

## **WCA/IGPSG/CWSC general meeting**

Online with Zoom Sunday 29 March, 7.30 pm

**Present:** 1. Luiz Bispo, 2. Chris Hamer, 3. Daryl Le Cornu, 4. Andrew Greig, 5. Keith Suter, 6. Peter Grullemans, 7. Margaret Webb, 8. John Hegarty, 9.

Michael de Mol, 10. Michael Clarke

**Apologies:** Pera Wells

This was our first online meeting, and produced a record turnout! We must continue with online meetings in the future, except maybe for the AGM. Our thanks to Luiz for organizing it.

### **Minutes**

Matters arising: Chris suggested that Luiz should elaborate on his proposal for a 'Research Form for Engagement' at the next MGP where young people can acquire more understanding about WCAA and its focuses.

### **President's Report (Chris)**

Chris noted that we have taken a much more proactive stance over the past two years, which is beginning to bear fruit. We attended the New Shape Forum and Paris Peace Forum in 2018, leading to the establishment of the transnational Coalition for a World Security Community, with help from the Global Challenges Foundation. We arranged the visit of Andreas Bummel in 2019 to promote the Campaign for a UN Parliamentary Assembly; and this year, renewed our campaign for a Pacific Islands Community in our own region. We have received an invitation to the Copenhagen Democracy Summit in June, and have invited Andres Fogh Rasmussen to visit Australia later in the year. For further details, see the attachment.

### **Bangladesh Aid Project (Wali)**

Wali was not at the meeting. He is now the President of the Bangladesh Australia Disaster Relief Committee (BADRC). His supporters have channelled \$4000 through our Aid Project Fund, and he has asked for last year's WCA promise of \$5000 to be transmitted through him: \$2500 has been sent so far. He has big plans to establish a library in Dhaka, and a high school in his home district!

### **Vice-President's Report (Daryl)**

Daryl reported that the ICAN campaign for the new Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons was nearing success, with the Treaty expected to come into force in 2021. There have been 36 (?) ratifications so far, out of the 50 (?) required. ICAN has been leaning on the Labour Party to support the Treaty. He mentioned support from groups such as the 'Friends of the Nuclear Treaty', and 'Out Nukes', campaigning for an end to funds supporting investment in nuclear weapons production.

This year's NPT review conference has been cancelled due to the coronavirus epidemic.

His course teaching student teachers is currently running.

### **Treasurer's Report (Rada)**

Rada was not at the meeting

### **Secretary's Report (Luiz)**

Luiz has been managing contacts for the WCA (with great efficiency: CJH). He remarked that he had worked hard to promote the Model Global Parliament at Torrens University in Western Sydney, and was disappointed when the event had to be cancelled. He suggested a change of name next time might help to attract a broader audience, dropping the terms 'Global Parliament'. (Chris queried this – we have to keep our core mission in mind, to promote exactly that concept of a global parliament. Better timing would probably help a great deal).

### **Editor's Report (Margaret)**

Margaret said she still hoped to produce some videos for the WCA, but had been swamped with her own business recently. She strongly supported Luiz's argument that we must reach out to younger people, to attract more members.

### **IGPSG Vice President (Michael de Mol)**

Michael presented a document for consideration, see attachment.

### **Other contributions**

Previous to the meeting, **Pera Wells** distributed a communication from **Arthur Kanegis**, promoting his documentary '*The World is My Country*' on Gary Davis, the "first World Citizen" In view of the new global emergency due to the coronavirus, he is offering free viewing of the documentary up till April 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Peter Grullemans** thanked Daryl for his report on the nuclear weapons campaign, and argued for even stronger community support. He also queried whether the coronavirus originated in the US or China – see attached document. {CJH; The idea it originated in the US is most likely due to the Chinese propaganda machine}.

Meeting closed 8.15 pm

Attachments follow.

## Chris Hammer - President's Report, 29 March 2020

There have been significant developments, and even progress, in all our three major campaigns.

### **Campaign for a Pacific Islands Community**

This is a long-standing campaign of ours, aiming to promote integration at the regional level between the members of the Pacific Islands Forum, and upgrade the Forum to a *Pacific Islands Community* as the logical next step. We have made several submissions on this subject in recent years. The recent fears about rising Chinese influence in the Pacific, and the consequent 'step up' in Australia's relations with the Forum, seemed to offer a new opportunity to promote this concept, and we sent letters to political leaders on both sides of politics about it. Consequently, we received an invitation from the Prime Minister's office to meet with DFAT officials to discuss our ideas.

