

Doesn't anyone else cringe at the news that support for President Bush's "war on terrorism (in the U.S.)" is being bought, rather than given freely and voluntarily? That in many countries, the U.S. is getting pledges of help and support only by promising them dollars, food, and arms? That those promises are being made to countries that just last month, the U.S. was still ostracizing for one reason or another? Can anyone imagine that even Iraq was offered such a bribe?

How long will such bought loyalty last? How strong will it be? How reliable?

Isn't anyone uncomfortable with the thought that what has been described as the richest, most powerful country in the world has apparently set itself up as immutable god - declaring it absolutely will not negotiate with Bin Laden or for his surrender; has set itself up as judge, jury and executioner - not only indicting, Osama Bin Laden, but also finding him guilty of the September attacks?

Doesn't it bother anyone that President Bush has not once mentioned the United Nations in the context of the attacks or their aftermath, that he himself has not once deferred to the jurisdiction, the mechanisms, the leadership and coordination that the U.N. offers? That he has not once shown the slightest awareness of how deeply resentment of the U.S.' perceived pro-Israeli bias festers in the minds of the Palestinians and their supporters?

Yet it is this arrogance, this self-interest, this abuse of power, that has alienated and intimidated much of the Middle East, and that is, in considerable part, to blame for inciting terrorist attacks against the U.S. wherever its agents, emissaries, and employees are found.

There is respect for the United Nations in those quarters, however, and Bush would do well to broaden his horizon, and take into account the rest of the world of which the U.S. is, after all, but a part. Self-aggrandizement only goes so far.

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