

SPACE OR SUICIDE....YES WE CAN !

(a Pro Space speech SIMULATION)

By Emmanuel G. Petrakakis

ABSTRACT

This paper is about igniting the Pro Mars Human Exploration argument. The serious commitment by the government to create the necessary challenges and incentives so as to gear up Human Space Exploration in earnest....

In my speech simulation on behalf of the Mars Society address to the US President, for steering the debate of how Human Space exploration directly address our day to day problems and its not just a scientific adventure with a touch of fantasy and seasoned with a little bit of romance, so to speak.. Out of this urgent topic other linked, relevant areas can be also discussed i.e. space tourism and private space endeavours that could easily go down the wrong path.

This (Obama speech) as I call it, focuses on the arguments in areas of discussion which try ti bring uo the urgency of starting up the programme and how they are directly connected with our macro economic recovery : there are 3 basic Fundamentals we cannot run away from, that we have to handle positively:

- i) Today`s high-tech society doesn`t just stand still. We either move forwards of we slide backwards,
- ii) it is a society based on GAS (Greed , Aggression and Speed).
- iii) Whatever the World Economic System you have to provide the society with a physical dimension in which it will expand into, otherwise it will contract.

Based on these points we see that the society is now evolving around these basic parameters and the process of backsliding or contraction has already begun as we are now witnessing world wide .

Another vital message of this is to show that human space exploration has everything to do with our quotidian and it is not just for the historic quest to find other forms of life ? nit is the ultimate catalyst ,the ultimate economic multiplier the grandest driving force for this global village engaging resources from one end to the other on planet earth.

In this way through an open discussion on this we analyse how we are presently sliding contracting through careful identification of all today`s symptoms economic meltdown, increase in crime worldwide and rampant poverty.

Lets start the debate lets start now its not “yes we can “ its “yes we must” NOW!

SPACE OR SUICIDE....YES WE CAN !

(a Pro Space speech SIMULATION)

MR.PRESIDENT ,.....

In your new job of ruling the affairs of the most powerful nation in the world, we a small group of concerned citizens (The Mars Society), feel the extreme urgency to warn you against this "planet in peril" and its not only environmental peril, but also social peril. Before environmental danger, we have to sort out our Socio/Economic woes, since both are intrinsically connected.

We are all aware that the Global Economy is faltering, being swallowed up by the infamous Credit Crunch. This Global Economic malaise has been generated by, amongst other things, an economic panorama of Hedge Funds , Junk Bonds, Stock Derivatives and Pyramid schemes .In short ,it is a society that runs on, **GAS (GREED,AGGRESSION and SPEED)....whether we like or not.**

As a result of this we`ve produced a society of Narco- Economics (drug economics), Crime, Gangster Youths and all the other violent cultural aspects, of our day to day living. This global village, of ours has also given birth to the following:

- 600 million people now living in absolute poverty and rising (earning below 30 us dolars a month), gone to a billion forecast for 2009/2010,
- 2.6 million unemployed in the US alone for 2008,as result of the current global recession and in the UK currently over 2 million,
- Corporate Fraud, what some call, white collar crime has gone rampant. Billions of US hard earned dollars have disappeared under all the big corporate names, are either defaulting or even closing down . The only way to save them seems to be by applying socialistic therapies, so called financial rescue plans or stimulus packages. Including in some cases, nationalizations as in the case of the North Rock in the UK ,
- CEOs have in the mean time walked away with golden hand shakes(bonuses) in the order of 100 million dollars and more .We all know of the Lehman Brother situation.... Madoff and AIG ,
- In Africa we have some of the more successful countries running extremely high homicide statistics. As for example in South Africa, in 2006 homocides ran in the order of 19000 ,while in Iraq for the same period the number was around 22000. This is where the US had spent in the 1st year of the invasion an estimated 86 billion dollars,
- Not to mention the billions of Narco US dollars powering the developing country economies, including and especially in South America.

