

**NO ATTACK ON IRAN FOR ANY REASON;
BEWARE CHENEY FALSE FLAG;
IMPEACHMENT URGENT FOR WAR AVOIDANCE**

A Response to “Leading Americans”

We welcome the October 2 statement issued by David Swanson entitled “Leading Americans Ask U.S. Military to Refuse Orders to Attack Iran” (<http://dontattackiran.org>) and signed by a group of well-known personalities, which will generate new action to stop this critical threat to civilization as we have known it. At the same time, we regret that this new statement neither adequately conveys the depth of the strategic crisis, as seen through the events of the last five weeks, nor indicates the necessary scale of political mobilization on the part of anti-war forces. Recent events, above all the case of the rogue B-52, establish beyond any doubt that the grave threat to humanity identified in the August 26 Kennebunkport Warning was and continues to be real. The massive evidence of this danger which existed at the end of August has become still more massive over the past five weeks, and we are glad that these signers have seen their way clear to launch this initiative.

At the end of August and the beginning of September, we came very close to a US nuclear sneak attack on Iran. Just a few days after the Kennebunkport Warning (<http://actindependent.org>) was issued, on August 30, a rogue B-52 flew across the United States carrying six nuclear armed cruise missiles from Minot, North Dakota to Barksdale, Louisiana. According to many analysts, these weapons were destined to be used in a nuclear sneak attack on Iran, which may have been planned for September 6, the day that Israel launched its own sneak air attack into Syria and perhaps also Iran. (Even more heinous uses of these cruise missiles here inside the United States can also not be excluded, given the insistence of the Cheney Doctrine on a terrorist act in the US to be blamed on Iran as the immediate pretext for the Iran war (as Zbigniew Brzezinski told the Senate Foreign relations Committee on Feb. 1, 2007). Many sources (see Wayne Madsen Report, September 24) agree that the transfer of these nuclear weapons to Iran was blocked by US Air Force personnel, backed up by anti-Cheney factions in the intelligence community, who refused to obey an illegal order, just as the Kennebunkport Warning had urged on August 26. It is also important to note that some half dozen personnel linked to the Minot and Barksdale air bases have died under mysterious circumstances since July, raising the sorts of questions that make a large-scale Congressional investigation of this entire incident absolutely imperative. It is odd that the new statement, while urging the military to disobey illegal orders, offers no support or recognition to those courageous persons who appear to have already done just that; it is more than odd that this incident, which was extensively reported in a cover-up published on the front page of the Washington Post of Sunday, September 23, is not mentioned at all in the new statement.

Unfortunately, the “Leading Americans” document comes too late to influence the B-52 incident itself. We would urge the “Leading Americans” signers to take note of the fact that loyal USAF personnel stopped the rogue B-52 from being used for high treason, and to demand that an investigation be started immediately.

We would also urge the signers to add the decisive question of a false flag event, be it a new 9/11 and/or a new Gulf of Tonkin provocation, to their statement. This is the heart of the Kennebunkport Warning. This is not mentioned in the “Leading Americans” statement. Is this not one of the scenarios that we must ask loyal and patriotic service people to prevent? We must inoculate the American public against such a scenario that would be a pretext to those who support an attack on Iran. As Steve Clemons of the New America Foundation recently wrote in *salon.com*, it is unlikely that a sneak attack on Iran could get through the normal channels of the US national security interagency process. The realization of Cheney’s war plan depends upon an outside manufactured event, along the lines of 9/11, which could be used to engineer the typical neocon end run around the standard operating procedures and launch the wider war. As Clemons wrote:

We should also worry about the kind of scenario David Wurmser floated, meaning an engineered provocation. An "accidental war" would escalate quickly and "end run," as Wurmser put it, the President's diplomatic, intelligence and military decision-making apparatus. [...] That kind of war is much more probable and very much worth worrying about.

The failure to identify this critical feature of the false flag, even in the wake of the rogue B-52 incident and Israeli attack on Syria, is a key difference between the new statement and the Kennebunkport Warning.

