must convey that the US has neither the will nor the resources to sustain superpower status in this rapidly deteriorating world.

This country, this world is heading into a time of trouble at warp speed if present trends are allowed to proceed. Chances are we can't yet see the half of it.

I'm writing from Nashville, as we are here for a meeting scheduled for tomorrow. Hope you all have a great Sabbath day. We'll be in touch.

Mark Armstrong

PS. GTA TV responses will be reported next week.