As concerns the environment, for the past 40 years, we've been talking about alternative energies, such as wind power, ceramic engines, battery operated cars.. and many more, but where are they? We are told daily on TV, how the big Gas companies are so called environmentally conscious and how much they are investing in research . I am certainly puzzled after decades of these research endeavors, where are the results? where is the successful implementation of it all ? shouldn't it, by now be accessible to all of us ,the man in the street. ?

Notwithstanding this, Technology has been decelerating, with examples everywhere, the shutting down of Concord, eventually the Shuttle, the International Space Station, Stem Cell research only now taken seriously, CERN hardly working in Switzerland and am sure many NASA programs and many others we don't even know off, are in danger of being shut down through lack of funds, whatever has

happened to the enthusiasm in science and technology.? To say the least we are still running a 70 year old, Fossil Fuel World War II technological world!!

Mr President in my opinion these are significant symptoms, indeed results, of a decaying society...i.e. receding science and technology, with shrinking economies. What I call Imploding Societies and we did warn about this, as far back as 1998, in the founding conference of the, Mars Society.

This process of Implosion, is contrary to what we are by nature, an Explosive Society and indeed Species, demographically speaking . If we are to survive, we need to move forward, we need to expand, grow positively and not implode as we are now doing, in a negative growth mode process.

Our Global Economic Market system, is transversing through a Credit Revolution, not the Cyber Revolution as everyone seems to think....! This fact is neither credible nor sustainable, hardly a basis to form any economic model on, let alone a Global Economy. It doesn't matter what economic model one adopts, you cannot build a society with all "the carts in front of the horses". This society of greed runs exclusively on this, (as the US , is painfully finding out). Credit Mania is the result of hyper greed.

History teaches us, through the ages, that in order for societies to be intelligent and not artificially sustainable, they have to provide the system with real spaces, dimensions for the various economies to expand in to.

Crime leads to Cleptocracies , which in turn leads to the whole implosion of society.

So, beyond the objectives of finding life in the cosmos, expanding science and other relevant objectives,.

The most and foremost fundamental objective of all, is very much here on mother Earth. Its is **the sustainable intelligent survival of our planet by our Conscious Propagation into Space.....period!** The first step being the "reset" of human exploration to Mars. It is still the main challenge, if we to consider ourselves Homo Sapiens as we are..!

In plain English we have to move into Space, our final frontier, if we are to survive as a species here on Earth.! This is not a choice! It is a warning!

We are intrinsically connected to this, through our manifest destiny. Its part of our nature, its part of the battle against GAS (Greed, Aggression, Speed). We have to intelligently and continuously, create and sustain real expansion, real explosion. Society and Human Kind does not lie still, we are continuously moving either outwards or inwards, exploding or contracting, i.e. imploding (as we are now in the process off doing). This includes our treatment of the environment, as mistreatment increases, in the implosion phase ...check it out! It's part of our natural attitude. Understanding this, is part of an Enlightened Leadership! Part of real Global Vision and Foresight. Very much in short supply nowadays.

Historians can show us what happened to Venice after Marco Polo, to Ancient Greece after Alexander the Great, to Spain after Colombo, to America after Lewis and Clark even to the world in the seventies, after the Moon landings! (it is commonly discussed by the academics in the field, that the economic multiplying effect to the American Economy during the Apollo Missions, was seven to one) yes these were real openings, new dimensions, new realms within our global village. What would

have happened if we had just sat there and been complacent as we are now doing?

All of the above had one thing in common, they provided expansive space, to those societies and economic systems!, of their time. Especially to the more technologically advanced ones, with more enlightened leadership . Indeed societies for many generations, at the time benefited from these new realms and ever since.

Translating the above into today's achievable goals, one would come up with one word, Space!, with our first starting step , MARS !. Lets for minute take into account this as the **Ultimate Economic Global Stimulus**. In 1998 the Mars society had estimated that a 10 year program to Mars, would cost 18 billion US dollars today 10 years later, the multiplying effect, I would guesstimate, would be doubled, having a direct effect of 14 to one, to the society.

