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23 MAY 86, 0900

AIR FORCES ESCAPE AND EVASION SOCIETY
24 MAY 1986

HAPPY TO BE HERE WITH EUROPEAN FRIENDS WHO RISKED THEIR LIVES TO RUN SO SPLENDIDLY AND SO BRAVELY - THOSE WONDERFUL ESCAPE LINES. WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE STILL HERE AND WE PARTICULARLY WELCOME YOU TO THE U.S. WE SALUTE YOU FOR THE PURE COURAGE AND THE AMAZING INGENUITY WHICH BROUGHT SO MANY ALLIED AIRMEN BACK TO FLY AND FIGHT AGAIN, NOW MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO.

WE SALUTE ALSO THE AIRMEN HERE TODAY WHO PUT THEMSELVES IN THE HANDS OF THOSE YOUNG GIRLS, STAYED IN THOSE SAFEHOUSES WITH ALL THOSE WAR WIDOWS AND MAIDEN AUNTS, RODE THOSE BICYCLES ON THOSE DARK AND DUSTY ROADS, SLUMBERED IN THOSE DREARY RAILWAY COACHES, WALKED ACROSS THE PRYENEES, WAITED IN BRITTANY FOR A BOAT TO TAKE THEM ACROSS TO ENGLAND. HOW MANY OF THEM GOT BACK TO FLY AGAIN AND HOW IMPORTANT THAT WAS TO THE SPIRIT AND MORALE OF ALL OUR AIRMEN.

WHAT A WONDERFUL STORY AND HOW WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU HERE TO RELIVE IT AS WE REMINISCE TOGETHER.

REMEMBER THE GREAT PAT O'LEARY, HIS CODE NAME, WHO AS MUCH AS ANYONE STARTED IT ALL. IT'S BEEN ONE OF THE GREAT PRIVILEGES OF MY LIFE TO HAVE BEEN HIS FRIEND FOR 40 YEARS AND TO KEEP IN TOUCH AND VISIT WITH HIS LOVELY WIFE SYLVIA AND THEIR CHILDREN AS PAT BECAME MAJOR GENERAL GUERISE, THE SURGEON GENERAL OF THE BELGIAN ARMY WHO NOW LIVES IN GRACEFUL RETIREMENT NEAR WATERLOO.

AND I REMEMBER DIDEE AND MISCHOU AND THAT WONDERFUL GIRL WHO, WHEN YOU WERE HERE TEN YEARS AGO, CAME ALL THE WAY FROM RUANDA IN DARKEST AFRICA, WHERE SHE HAD NURSED BLACK MEN AND WOMEN FOR ALMOST THREE DECADES. THE DEDICATION AND THE CODE OF HONOR OF YOU AND OTHERS WHO CREATED AND RAN THOSE ESCAPE ROUTES HAS ALWAYS BEEN AN INSPIRATION TO THOSE WHO HAD ANY CONTACT WITH OR ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THIS EPIC STORY. THANKFULLY IT HAS BEEN WELL TOLD BY JAMES LANGLEY, DONALD DARLING, AND AIREY NEAVE, WHO RAN MARGARET THATCHER'S CAMPAIGN FOR PRIME MINISTER AND WAS KILLED SO TRAGICALLY IN LONDON BY A BOMB PLACED BY AN IRISH TERRORIST.

THEN THERE ARE THE MEN WHO CAME BACK TO FIGHT ON AND LIVE ON. IT'S WONDERFUL TO HAVE YOU HERE TODAY. THERE ARE MANY GREAT TALES OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR LIFE AND TIMES WHICH WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN MADE BUT FOR THOSE ESCAPE LINES. I RECALL HOW HAPPY ALL OF US WERE WHEN WE HEARD OF LARGE GROUPS, SCORES AND PERHAPS HUNDREDS, OVERRUN AND LIBERATED IN BRITTANY AND NORMANDY - WASN'T IT SHELBOURNE AND BONAPARTE AND BURGUNDY - OR IS MY MEMORY GETTING DIM.

AMERICANS TODAY ARE LEARNING ABOUT THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION OF ONE OF YOU COMEBACK. THE BIOGRAPHY OF CHUCK YEAGER IS HIGH ON THE LIST OF BESTSELLING BOOKS.

