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

*A. J. Liebling of the New Yorker*

September 7, 2002



### Only We Get a Vote

**W**hat happens if they are wrong?  
Suppose, for instance, that the President is wrong. Iraq does not have a nuclear device, is not developing a nuclear weapon, and has no evil intent to use the biological or chemical weapons that it does have.

But we attack anyway, defeat Iraq, and replace the regime. Result – Europe is angry with us, the “Arab Street” is angry with us, and we have lost – perhaps – 300 good American men and 24,000 relatively innocent Iraqis.

After we are finished, we find NO nuclear capability being developed, and must apologize. We are despised throughout the world. We must rebuild Iraq, and withdraw.

Now suppose the weak-kneed, hankie-wringers are wrong? Iraq does have a nuclear development program, and intends to use the results to destroy an American city and a city in Israel through smuggling a crude device into New York by ship, and into Israel by truck.

At some point, perhaps two years from now, simultaneously, both a large part of New York (300,000 deaths) and most of Tel Aviv (250,000 deaths) disappear in mushroom clouds. The U.S. believes that Iraq is to blame and prepares to launch a nuclear retaliation – but Iraq announces that there is still a third nuclear device – somewhere.

We have two options – launch and kill 500,000 Iraqis, at the risk of suffering 100,000 more Americans dead – or we can negotiate with Iraq. The demands include a Palestinian State, and American withdrawal from the entire Middle East, including support for Israel. We agree, but Israel says to hell with it and, ignoring

**Commentary**

**American advice for an “appropriate response,” launches a major nuclear attack...6 million Iraqis dead.**

**Israel sends a memo to all countries reminding them that in 1981 when Israel destroyed an Iraqi nuclear power plant that had the capability to produce nuclear material for a bomb, all countries including the United States, condemned Israel.**

**Israel is small and cannot tolerate a threat so easily as do we as a nation. Israel will not hesitate if they feel threatened.**

**Iraq triggers their only remaining device in Charleston harbor, and 70,000 Americans die.**

**European leaders say they are sorry they did not support an earlier attack on Iraq, but the case was not made for an attack. American hand-wringers say the administration should have made a better case for early intervention, but deny any responsibility for the situation.**

**Woody Hayes once said: “Three Things Can Happen When You Throw a Forward Pass, And Two of Them are Bad.”**

**Obviously, there are many things that can happen if America decides to attack – or decides NOT to attack, but these are the two “worst case scenarios.”**

**It seems to me that the best “fail safer, if not fail safe” system is to nip this bud early. Vice-president Cheney is correct in saying that the same people who condemn an attack before Iraq gets a nuclear weapon are the same people who will contend that once Iraq has the bomb we can’t attack.**

**In the end, the United States is the threatened country – not Egypt, or France or even Canada. We are the only ones who get a vote because only we are the target.**

**There are several other scenarios, or course. If we delay too long, Israel WILL attack Iraq. Israel does not give a damn what the United States, Europe, the UN or even Green Peace thinks about its survival, and Israel understands that the destruction of Israel is the immediate goal of Iraq and most of the Middle East.**

**As they showed in 1981, Israel is not going to call a conference in the UN before they act in their own self defense. And, being a small nation without the means to project a large army, they will use nuclear weapons.**

**Iraq had better HOPE that they are attacked by the United States. Israel will respond to the threat of Iraq with a less than surgical strike because they can suffer greatly, and to tell the truth, they don't give a damn what the UN thinks.**



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