

News from Senator

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IRAQ

THE "KILLING SANDS" OF IRAQ PRESIDENT BUSH MAKES THE RIGHT CALLS

A DECADE AGO, THE WORLD WITNESSED THE "KILLING FIELDS" OF CAMBODIA. TODAY'S HEADLINES PORTRAY THE GRIM REALITY OF THE "KILLING SANDS" OF IRAQ. AS A HUMANE AND CARING PEOPLE, WE AMERICANS JOIN ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE IN CRYING OUT FOR AN END TO THE KILLING. WE JOIN WITH OTHER NATIONS AND PEOPLE IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO THE DISPLACED AND ENDANGERED HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS NOW CROWDING IRAQ'S NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS.

PRESIDENT MAKES THE RIGHT CALL

I COMMEND THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS DECISION TO PROVIDE \$11 MILLION IN EMERGENCY RELIEF FOR THIS MASSIVE NEW POPULATION OF REFUGEES. IN PARTICULAR, THE USE OF AIRDROPS IS AN APPROPRIATE RESPONSE TO THIS TRUE EMERGENCY, AND SENDS EXACTLY THE RIGHT KIND OF VISIBLE MESSAGE OF OUR CONCERN.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THE PRESIDENT WILL ALSO TAKE ADDITIONAL STEPS TO RESPOND TO THE NEEDS OF THE REFUGEES.

AT THE SAME TIME, I ALSO BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE THE RIGHT DECISION IN RESISTING THE URGING OF SOME FOR A UNILATERAL MILITARY INTERVENTION IN THIS COMPLEX AND TRAGIC SITUATION.

NO QUAGMIRE FOR U.S.

INDEED, IT IS IRONIC THAT SOME -- WHO ONLY A DOZEN WEEKS AGO REFUSED TO VOTE TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF FORCE AGAINST SADDAM'S NAKED AND BRUTAL AGGRESSION AGAINST A NEIGHBORING COUNTRY, ARGUING PASSIONATELY ABOUT THE DANGERS OF INVOLVING AMERICA IN A QUAGMIRE OF ARAB POLITICS -- SOME OF THOSE SAME PEOPLE ARE NOW CALLING ON PRESIDENT BUSH TO GET THE UNITED STATES DIRECTLY INVOLVED.

I HOPE AND BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT WILL CONTINUE TO RESIST THOSE CALLS. THIS TIME, THE QUAGMIRE IS REAL.

CHAOS IN IRAQ

THE STRUGGLE OF THE KURDS AND THE SHIITES AGAINST SADDAM HUSSEIN DID NOT START ON THE DAY THE UNITED STATES LAUNCHED MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST IRAQ. IT DID NOT ESCALATE INTO OPEN WARFARE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING SOMEONE SAID, BUT BECAUSE THE DEFEAT OF IRAQ'S FORCES IN THE GULF WAR GAVE SADDAM'S ENEMIES REASON TO BELIEVE HE WAS RIPE FOR THE PICKING.

WERE WE TO INTERVENE WITH ANYTHING LESS THAN A MASSIVE USE OF OUR FORCES -- WHICH I BELIEVE NO ONE ADVOCATES -- THE RESULT WOULD NOT BE A QUICK AND EASY VICTORY, BUT A GROWING AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT IN AN UNENDING WAR OF ATTRITION; AND THE KIND OF CHAOS INSIDE IRAQ THAT WOULD INVITE THE INTERVENTION OF OTHERS, SUCH AS IRAN.

INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS

BUT, NOT INTERVENING DOES NOT MEAN NOT CARING. WE DO CARE, AND DEEPLY. OUR CARING IS MANIFEST IN THE STEPS THE PRESIDENT HAS TAKEN, AND THE EFFORTS OF SO MANY PRIVATE GROUPS AND CITIZENS TO OFFER AID FOR THE NEEDY.

NOR DOES IT MEAN WE DO NOTHING. THERE ARE STEPS WE ARE TAKING, AND SHOULD TAKE. AS WE ALL KNOW, SECRETARY BAKER IS IN THE REGION NOW, EXPLORING WITH IRAQ'S NEIGHBORS WHAT STEPS ARE APPROPRIATE AND REALISTIC, AND MEETING WITH THE KURDISH REFUGEES.

THE UNITED NATIONS HAS ALREADY PASSED ONE RESOLUTION, STRONGLY CONDEMNING SADDAM'S LATEST OUTRAGE. THE WEIGHT OF NEARLY UNANIMOUS INTERNATIONAL OPINION, AND THE PRESSURE OF TOUGH ECONOMIC SANCTIONS, MUST CONTINUE TO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON IRAQ.

WE SHOULD ALSO GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO THE BRITISH PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH REFUGEE SANCTUARY ZONES, UNDER UNITED NATIONS AUSPICES, WITHIN IRAQ.

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