As a result, Pera Wells and I had a meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> February with three DFAT officers from the new *Office of the Pacific*, headed by John Williams, Assistant Secretary, Pacific Strategy Division. We were delighted to learn that our previous submissions had been noted, and some of our ideas may be slowly filtering through the system – at least they haven't vanished into the void without trace! A summary of the meeting is attached to this report. A new 'Blue Pacific' strategy is under development within the Forum over the next two years, and we plan to follow up where we can.

The parliamentary *Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade* has been calling for submissions to inquiries they are holding on aspects of the 'step up' program. Pera and I are making new submissions to two of these inquiries, the first one on '*Australia's Defence relationships with Pacific Island nations*', and the second on '*Strengthening Australia's relationships with countries in the Pacific region.*' We are also planning to submit our case for a Pacific Islands Community to Joel Nylon, Pacific Regionalism Adviser, Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, as recommended to us by Alex Knox of DFAT

### **Campaign for a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly**

Following the activities associated with the visit of Andreas Bummel which we sponsored at the end of last year, we sent out letters promoting the campaign to all Federal MPs. The response was very small, I'm afraid. One significant response, again from the Prime Minister's office, contained the passage:

"Australia recognises the importance of ensuring parliamentarians can participate in the activities of the UN. We recognise the International Parliamentary Union (IPU) was granted observer status to the UN in 2002 and presents its agreed positions to the UN General Assembly.

Australia regularly sends a Parliamentary delegation to the IPU and to the UN General Assembly each year.”

The IPU is a different animal from the proposed UNPA. Its opposition to the UNPA proposal forms a significant roadblock against this campaign, and probably needs to be removed before the UNPA campaign can succeed. We have sent letters to Australia’s current IPU delegates concerning this issue.

Meanwhile, we have endorsed Andreas’s UNWCI (World Citizens Initiative) Campaign by means of a letter to the Foreign Minister, Marise Payne.

### **Coalition for a World Security Community**

The Coalition was established in 2018 with the help of seed funding from the Global Challenges Foundation (GCF) in Stockholm. We made a joint presentation from the GCF stall at the Paris Peace Forum in November that year. Our working group consists of a diverse group of around two dozen members from Australia, Europe and the United States and includes academics, NGO professionals, communication professionals, and civil servants.

Last year, we first set up our website, thanks largely to Allen Luke, and have since begun an outreach program, seeking collaboration and support from other organizations with similar objectives.

Our working group already includes members from the World Citizens Association in Australia, Federal Union in Britain, the World Citizens March in France, the Stimson Institute, Oxfam and the Streit Council in the US, the United European Federalists (UEF) and the Young European Federalists (JEF) in Europe.

We have recently made contact with the *Alliance of Democracies Foundation* in Denmark, headed by Anders Fogh Rasmussen (former Secretary-General of NATO, and former Prime Minister of Denmark), and received an invitation to participate in the next *Copenhagen Democracy Summit* in June 2020. We are hoping to get Mr Rasmussen out to Australia later in the year and organize several public events to publicise these ideas. One of the keynote speakers at the Summit (if it goes ahead) will be Malcolm Turnbull, and he has agreed to meet with me in May to discuss our ideas.

Didier Jacobs, the co-leader of our Coalition who is based in Washington, has recently made contact with Ash Jain, a Senior Fellow of the *Atlantic Council*. He previously worked for the Policy Planning unit at the US State Department, during which time he worked on the US engagement with the Community of Democracies, together with Anne-Marie Slaughter who supported a Concert of Democracies at the time. In a recent paper [\*Present at the Re-Creation: A Global Strategy\*](#)

[for Revitalizing, Adapting and Defending the Rules-Based International Order](#), by Matthew Kroenig, Deputy Director of the Scowcroft Center, and Ash Jain, Senior Fellow, he has been advocating an *Alliance of Free Nations* to provide strong political leadership to coordinate foreign policies across all issues (security, economy, environment etc.).

So we have now established contacts with major organizations within the Atlantic movement on both sides of the ocean.

