

The U.N. Again

This week's controversy involves President Bush and his willingness to let the United Nations play a role in the rebuilding of Iraq. To many Europeans, Bush appears reluctant to let the United Nations play a significant role in Iraq's rebuilding process. While the United Nations would like to be in charge of the interim Iraqi government, Bush seems determined to make those decisions himself. Bush may be selfish in some people's eyes, but on many levels, his actions make a great deal of sense.

The United Nations opposed the invasion into Iraq; yet, now they want to have a part in rebuilding it. If the United Nations was really against the actions of the coalition, they would want no part in rebuilding Iraq. They would not support a new country based on what they deemed an illegitimate invasion. The requests of the United Nations also seem very hypocritical. They did not put in any troops or resources into the war, yet when an economically advantageous opportunity appears they think they deserve to be a part of it.

The most disturbing part of this whole ordeal is the lack of loyalty among countries and their outright selfishness. France, Germany, and Russia all opposed the war with Iraq. France, for example, opposed the war because they claimed it infringed on another country's sovereignty. In reality, the Iraqi government owed the French many billions of dollars for goods and services. Russia also has a history of making a tremendous profit off of the Iraqis. Most of the Iraqi arsenal of weapons was produced by the Russians.

Analyzing the situation leads to a disturbing realization. Most political positions relate directly to economical benefits. Once the outcome of the war was made clear, most countries that opposed the action stopped voicing their opinions. Instead, they effectively abandoned their previous positions and took ones that would allow them to participate in the rebuilding of the country. Once there was a profit to be made, all loyalty to the previous regime went out the door.

Whether or not most of Europe has a right to demand involvement in rebuilding Iraq, there is a definite problem that needs to be worked out. I believe that the United States shouldn't have to grant involvement to Europe, but it may be in their best interest to do so. Whether we, as a nation, want to admit it or not, there are growing sentiments throughout the world against the United States. It may be wise for the U.S. to let Europe play a significant role in the rebuilding of Iraq, for this sole reason. It may boost the European economy and consequently change some of the ill will against the United States.