A direct Space Investment stimulus package of 200 billion would in turn automatically kick start directly and indirectly, related space industries around. We would, roughly speaking, within a short time engage ourselves in the ultimate economic catalyst of all times, jump starting the final **Space Revolution !!** this is the proactive solution to today's economic malaise ! The ultimate Global Economic Multiplier providing us with real hyper increments, a real super economic boom , in a sustainable way, moving out of the old market economic model of ``Generating and Recycling Debt``.

This Mr. President is the Ultimate guaranteed **Global Economic Stimulus**.....

Refinancing failed to stimulate, ailing institutions like Freddy Mac, Bank of America and many others the list goes on ...so does financing the public sector, as it only defers the problems for another ten years down the line . That is ``Recycling Debt Economics``, not generating real wealth as it should be. It does not address the core issues ``it is like flogging a dead horse`` . Even if it had to work out, which it wont , this economic model, even with our glorious ``emerging markets`` is not enough to engage the majority of the planets resources.

Recycling is mending the problem, merely postponing it! It is not a stand alone stimulant. We all know that !

This economic market system does not have anymore, neither the impetus nor the magnitude to ;positively engage the global society, and it will only result in more conflict. Some of us have even started saying that the 3rd world war has already begun!!! You have to provide and connect a catalyst to the economic model you are addressing. Manufacture has slowed down, even if the industrialized countries have transferred to the emerging economies their factories.

It is not enough to sit and ,manufacture the same old things we've been manufacturing for the last few centuries, we have to open up manufacture, to new realms of science and technology. There is socio/economic fatigue, the service industry is not enough to en gage the majority of the society . In our day and age ,we need a more sustainable stimulant.

We have to therefore,in summarizing, consider the following ;

10 NOBEL INCONVENIENT TRUTHS

- i) Modern Society runs on GAS (Greed, Aggression and Speed)

- ii) Societies through history never remain static, they either move Outwards or Inwards, Explode or Implode.
- iii) Space Exploration does not run in contradiction or against Green Technology but rather enhances it. Terraforming is the greatest lesson environmentalists will ever have on making our planet, Greener.
- iv) Society today is on an Implosive mode, the symptoms of which are around. Pandemics, Drugs, Theocratical Warfare ,Global Economic Meltdown,Cleptocracies, Piracy and many others.
- v) Today no Economic system is enough to set a Global Economy on a positive direction. Credit Recycling is certainly not a serious sustainable economic stimulant.
- vi) One needs to provide the society/economy with Physical Space for the economy and indeed society to explode into, kick starting growth, prosperity by providing opportunity.
- vii) Space Exploration will provide the next greatest Global Stimulant Economic, impetus, ``conduit de pipe``, frontier and realm for the society to expand and prosper into. It will kick start the next revolution, the Space Revolution. (during Apollo the multiplier effect in the economy was estimated at 7 to 1, this time with Mars destination it could be double and beyond).
- viii) We are in the threshold of the next revolution the Space Age revolution. If we have the wisdom, foresight and intelligence to grasp it and launch society into the next great Leap.
- ix) Only a Real Destination/Goal driven Space Exploration programme can seriously kick off this next endeavour and that is Mars.
- x) Any real leadership most provide us with vision that Vision is to set us on a path to become and prove we are an Intelligent Interplanetary Species, that is our ultimate destiny_

Finally Mr.President ``we are the change we want to be`` Ghandi once said..... we owe it to our society, we owe it to many generations still to come this Vision of the Cosmos and our belonging and propagation in it. WE are as Bob Zubrin (President of the Mars Society) once said we are a type III species of Interplanetary tapestry, projection and magnitude....be the one to lead us into Space lets start this ultimate enterprise with our 1st step...MARS! Lets dare to dream! Lets dare to engage Humanity in real Enterprise again, real Prosperity, real Opportunity!

Lets again ``choose to go to Mars and do the other things not because they are *easy* but because they are hard`` !!

LETS GET TO SERIOUS WORK TODAY ...ITS THE ULTIMATE ENDEAVOUR.... its beyond YES WE CAN !! its **YES WE MUST!!**

By Emmanuel G. Petrakakis
 Email: rcs@teledata.mz