

GIS International Symposium/ Toward Democratic International Relations in the 21st Century/ November 18, 2002 1:00 to 4:00 p.m./ University Hall Auditorium, Mine Campus/ Organized by the Graduate School of International Studies Utsunomiya University/ Dr. Louis W. Goodman (International Service, American University) "Global Democracy in the 21st Century with Special Reference to Civil-Military Relations"/

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Discussion Paper on the Presentation by Dr. Louis W. Goodman

My 3-point comment is as follows:

1. It is interesting that Costa Rica, a small nation of 3,400,000 people in Latin America has maintained unarmed neutrality since 1949 as a style of nation governance. The military was dissolved in 1948. National security rests upon 3,000 people's civilian garrison, 2,000 people's border guards garrison and 2,000 people's local garrison (the figures for 1998).

Holding military forces suggests that it is not necessarily a prerequisite for governing a country although this style of governance is the exception rather than the rule. The military is hollowed out in civil-military relations in the case of Costa Rica. Government and people in Costa Rica regard military forces as unnecessary and "civil-government relations" is primarily important.

Dr. Goodman pointed out that the role and function of armed forces have changed into "supporting police efforts in maintaining internal order, to combating environmental deterioration, to providing basic health and education services, to constructing highways and bridges" in the trend of downsizing of national armed forces worldwide. Then can we call these kinds of organizations "military forces?" Can we say that military downsizing results in no military forces in our future society and that pursuit of ideal civil-military relations bring extinctions of military forces?

2. Myanmar, a nation of 46,400,000 people in Southeast Asia has established military administration since 1988. There are 429,000 soldiers as a force, 50,000 as police semi-force and 35,000 as militiamen (the figures for 1998).

The civil-military relations in this country are subordinate-control relations, which had been shown in the treatment and house arrest of Aung San Suu Kyi. And it is prerequisite for the Myanmar military administration to restrict political democracy.

Other countries which do not fall under the category of military government and despotic state also manipulate information and use democracy system ingeniously for the purpose of acquiring support from the people to some extent. As a result, "military-industry-governmental" complex tends to be formed with a lack of understanding between government and people. It seems to accelerate forming "military-industry-governmental" complex arising from contemporary regional war such as Gulf War, Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian War, Chechen War and frequently occurring terrorism.

3. We have to pay attention to the serious matter: the strong possibility of “the attack on Iraq” by American military forces. If American forces decided to attack Iraq, the Bush administration would justify the attack as protecting democracy worldwide. The administration may also justify the attack as “lawful self-defense” because the military’s core mission is to provide for the nation’s external security. But if many soldiers and a large sum of money are needed to cover the cost of war (there is another report which amount to 250,000 soldiers and 200 billions as cost of war) and are committed to the attack of Iraq, is it backward movement of world downsizing of military forces? Does the new role of military forces vanish in the future? Does the traditional mission of military forces come back into fashion?

Now, does the American civilian control of military forces work normally? Do American people really approve of the plan to attack Iraq? Is there no room for manipulation or distortion of information about the Middle East situation? I think it is necessary for the Bush administration to explain and show evidence of whether Iraq and al-Qa’ida are allies and to explain clearly why the administration links the anti-terrorism war, the inspection of mass-destruction weapons and the overthrow of the Iraq administration. Moreover, even though the American government may succeed in reforming the Iraq structure and establishing a new pro-American government, the question remains whether “American Democracy” is forced upon other countries under the trend of globalization, or not.

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国際シンポジウム「21世紀における民主的な国際関係を目指して アメリカン大学ルイス・W・グッドマン博士を迎えて」/宇都宮大学大学院国際学研究科主催/2002年11月18日/場所 宇都宮大学会館多目的ホール/講演「地球民主主義の展望：軍民関係を主な視点として」についてのコメント/コメンテーター 中村祐司(国際学部助教授)コメント要旨(英語)
