

The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

As a young girl and, then, as a young woman – which is not to suggest that I am an old woman, today – the most important things in life were sport, passing my examinations in school, wondering how I would look when my body was fully grown, and whether or not my prince for life would be muscular or skinny, have blonde hair or black hair. Looking back at those days, they were good times, compared with the multitude of problems, which I face, daily: Grey hairs on my head, popping up like mushrooms, pushing through the soil; my fatter tummy, ever enlarging with every piece of chocolate that I eat; grandpa's tantrums when his dinner is not ready on time; whether or not my children and grandchildren will remember my birthday; which dress I should wear on one occasion or another, etc, etc, etc. Today, looking at the international situation, there is a parallel to be drawn between my petty little considerations of yesteryear and those petty considerations of today, and the world's problems of only three decades ago and those of today. As you know, I maintain that World War III has, already, begun, but the leaders of the great powers of the world have failed to realise this or, alternatively, they do not want to perturb the uninformed masses, unnecessarily, at this early stage in the war. However, one notes that conscription is compulsory in some countries and is an urgent consideration in many nations of the world. Such statutory requirements on the flower of the youth of nations are only required in times of strife, not in times of peace, you know. As everybody must realise, today, the war on terrorism, initiated by the United States of America, has gravitated from just finding and eliminating the killers, involved in the attacks on the United States of America on September 11, 2001, to countering the destructive propaganda of the Middle East, aimed directly at the United States and her allies in the West, and, specifically, the dogmatic teachings of Islam, as propounded (or distorted) by some radicals of that wonderful religion. I say, 'wonderful religion', because the teachings of the Q'ran are as good as the teachings of the New Testament (King James version), and the First Five Books of Moses (The Old Testament). To date, it would appear that the Middle East is winning the war, sadly, although, according to President George W. Bush, the United States is making very useful headway in the war on terror. (Please tell that to the mothers in Iraq, who have lost their sons, daughters and husbands in the past week or so) Such twaddle! Clearly, the West had no idea as to the consequences of many of its well-meaning acts of 2001. Today, the West is suffering from its innocence and ignorance. You see, My Dear Grandchild, even well-meaning acts can lead to disasters (), somewhere around that bend in the road. Sectarian violence has exploded, recently, in Iraq, where the military forces of many countries are trying desperately to bring peace to this 'liberated' country. It matters little who or what started the latest fracas, but it does matter that it be brought under control in a hurry because hundreds of innocent people are being killed on a daily basis, in addition to American soldiers and British soldiers.

And, then, there is the matter of the other tinderboxes of the Middle East. It seems obvious that, in the near future, there will be more problems between the Palestinians of the West Bank and the Israelis, with, no doubt, Hamas, the ruling political party of the Palestinians, ordering attacks on Israeli cities and Israeli civilians since the mandate of Hamas includes the destruction of the Jewish State. Ironically, Hamas,

acknowledged internationally as a terrorist organisation, was voted into power by the Palestinians, themselves, in a very democratic manner. Hamas has long been seeking to create a single, Islamic state in historic Palestine, which is now largely divided between Israel and the West Bank and The Gaza Strip. Hamas, meaning 'zeal' or 'fervor' in Arabic, is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya, or Islamic Resistance Movement. The group was founded in 1987 as a militant wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, a regional organisation, which advocates an Islamic-based government. Because of its terrorist activities, Hamas has been banned by Israel since 1989, and it continues to be banned, today. I suppose, sadly, the United States will become involved in this festering political sore of the Middle East, also. Then, there is the greatest threat to the entire free world: The Islamic Republic of Iran. I shall not bore you with the facts about this country because I have written to you about those matters before, but one should bear in mind that the country is governed by radicals, who, unlike North Korea, cannot be bought off. Iran is determined to obtain the necessary technology, enabling it to build nuclear armaments. This is my reading of the situation in spite of protestations to the contrary by the leaders of Iran, who claim that the country only wants atomic power for peaceful purposes. Without question, the West is not going to allow Iran to have 'the bomb' and, if the United Nations has not the courage to take a definitive stand on this issue, I am certain that President George W. Bush will seek the approval of the US Congress to launch an attack on Iran in a similar manner as he addressed Congress with his plans to invade (labelled as 'liberation') Iraq, which began on March 20, 2003. In the case of the attack on Iraq, the people of the United States were hoodwinked into believing that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. In the case of Iran, however, the government, itself, has stated that it wants to have the ability to enrich uranium, which is Step One in the creation of nuclear technology, which can be used for the creation of weapons of mass destruction. One must not discount, also, the potential threat from North Korea even though, of late, little has been heard from this reclusive country, which has among the largest armies in the world and whose government is headed by the sixty four year old Kim Jong Il, who is known to be bordering on being gaga. Hamas, Iran, North Korea, the international terrorist organisation, al-Qaeda, founded and organised by Osama bin Laden, are but some of the major threats that the world is facing, today. What should be very worrying to the West is that, with the exception of North Korea, it is probable that Hamas, Iran and Osama bin Laden and his followers at al-Qaeda will ferment hatred against the West and its allies in the Middle East, all in the name of Allah. They are quite likely to join forces and, then

Oh, take me back to the time when childlike considerations were the only true and important considerations!

Talk to you next week.

Chief Lady

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