The new statement constantly narrows its subject matter to “any preemptive U.S. attack on Iran,” which seems to suggest that there might be some other kind of attack on Iran that would be more acceptable, and to which this statement might not apply. Bush (in his “nuclear holocaust” speech of August 28), Cheney, Petraeus, Odierno, Mrs. Clinton, and the usual suspects are already busy arguing that the looming US attack on Iran will not be preventive, but a retaliation against alleged Iranian arms shipments into Iraq, training of Iraqi resistance fighters, etc. According to Congressman Kucinich, the top leadership of the Democratic Party has already “sanctioned an attack on Iran”. In opposition to this prevarication, it is important to stress that ANY AND ALL ATTACKS ON IRAN ARE UNJUSTIFIED AND ILLEGAL. An attack on Iran would also represent national suicide for the United States and Israel, a slide into a third world war in which the US would be not only the aggressor, but also a sure loser. There must in short be no US attack, or Israeli, on Iran, Syria, Pakistan, Lebanon, Sudan, or any other country under any pretext whatsoever.

This is exactly why discussion of false flag is critical herein; if the Administration manufactures another false flag attack to be blamed on Iran, as a pretext for war, many

Americans and troops will not view the attack as “preemptive.” We could be duped again, through fear and propaganda, into seeing it as justified, unless educated otherwise. As the peace movement has taught since Vietnam: “If we do not learn from history we are bound to repeat it.” People need to confront official story of 9/11 by telling the truth to the masses in the peace movement and beyond, where saying no to another false flag attack is the moral imperative. Bush and Cheney have been playing the 9/11 trump card too long.

Finally, the Kennebunkport Warning called for the immediate impeachment of the Cheney faction as an urgent measure of war avoidance to keep Cheney’s finger away from the nuclear button, just as Secretary of Defense James Rodney Schlesinger did in regard to Nixon during the final weeks of Watergate in 1974. This is something that everyone can and should work for. At the actindependent.org website, where the Kennebunkport Warning is posted, dedicated activists who really want to stop World War III are urged to declare their candidacies for the US House and Senate immediately, as one of the only means of getting the attention of the two corrupt and bankrupt political parties, thus contributing to a people’s candidates movement that will eventually be able to go beyond appeals to incumbents to contest the issue of political power in this country.

We agree with the new statement’s stress on the idea that illegal orders must be countermanded. At the same time, the new statement does much to chill the actions it urges by a narrowly legalistic exposition of the possible negative consequences. This section envisions individual, isolated military people confronting the massive repressive apparatus. Instead, the anti-war and impeachment movements must assure loyal and patriotic military who refuse illegal orders that they will not be on their own, but that there will be a mass political mobilization to back them up. The civilian movement, in other words, must support the troops. The new statement, from this point of view, offers an uncertain trumpet. Only by going beyond such negativity and fear can a strong movement be created.

We submit that loyal military personnel who take such actions deserve the full support of a growing political movement which aims at impeaching and removing the current regime from office, and bringing them to justice for their crimes, including war crimes and the misprision of treason around 9/11. The Kennebunkport Warning puts the burden of impeachment on the Congress, where it belongs. Military people who refuse to act as pawns of Bush and Cheney are pledged the support of a civilian political movement.

The new statement appears to let the Congress and the two corrupt political parties off the hook, while shifting the entire burden of resistance to individual military people. The military do have a special role in this, but is the civilian political movement of candidates which has to give them cover, and not the other way around.

We urge the sponsors of the new statement to increase the effectiveness of their

intervention and broaden its mass appeal by including these points in their text, to which they are offered in the spirit of friendly amendments.

Oct 5, 2007 **Antiwar Coalition for Truth Independent ACTINDEPENDENT.ORG**

Leading Americans Ask U.S. Military to Refuse Orders to Attack Iran

ATTENTION: Joint Chiefs of Staff and all U.S. Military Personnel:

Do not attack Iran.

Any preemptive U.S. attack on Iran would be illegal.

Any preemptive U.S. attack on Iran would be criminal.

We, the citizens of the United States, respectfully urge you, courageous men and women of our military, to refuse any order to preemptively attack Iran, a nation that represents no serious or immediate threat to the United States. To attack Iran, a sovereign nation of 70-million people, would be a crime of the highest magnitude.

