

## Project Democracy's Road to Nuclear War

Michael Danby, the chairman of the Australian parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade, accused former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser of “hysteria,” for sounding the alarm that Australia’s defence build-up puts the nation on a course toward nuclear war. Danby pontificated, “No rational examination of the foreign policy of the US under Obama or Australia under both prime ministers [Julia] Gillard or [Kevin] Rudd could lead anyone to believe Canberra or Washington had sought or encouraged nuclear confrontation with China.”

An honest examination of Danby’s own international political activity reveals him as one Canberra-based figure who has pushed events in exactly such a direction. In the systematic Anglo-American efforts to encircle Russia and China, the British-founded “Project Democracy” component is an ever-expanding campaign of “color revolutions” and “regime change,” done under the flags of “democracy and human rights.” Such ostensibly non-violent schemes, directed against nuclear powers China and Russia, whose leaders grasp them as threats to national sovereignty, serve to intensify a global showdown, and increase the likelihood of a particular hot spot suddenly zooming to full-scale nuclear war.

As with his nominal opponent Hugh White (see previous article), with whom Danby has conducted a public squabble, charging that White is selling out to China and seeks an “Asian Munich” (as in British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain’s notorious appeasement of Hitler)—all roads lead back to London. Danby serves on the steering committee of the World Movement for Democracy (WMD), founded in 1999 as a spin-off of the British-guided U.S. National En-

dowment for Democracy. Thus he is a leading proponent of the Project Democracy road toward nuclear war.

Danby is also an International Patron of Britain’s Henry Jackson Society, founded at Peterhouse College, Cambridge. The manifesto of the Jackson Society gives the British imperial game away: “The British Moment: The Case for Democratic Geopolitics in the Twenty-first Century,” by Brendan Simms, a professor in the History of International Relations at Cambridge’s Centre of International Studies. Named after the late U.S. Senator Henry Jackson, who opposed détente with the Soviet Union, the HJS advocates a “forward strategy” to spread “liberal democracy across the world” through “the full spectrum of ‘carrot’ capacities, be they diplomatic, economic, cultural or political, but also, when necessary, those ‘sticks’ of the military domain.”<sup>1</sup>

The Jackson Society achieved notoriety in 2011 when it emerged that the opposition Syrian National Council’s plan for carving out “safe havens” for insurgents in Syria, which the U.S. and British would then

move to secure militarily, as had been done in Libya, was actually written by Society staff. Simms boasted about operations in Libya, in an article on the HJS’s website: “Democracy Can Be Dropped from 10,000 Feet.”

Even while NATO and the U.S. were waging their illegal war to overthrow Libya’s Muammar Qaddafi, Danby, in June 2011, railed that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad was a far more important target: “Speaking to British MPs in Westminster Hall, US President Barack Obama devoted just a few short sentences to Syria. But he did give Assad a clear warning: either make the transition to democracy or ‘get out of the way’ . . . The close relationship between Syria with [sic] Iran makes it an ever more significant test of the Arab spring than Libya, Tunisia, Yemen or Bahrain.”

Claiming that the Syrians are secretly developing nuclear weapons, Danby concluded that “Australia has



*Michael Danby*

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1. Neil Clark, “Cameron is no moderate,” *The Guardian*, London, Oct. 23, 2005.

a direct stake in ensuring that the current regime in Syria is removed as soon as possible.”<sup>2</sup>

### ‘Sanctions Are Never Enough’

Danby has also vehemently advocated a U.S./Israeli strike against Iran. In his article in *The Australian* of Dec. 14, 2010, “Iran’s Nuclear Plans give West a Tough Choice,” he and co-authors Peter Khalil (a former Rudd foreign policy advisor) and Carl Ungerer of the Hugh White-founded Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) lied: “The international community . . . share an inescapable view that Iran is pursuing an offensive nuclear weapons program,” adding that “sanctions are never enough,” and that “the only credible alternative” to Iranian domination of the region, with or without nuclear weapons, “is to use military force” and “accept the short-term pain and consequences” of a war, rather than “live with the longer-term strategic challenges of a nuclear-armed, regionally dominant, militarily aggressive and emboldened Iran.” What’s more, according to the title of Danby’s article in the Feb. 11, 2010 *Wall Street Journal*, the world should “Blame China for Iran’s

Nukes.”

