

A Petition to the United States Congress on Root Causes and Root Solutions to International Violence

The following signatories hereby urge Congress to pass a bill addressing the root causes of international violence. We therefore support institution by Congress of:

1. Development of 1,000 international schools, pre-K through high school, throughout the developing world. The schools would teach strictly objective pure and social sciences while stressing global, human perspective in curricula. These schools will:
 - a. provide opportunities for otherwise disenfranchised youth of the world who otherwise face frustrated prospects for life fulfillment and therefore create a fertile ground for terrorist recruitment, and who often resort to non-legitimate means of change and non-legitimate means of earning a living including mercenary guerrilla employment, illegal drug, gambling and prostitution related business, etc.;
 - b. provide a global perspective with a human face thus fostering empathy and understanding rather than a provincial perspective which can often lead to internecine interethnic, sectarian, interregional, international misunderstanding, conflict, and destruction;
 - c. prepare students for regional universities with same curricular perspectives.
2. Development of at least 12 university extension campuses with 5,000 students each in Southeast Asia, South Asia, Middle East, former Soviet republics, N.E. Africa, N.W. Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, Slavic speaking Eastern Europe, Russia, Germanic-Hungarian speaking Eastern Europe, Central and South America. Such schools will offer six-year degrees which will combine:
 - a. practical technical sciences such as agricultural sciences, forestry, civil engineering, economics, and other sciences which will boost and stabilize regional economies and standards of living;
 - b. objective, nonpartisan social and human sciences with a global and human perspective of the world and mankind which will assure that such technical science studies will be used to better humankind and local societies, and guide cultures and governments sensitively and insightfully through technological development and nation building without the need for the inevitable condescending outside meddling or technical advisors.

Such home grown technicians within developing nations will almost automatically rise to prominence due to their valuable technical expertise and therefore be in a position with their alternate expertise in required courses in sociology, political science, anthropology, social psychology, pedagogy, social ethics, multidisciplinary cross cultural bridge building studies, etc. and their intimate understanding of the local cultures to wisely and objectively chart a course for their country and their country's evolving institutions. The collegial relationship of such students developed in the regional universities over six-year periods will enable the graduates to coalesce in national and regional alliances thus empowering positive and constructive change nationally and regionally thus short circuiting the empowerment of discontents, of self interested power mongers or of robber barons and of even well meaning, but unschooled-in-nation-building-skills businessmen, military or other citizens.

3. Scholarships for needy students to such international schools and universities.
4. Objective multidisciplinary research on effectiveness or counterproductively of existing methods of cross cultural bridge building used by:
 - a. pre-K through high schools,
 - b. college and university schools of education
 - c. government agencies,
 - d. educational text book publishers,
 - e. government funded entities.

Analysis of political, societal, cultural reasons for counterproductively of many existing methods with recommendations for improvement.

5. Development of improved methods, curricula, lesson plans, courses, plus other recommendations by 40 educators and social scientists for promoting cross cultural bridge building in:
 - a. preschools
 - b. elementary schools
 - c. high schools
 - d. colleges
 - e. government funded entities
6. Development of multidisciplinary cross cultural bridge building college departments. Incentive grants to universities.
7. Undergraduate and graduate scholarships for students studying cross cultural bridge building concentrations.
8. School text book company self reviews of their own publications assisted by multidisciplinary cross cultural bridge building college departments with federal matching incentives.
9. Development of government guidelines to assure that no federal moneys used wittingly or unwittingly in escalation of interethnic hostility, animosity, conflict. Review of government grants, contractors, subcontractors to assure compliance.
10. Funding incentives for chartering of 200 "international schools" nationwide which would focus efforts on cross cultural bridge building skill development.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Full Address: _____

Affiliation - Title: _____

E-mail Address (optional): _____

Please send this Petition to:

South-East Asia Center
5120 North Broadway
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To be disseminated to all members of Congress.