



Who are we arming now?

12/20/83: Donald Rumsfeld, as special envoy for the Reagan Administration, shakes hands with Saddam Hussein while discussing US support for Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war. At the time, US intelligence had confirmed that Iraq was using chemical weapons “almost daily.”

US troops die for the failures of policy makers.

The war in Iraq marked the seventh consecutive time that American troops have been sent into combat against a regime the US had previously backed. The US provided arms or military support to Iraq, Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Haiti, Somalia, and Panama. These countries were seen as short term allies or “clients.” In every case, the countries had terrible human rights records or were dictatorships. While American soldiers and innocent civilians paid the price, policy makers like Donald Rumsfeld avoided accountability.

The record speaks for itself.

We backed the Mujahadeen in Afghanistan, including Osama bin Laden, on the theory that they were the best way to disrupt the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. We aided Saddam Hussein on the theory that he would be a bulwark against Islamic fundamentalism. We armed Manuel Noriega of Panama on the theory that he was an important anti-communist.

Our policies should reflect our values, not offend them.

Democracy and human rights are American ideals. Our elected officials have betrayed these core values. Today, the US leads the world in arms sales to human rights-abusing governments and dictatorships. When we provide arms to governments that are hated by their own people, or whose jails are filled with democracy activists, the result is bitter anti-American sentiment.

We are doing it again.

Since the war in Afghanistan, the Bush Administration has begun providing military aid to countries with appalling human rights records including Armenia, Azerbaijan, Indonesia, Georgia, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. As you read this ad, the next war is being set in motion by a policy of providing arms to any dictator that claims to be on our side in the “war on terrorism.”

The US must pursue cooperative security.

The Bush Administration is increasingly isolating the US from the world community at the precise time when we most need our allies. Running roughshod over the international system won’t make us safer - engaging it will. The US should challenge the five permanent members of the Security Council to curb the arms trade and take responsibility for leading the world in reducing weapons proliferation.

America needs a new foreign policy.

Our country deserves a break from the failed policies of the past. US arms sales and military aid programs have endangered American lives. Our nuclear weapons policies are encouraging nuclear proliferation. Our approach to the global community is leading to growing isolation and foreclosing meaningful leadership.

Huge increases in military spending won’t make us safer, but they will take funds from education, health care and other programs and harm the quality of life for all Americans. Eliminating civil liberties will threaten our constitution and undermine the very values that make our nation great. We will make our country safer by affirming our values, not abandoning them.

Campaign for a New American Foreign Policy:

1. Support Human Rights & Democracy
 - Oppose arms transfers and military training or assistance to human rights abusing governments as determined by the State Department.
 - Control the arms trade.
2. Reduce and Control the Nuclear Threat
 - Oppose funding for the development or testing of new nuclear weapons.
 - Cut the existing nuclear stockpile.
 - Oppose missile defense and space weapons that increase the pace of nuclear proliferation.
3. Cooperate with the World Community
 - Reject the doctrine of preemptive attack.
 - Promote and support international systems which foster global cooperation such as the UN and the International Criminal Court.

Tell Congress to support the New American Foreign Policy Platform:

Capitol Hill switchboard: 1-202-224-3121

US Senate

Washington, DC 20515

US House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20510

www.NewForeignPolicy.org

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