

An Attack Against Us All

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“An Attack Against One is an Attack Against All.” Thus reads Article 5 of the The North Atlantic Treaty which has tied Canada, the United States, and our European allies together in an alliance for peace since 1949. Today’s attack against America is an attack against us all. We must not forget that the United States is Canada’s closest ally and trading partner, that our relationship is a close one. We stood shoulder to shoulder with them against fascist and communist totalitarianism during the Second and Cold wars. We assisted the Americans in the aftermath of the devastating Hurricane Andrew and they helped the citizens of Ontario and Quebec get back on their feet after the Ice Storm of 1998. Despite our differences, we have common interests, a common language, common heritage and a common culture-as emblazoned on the Peace Arch, “We are children of a common mother.” America’s friends must stand up and do what it takes to bring to justice, even summary and pre-emptive justice, those implicated in this attack.

The enemy we face together is anti-modern medieval religious fanaticism. The faceless enemy which struck today at the sinews of our society with such cunning precision has threatened the foundations of everything we have accomplished in the past 200 years: the free movements of goods, peoples,

ideas, and confidence. One has to ask, what is to be gained by such an attack? Nihilism? Martyrdom? But what god would welcome such 'martyrs'?

What is lost by such an attack? Our enemy has struck at the nerve center of international trade, the foundations of our continuing prosperity, the trust in our international communications and travel, and our willingness to openly embrace diverse cultures. In the space of less than two hours, the casualty level has exceeded geometrically that of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, and may exceed total US losses in the long, drawn out war in Vietnam.

In Canada, we get annoyed with the Americans throwing their weight around globally and surely some people today are secretly delighted that the Americans got a bloody nose. Too many analysts of international affairs and those within the soft-line intelligentsia scoff at the scenarios postulated in the fiction of Dale Brown and Tom Clancy or by the intelligence community, casually dismissing such things as pulp fiction for those armchair warriors with too much testosterone on board. Tragically, those of us who analyse homeland defence issues, have warned about the possibility of such actions, and have advocated increased vigilance were today proven correct.

Those who think Canada is somehow removed from these tragic events should re-examine the realities of the situation. We had better pray that the perpetrators did not stage through our country on their way to murder our American friends and brothers. Today the border is closed and may never be re-opened with the ease of access we took for granted for so many years, particularly during the darkest years of the Twentieth Century.

There is no more time for Canadian equivocation, particularly in matters of continental defence and security. These include matters of immigration and border control. We cannot remain a porous conduit for those seeking to violently dismantle our civilization. Canada should not equivocate over whatever actions the United States deems necessary to respond to these heinous and cowardly acts. Our differences are minor in the broad scheme of

things and our shared interests are far greater, as is our shared fate. It is inevitable that the savage mass murder committed against the American people today will be compared with the events of 7 December 1941 at Pearl Harbor. We may be shocked at the unsheathing of America's terrible swift sword of retribution. America may regain her sense of proportion, but the time to question it is not now.

As Canadians, we must not only extend our condolences and voice our remorse, but offer every assistance possible in bringing to justice the perpetrators of this crime against us all. It is our self-evident national duty.