

Yankee Steve's Column
for the Week of May 5, 2011

(written 5/2/11)

Belated News

Last night President Barack Obama issued a statement about the death of Osama bin Laden, the head of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization.

We who are Christians feel somewhat conflicted. We find it inappropriate to celebrate the violent death of anyone. But we take comfort in the fact that in bin Laden's dying he fulfilled the words of Jesus who said if we live by the sword, we will die by the sword. Bin Laden died as he lived.

So while we praise those who killed him, we recognize that Muslims protected their own, even a monster, which explains why bin Laden did not meet with justice much sooner.

Naiveté or Just Stupid?

One thing Obama said proves that he may have studied in a Muslim school in Indonesia but he does not truly understand Muslims. The President announced,

“He (bin Laden) was a mass murderer of Muslims. Indeed, al-Qaeda has slaughtered scores of Muslims in many countries, including our own. So his demise **should be welcomed** by all who believe in peace and human dignity.”

Yes, Mr. President, news of his death should be welcomed by Muslims in America and around the world, but the wail that will go up from the Muslim fifth column will be as distinct as the wail of sirens that were heard last week when tornadoes ripped through the Bible Belt.

Muslims said little or nothing in the last ten years that would give anyone the impression that they disliked bin Laden. Their silence has been deafening. Why should they rejoice then now when he has been killed?

I have to wonder if had bin Laden been captured whether U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder would have demanded to know if the rules of engagement were strictly applied during the fire fight, or he would have wanted to extend to bin Laden the writ of habeas *corpus* [Latin “presenting the body”]. Now all we have to do is dispose of the corpus. I suggest that we cremate him and spread the ashes over the grave of the prophet Mohammed who is buried beneath a mosque in Medina. That would be fitting because it was in the spirit of Mohammed that bin Laden planned and carried out the 9/11 mass murders.

Bungling Statesmen

Secretly and maybe not so secretly, Muslims admire bin Laden. They like him because they dislike us even when they prosper in America. Was he not a thumb in the eye of the West?

But maybe this is our fault. Many times we have performed poorly. With thousands of military boots already on Iraqi ground, President George H. W. Bush urged the Kurds to revolt against Saddam Hussein. It was like a Nike commercial, "Just do it!" They went ahead not realizing that Bush 41 never for a moment intended to aid them unless the United Nations (his favorite organization with its promise of a New World Order) did not join him.

Their gassed bodies lay in heaps as a testimony to why Americans should never again send to Washington anyone from the Bush family. Why shouldn't Muslims think that we have no moral backbone? To Muslims, maybe bin Laden stood for the ideals of commitment and determination. Crazy as it seems, bin Laden reminds me of what the America's founders were like. They paid dearly for their commitment to liberty - different cause, same level of commitment.

Look at Libya. People are being killed at this very moment because the man from Hawaii threw the weight of the U.S. Navy behind the rebels in Libya. Might he not do the same thing for Syrian street rebels who are thirsting for freedom? They have died in the hundreds. I blame their deaths in part on Obama who gave them the false impression that freedom in the Middle East is our cause. Yes, our cause, but only where there is oil.

Look at Iraq. They not only allow for Sharia Law that cannot be reconciled with anything even approaching the democracy which we promised the Iraqis. The Christian community has been utterly decimated. I blame Bush 43 because Saddam Hussein protected Christians, and the war in Iraq was a war of choice. And just look at how much this failure cost us - 4,452 American lives lost and quite possibly 100,000 American casualties, not counting Afghanistan.

Bin Laden with a handful of scruffs has done more to change our way of life than a half million U.S. troops did to change Iraq. No wonder Muslims secretly admire him. I will tell you this; there is no one in our government at this time that has half his commitment. If there is someone like that he or she must be in hiding.

We have failed in two ways in the Middle East. [1] We could not provide the Muslims someone they could look up to like a George Washington-type figure which they need and want, which bin Laden did supply. [2] And we failed to demonstrate that we are a just people abiding by our own Constitution which does not permit us to engage in war without a declaration of war which also explains why we are at this late date still in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, and Pakistan. Who knows where we will be tomorrow?

Final Thought

Islam is a stone-age religion that will never rise like a Phoenix from the ashes of authoritarianism. Since that is the case it is not our duty to reset its broken political wing. We must leave the Middle East to the people of the Middle East. We must face it; Islam and democracy will never work out their differences.

You may call me an isolationist, but I will wear the title proudly. The same could be said of the founders from America's 13 colonies.

Ever yours,

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