

Lead or Quit the G8

Canada has in the past shown great leadership in the world. It has never been more important than right now for her to do so again.

We must quit NAFTA and lead G8 away from the USA. It is time to realign ourselves with the Non-Aligned Movement - NAM. Would they allow us in is perhaps a big question? It depends on what we are prepared to sacrifice economically. What precludes us from being part of these nations whom represent two thirds of the countries of the world and 80% of her population? Our economic lifestyle based on the abuse of people in the NAM's other member countries.

Let's take a look at where we stand in relationship to who they are and where we currently sit in world affairs.

Through our continued involvement in the US economy through NAFTA and our own participation in terrorist actions in Afghanistan, we are supporting a demented superpower's irrational attempt to control the world and an insatiable hunger for strategic resources. These actions have demolished peace and security world wide. We have entered a modern period as archaic as that of Attila the Hun and we- we Canadians are joined with the barbarians at the gates of civilization. Try looking that word up for once, "civilization". It seems we, our neighbours south of the 49th and the rest of the G8-plus, are no longer a part of an enlightened world.

The NAM countries are those that struggled for decolonization, the eradication of apartheid and whom continue to fight against imperialism and globalization which keeps their people impoverished and their resources undervalued. How soon we have forgotten our own need for independence from Imperialist Britain.

The NAM countries are in a struggle

to change the current very disparate world economic order dictated by we in the G8 countries and our international banks. This system is based on exploitation and plunder and whose inclination is to impart underdevelopment. It's method of perpetuation is to widen the gap between the poorest eighty percent of the world's population and the richest G8 twenty percent.

The United States believes that an unsustainable consumer lifestyle can be perpetuated by force and arms. This idea is ludicrous and extremely dangerous to the planet and all who live on her.

The current world energy crisis is a direct result of us in the developed countries squandering resources through senseless consumerism. The NAM stands for the right of the southern countries to ensure they have control over their natural resources. We in Canada no longer have control over our own resources under NAFTA. Aborting that agreement with the US and joining the non-aligned movement would help us assure that water and resources in Canada are controlled by Canadians not the USA.

We, the northern countries under the misguided leadership of the United States of America continue to wage a war under any guise to plunder for the sake of furthering irrational consumption. I'm reticent to use a word more than once in an article but there is no better word than irrational at times.

The US's doctrine since Nine-eleven has been that they are prepared to "pre-emptively use nuclear weapons if need be". Canada recently signed up again for a new version of the NORAD agreement which now includes "StarWars" Something I though all Canadians were against, that is except for our, too-cozy-with-Washington politicians.

Canada's continued involvement with NAFTA and the US economy directly supports these bizarre threats as well as shameless US

terrorist acts and murders going on in Afghanistan, Iraq, Palestine and The Lebanon.

At the NAM Summit in 1979 Fidel Castro said, "... let us close ranks... and in all international forums demand... an end to foreign control over our resources and the theft of our labour".

This is as true today for Canada and Canadians in regard to the US and NAFTA as it was for the non-aligned countries twenty seven years ago.

We would not be the first Northern country to join the NAM. Belarus upon independence from a repressive USSR joined long ago. We would be the first developed nation to enlist, but Canadians would have to make economic sacrifices. We have done it before in the 1940s for the sake of freedom and survival in Europe... now we must step up and do it for the survival of the planet and our very own future generations. The battle for survival has never been greater than it is right now. The war in today's unipolar world where the US is imposing its designs on the rest of the world has never been more important.

It is time for Canadians to set an example once again for the rest of the developed world. We have done it many times before. However, we can't just uncouple ourselves from those Northern consumer societies and join the NAM. We must divorce ourselves from the irrational consumer lifestyle we have so blindly followed Americans into becoming addicted to. It is time for every Canadian to show how tough s/he can be. During the depression years our parents and grandparents had little choice but to make do with what there was. During WW2 Canadians lived fairly sparsely on rations. We don't have to go back to depression living or the ration years... all we have to do is stop living like bloated porkers at the trough.

Lance Read - A Canadian in Cuba.