

4/12/08

“End of the War”
by
Tom Holbrook

Again, after a several month long hiatus from occupying the headlines, the Iraqi war was front and center once again as Gen. David Petraeus and American Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker sat before Senate Committees giving their latest report on conditions in Iraq. Once again it was apparent the anti-war faction was out to minimize the importance of the gains from implementation of Petraeus’ “Surge Strategy” in Iraq.

The slums of Sadr City are the scenes of the latest violence brought on, many feel, to coincide with the 5th Anniversary of the fall of Baghdad. Shiite Cleric Moqtada al-Sadr’s private militia is responsible for the increase in violence against Iraqi civilians with weapons provided by the Shia nation Iran. Sadr says the increase of fatalities is nothing compared to what it would be if he lifted a complete ban on the “truce” that has been in place the last 7 months.

Sadr City was built in 1959 to primarily house poor, unemployed Baghdad citizens at the time. It has remained a bastion of urban poverty making it the perfect breeding grounds for destitute, angry Shiite Muslims who now look to Cleric Sadr as their savior, protector and provider. Their situation seems to be very similar to the “dis-enfranchised” blacks and Hispanics in inner city America who are force-fed the notion that the Democrat Party is their savior from the poverty and discrimination by which they are “imprisoned.”

The Cleric al-Sadr’s Mehdi Army of militants are responsible for the upsurge of mortar attacks on the safe Green Zone in Baghdad and are encouraging their leader to give them free rein to resume their daily atrocities on fellow Iraqis. In August of 2005 and October of 2006 a lockdown of Sadr City was effective in reducing violence and fatalities to their lowest levels of the war, but each time Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki gave in to pressure from al-Sadr and lifted the lockdowns. Maliki is once again slow in his response to the current violence seemingly fearful of the threats al-Sadr is throwing at him.

Hopefully, the American military will be allowed, together with Iraqi soldiers to once again lock down the area and go in street-by-street and house-by-house to root out the evil seeds that are taking root in the filth of the neighborhoods. The same tactics that

turned Fallujah, once a stronghold of terrorist insurgents, into a city of relative peace, could and should be used within Sadr City. American soldiers and Marines are accused of being “killers of innocent civilians” when in reality those Iraqis and foreign insurgents who plant indiscriminate IEDs and car bombs in busy civilian market places are the ones who are the bad guys. Unfortunately, many in our Congress continually refuse to acknowledge that fact.

Of course, during this perpetual Presidential campaign armchair quarterbacks continue to accuse our military and our president of “not wanting to end the war.” How stupid can anyone be to even believe such a statement or idea. What they should be saying is our military and our president “don’t want to leave the country unprotected from those terrorists factions who would take advantage of our pullout to take over the country for themselves.”

Hillary recently accused Senators McCain and Obama of not wanting to end, nor capable of, ending the war, but she is... “One candidate who is ready, willing and able to end the war and to rebuild our military while honoring our soldiers and our veterans.” Does she think that removing our soldiers is going to end the war... and how does running in retreat honor any military member or veteran?

Democrats on the Hill are constantly saying for the cameras, “Our President has no clear exit plan,” as if we should announce our timetable to the enemy. The “exit plan” has been announced and re-announced... “We will bring our troops home when the Iraqis have shown themselves capable of protecting themselves from warring factions within and preventing the incursion of foreign terrorists from without.”

Most on the left are always haranguing about the possibility of leaving any American troops in Iraq, even after hostilities have been stopped, saying we wouldn’t need them there. What they fail to remember is that it is in the best interest of our country, the host country and the world to maintain troops all over the globe... which is why we have, even 63 years after the end of WWII, over 40,000 troops in Germany, 10,000 in England, 30,000 in Korea and 34,000 in Japan... not counting those troops stationed in the Balkans and other European and Asian countries.

If we want to be honest about the whole thing, the strategy of our current military leaders and the present administration is not all that different from military leaders and

administrations in years gone by, Democrat and Republican. Why not get behind them and support them and maybe, just maybe, the violence would end a whole lot sooner?

#