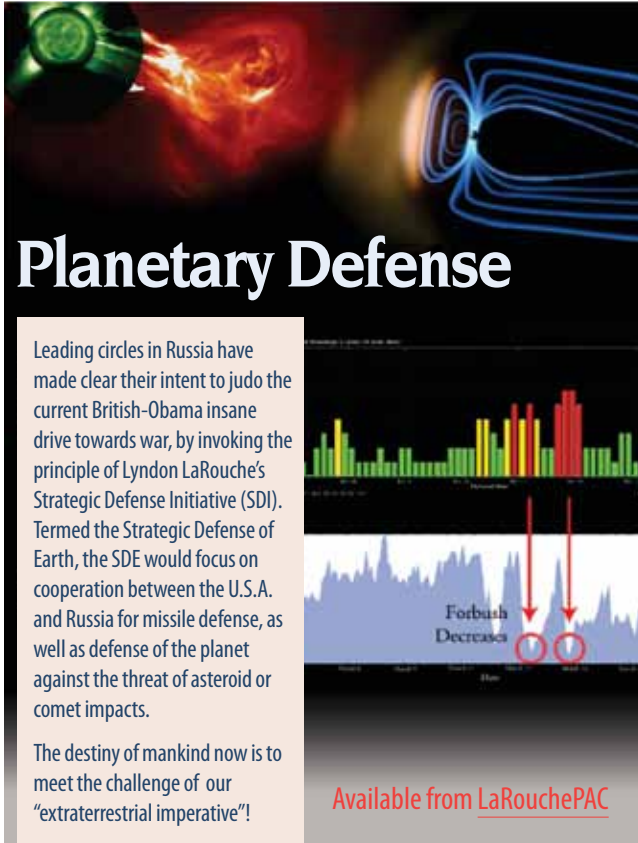
Like the Project Democracy crowd at large, Danby demands not only war against Syria and Iran, but regime change in China, as well, and does so not only in his bellicose rhetoric, but also by his actions. Danby’s alternative to what he calls “a Canberra ‘Munich Moment’” is to overthrow the current Chinese leadership, using Project Democracy methods to achieve “a process of China transforming into a non-belligerent liberal democracy.”<sup>3</sup>

Danby also chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Tibet. In July 2009, he led the first-ever Australian parliamentary delegation to meet with the Dalai Lama in Dharamsala, India, where Danby gave a speech demanding, “Let freedom reign in Tibet.” The Chinese government angrily charged Danby with interfering in China’s internal affairs, as it did again the following month, when he organized a visit by a Uighur leader to the Melbourne International Film Festival. Anglo-American intelligence agencies have long supported the secession of Xinjiang Province in China’s west, agitating among its large Uighur population. Danby has also been a leading member of the Australia-Taiwan Parliamentary Friendship Group. In March 2005 China passed an anti-secession law, declaring that should Taiwan secede from China, its action would be met with military force.

In 1986-93, this great democrat was editor of the *Australia-Israel Review (AIR)*, founded by Robert Zabłud, a devout follower of the fascist Vladimir Jabotinsky. Israeli founding father David Ben-Gurion famously referred to Jabotinsky as “Vladimir Hitler,” but Danby has defended him as a “much-misunderstood center-right Zionist ideologue.” One of the *AIR*’s major financial supporters has been multi-billionaire Frank Lowy (whose Lowy Institute has been home base for Visiting Fellow Hugh White). Danby and Lowy share their admiration for Jabotinsky with the son of Jabotinsky’s long-time personal secretary—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has recently been leading a crusade for a war with Iran, with its likely escalation into thermo-nuclear war.

*Excerpted with permission from [The New Citizen](#), October 2012.*

3. *The Australian*, Sept. 16, 2010.

The graphic features a dark background with a green planet on the left and a blue, ringed planet on the right, connected by a bright orange and red energy stream. Below this, the title "Planetary Defense" is written in large, white, serif font. To the left of the title, a text box contains the following text: "Leading circles in Russia have made clear their intent to judo the current British-Obama insane drive towards war, by invoking the principle of Lyndon LaRouche's Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI). Termed the Strategic Defense of Earth, the SDE would focus on cooperation between the U.S.A. and Russia for missile defense, as well as defense of the planet against the threat of asteroid or comet impacts. The destiny of mankind now is to meet the challenge of our 'extraterrestrial imperative'!" To the right of the title, there are two charts. The top chart is a bar graph with green and red bars. The bottom chart is a line graph with a blue line and two red arrows pointing to a dip labeled "Forbush Decreases". At the bottom right, the text "Available from LaRouchePAC" is written in red.

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The destiny of mankind now is to meet the challenge of our "extraterrestrial imperative"!

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