[PS Jim Page has suggested rewriting this report as an online opinion piece]

## **Daryl Le Cornu - Education Report**

### **1. The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)**

- The *Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons* (TPNW), which was created by 122 nation states in 2017, now has 81 signatories and 36 states parties (after signatories ratify the treaty).  
For the latest, see: <https://icanw.org.au/learn/the-treaty/>
- The TPNW will come into force 90 days after the fiftieth ratification. This will be a major step on the path delegitimising these WMD and as further countries come on board and sign and ratify the TPNW the resolve of the will build on the nine Nuclear Weapons States to reconsider the viability of continuing with their policies of deterrence based on deployment of WMD that can never be used, because if they are used this will threaten the existence of humanity as a whole.
- In the Post-COVID-19 World there needs to be enormous pressure exerted on the nine nuclear weapons states by the rest of the world over their nuclear arsenals and their military plans to use them. At a time when all the nations on the planet will be trying to bounce back from the biggest crises since World War Two, we need to 'End the sickness of war and fight the disease that is ravaging our world,' according to UN Secretary General, in his 'Appeal for a Global Ceasefire on 23 March 2000.'  
See: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2020-03-23/secretary-generals-appeal-for-global-ceasefire>
- The TPNW provides a rallying-point for all of those who believe that we need global cooperation to deal with the 'problems without passports' and major global threats (such as nuclear weapons, climate change and pandemics), and to build a robust multilateral architecture to manage these existential threats to humanity. The TPNW is one vital piece the global architecture that we need in the Post-COVID 19 World.
- As a partner organisation to ICAN, the WCAA needs to consider what part it can play in educating the community about the Nuclear Ban

Treaty (TPNW) and in lobbying federal politicians to give their support to Australia signing and ratifying the TPNW.

- Australia's status on the Nuclear Ban Treaty. Details: <https://www.icanw.org/australia>

## **2. Opportunities in our COVID-19 world**

- Students in school and universities across the nation are now doing their learning online. According to the NSW Department of Education secretary, Mark Scott, 'COVID-19 has brought the greatest disruption to education in generations, but the lessons learned about technology and students' ability to work independently could have major implications for how students are taught in the future.'  
<https://www.smh.com.au/national/greatest-disruption-to-education-in-decades-could-bring-learning-revolution-20200328-p54euc.html>
- In the same article, another principal stated that: 'What's happened in the last week is the biggest single pedagogical change of decades.'
- For the WCAA, this shift to online learning provides an opportunity to guide university lecturers, teachers and students towards material that educates them about the global issues that our organisation is concerned with, such as promoting human rights and democracy, and advocating for a Un Parliamentary Assembly and a democratic world federation.

## **3. Online Education – Perhaps a way forward for the WCAA**

- An example of the sort of quality material that we can point students and teachers to is the 'World History Project.' This online educational initiative aims to pick up where Big History Project (BHP) left off. I have only just become aware of this and will be exploring the WHP further. I urge everyone to watch the introductory video for the WHP on their homepage. See: <https://whp.oerproject.com>
- Perhaps the one thing we can do on our IGPSG website is to provide links to quality online sources that relate to the issues that the WCAA and the IGPSG promote. Also, included in this would be links to other websites that support world federalism.
- Recorded lectures – Another way to promote education on the global issues we promote is via uploading lectures and talks to YouTube. We would need to set up an IGPSG YouTube channel for this purpose.

## Michael de Mol - IGPSG Vice Chairman's Report

“...advocacy on the subject of **democratic global governance**, ideally a global parliament, as a necessary prerequisite for long-term peace, prosperity and *sustainable development* in our global village” (portion of the IGPSG Mission Statement – my italics).

### Introduction

In the Statement below I would like to suggest:

- that Steffen et al. (2015) discusses planetary boundaries that we should not cross if we wish to maintain the integrity of our biosphere that supports all life. That our economic system needs to be redefined by these planetary boundaries.
- that the Covid-19 Virus is merely a symptom of our current economic system that promotes global inequality and natural resource depletion. That Covid-19 is a result of crossing a planetary boundary that we ought not have crossed and was preventable.
- That Kate Raworth of Oxford University has developed a new economy based on Steffen et al.'s work. Marjorie Kelly has further fine-tuned this economy with her 'Generative Economy' designed to regenerate our natural capital.
- That the global economic fall-out from the Covid-19 virus, and the explanations below ought to be sufficient leverage to push forward the WCAA agenda in a big way.