CHUCK IS A LEGEND IN HIS OWN TIME--THE FIRST TEST PILOT TO SMASH THE SOUND BARRIER AND A FIGHTER SQUADRON COMMANDER IN EUROPE, HE FLEW TACTICAL BOMBERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND SUPERVISED MILITARY DEFENSE IN THE PAKISTAN-INDIA WAR. CHUCK WAS SHOT DOWN IN SOUTHERN FRANCE 50 MILES EAST OF BORDEAUX ON MARCH 5, 1944. HE WAS TWENTY-ONE, FULL OF SHRAPNEL PUNCTURES, AND HAD A HOLE IN HIS CALF AND A GASH IN HIS FOREHEAD. HE HID IN THE WOODS UNTIL A WOODCUTTER LED HIM TO AN ENGLISH-SPEAKING FARMER. HE HID IN A SMALL STOREROOM IN THE HAYLOFT FOR A WEEK BEFORE HE WAS LED TO THE MAQUIS, THE FRENCH RESISTANCE FIGHTERS. YEAGER BECAME THE MAQUIS' FUSE MAN. THEY WERE CONSTANTLY ON THE MOVE, HIDING BY DAY, HITTING BRIDGES, TRAINS, AND RAIL LINES BY NIGHT. THE GROUP SPLIT INTO SINGLES AND PAIRS NEAR LOURDES TO ATTEMPT THE DANGEROUS CROSSING OF THE PYRENEES INTO SPAIN-- 11,000 FEET UP AND SHEER ICE. YEAGER LIVED TO TELL ABOUT IT. HE MADE IT TO A SPANISH VILLAGE WHERE AN AMERICAN CONSUL FOUND HIM ON MARCH 30, 1944.

FORTY YEARS AGO, YOU ALL PLAYED GALLANT ROLES IN WINNING A WAR THAT HAD TO BE WON. YOU HELPED STOP NAZISM DEAD IN ITS TRACKS AT A TIME WHEN TOTALITARIANISM WAS TRYING TO FLEX ITS MUSCLES OVER THE WESTERN WORLD.

TODAY, THE WEST IS AGAIN AT WAR WITH TOTALITARIANISM, THIS TIME IN THE FORM OF MARXIST-LENINISM AND THE SOVIET EMPIRE. THIS WAR IS ONE OF AGGRESSIVE SUBVERSION AND SUPPORT FOR TERRORISM AND INSTABILITY, AND ITS BATTLEFIELDS ARE IN THE THIRD WORLD, WHICH MOSCOW VIEWS AS THE WEST'S ACHILLES HEEL. IN PLACES LIKE AFGHANISTAN, CAMBODIA, ETHIOPIA, NICARAGUA, SOUTH YEMEN, AND ANGOLA, NEW TOTALITARIANS ARE STRUGGLING TO BRING MILLIONS MORE UNDER THEIR CONTROL. AND FROM THESE NEW OUTPOSTS OF SOVIET POWER THE NEW TOTALITARIANS SEEK TO EXPORT REVOLUTION TO THEIR NEIGHBORS.

THIS WAR IS NOT UNDECLARED. IN 1961, NIKITA KHRUSHCHEV, THEN LEADER OF THE SOVIET UNION, TOLD US THAT COMMUNISM WOULD WIN NOT THROUGH NUCLEAR WAR WHICH COULD DESTROY THE WORLD, OR CONVENTIONAL WAR WHICH COULD QUICKLY LEAD TO NUCLEAR WAR, BUT THROUGH "WARS OF NATIONAL LIBERATION" IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA. WE WERE RELUCTANT TO BELIEVE HIM THEN, JUST AS IN THE 1930s WE WERE RELUCTANT TO TAKE HITLER SERIOUSLY WHEN HE SPELLED OUT, IN HIS BOOK MEIN KAMPE, HOW HE WOULD TAKE OVER EUROPE.

THIS IS ALSO NOT A BLOODLESS WAR. MARXIST-LENINIST POLICIES AND TACTICS HAVE UNLEASHED THE FOUR HORSES OF THE APOCALYPSE--FAMINE, PESTILENCE, WAR AND DEATH. THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD WE SEE FAMINE IN AFRICA, PESTILENCE THROUGH CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL AGENTS IN AFGHANISTAN AND INDO-CHINA,

WAR ON THREE CONTINENTS, AND DEATH EVERYWHERE. EVEN AS I SPEAK, SOME 300,000 SOVIET, VIETNAMESE, AND CUBAN TROOPS ARE CARRYING OUT SAVAGE MILITARY OPERATIONS DIRECTED AT WIPING OUT NATIONAL RESISTANCE IN AFGHANISTAN, KAMPUCHEA, ANGOLA, ETHIOPIA, AND SEVERAL OTHER COUNTRIES.

