

ORGANIZATION FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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Cynicism Regarding Breakthrough Programs for Foreign Relations

"A new idea is first condemned as ridiculous and then dismissed as trivial, until finally, it becomes what everybody knows." –William James

When we approach *some officials* about the breakthrough programs we advocate, their resignation and cynicism is obvious. This document explains why some react that way at least at first.

1-The impact of unresolved challenges: Whenever people have not resolved serious challenges over a long period of time, they become frustrated and go into agreement with colleagues and others about how difficult the problem is.. Surely those “attempting” to fly for hundreds of years felt that way until the Wright Brothers recognized what was missing. The same applies to every technological breakthrough over the last 120 years.

2-Blaming others for failed results: It is very human to assign blame to others when we are frustrated over failing to resolve challenges. When we do that, self-scrutiny is diminished significantly which makes a challenge even more difficult.

3-Frustration and self-defeat by agreement: When people are frustrated over a problem unresolved and blame others, they often seek agreement from like-minded associates for their views. This is fueled by the common habit of being “right”. When more and more agree about a point of view they are creating “reality by agreement”. This solidifies the view or opinion. The problem is that “reality by agreement” does not mean that reality is based on fact. Most people once believed that the earth was flat and that man could not fly.

Thus, when something new comes along that violates that common view or opinion; it is met by opposition.

“Here lies the body of William Jay who died maintaining his right of way. He was right dead right as he sped along but he is just as dead as if he were wrong.”