The UN and Nato Should Be Very Afraid

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President Donald Trump’s inaugural speech sounded like another one of his fiery campaign speeches on the stump.

Except now that Trump is officially the president of the United States, his speech is now American policy. Hard, tough, nationalistic. It was blatantly American interests above all else.

On the campaign trail, Trump blasted the United Nations and NATO member states - which are American allies - for free-riding on the backs of American taxpayers.

In the speech, Trump returned to these themes. Trump claimed the corrupt political elites in Washington have been taking money from the American working and middle classes and sending it around the world.

The president didn’t mention the UN in particular. But he was no doubt referring to, among other parties, the overpaid bloated UN bureaucracy and the institution itself, which takes American taxpayers’ money to tune of $8 billion per year. That’s about 22% of the UN’s entire budget.

And what does America receive in return for this annual investment?

The majority of UN member nations take American money and then annually dump upon one of America’s key allies in the Mideast, Israel, by passing thoroughly anti-Israel and anti-Zionist resolutions. This is at a rate of about 20 on an annual basis. Meanwhile they only barely criticize much worse human rights offenders such as North Korea, Syria, Saudi Arabia and Sudan. Some of these countries actually kill and torture their opponents and their own people.

I predict that Trump will significantly reduce America’s financial contribution to the UN with both Senate and Congressional support. This will force all member states to start paying more of their own way and expenses.

As to NATO, America’s contribution to its annual costs of represents three times the military and financial contributions of all the other members combined.

According to Trump’s speech, American funds have gone to improve NATO’s military capabilities, while America’s own military has suffered.

In the last several years, because of American largesse, many European nations in NATO have been able to reduce their military expenditures by 10%, thus devoting these additional freed up funds for the internal benefit of their citizens.

Trump warned that this NATO free-loading must and will change. Trump wants to spend more money building up all of America’s military forces, while at the same time reducing America’s financial and military contribution to NATO, thus forcing its NATO members to increase their own defence budgets.

Yes, Trump is talking about America First and foremost.

Typically, the liberal mainstream press does not get Trump. It misinterprets Trump’s America First rhetoric and policies as warmed over Charles Lindbergh pro-fascism, isolationist talk of the 1930s.

Today’s American First rhetoric is fundamentally different. It’s more material and mercenary in nature. America under Trump will not withdraw from the world. The inaugural speech also talked about working with allies in defeating and eradicating ISIS and fighting radical Islamic terrorism. America just does not want to be the sole funder of this effort.

Essentially, Trump is calling upon all American allies, both within NATO and without, including Japan, South Korea, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and India to step up to the plate and increase their defence expenditures.

Left unsaid is what happens if an American ally or a European nation, say struggling Italy or Greece, does not increase its budget but in defiance of Trump and America decreases it.

Does Trump withdraw NATO support from that free-loading country? Anything is possible. Welcome to the new world order.