

## PRESS RELEASE

### **A DEMOCRATIC PERSPECTIVE**

The recent visit of Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Syria marks a significant change in American foreign policy, a change for the better, a change not to the liking of President Bush and the Project-for-the-New-American-Century advisors who puppeted him into his disastrous Iraqi misadventure.

It is a policy of conversation instead of confrontation, a policy of adult minds as opposed to minds beset with the neurotic illusions of greed cloaked in the rhetoric of Christian righteousness. By having the courage and maturity to simply speak to Syria, Ms. Pelosi has told not only Syria, but all the Middle Eastern nations that both the Congress and the people of the United States wish to treat other nations with equality and dignity. The difference between the reaction to Ms. Pelosi and former reactions to Bush and his ambassadors like Secretary of State Rice is significant.

As a result of the climate Speaker Pelosi has tried to generate, Syria has now declared a willingness to negotiate an equitable solution to the Palestinian situation with Israel. Israel has reciprocated. Iran has released the British sailors being held hostage (no doubt spurred on by closed negotiations in which an Iranian diplomat was also released as a kind of quid pro quo). The impending disaster of another U.S. invasion against Iran has been eased.

That is quite a list for one simple trip by one U.S. leader. Yet, there is more, if one reads between the lines.

Ms. Pelosi has also reinforced the idea that a woman of courage and character can play upon the international stage. And, finally, she has subtly acknowledged that the deaths of people in wars can be viewed in different ways on different sides of the battle lines. To spell this last point out more clearly, she has hinted that the deaths of innocent Iraqi civilians at the hands of an American invasion are not simply “collateral damage,” to use Donald Rumsfeld’s heartless words, but no less barbarous to the people of the Middle East than the heartless murders of Saddam Hussein.

History will judge Bush and his supporters, not the least of them Congressman English of the 3<sup>rd</sup> CD of Pennsylvania, in the harshest of terms. It is time the American people did so, as well.