

Proper Responses to Treachery

Mean Mr Mustard writes that the **proper response** to the treachery of the **Russians**, the **Germans** and probably the **French** is to threaten them as we would any tinpot dictatorship that threatened us:

But the stripe of betrayal that has become more and more evident in Russia's case (and may very well manifest itself in both France and Germany's dealings) is entirely different. In essence, they were giving material aid to an enemy engaged in trying to kill American soldiers. Russia shared vital intelligence with Iraq and even trained some of Saddam's thugs in espionage. And that's just the official actions of the government itself. It seems the dealings involving private Russian companies (with the tacit approval but plausible denial of the government) were much worse than that. Germany was apparently looking to get very friendly with the Iraqi secret service. What possible reason could animate the desire for such a relationship at this point except thwarting US forces?...

Such overtures could only, in my opinion, signal a willingness to aid Baghdad in *physically hurting us while were actually engaged in battle...*

If they want to act like Syria, then we should oblige them and have our Defense department making similar veiled threats. They're the ones who committed the actions indicative of such hostility. For us to not respond in at least a rhetorical fashion this instant is just wilful blindness on our part.

Syria is an evil tyranny, and as such has no internal mechanism to correct their policies and remove their leaders. Hence, when they do evil things that endanger us, there is no alternative to our making it clear that the leaders themselves will suffer if they do not mend their ways – ultimately by being deposed in a war and put on trial for their crimes. France, Germany and Russia are democracies. As such they do have the ability peacefully to change their policies and if necessary to get rid of Putin, Chirac and Schroeder. It is therefore appropriate to maintain peaceful relations with them.

Certainly, it is also appropriate that they should **pay a price**

wherever possible. It is also imperative that the Americans cut them out of all diplomatic initiatives to deal with Syria and its poisonous ilk, and that they be very careful about what intelligence they are shown since they obviously cannot be trusted. Yet though the French, Russian and German governments may be run by men with all the moral courage and integrity of a weasel, they aren't actually evil and should not be treated on a par with Syria.

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