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**"Freedom of the Press belongs to those who own one."**

*A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker*

August 15, 2002



# Commentary

## Our Feckless European "Friends"

**S**eems the countries are choosing up sides for the war with Iraq, and most countries are opting out. Germany, France, Saudi Arabia...even Great Britain where the government favors the U.S. but the population demurs.

As I see it, there are two possible reactions to this. First, and probably the most likely scenario, is to go it alone. After all, who cares if we have France, Germany or Saudi Arabia on our side...none, alone or combined would reduce the time required to defeat Iraq by thirty minutes. The upper echelon of the armed forces of all of these countries fully understand this. Every Saudi pilot will tell you that in a firefight with U.S. pilots, the kill ration would be 50-1, and only that because some American planes would suffer mechanical failure.

It can be argued that "allies" simply hold back American troops because of problems with language, communications frequencies, maneuvers, etc. Basically, "allies" are a useful political cover exercise.

Our problem then is not military support, it is political support – if that is important to us. I argue that it isn't, but if it is, we are not going to get it for a very good reason: No other country is an immediate target. If France or Germany thought they were going to lose Paris or Bonn, they would have a different theory of action. Since America is the only Superpower, we are the target and everyone is willing to feed

**the alligator hoping the alligator will eat them last. Actually, they hope that someone else will kill the alligator BEFORE it feeds on them.**

**Recognizing that, if America wanted to play hardball – and that is a reasonable option in a deadly game – we could re-institute the very successful MAD...Mutually Assured Destruction. But this time with a twist.**

**MAD kept the Soviets at bay simply because we had the power to kill multiplied millions of their citizens, should we be attacked. That is an option with Iraq...we could tell Iraq that in view of the world opposition to our attacking Iraq...we will not do so. BUT, if any of our cities are attacked with a “weapon of mass destruction” from ANY source, Baghdad will be an immediate nuclear target – as will be a similar-sized French city, and a German city, and a Saudi city...because they elected to stand aside while we became the target.**

**There is no reason for America to take all of the casualties in the attack on the West just because Europe is feckless. Mutually Assured Destruction means just that...mutually.**

**Perhaps there is another way to get the populations of Europe and the Middle East to understand that they are not spectators in this deadly game. I hope so, but I am not adverse to using the might of America to protect America.**

**In the end, MAD is not going to be our decision...we are going to go it alone.**

**Suits me...it is a less dangerous option. But it would be interesting to surface the idea with our feckless European "friends." My own opinion is that Europe has ridden on a gravy train that we have fueled for too many generations.**

**Many generations ago, my family moved from Pennsylvania to North Carolina because they tired of protecting the Quakers from the Indians, when the Quakers would not help protect themselves.**

**I undersdtand.**



## **Dolphin Realty**

**Allen P. Hemphill**

Real Estate Broker

15817 Bernardo Center Dr,  
# 111, San Diego, Ca 92127  
RB Office (858) 487-4750

29937 Mountain Meadow Road  
Suite #5  
Hidden Meadows CA 92026  
Meadows Office (760)-749-5005

Home Office (760) 749-2654

**[www.allenhemphill.com](http://www.allenhemphill.com)**  
**[allen@allenhemphill.com](mailto:allen@allenhemphill.com)**