

Majority Leader John Boehner Laughs all the way to the Polls

My Dear President Barack Obama, and
My Good Friend Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu
(notice I did not say that about the President):

I have been reading with great interest your exchange of letters. It looks like I have both of you right where I want you to be.

The President of the United States looks to the public like he is squirming and alienating yet another crucial ally in the war against Islamic terrorism. The Prime Minister of Israel may be bringing Jewish votes over to the Republican Party by playing the part of the David standing up for the big, bad Goliath. For me, it is a win-win. Politics is a funny sort of animal, and after playing second fiddle to Senator Reid, it tickles the cockles of my heart to be the grand puppeteer. It serves my interests so well to watch this international drama play out that I can barely conceal my glee.

Now, either one of you could easily upset the apple cart and dump me off this joy ride. Mr. President, you can pull your horns in and say that the alliance between the United States and Israel is too important to be mired in petty bickering. The Prime Minister will speak to Congress, you will agree with him about the danger of Iran, and nothing will change. You will go on with the snail's pace negotiation with Iran and, with any luck, they will develop the nuclear bomb after you leave office. Mr. Prime Minister Netanyahu, you can likewise avoid fracturing the Jewish people into warring camps by picking up the red, white and blue telephone in your office and calling the President. You can find some alternative venue to speak, or you can even vet your remarks before Congress with the President, giving him an opportunity to review your speech ahead of time.

All levity aside, there is a lot at stake for everyone here. We all understand that Iran and other terrorist groups love power. Whether they play with oil, terrorism against civilians, or nuclear weaponry, the civilized West can only be losers. Israel may be on the front line of the war against terrorism, but in this day and age of commercial airliners turned into missiles and dirty nuclear bombs the size of a suitcase, intercontinental warfare is a definite reality.

Since we all agree that the security of the United States is at risk from international terrorism, and that the State of Israel is a great friend who we help and who helps us, the question is, how can we put this unfortunate interpersonal spat to rest? I can look like a real hero if I can play the part of the peacemaker. In the American legal system, Alternative Dispute Resolution is all the rage. Some third party will act as a mediator and put each of the fighting children in a different corner.

Think how I can help my party, the country, and most importantly, my own image, by resolving this dispute thereby salvaging the tattered remains of civil discourse between friends. How about the two of you find a place to meet before March? What about my idea to speak on the telephone? Can Israel's Foreign Minister and the U.S. Secretary of State have a chat? That is probably a bad idea. I do not know if John Kerry can talk with anyone without giving them a French hug and playing some really bad '80s music.

How about the three of us have a discussion about the kind of non-nuclear Iran we would like to see? Can we reach any consensus as to what the final outcome should be? Are there people within both our governments who can speak with each other? It seems that the military people have an absolutely fantastic relationship. The United States has benefitted tremendously from Israel's iron dome technology, while the United States helped to finance that system in order to be able to protect its own troops. Diplomatic problems, even during World War II were oftentimes solved by military people who may have a high degree of interpersonal skills. Would both leaders trust your excellent military brass at the top to try to come up with a consistent, reasonable and workable Iran plan so that the two heads of state can meet absent acrimony?

Mr. President, I implore you to listen to what the Prime Minister has to say and let him take his own kicks at home for acting like a politician during Israel's election cycle. You will therefore appear to be gracious and truly concerned about the future of our friend who we need in the war on terrorism. Play nice with Prime Minister Netanyahu, and let him have his say. After all, the lives of the people who wrote the Bible are on the line.

I wish both of you continued good health, prosperity, and most of all, Shalom Bayit – peace in the house.

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