What's spooked the fat controller?

In times of relative peace and prosperity, it's easy for those under our sphere of influence to forget just how unpleasant life could be without our protection. Sometimes the protected need reminding. Otherwise, they can become over-confident, too daring, a danger to ourselves or others.

One such reminder which brings my own daughter running for protection, is when papa growls 'Fee fye foe fum', the words which signal the arrival of the child-eating ogre of *Jack & The Beanstalk*.

I find this interesting because, anecdotally, it suggests that mythology or the repetition and embellishment of stories we tell each other - trigger fear just as effectively as a rational assessment of what's before our eyes.

And so to today and the media descriptions of the recent bomb threats to London nightclubs, Glasgow airport and Tesco supermarkets. Note the trigger words - 'terror', 'extremists'.*1 We easily recognise their place in the storybook of 9/11 and 7/7, the stories of the ogre that crushed skyscrapers, smashed trains and killed without mercy.

Does the diminutive bobby on the beat stand a chance against such a monster? Of course not. No wonder the poor head of the Association of Police Chief Officers has chosen this moment to demand more powers.

But hang on. Let's step back and get some perspective. Do we really want to give our policemen the green light to lock people up indefinitely without charge? How much does that raise the probability of innocent people being victimised on the basis of mistaken identity, bad intelligence or simply looking the part? That would be terrible too, wouldn't it?

In fact, this is not the first time that politicians in Europe have braced themselves for the next deadly bout of violence against civilians. This isn't even the first time we've seen massacres at train stations or in supermarkets.

During the Cold War years, numerous acts of violence were perpetrated across Western Europe.*2

What can we learn from the motivations behind them?

For one thing, we learn that, in nearly all the worst cases, it was a mistake to assume that the first suspect that sprang to mind was actually responsible. The blame was successfully pinned on communists - or, more specifically, on the political parties, activists,
unions, and governments with communist or left leaning sympathies - but they were not the instigators.

During this period, trained neo-fascists and secret agents infiltrated extreme left groups and egged them on to carry out acts of extreme violence. Only in 1990 did the wall of silence finally give way to the revelation that these dark actors were members of secret 'stay behind' armies set up by Nato to resist a Soviet invasion... an invasion which never came.

We don't have much hard evidence of CIA and MI6 involvement. That's because anybody who does know about their activities is sworn to silence.

What we do now know from declassified documents, is that the destruction of communism was the secret services' cause celebre throughout the cold war.

Was this a sensible precaution?

May be. But a positive feeling about Soviet socialism was also understandable in post war Europe. 13 million Russian soldiers gave their lives helping save Europe from fascism during WWII. *3 Given that level of sacrifice, how did Communism wind up being branded 'evil'?

Most likely, Western power brokers didn't much like the idea. Given its promise to distribute wealth more equitably, it was never going to be the rich person's first choice. *4 Demands from the fat controller to stop the spread of communism, almost certainly resulted in this marriage of convenience to repress it - the marriage between big money, big business chiefs, judges, secret services, the military officer class, senior policemen ... even the mafia.

Before we think that this is all getting a bit far fetched, the history of Cuba provides ample evidence that these sections of US society have indeed collaborated with the aim of destroying Castro's Cuba. They have also protected and provided cover for those that would attack the Cuban system. *5

But were these Cold War atrocities against civilians solely carried out to turn the public against an ideology? Certainly not. It would be naive to think that the participants acted solely out of patriotism with no hope of extending their own power and influence.

Skip to the USA where the combination of urgency and a feeling of powerlessness in Congress due to 9/11, provided the climate in which the Patriot Act would be approved without serious debate.

Passed just 45 days after 9/11, the 1200 page Act's full implications are yet to be felt. But Americans aren't now so sure they like the way the Act sanctioned wiretaps and clandestine house searches and on-demand access to a businesses' confidential records about customers. Whatever the cause, the effect, in any case, was an extension of state and executive powers.

Why would the ruling Executive in the US and UK want the power to put civilians behind bars without hard evidence that a crime has been
What has spooked the fat controller this time?

Is it really Al Qaeda that has given the world's greatest superpower a dose of the heebie-jeebies?

Winding back, we note that the CIA, during the Cold War, offered training to all sorts of combative people who could help them repel Communism. This included the Mujahedeen, the group of Islamic fundamentalists for whom Bin Laden was a fundraiser. Equipped by the CIA, they expelled the Soviet army from Afghanistan before regrouping as the Taliban and rebranding as Al Qaeda.

It’s messy, but what these Cold War events seem to tell us is that, when real power feels threatened, no executioners are ruled out for the job of stamping out the threat.