WHAT DO WE SEE IN THE OCCUPIED COUNTRIES--AFGHANISTAN, CAMBODIA, ETHIOPIA, ANGOLA, NICARAGUA--IN WHICH MARXIST REGIMES HAVE BEEN EITHER IMPOSED OR MAINTAINED BY EXTERNAL FORCES? IN THE AGGREGATE THERE HAS OCCURRED A HOLOCAUST COMPARABLE TO THAT WHICH NAZI GERMANY INFLICTED IN EUROPE SOME 40 YEARS AGO. OVER FOUR MILLION AFGHANS, MORE THAN ONE-QUARTER OF THE POPULATION, HAVE HAD TO FLEE THEIR COUNTRY INTO PAKISTAN AND IRAN. THE HELSINKI WATCH TELLS US THAT THEY HAVE FLED BECAUSE "THE CRIMES OF INDISCRIMINATE WARFARE ARE COMBINED WITH THE WORST EXCESSES OF UNBRIDLED STATE-SANCTIONED VIOLENCE AGAINST CIVILIANS." IT CITES EVIDENCE OF "CIVILIANS BURNED ALIVE, DYNAMITED, BEHEADED; CRUSHED BY SOVIET TANKS; GRENADES THROWN INTO ROOMS WHERE WOMEN AND CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TOLD TO WAIT..." TENS OF THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM THEIR PARENTS AND SENT OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY FOR REEDUCATION.

IN CAMBODIA, 2-3 MILLION PEOPLE, SOMETHING LIKE ONE-QUARTER OF THE PRE-WAR POPULATION, HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE MOST VIOLENT AND BRUTAL MANNER BY BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL MARXIST FORCES.

IN NICARAGUA, THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT KILLED OUTRIGHT A MINIMUM OF 1,000 FORMER SOMOZA NATIONAL GUARDSMEN DURING THE SUMMER OF 1979. IN 1982, IT FORCIBLY RELOCATED SOME 15,000 MISKITO INDIANS TO DETENTION CAMPS, FORCED MANY MORE TO FLEE TO REFUGEE CAMPS IN HONDURAS, AND BURNED SOME 40 INDIAN VILLAGES. LAST YEAR, THE SANDINISTAS FORCIBLY MOVED 60,000 CAMPESINOS FROM AREAS CLOSE TO THE HONDURAN REGIONS, BURNING THEIR HOUSES AND KILLING THEIR CATTLE.

ANGOLA IS AN ECONOMIC BASKET CASE AS A MARXIST GOVERNMENT IS KEPT IN POWER BY THE PRESENCE OF 30,000 CUBAN TROOPS. IN ALL THESE COUNTRIES THE INDIGENOUS ARMY FORMED BY THE MARXIST GOVERNMENT SUFFERS LARGE AND CONTINUING DESERTIONS TO THE RESISTANCE AND IS ALMOST ENTIRELY INEFFECTIVE.

IN ETHIOPIA, A MARXIST MILITARY GOVERNMENT IS SUPPORTED WITH EXTENSIVE MILITARY SUPPORT FROM MOSCOW AND THOUSANDS OF CUBAN TROOPS AS IT SPENDS ITSELF INTO BANKRUPTCY TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO EXTINGUISH OPPOSITION IN ITS NORTHERN PROVINCES. TO DO THIS, IT HAS EXACERBATED A FAMINE WHICH THREATENS THE LIVES OF MILLIONS OF ITS CITIZENS AND BLOCKS EMERGENCY FOOD DELIVERIES TO THE HUNGRY REMOTE AREAS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN PROVINCES WHERE INSURGENCIES ARE ACTIVE.

