

APT

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This person should know... The current war... Are we safe within our borders... Why throw bomb when you can throw a switch?... Nah, it was Minnesota... Should we be concerned?

All, a couple of hours ago I had a conversation with a seasoned politician whom I know well enough to trust. Not going to identify this person because it would serve no purpose. Suffice it to say that he/she has enough experience that his/her observations about what's next could be right on target. I think he/she knows that history rhymes. [Note: I'm going to drop the he/she or him/her in favor of X.]

The current war...

X feels that we are in a war unlike any other. This is not a rematch of World War II. It is far more similar to the Crusades than anything that happened in the past thousand years. It is a clash of civilizations. It's also what happens when people don't know History (or Religion).

We are relying on our technical superiority, are very costly technical superiority. The Iranians are building drones for less than \$100,000. They use parts/components that could be bought online. They don't require sophisticated surroundings to build the drones. They could do it in a barn, a warehouse, or an abandoned mall. On the other hand, our weapons cost millions. We are depleting our stockpile. It doesn't take a mathematical genius to appreciate the consequences of firing a million-dollar missile at a target that costs \$85,000 to build.

Are we safe within our borders...

X does not think we are as safe as we have been in the past. We already have experienced domestic terrorism. What happened on 9/11 just may be the tip of the iceberg. A rehearsal – not the main show. We are vulnerable to attack in ways that would not have been imagined 50 years ago.

X does not find it inconceivable that we will experience increased domestic terrorism, but it won't be the same magnitude as a 9/11. Instead, it will be disruptive to the flow of life here. It will put people on edge. There will be significant emotional and economic/inflationary consequences.

Why throw a bomb when you can throw a switch?

While X has only a rudimentary understanding of cyber threats, X knows that they are lurking. At the moment that these words are being written the time is 12:30 PM in North Korea and 6:30 AM in Teheran. We know that each country has a corps of very smart folks very actively looking for ways to disrupt us with cyber-attacks. The North Koreans might've been chatting about it at lunch; at the same moment the team in Teheran might have a brainstorm at breakfast. The recent attack on water supplies is presumed to be the work of

such groups.

Nah, it was Minnesota...

Rather flabbergasting story in today's New York Times reported the following:

President Trump on Friday disputed that Iran was behind a cyberattack on dozens of municipal water systems in Minnesota, as U.S. and state investigators have said is most likely the case, instead blaming the state and its Democratic governor, Tim Walz, without evidence.

The president's baseless claim, contradicted by investigators' statements that other states had been targeted and their water systems were "degraded" by the attack, appeared aimed at downplaying the threat of the increasingly unpopular war with Iran inside America's borders. Mr. Trump instead shifted blame to Mr. Walz, Kamala Harris's running mate in 2024, and his state government, continuing a pattern of trying to punish Minnesota and its Democratic leadership, particularly over the issue of immigration.

If this sort of analytical thinking continues the eagle will be replaced by the ostrich as the national bird.

Should we be concerned?...

X says, "Yes." Makes sense to me.

First yawn...

Until tomorrow...

Ken

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