Snap back to today and it seems that the covenant of peaceful co-existence, made when Islamic Fundamentalists were helping us remove the Russians from Afghanistan, is now in tatters and these allies have become the fat controller’s worst 9/11 and 7/7 nightmares.

Or have they?

Not so, if you believe that the biggest threat facing the USA today, is, in fact, oil depletion combined with the diving dollar.

In this case, having an arch enemy in the Middle East is rather helpful. It helps justify the continued presence of US troops in the part of the world where the largest remaining reserves of cheap-to-extract oil are waiting to be drilled.

Now peak oil is very definitely a concern to all major oil consumers. Supplies are already tight. In fact, 27 of the 51 oil producing nations mentioned in BP's Statistical Review of World Energy reported output declines in 2006.

Tightness of supply hasn't been helped by a series of devastating oil industry leaks, fires and explosions which took the UK perilously close to winter gas shortages early in 2006. Who exactly was responsible for these has not, to my mind, been adequately explained. But these shocks were not a bad way to impress on a Parliament the seriousness of the threat... the real threat of shortages to which Iraq's ample oil reserves might seem to be the answer.

So, this is my assessment.

It is obvious that, all things being even, when shortages begin, the world's greediest per capita energy consumer of oil will find it hardest to adjust.

Consider the US army without oil for 24 hours. The planes, humvees and helicopters would stall. The generators, refrigerators, air conditioners and rock music would fall silent. Darkness would descend.*6
Oil keeps the entire show on the road.

Without oil, America risks the collapse of its power.

Surely that's what spooked the fat controller.

The thought of the magic beanstalk being cut through at the roots in the not too distant future, bringing the real ogre - the whole debt-laden edifice - crashing down.

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Notes:

*1 A google search on the words 'terror, extremists' currently calls up 2,040,000 published articles.

*2 In Italy, from 1969-87, 14,591 acts of violence with a political motivation were recorded. A bomb attack at Bologna railway station on 2 Aug 1980, killed 85 people and maimed 200. In Belgium on 9 Nov 1985, a killing spree in a supermarket resulted in the deaths of 8 people. The perpetrators have never been identified. For more see Nato's Secret Armies: Operation Gladio & Terrorism in Western Europe, by Danielle Ganser

*3 This compares to US and UK troop losses of 400,000 and 300,000 respectively.

*4 Some well known families and interests in the USA and UK have accumulated or inherited colossal financial power. Historically, and to this day, they have exercised extraordinary influence on a government's ability to sell its bonds and finance its wars. It is said that in the early 1800s, financier Nathan Rothschild managed to accumulate a personal fortune in excess of the entire money stock of Britain! See Micheal Rowbotham's Grip of Death p199. Recent evidence reveals that Rothschild made money from the slave trade, even though he has often been portrayed as an opponent of slavery.

*5 CIA operative, Luis Posada Carriles, is yet to face trial for his well documented involvement in an act of terrorism which killed all 73 passengers of a Cuban airliner on 6 Oct 1976. All indications suggest Carriles has enjoyed US protection. The Bush administration resisted calls to extradite him for trial in Cuba or Venezuela during the time he was resident in Miami in 2005.

10 Apr 2011: US justice finds Lius Posada not guilty on 11 counts

*6 Oil accounted for 85% of the Department of Defence's $20 billion energy consumption costs in 2006.
Essential Reading:
Nato's Secret Armies: Operation Gladio... - Danielle Ganser
The End of America: A Letter of Warning... - Naomi Wolf
Muslim parents and terrorists ignored
Bush: Before and After

Essential Viewing:

"Gladio" (BBC, 1992)

Above: Excerpt from Allan Frankovich's series about Gladio. Operated by the CIA and MI6 through Nato, the secret 'stay behind' army was trained to lead the resistance in the event of a Soviet Invasion of Europe. Instead it was used to commit atrocities against civilians as part of a CIA strategy of tension designed to frighten Europe's political classes into adopting US policies. 86 people were killed in the 1980 train station bombing in Bologna, Italy, and gunmen went on a shooting spree in Belgian supermarkets. All three parts of the series (normally available on Google Video) are revealing.