CUBA, VIETNAM, ETHIOPIA, ANGOLA, AND NICARAGUA, ALL ECONOMIC BASKET CASES, RECEIVE IN THE AGGREGATE FIVE TO SIX BILLION DOLLARS IN MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID FROM THE SOVIET UNION. THIS ENABLES VIETNAM TO MAINTAIN THE FOURTH LARGEST ARMY IN THE WORLD, ETHIOPIA THE LARGEST ARMY IN AFRICA, CUBA THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL MILITARY APPARATUS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE, NICARAGUA A MILITARY FORCE LARGER THAN ALL ITS CENTRAL AMERICAN NEIGHBORS PUT TOGETHER. THERE ARE OVER 100,000 SOVIET TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN, 170,000 VIETNAMESE TROOPS IN CAMBODIA, 40,000 CUBAN TROOPS IN AFRICA.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF ALL THIS CARNAGE, THIS CREEPING IMPERIALISM? IN MY VIEW, THERE ARE TWO PRIMARY TARGETS--THE OIL FIELDS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH ARE THE LIFE LINE OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE, AND THE ISTHMUS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA. AFGHANISTAN, SOUTH YEMEN, ETHIOPIA, AS WELL AS CAM RANH BAY IN VIETNAM, AND MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, BRING SOVIET POWER MUCH CLOSER TO THE SOURCES OF OIL AND MINERALS ON WHICH THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS DEPEND AND PUTS SOVIET NAVAL AND AIR POWER ASTRIDE THE SEA LANES WHICH CARRY THOSE RESOURCES TO AMERICA, EUROPE AND JAPAN.

CAPABILITIES TO THREATEN THE PANAMA CANAL IN THE SHORT TERM AND MEXICO IN A SOMEWHAT LONGER TERM ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN NICARAGUA WHERE THE SANDINISTA REVOLUTION IS THE FIRST SUCCESSFUL CASTROITE SEIZURE OF POWER ON THE AMERICAN MAINLAND.

THEY HAVE WORKED QUIETLY AND STEADILY TOWARD THEIR OBJECTIVES OF BUILDING THE POWER OF THE STATE SECURITY APPARATUS, BUILDING THE STRONGEST ARMED FORCES IN CENTRAL AMERICA, AND BECOMING A CENTER FOR EXPORTING SUBVERSION TO NICARAGUA'S NEIGHBORS.

LET ME REVIEW QUICKLY WHAT HAS ALREADY HAPPENED IN NICARAGUA. IT WILL BE FAMILIAR TO YOU - NAZI-OCCUPIED EUROPE. OF 46 INDICATORS IDENTIFIED BY OUR ANALYSTS IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF POWER BY MARXIST-LENINISTS, NICARAGUA IN FIVE AND ONE-HALF YEARS HAS ACCOMPLISHED 33. THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED CONTROL OF THE MEDIA, TAKEN OVER RADIO AND TV, CENSORED THE BROADCASTS OF SUNDAY SERMONS OF THE ARCHBISHOP OF MANAGUA, AND SUBJECTED THE ONLY FREE NEWSPAPER, LA PRENSA, TO A BRUTAL DAILY CENSORSHIP. THEY HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM. NICARAGUAN TEXTBOOKS NOW TEACH MARXISM. THEY ATTACK THE TENETS OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY. THEY ATTACK TRADITIONAL RELIGIOUS TEACHINGS AND ENCOURAGE CHILDREN TO MAINTAIN REVOLUTIONARY VIGILANCE BY WATCHING FOR SIGNS OF IDEOLOGICAL IMPURITIES IN THEIR NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS AND RELATIVES. THE SANDINISTAS HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE MILITARY. THEY HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE INTERNAL SECRET POLICE AND HAVE ESTABLISHED A DIRECTORATE OF STATE SECURITY. THAT DIRECTORATE, ACCORDING TO OUR REPORTS, HAS HUNDREDS OF CUBAN, SOVIET, EAST GERMAN AND BULGARIAN ADVISORS. THERE ARE SOVIET ADVISORS AT EVERY LEVEL OF THE SECRET POLICE. IN FACT, IT IS SAFE TO SAY THAT IT IS CONTROLLED BY THE SOVIET UNION AND ITS SURROGATES. BLOCK COMMITTEES HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED TO

WATCH AND CONTROL THE PEOPLE. THE CHURCH HAS BEEN PERSECUTED. WITNESS THE CAMPAIGN MOUNTED BY THE DIRECTORATE OF STATE SECURITY TO HARASS AND EMBARRASS POPE JOHN PAUL II DURING HIS 1983 VISIT TO NICARAGUA. THEY HAVE USED POLITICAL MOBS (SIMILAR TO THE RED GUARDS OF SOVIET AND CHINESE REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY) TO ATTACK DEMOCRATIC POLITICIANS, UNION MEMBERS AND RELIGIOUS LEADERS. AND FINALLY, FOLLOWING HITLER AND KHRUSHCHEV, THE SANDINISTAS HAVE TOLD THE WORLD THAT THEY WOULD SPREAD THE EXAMPLE OF NICARAGUA BEYOND EL SALVADOR TO HONDURAS, GUATEMALA, AND THE ENTIRE REGION.

