A SCIENTIFIC SOLUTION TO TERRORISM AND CONFLICT

An open letter to President Hollande, President Obama, President Putin, the leaders of all nations, and the philanthropic peace-loving citizens of the world

Tenders: the leaders of Europe, Russia, and the U.S. have been struggling to find appropriate and effective responses to the terrorist attacks in France—and to the ongoing conflicts in Syria and elsewhere.

Unfortunately, the options available to our military and political leaders to resolve these crises are poor. Economic sanctions and diplomatic pressure are in- effective, and the use of force is viewed with a reluctance towards military solutions. And military responses can further aggravate and inflame an already volatile situation, leading to retaliation and further terrorist action.

Fortunately, there is a better solution—an innovative, peaceful, proven approach with a superior track record.

Defusing Conflict at Its Source

Research shows that war and social conflict are fueled by acute social stress—resenting political, ethnic, and religious tensions among rival factions that, if un- checked, inevitably erupt as social violence. Research also suggests that it is possible to effectively defuse such acute social tensions through the use of powerful, stress-reducing, peace-promoting technologies by a small fraction of the population, currently within the military or in schools or universities.

On the individual level, published research has shown that certain powerful stress-reducing methods can neutralize even severe stress, including post-traumatic stress (PTS), within days—calming hyperactivity in the amygdala (“fear center”) of the brain and restoring balanced brain functioning in servicemen and -women, veterans, and victims of violence in war zones.

On a societal scale, the approach of restoring calm and quelling social violence through the use of similar technologies has been successfully applied in the Army (2014) and throughout the world. The common result has been marked reductions in terrorism, war, and social violence in the affected populations. These findings have been replicated in more than 50 studies, published in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals, and endorsed by hundreds of leading scientists and scholars. The efficacy of this approach is scientifically beyond question.

Achiving societal peace in a nation or a region torn by deep-seated political and religious tensions is historically difficult—especially given the underlying social stress and pervasive societal violence. Without addressing the buildups of acute societal stress, standard approaches are unlikely to succeed. However, once these tensions have been substantially de- fused, achieving and maintaining societal peace becomes comparatively easy.

Extensive published research on prior conflicts in the Middle East shows that the conflict can be swiftly defused, and a negotiated settlement quickly reached—if the acute societal tensions have been alleviated. This conclusion can be achieved with the cooperation of even a small group within the Middle East, or any other area of conflict.

Research Confirms Effectiveness

The initial experimental verification of this new approach took place during the 1992 Lebanon war. A day-by-day study of an embedded group of peace- creating experts in 1983 showed that, on days when the number of participants was high, war deaths dropped by 79% (p < .01). In addition, crime, traffic accidents, fires, and other indicators of social stress all decreased significantly. Other possible causes were statistically controlled for in Journal of Conflict Resolution 32: 776–812, 1988.

These results were subsequently replicated in several large-scale experiments over a two-year period during the peak of the Lebanon war. The results of these interventions included:

- war-related deaths decreased by 75% (p < .05)
- war-related injuries fell by 68% (p < .05)
- the level of conflict dropped by 48% (p < .01)
- the prevalence of aggressive symptoms increased by 66% (p < .05)

The likelihood that these combined results were due to chance is less than one part in 105, making this finding of reducing societal stress and conflict the most convincingly established phenomenon in the human sciences (social sciences of Social Behavior and Personality 170: 285–358, 2005).

In addition, the global influence on terrorism of three large assemblies of peace-creating experts (USA, 1984–85; Netherlands, 1984–85; USA, 1985) was studied retroactively through an analysis of data compiled by the Rand Corporation. The data revealed a 72% reduction in worldwide terrorism during the three assemblies taken together, as compared to all other weeks during a two-year period. Each assembly for peace-creating experts occurred in the course of an already very violent period, old 8,000 predicted to create a global influence of peace. The study ruled out the possibility that this reduc- tion in terrorism was due to cycles, trends, or shifts in the myriad other violent events.

Global Application

Now that a scientifically confirmed solution to re- gional and global conflict is available, it should be implemented immediately—ideally by establishing one permanent group of 16,000 peace-creating professionals to create a sufficiently powerful influence of coherence to neutralize the buildups of societal stress on a global scale. The cost to train and maintain such a group is infinitesimal compared to the cost of war. The Syrian conflict alone is costing countries an estimated $880 billion per year or $3.6 billion per year.

In contrast, the cost of maintaining a group of 16,000 peace-creating professionals is less than that of a sin- gle stealth bomber.

The Global Union of Scientists for Peace (GUSP) stands ready to provide the requisite training in the relevant brain-based, peace-promoting technologies to designated members of the military, to students in large universities, or to employees at a single company in any conflict-terrific country or region. The techniques, which include the Transcendental Med- itation technique and related advanced programs, are systematic, easily learned, devoid of religion or phi- losophical content, and immediately effective. They are already being used to control PTS by a growing number of military personnel and have been incorporated into military training—and are already widely used in schools and businesses around the world.

World’s Wealthy Invited to Lead

If governments are slow to implement these scientific solutions, then we invite the wealthy to take responsi- bility for doing so.

The wealthy have a paternal responsibility: they are not subject to the whims and pressures of electoral politics, yet have the resources and capacity to safe- guard and nourish the whole world.

Now is the time to establish an Endowment Fund for Permanent World Peace in response to the ur- gent global demand. The income from this Fund will help fulfill the purpose of the training and maintaining of a permanent force of 16,000 peace-creating professionals to neutralize societal stresses and thereby creates a universal and demonstrable influence of harmony, peace, and positivity for the entire world.

We invite all peace-loving, well-to-do citizens to collectively—or even single-handedly—endow this Fund and create permanent world peace on a prac- tical and demonstrable scale, for their own good and for the good of all.

Nothing to Lose

The prospect of ending tragic violence around the world in an expeditious way through a scientific- ally proven approach may seem too good to be true. Furthermore, our scientific method has strict empir- ical criteria for assessing the truth or falsehood of any hypothesis. By the strictest standards of modern science, this approach has been rigorously verified.

There is nothing to lose and potentially much to gain by applying this approach. The costs are neg- ligible: for less than the cost of a military force, enough troops or policemen can be trained—or weary workers, civil servants, or students at one or more universities—that a marked and demonstrable effect of peace will be seen immediately.

To address the immediate crisis in Europe, all that is needed is that a government or military leader of any European country designate an appropriate- ly sized group of participants (approximately the square root of 1% of the national population—800 people for France, for example) who could be trained in the relevant, brain-based, peace-promoting tech- nologies. Then GUSP will organize to provide the necessary training.

Once implemented, the results will be:

- a demonstrable, marked reduction in terrorism and social violence within 60 days
- growth of harmonious relations among all parts of the country or region
- a significant increase of economic and social trends within the country or region; and
- an added side benefit, improved health, read- iness, and resilience of all those participating in the project.

To ensure long-term peace in the European Union, every nation in the EU should create and maintain a coherence-creating group of the appropriate size.

The time to act is now.

The Global Union of Scientists for Peace

Please contact:
John Hagelin, Ph.D.
International President
GUSP

The The Global Union of Scientists for Peace

2000 Capital Boulevard, Fairfax, VA 22030 • info@GUSP.org