Also See: A Crude Awakening - The Oil Crash

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Times report linking CIA and Al Qaeda leadership squashed
Price hikes and falling energy use suggest demand destruction
Homeland Security buys 1.5 billion bullet rounds in 2012
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2012:
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2011:
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Norway massacre. Suspicion turns from 'Islamists' to neo-Nazis
$20bn a year spent air conditioning Iraq/Afghan US military bases
Ethnic minorities up to 42 x more likely to be stop and searched
Bin Laden killed? Why not caught and interrogated? (May 2011)
Alleged Al-Qaeda bomber and assassin 'worked for MI6'
Vast majority of Guantanamo detainees were not extremists
UK Uncut arrests threaten right to peacefully protest
'Activist' who glued herself to DTI's doors was an undercover cop
'Activist' who led plan to close power plant was undercover cop

2010:
Embassy letter bombs in Greece and Italy- Anarchists to blame?
Guantanamo detainees paid compensation (ie. wrongly tortured)
Oil currently required for production of 95% of industrial goods
DECC, BoE and MOD have joint Peak Oil workshop
US military loss of surplus oil output by 2012, shortages by 2015
Classified documents reveal UK’s role in torture of own citizens
Al-Qaeda cyber attack 'could fell US within 15 minutes'?
Failed Times Square bomb in US like failed West End bomb in UK
Evidence of torture suppressed on grounds of national security
Student's terror conviction overturned after 2 years in prison
EU court of human rights rules against UK stop and search policy

2009:
US builds 7 new military, naval and air bases in oil-rich S. America
Skyrocketing [oil] prices could become a way of life in crisis-led world
US paid $3m 'reward' to key witnesses in Lockerbie 'bomber' case?
Logic and philosophy are first to be destroyed when we're fearful
Lockyer 'bomber' drops his appeal and secures release
N.Sea oil production is currently falling by 5% a year
Evidence mounts that M15 colluded in torture of terror suspects
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Law lord rules 'secret evidence' not enough to hold terror suspects
When outrage demands a prosecution and innocents get convicted
Tortured: Prosecute the policy makers, not the executioners
"Protest is not a threat to democracy but its cornerstone"
May 05 torture memos show 9/11 suspect waterboarded 183 x
Condoleeza Rice approved waterboard torture for terror suspects
Database of protesters and journalists being built by UK police
60 new powers in 25 Acts of Parliament since '97 curtailing rights
Former head of M15 - UK risks becoming a police state
40 countries have used 9/11 as reason to pass repressive laws
UK police brand green protesters "domestic extremists"
Surveillance society built on pretext of ending terror & inefficiency
MI6 had hand in torture of man granted refugee status in UK
Politicians and judges find excuse to silence truth on use of torture
US Gay rights group finds it way onto Maryland's terrorist list
Demonstrations in France - glimpse of protests to come?
 Former BoE policy maker warns of massive dollar collapse
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2008:
Amnesty say Indian Anti-Terror Law violates human rights treaties
People 'still willing to torture'
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Taser guns: 50,000 volts of electricity into your skull
30,000 police officers in UK to be armed with taser stun guns
Driver of De Menezes train thought police were terrorists
At last estimate there were 4 million CCTV cameras in the UK
UK government wants to monitor internet phone calls
US has 737 garrisons in 130 countries justified by "war on terror"
CIA funds groups in Iran the US itself classes as terrorist
Man held seven years without charge
New Planning Bill to strip away even the the facade of consultation
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US secret detention camps round the world not full of guilty
How Germany is Dismantling Civil Rights amid Terror Fears
Half detained without charge in UK since 2000 were innocent
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Government has failed to make the case for 42 days detention
re: government's plan for 42 day detention without charge
Britons to sue M15 over illegal Guantanamo interrogation
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As Italians voted Communist in 76, the UK considered a coup
Government plans to build new 2500 person 'Titan' jails

2007:
Lawless behaviour has become standard practice since 9/11
Real Omagh bombers prove elusive
Markets build fortresses to shield the haves from future victims
Nov 07: UK terror detention vs other democracies
Troops deployed under Pakistan's 'state of emergency'
Control orders breach human rights, lords rule
UK police found guilty for killing in case of mistaken identity
Guantanamo Tribunals "completely corrupt...kangaroo court"
Attack at Benazir Bhutto rally kills 126 civilians
Police: 32,395 stops & searches in 5 mths using terror powers
Police: Terror powers used against Heathrow protesters
Terror plot to bomb airports, bars and discos in Germany
UK bobby to get taser gun
Key Lockerbie evidence used to implicate Libya was fabricated
Fate of 5 in US prisons weighs on Cubans' minds
US surveillance bill: state can spy on you. No warrant required.
Contempt for democracy drags Britain into new cold war
Man shot in head 7 times explained as case of mistaken identity
Security alert forces temporary closure of 14 Tesco stores
10 easy steps from constitutional freedoms to a fascist state
Extended detention without charge would amount to internment
Increase detention limit, says security minister
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