To keep this as brief as possible, I will not go into too much detail on any one point. The purpose of this skeletal outline is to seek guidance from the meeting on how an IGPSG/WCAA project may evolve from this information below – if you wish - and may be integrated into some WCAA projects. Maybe the information below may capture some peoples' imaginations from a different audience and perspective and be complimentary to say a global parliament?

### Could COVID 19 be merely a symptom of a much wider Natural Resource issue ?

Vidal and Ensia, (2020, March 18, pp.4-5) quotes Kate Jones , Chair of Ecology and Biodiversity at the University College London (UCL) as stating: “We are researching how species in degraded habitats are likely to carry more viruses which can infect humans,” she says. “Simpler systems get an amplification effect. Destroy landscapes, and the species you are left with are the ones humans get the diseases from”.

The article suggests that in the poor countries, without the availability of electricity or refrigeration, you find what are called “wet markets” where a local obtains live animals from a nearby forest which in many cases may be suffering from high fragmentation from natural resource depletion. The animals “are slaughtered, cut up and sold on the spot” in local markets for human consumption.

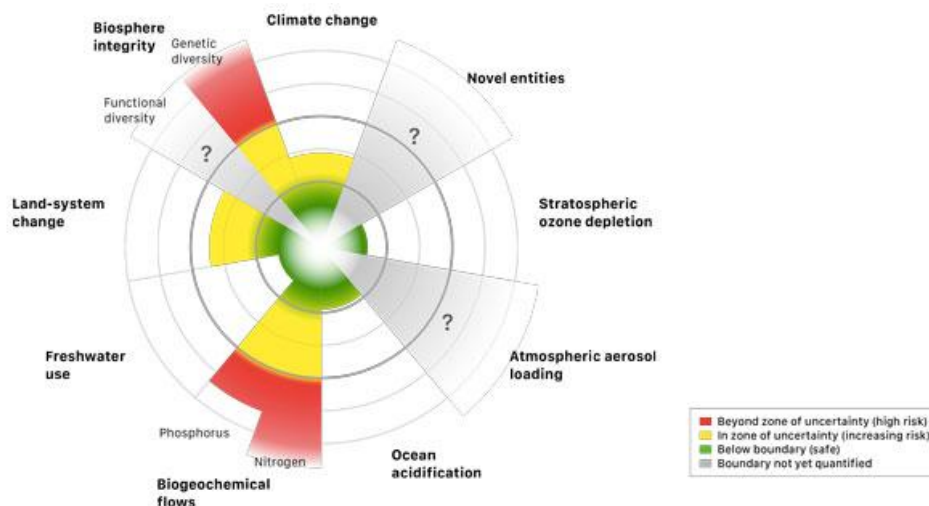
“The “wet market”...in Wuhan, thought by the Chinese government to be the starting point of the current Covid-19 pandemic, was known to sell numerous wild animals, including live wolf pups, salamanders, crocodiles, scorpions, rats, squirrels, foxes, civets and turtles” (Vidaland and Ensia, 2020, March 18, p. 8).

A paper by Godberg, Gillespe, Rwego, Estoff & Chapman, a group of researches from various USA Universities, identify bacterial transmissions increasing among animals suffering from forest fragmentation in Uganda. While bacteria and virus are different; the principle of pathogen amplification is the same.

These articles imply that strong global natural resource policies to prevent forest fragmentation and biodiversity loss are necessary to prevent further virus to human cross-overs, combined with development programs to help the poor nations to obtain basic human rights such as electricity, refrigeration, health and education facilities.

### Systems Thinking and Planetary Boundaries

Steffen et al. (2015) discusses planetary boundaries that we should not cross if we wish to maintain the integrity of our biosphere that supports all life.