Legal basis for our Request – Do not attack Iran:

The Nuremberg Principles, which are part of US law, provide that all military personnel have the obligation not to obey illegal orders. The Army Field Manual 27-10, sec. 609 and UCMJ, art. 92, incorporate this principle. Article 92 says: "A general order or regulation is lawful unless it is contrary to the Constitution, the law of the United States ..."

Any provision of an international treaty ratified by the United States becomes the law of the United States. The United States is a party and signatory to the United Nations Charter, of which Article II, Section 4 states, "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state..." As Iran has not attacked the United States, and as the U.S. is a party and signatory to the Charter, any attack on Iran by the U.S. would be illegal under not only international law but under the U.S. Constitution which recognizes our treaties as the Supreme Law of the Land. When you joined the military, you took an oath to defend our Constitution.

Following the orders of your government or superior does not relieve you from responsibility under international law. Under the Principles of International Law recognized in the Charter of the Nuremberg Tribunal, complicity in the commission of war crime is a crime under international law.

Background:

The Bush Administration's charges against Iran have not been proven. Neither the development of nuclear weapons, nor providing assistance to Iraq would, if proven, constitute justification for an illegal war.

An attack on Iran might prompt the formidable Iranian military to attack U.S. troops stationed in Iraq. Thousands of our soldiers might be killed or captured as prisoners of war. A U.S. attack against Iranian nuclear facilities could also mean the deaths, from radiation poisoning, of tens of thousands of innocent Iranian civilians. The people of Iran have little control over their government, yet would suffer tremendously should the U.S. attack. Bombing raids would amount to collective punishment, a violation of the Geneva Convention, and would surely sow the seeds of hatred for generations to come. Children make up a quarter of Iran's population.

Above all, we ask you to look at the record of our actions in Iraq, which U.S. intelligence admits is “a cause celebre for jihadists” – a situation that did not exist before we attacked. We must face the fact that our rash use of military solutions has created more enemies, and made American families less safe. Diplomacy, not war, is the answer.

Know the Risks Involved in Refusing an Illegal Order or Signing This Statement:

We knowingly and willingly make this plea, aware of the risk that, in violation of our First Amendment rights, we could be charged under remaining sections of the unconstitutional Espionage Act or other unconstitutional statute, and that we could be fined, imprisoned, or barred from government employment.

We make this plea, also aware that you have no easy options. If you obey an illegal order to participate in an aggressive attack on Iran, you could potentially be charged with war crimes. If you heed our call and disobey an illegal order you could be falsely charged with crimes including treason. You could be falsely court martialed. You could be imprisoned. (To talk to a lawyer or to learn more about possible consequences, contact [The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors](#), [Courage to Resist](#), [Center on Conscience and War](#), [Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild](#) 415-566-3732, or the GI Rights Hotline at 877-447-4487.) **

Final request:

Our leaders often say that military force should be a last resort. We beg you to make that policy a reality, and refuse illegal orders to attack Iran. We promise to support you for protecting the American public and innocent civilians abroad.

Our future, the future of our children and their children, rests in your hands.

You know the horrors of war. You can stop the next one.

THE KENNEBUNKPORT WARNING

To the American people, and to peace loving individuals everywhere:

Massive evidence has come to our attention which shows that the backers, controllers, and allies of Vice President Dick Cheney are determined to orchestrate and manufacture a new 9/11 terror incident, and/or a new Gulf of Tonkin war provocation over the coming

weeks and months. Such events would be used by the Bush administration as a pretext for launching an aggressive war against Iran, quite possibly with nuclear weapons, and for imposing a regime of martial law here in the United States. We call on the House of Representatives to proceed immediately to the impeachment of Cheney, as an urgent measure for avoiding a wider and more catastrophic war. Once impeachment has begun, it will be easier for loyal and patriotic military officers to refuse illegal orders coming from the Cheney faction. We solemnly warn the people of the world that any terrorist attack with weapons of mass destruction taking place inside the United States or elsewhere in the immediate future must be considered the *prima facie* responsibility of the Cheney faction. We urge responsible political leaders everywhere to begin at once to inoculate the public opinion of their countries against such a threatened false flag terror operation.

(Signed) A Group of US Opposition Political Leaders Gathered in Protest at the Bush Compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, August 24-25, 2007