ANOTHER PHENOMENON DOMINATING THE LANDSCAPE IN THE 1930s AND '40s WAS THE TRAGIC PLIGHT OF REFUGEES ESCAPING TOTALITARIANISM. MARXIST-LENINISM PRODUCED ADDITIONAL WAVES OF REFUGEES FROM EASTERN EUROPE IN THE 1940s AND 1950s TO THE MILLIONS FLEEING THE NEW TOTALITARIANS IN MOSCOW'S THIRD WORLD BRIDGEHEADS OVER THE LAST TWO DECADES. IN THE 1960s, THEY WERE LEAVING CASTRO'S CUBA BEHIND. IN THE 1970s, MILLIONS FLED THE COMMUNIST TAKEOVERS IN VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA. WHEN THE SOVIETS INVADED AFGHANISTAN, ONE-QUARTER OF THE POPULATION FLED INTO PAKISTAN. ALREADY HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NICARAGUANS AND SALVADORANS HAVE FLED THEIR COUNTRIES AND HEADED NORTH. CAN ANYONE DOUBT THAT AS SOON AS IT BECOMES APPARENT THAT THE COMMUNISTS ARE ABOUT TO COMPLETE THEIR CONQUEST OF NICARAGUA ANOTHER SIGNAL WILL BE FLASHED AND MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WILL LEAVE CENTRAL AMERICA, AND ULTIMATELY MEXICO, TO CROSS THE BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES.

ILLEGAL MOVEMENT FROM MEXICO HAS INCREASED, WITH SOME 1,000,000 MEXICANS ILLEGALLY ENTERING THIS COUNTRY IN 1983 ALONE. IN 1984, THE BI-PARTISAN COMMISSION ON CENTRAL AMERICA WARNED THAT A COMMUNIST CENTRAL AMERICA WOULD LIKELY BE FOLLOWED BY THE DESTABILIZATION OF MEXICO AND THAT THIS COULD RESULT IN MANY MILLIONS OF ADDITIONAL MEXICANS FLEEING INTO THE U.S. RECENTLY, I SPOKE IN SAN ANTONIO. THE MAYOR SURPRISED ME BY TELLING ME THAT SAN ANTONIO HAS BECOME THE TENTH LARGEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES. I TOLD HIM IF THE SANDINISTAS CONSOLIDATE IN NICARAGUA IT WOULD NOT BE LONG BEFORE SAN ANTONIO BECOMES THE LARGEST CITY IN THE UNITED STATES, AND I BELIEVE THAT. SO THE STAKES IN CENTRAL AMERICA ARE HUGE AND HISTORIC IN THEIR IMPACT.

THE RECURRING REFUGEE PHENOMENON IS AN ELOQUENT INDICTMENT OF THE NATURE AND DIMENSION OF WHAT IS HAPPENING FROM ETHIOPIA TO AFGHANISTAN TO CAMBODIA AND IN OUR OWN HEMISPHERE. IN ADDITION TO THE MILLIONS VOTING WITH THEIR FEET, HOWEVER, MOSCOW'S SURROGATE TOTALITARIANS ARE FACING A NEW PHENOMENON-- THE RISING UP OF HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ORDINARY PEOPLE WHO ARE VOLUNTEERS IN IRREGULAR WARS AGAINST THE SOVIET ARMY OR SOVIET-SUPPORTED REGIMES. WHEREAS IN THE 1960s AND 1970s ANTI-WESTERN CAUSES ATTRACTED RECRUITS THROUGHOUT THE THIRD WORLD, THE 1980s HAVE EMERGED AS THE DECADE OF FREEDOM FIGHTERS RESISTING COMMUNIST REGIMES. TODAY IN A VERY REAL WAY, THE OCCUPYING FORCES ARE BESIEGED MUCH AS THE NAZI ARMY AND PUPPET RULERS WERE BY THE FRENCH, BELGIAN, DUTCH AND NORWEGIAN RESISTANCE IN 1943 AND 1944.
