

AMEURUS DECLARATION

(Illustrative introduction by Lord Weidenfeld)

Over the past year, a group of senior decision makers and opinion-formers from America, Europe and Russia have been meeting to discuss how their countries can work better together as the old order is replaced by a new world of rich opportunities but maybe even greater dangers. The following Declaration has been drafted by representatives of the three regions, who also represent the strands of politics, business, journalism and academe on which the AMEURUS project draws.

“The governments and peoples of America, Europe and Russia have common cause in assuring a more secure, more prosperous, and more socially cohesive world. They must now come together on a common strategy for achieving it.

The first step toward that goal will be the forging of a new security consensus that takes into account the more highly destructive weapons and the much more nihilistic ideologies that mark the beginning of the 21st Century. AMEURUS countries are the ultimate, prime targets for the dark forces of globalisation who would exploit racial, religious and social hatreds for their own ends.

This is in part because the nations of AMEURUS today have similar if not identical commitments to personal freedoms and to the importance of religious and cultural tolerance. Respect for the heritage and practices of the

Christians, Muslims, Jews, atheists and others who live in the AMEURUS zone of tolerance is their most fundamental binding characteristic and must be protected by them and in places strengthened.

This will require Americans and Europeans to renew and update their habits of joint security analysis and action, which have to some extent been atrophied by the end of the Cold War and then disrupted by the war in Iraq. Simultaneously they must engage Russia in that exercise. Whatever their differences over the origins of the conflict in Iraq or the broader war on terrorism, the devastating consequences of an American failure in either effort for Europe and Russia are more significant. An alliance to confront the challenge of the new totalitarianism that is based in the Greater Middle East becomes an increasingly clear necessity as terrorists "internationalise" their targets.

Just as Europe must recognize that the reach of American power is necessary if there is to be an effective global effort to contain the proliferation of nuclear weapons and particularly destructive chemical and biological arms, the United States must recognize that it will need Russian cooperation in Central Asia and the Caucasus, Russian and European cooperation in Iran, European help in Israel-Palestine, and international financial and nation-building support if it is to achieve its objectives.

The Greater Middle East is today what Europe was to the 20th Century: the source of the world's greatest security concerns. The status quo of inadequate political and

economic modernization, of deep deficits in democracy, education, and scientific innovation cannot and should not continue indefinitely, especially with the coming bow-wave of demographic change now on the horizon. The United States has made change in these areas the bedrock of its regional policy. Europe and Russia should make clear that they reject the status quo as well. A coordinated AMEURUS demand for a reform agenda for the region would be a major contribution to international relations.

America, Europe, and Russia are also capable of deepening a joint understanding of the relationship between poverty and inequality on the one hand and terrorism and aggression on the other. An action plan to alleviate the worst physical, political, and social consequences of poverty should accompany the agenda for reform.

As leading consumers and producers of energy, the three entities also bear a special responsibility to expand, conserve, and rationalize the world's fossil fuels and other sources of energy. An initiative from the Northern Hemisphere aiming to stabilize global oil consumption, production, and pricing would contribute to all of the objectives listed above and to positive change in the Middle East. Furthermore a considered effort by the G8 countries to extend free trade and encourage further growth and development of the international trading system would make the energy demand pattern less volatile.”