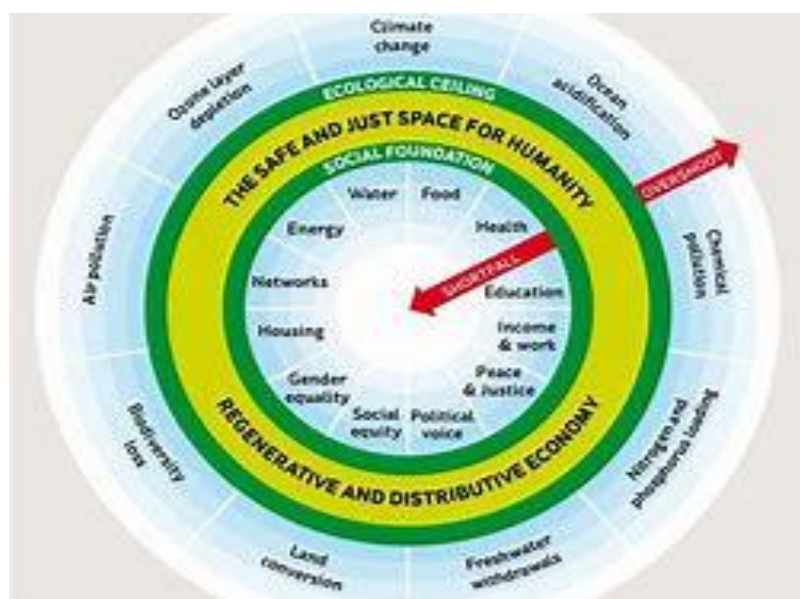


**Diagram 1 The current status of the control variables for seven of the nine planetary boundaries.**



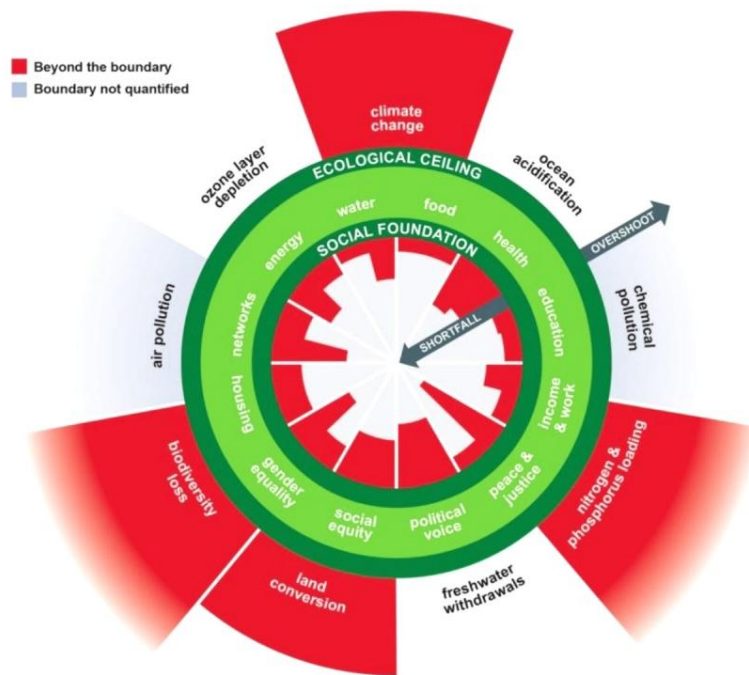
In the diagram above, “the planetary boundary itself lies at the inner heavy circle” (Steffen et al. 2015). He states that we are already in ecological overshoot over the loss of genetic diversity, where we are extinctions species at ever faster rates. Biogeochemical flows occur where nitrogen and phosphorous fertilizers are getting into rivers, washing out to sea, and causing huge dead spots in our oceans due to eutrophication. Clearing forests, and climate change, are in the yellow zone where there is increasing risk and uncertainty. (Steffen et al. 2015). State that presenting such a diagram, can guide “decision makers in charting desirable courses for societal development”.

### Kate Raworth’s ‘Doughnut Economics’ for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



**Diagram 2 Doughnut Economics by Kate Raworth (Raworth, 2017, pp.44-45).**

“The essence of the doughnut: a social foundation of well-being that no one should fall below, and an ecological ceiling of planetary pressure that we should not go beyond. Below the Doughnuts social foundation lie shortfalls in human wellbeing, faced by those who lack lifes essentials such as food, education, and housing. Beyond the ecological ceiling lies pressure on Earth’s life-giving systems, such as through climate change, ocean acidification, and chemical pollution. But between these two sets of boundaries lies a sweet spot – shaped unmistakably like a doughnut – that is both an ecologically safe and socially just space for humanity The twenty first century task is an unprecedented one: to bring all humanity into that safe and just space” (Raworth, 2017, p. 45) .



