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Dubai Or Not Dubai

by
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An announcement was made this past week that an agreement had been signed between the United States and the United Arab Emirates to allow the UAE to become the managers of six of our country's seaports. It took everyone by surprise and both sides of the political aisle responded with remarks that our President was giving our enemies the keys to our nation's security apparatus and providing a sure fire way for them to bring death and destruction across our borders and into our backyards.

Even the historically politically correct, liberal left suddenly started crying out that we have lost our minds and are consorting with the devil. Whereas before these ideologues after 9-11 were against the use of any type of racial or ethnic profiling to search out the enemy among us in our airports and transit systems, they are now saying, "How dare our President put us at risk by giving Arabs the right to invest in the infrastructure of our country," and, "The President is selling our safety so that his rich friends can become even richer by \$6 to \$8 Billion," and, "Why can't an American company be in charge of all our ports?"

Folks, to be honest, I have no idea why there isn't an American corporation that has the know how to handle the job but many people, specifically those who should know, are saying they don't exist. Listening to former Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Security Adviser, and Secretary of State Colin Powell in an interview last week it would seem that he agrees with the deal and says there is absolutely nothing wrong with the UAE investing in that part of our country because they've got the ability and the best interests of both countries at heart. Secretary Powell says the UAE has been our friend in the past and continues to be our friend in very strategic ways in the present. He appears to have complete confidence and faith that allowing them to manage a small portion of our country's port system would not be a dangerous situation.

The question we should ask ourselves... dare we believe Mr. Powell, and all the others who are in favor of the arrangement, or should we potentially insult one of our loyal Arab supporters and tell the UAE that we've changed our minds about the deal? Oh, we're not doing it because we think they are a friend of those who would do us harm... we just... well, we just changed our minds? Right... I'm sure they will buy that, aren't you?

I guess it boils down to this ... as much as we might try to be totally politically correct and blind to another's religious beliefs, I don't see how we totally accept a culture that condones and/or perpetuates the strapping of bombs to themselves or their children to pulverize hundreds or thousands of innocent men, women and babies? Can we not see there is no way now, or in the future,

that we can become permanent partners with any country whose belief system demands that its people be, forever, citizens of 1st Century politics and technology? Can we, with a clear conscience, enter into trade agreements or alliances with countries who have claimed that one of their pre-eminent goals was the all out destruction of Israel? A country who has been our ally since its inception and whose beliefs and history provide the mortar of the very foundation upon which our own country was built? If the UAE doesn't fit the above description of your typical Arab country then maybe we should look to finalizing this deal.

We must realize, as a people, to talk the talk of political correctness and tolerance of any and all belief systems means absolutely nothing, unless we can walk the walk without putting our country's own belief system and security at risk.

We've elected a President who has proven his number one goal is to assure the safety of this country and its citizens. Do we think a man so keen on American security would suddenly allow a deal to go through with a foreign power that would endanger all of us? Personally I don't think so... but you have to make up your own mind in this situation. If you listen to those who rant and rail against anything that President Bush is in favor of and make your decision based on what they say, I think you would be doing yourself a disservice. If you base your decision strictly on the words of those who believe the President is incapable of making a mistake, you would be equally wrong.

If you're truly worried and losing sleep over this deal and think it has the potential of giving terrorists free reign in our country, to get peace of mind you should investigate multiple sources and find out just what the deal entails. Who are the UAE? How have they helped us? What are they looking to benefit from this deal? Is this a straight business deal or some secret terrorist tactic? Then make up your mind based on the facts... not only what I or anyone else has to say about it. Then and only then will you know the truth and feel secure in your belief.

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