Climate Change Challenge

The Viscount Monckton of Brenchley presents his compliments to Senator John Kerry and by these presents challenges him to a head-to-head, internationally-televised debate upon the question “That ‘global warming’ is not a global crisis”, to be held at a venue and date of the Senator’s choosing.

Forasmuch as it is His Lordship who now flings down the gauntlet to the Senator, it shall be the Senator’s prerogative and right to choose his weapons by specifying the form of the Great Debate. May the Truth win! Magna est veritas, et praevaleat.

Given at Carie, Rannoch, in the County of Perth, in the Kingdom of Scotland, this Twelfth Day of March in the Year of our Lord Two Thousand And Nine.

God Bless America!

God Save The Queen!
Notes for Editors

Christopher Walter, Third Viscount Monckton of Brenchley, (+44 1882 632341; monckton@mail.com) is a former policy advisor to Margaret Thatcher during her years as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. In the late 1980s he was one of the first to sound warnings that increasing concentrations of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere might cause climatic disturbances. In articles in the Evening Standard and in a television broadcast on the Clive James Show, he warned Londoners that if the threat proved real they might “have to take to the boats.” Margaret Thatcher thereupon gave a speech alerting the Royal Society, Britain’s leading scientific body, to climate change, and she established the Hadley Centre to research the issue. However, after careful study of the substantial corpus of peer-reviewed scientific research since that time, Lord Monckton has concluded that the research demonstrates the threat posed by anthropogenic climate change to be more imaginary than real, and that what had initially been a serious scientific enquiry into our effects on the climate has been captured by alarmist and extremist political and environmental lobby-groups pursuing an agenda that is not only dangerously contrary to the public interest, but also potentially gravely damaging to the welfare of the poor, who would be the first to suffer from the prodigious misallocation of global economic resources which the alarmists unjustifiably advocate.

Lord Monckton, who was educated at Harrow School and Cambridge University, where he won a Master of Arts degree with Honours in the Classics, is no stranger to controversy. As Chief Leader-Writer and Consulting Editor of the London Evening Standard in the early 1990s, he was a lone voice warning the nation that membership of the European “exchange-rate mechanism” would either cause unprecedented damage to the British economy or destroy the mechanism. Relentlessly, his columns in the Evening Standard championed those whose jobs were destroyed, businesses bankrupted, and homes repossessed as a consequence of this mad policy, which had the support of all three major political parties, the civil service, and all elements of the British establishment. As the British economy was visibly laid waste, other national newspapers that had at first praised the policy followed Lord Monckton’s lead, changing their stance one by one. Eventually, all were against it. In 1992, to please John Major, the embarrassed and angry Prime Minister, Lord Monckton was dismissed from the Evening Standard, receiving a record payout worth almost $350,000 at today’s prices. The incoming Editor, to please John Major still further, changed the Evening Standard’s editorial policy to express fawning support for the doomed policy. Three weeks later, as Lord Monckton had foretold, the pound Sterling collapsed and brought down the mechanism with it, flinging John Major from office. His Conservative Party has not held office since. Some years later, a journalist asked Major which newspaper he would have closed if he had had the power to do so while he was Prime Minister. Major replied at once: “The Evening Standard.” The collapse of the UK economy caused by Britain’s two-year membership of the failed European exchange-rate mechanism caused such a massive downturn in activity that Britain’s greenhouse-gas emissions fell sharply for four continuous years from 1990. Ironically, this economic collapse is the main reason why Britain, almost alone among EU nations, may achieve her Kyoto carbon-emission reduction target, because 1990 is the reference year specified in the treaty. Under the administration of Bill Clinton and Al Gore, the US Senate voted 95-0 to pass a law forbidding the US to enter into any climate treaty that did not bind Third-World nations such as China. Gore now disagrees with this law.

In the mid-1980s, Lord Monckton visited the United States to consult the first researchers into HIV and AIDS. In the light of their advice, in January 1986 he wrote a now-famous article in The American Spectator, saying that unless carriers of HIV were identified and isolated “immediately, compulsorily and permanently” but humanely, tens of millions would die worldwide. The lobby-groups which had captured this issue have vilified him ever since, but again – and to a horrifying extent – he has been proven right. Since his wake-up article, 25 million people worldwide have died as a result of HIV infection, and at least 40 million more are living with the disease, which is dangerously close to reaching the epidemic level of 1% prevalence in the United States, and is already endemic in sub-Saharan Africa. Again, it is the poorest who are suffering and dying because lobby-groups regarded their own agenda as more important than the interests of the poor. No cure is in prospect.

In November 2006, Lord Monckton wrote two major articles in the London Sunday Telegraph, in which he presented formidable evidence questioning the alarmists’ view of climate change. An article by Al Gore in reply appeared the week following the second article. Within 12 hours of Gore’s article, Lord Monckton had produced a 24-page refutation of it, incorporating more than 60 references to scientific papers published in the peer-reviewed, scientific journals. Samizdat copies of this document, http://ff.org/centers/csspp/pdf/20061121_gore.pdf, have circulated globally. The British Foreign Secretary, Margaret Beckett, said after the second of Lord Monckton’s articles that anyone who dared to question the imagined “consensus” on climate change should be treated like an advocate of Islamic terror and should be denied access to the UK news media. Lord Monckton has not been published in the national Press since then. However, the then Prime Minister, Anthony Blair, quoted Lord Monckton’s articles with approval, pointing out that even if the entire UK economy were to close down the growth in China’s carbon emissions would entirely replace the UK’s output of greenhouse gases in just two years.

Lord Monckton’s calculations demonstrating that the UN’s climate panel had exaggerated tenfold the effect of increased CO2 concentrations on global temperature were published in the UK’s Quarterly Economic Bulletin and in Physics and Society, a journal of the American Physical Society. He has lectured and given university seminars on climate sensitivity and other aspects of climate science, and advises several institutions on the subject.