**Diagram 3. Kate Raworth’s adoption of Will Steffen et al.’s work**

“The red portions of this diagram represent areas of overshoot already beyond the ecological ceiling of planetary boundaries; and areas of planetary failure below the social foundation no person ought to fall below. The areas exceeding the planetary boundaries have the highest risk-weighted consequences for the planet. While those below the social foundation may have lower risk weighted consequences, they are never-the-less, considerably important” (Raworth, 2017, p.51) and contribute directly and indirectly to the red planetary boundaries overshoot.

### **The Generative Economy : Promoting a Community wide sustainable mindset.**

Kelly (2012, p.11) says “The Generative Economy is one whose fundamental architecture tends to create beneficial rather than harmful outcomes. It’s a living economy that has a built-in tendency to be socially fair and ecologically sustainable”

### **Conclusion**

Maybe in order to attract greater attention to the WCAA agenda, these physical problems may act as a leverage point to help move that agenda forward.

## References

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Raworth, K., 2017. *Doughnut Economics: Seven ways to Think Like a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Economist*. rh Business Books.

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her Tedx talk of 16 minutes  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BHOflzxPjl>

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<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/18/tip-of-the-iceberg-is-our-destruction-of-nature-responsible-for-covid-19-aoe>

## Peter Grulleman's Report

1. Endorsement for Daryl's work the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty for ICAN - that the Don't Bank on the Bomb reports (see attached) should be promoted to smaller banks and financial institutions for them to market and take customers away from the big banks who lend to suppliers of nuclear arms manufacturers. My wife and I have migrated all our banking, credit card and share trading platforms to Bendigo Bank who are as efficient and professional as any big bank.

2. Questioning two aspects of Michael's report on the opportunity for a global government to restore environmental balance and obviate problems such as the corona virus :

(a) Can a world government of benevolent leaders possibly overrule the present control of the wealthy few who effectively control the world ? While democracy is needed, the problem is how we can achieve it among among ignorance and apathy.

(b) I do not accept that it is settled that the virus was had Chinese origins. There is evidence that it was introduced into China by the fake athletes representing the US at the time of the military games. As is so often the case with these biological weapons it is impossible to control them. One of the US labs where it was developed was forced to close down for unexplained reasons. The evidence is also now clear that the outbreak first occurred in the US where it was concealed as ordinary flu deaths. I leave information and links about the virus' origins as a note below (\*).

Yours sincerely,

Peter Grullemans, Greystanes, NSW

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\* Notes and links about the virus' origins

I seek a medical or scientific opinion on the following article that was flashed up by Media Watch on the ABC in Australia as rubbish last Monday night 23/3/20 :

<https://www.globalresearch.ca/covid-19-further-evidence-virus-originated-us/5706078>

Is there anyone suitably qualified in WCAA or IGPSG to whom you can refer this article for comment? Does anyone know a scientist or biologist ? Could you please forward it to them? This could be critical in understanding and overcoming the virus. My concern is whether it was introduced into humans first by scientists who harnessed it in the US and allowed it to be carried into China. This is still consistent with the SARS-CoV-2 being of bat origin and zoonotic i.e can jump from animals to people. About a week ago there was a similar article

<https://www.unz.com/article/last-man-standing/>

The conclusions were stated as

**\*WUHAN OUTBREAK : CHINA DEMANDS AN HONEST ACCOUNTING\***

\* It is now virtually certain that COVID-19 was brought to Wuhan by American troops taking part in the city's World Military Games last Oct. 18-27.

\* The 300-strong US contingent stayed 300 meters from the Huanan Seafood Market where China's outbreak began (see map below) at the Wuhan Oriental Hotel.

\* Five of the US troops developed a fever on Oct. 25 and were taken to an infectious-diseases hospital for treatment.

\* 42 employees of the Oriental Hotel were diagnosed with COVID-19, becoming the first cluster in Wuhan. At the time only 7 people from the market had been thus diagnosed (and treated before the hotel staff). All 7 had contact with the 42 from the hotel. From this source, the virus spread to the rest of China.

\* The American Military Games team trained at a location near Fort Detrick, the military's viral lab closed down by the CDC in July for various deficiencies.

\* The big question now is whether the transmission was planned, or accidental.

\* Chinese authorities are awaiting an explanation from US authorities.