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

A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker

September 18, 2004



European Influence?

Commentary

K

ofi Annan reminds me weekly why I have always smiled when passing those billboards from the John Birch Society that read, "Get the U.S. out of the U.N., and the U.N. out of the U.S."

The recent remark that the U.S. invasion of Iraq was "illegal" was simply the latest from Mr. Annan. First, he was wrong, but aside from that he was obviously trying to interfere in an American election. I say that because the discussion is over – we did invade Iraq. If Mr. Annan had believed it was illegal to invade Iraq he should have spoken out before we did it, and there was PLENTY of time for him to have done so.

But the Annan comment that really frosted me was his criticism of the United States a few months ago in Singapore when he said that the United States was not doing enough to stop the spread of AIDS in the world – specifically that we as a nation were not donating enough money.

Mr. Annan knows that the United States gives more money to AIDS than all other nations combined! If anyone is slacking, it certainly is not the United States. There is no doubt that Mr. Annan is anti-American, and it is also certain that the United Nations under his leadership is less than vigorous.

First, the Oil for Food program (or more accurately the Oil for Palaces and Bribes Program) is a bigger scandal than anyone at the U.N. is willing to address. That will soon become very obvious to everyone, but it is already well known to Mr. Annan.

Even more importantly, in the current major nuclear crisis in Iran and the current humanitarian crisis in Darfur, the United Nations is behaving EXACTLY as it did in the runup to Iraq with their 17 “warning” resolutions – which is to say they are doing NOTHING. Nothing either to stop Iran from developing nuclear weapons or the Sudan government from genocide in the Darfur region.

Because Iran has the same roadblocks that Iraq had – Germany and France – and Sudan has those plus China, nothing can be done. (You will note that the U.N. is not even a party to the multinational discussions with North Korea. If you want something solved, you do not want the U.N. involved.)

I believe that the United States is just as happy to let the Iran nuclear situation go down to the wire with the knowledge that Israel will solve the problem when Israel wants to solve the problem. I would not be surprised to learn that the Bush administration is contending that Darfur is an “African problem” just to prove to the U.N. how utterly feckless it is. Darfur certainly is not an American problem...but then neither was Bosnia.

Bosnia was a European problem, but, predictably, Europe could not do it without American leadership. Just as an aside, there was no UN approval of THAT operation either, so I guess in Annan’s eyes Bosnia was “illegal.”

Mr. Annan is actually supporting the American Security Council resolution on Darfur, but I suspect that is only because too many failures on the part of the U.N. will cause some people to question why there is a U.N. at all.

I want to go on record as having always questioned why there is a U.N. It is becoming more obvious to everyone that it is a complete failure and worse it is an expensive failure.

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