

MILITARISM AND THE UNITED STATES

“We should not be surprised by the apparent re-trenching of Obama’s position on Iraq,” said Dr. Steven Porter, independent candidate for Congress in the third district of Pennsylvania, “and on this July 4th, the 232nd birthday of our country, it is well to talk about it.

“Militarism has become a way of life for America. There are trillions of dollars involved for the military/industrial complex of which we were warned by President Eisenhower, and neither of the two presumptive candidates for President is immune. For McCain a continuing and increasing military presence in the world is axiomatic. For Obama it is a bit more hidden, but there, nonetheless. He is already on record to increase the U.S. military by 90,000 at a budget of at least \$15 billion beyond the current one.

“America has embarked on a global policy of military domination. We have more than 1,000 bases around the world. We have a military presence in 63 nations. We spend more than all other nations in the world combined on militarism. And we wonder why we are feared.

“Much of our military posture is to dominate the world’s resources. Oil, of course, is the chief one, but increasingly water is becoming a scarce commodity, as well. We have divided the regions of the world into military zones (USNORTHCOM, US SOUTHCOM, USEUCOM, USCENTCOM, and USPACOM), and we have located our bases so as to cover each zone militarily. We currently have about 1.4 million military personnel, of which about 1.1 are the U.S. And this does not count the outsourcing of former military duties to companies like Halliburton or Blackwater.

“The war lobby is heavily invested in Congress, and there will be no way in the foreseeable future for any President or any U.S. foreign policy to reduce our militarism. And we have seen all this before. In the Vietnam era, when Johnson ran against Goldwater, Goldwater (like McCain) was quite blatant in his militarism. Johnson (whose campaign slogan was ‘We seek no wider war’) was, like Obama, a militarist in secret. Once President, the war escalated geometrically.

“It will not serve the U.S. in the long run to continue a militaristic hegemony. Eventually, those dominated by it will rise up against us, and we will find ourselves both outnumbered and alone. **True globalization requires cooperation and not domination.**”

(See <http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=5564>, review article: The worldwide Network of US Military Bases and <http://www.democracynow.org> article of Feb. 28, 2008 on Obama and Clinton interviews regarding military positions.)