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WORLD'S HISTORY SHOWS THAT U.S. POSITION IS RIGHT

(By Joseph Szalay)

As an American of European descent, I have strong reactions to this war and the anti-American sentiment I hear expressed both at home and abroad. It reminds me of a Hungarian proverb: "The dog barks but the caravan progresses."

In the former Serbia, the 1914 assassination of Crown Prince Ferdinand, son of Franz Joseph, Emperor of Austria-Hungary, ignited World War I.

In 1917, before that was over, revolutionaries took over Russia. This Communist revolution had been planned in Germany. A key piece of Communist strategy was to starve the people in order to subjugate them more easily. This plan also encompassed the Starvation of 12 million (out of 40 million) Germans.

How could such a plan work? Human beings have a drive to survive. Starving people do not care what form of government they have, as long as they can put enough in their stomachs to survive.

German nationalists were aware of the Communist plan. They knew that if Germany capitulated, all of Europe could easily become Communist. They reacted by turning the Communist strategy to their own advantage. When Hitler came to power in Germany, the first thing he did was to stop starvation by feeding the people. I vividly remember that many Hungarians and people from other neighboring countries went to work in Germany. So successful was his economy that Hitler's regime developed a plan to take over the whole world, beginning with Europe—just what the Russian Communists had originally planned. Hitler's slogan was "Deutschland uber alles—Germany (taking) over the world."

What is still incomprehensible to me is the sad sequel: Hitler forced the Jews into concentration camps and gas chambers and took over countries one by one: Austria, Poland, Hungary . . . where was France? Where was the rest of the free world? Because we did not stop Hitler's conquest at the beginning, stopping him later cost the lives of 85 million people and caused unthinkable suffering not only in casualties but in the destruction of irreplaceable historical and artistic treasures.

One result of that war was to destroy the bloc of neutral states which for centuries had been able to resist the expansion of Russia and Germany alike. Masterminded by the French, the peace plan after World War I created weak artificial "nations" such as Yugoslavia; thus it paved the way for the Second World War:

World War II gave the Russian Communists the opportunity to expand their influence, giving them a free path to world conquest, their original goal.

I knew all of this through my father's experience. As a young man, he was drafted and spent four years on the front lines. When the Second World War started, he was again drafted, along with my two older brothers. As soon as I turned 18, I was also drafted, leaving my mother home alone to raise my 13-year-old sister and 7-year-old brother. With God's help, I defected from the army, living in the forest like a hermit.

Only one government was able to rescue Europe from Nazism; the United States.

After World War II, the United Nations was initiated with noble hopes by France, England, the United States and the Soviet Union. What has become of those high ideals? The U.N. has become an impotent, socialistic, bureaucratic organization full of anti-American sentiment.

Where was the United Nations when people rose up demanding their God-given right of freedom in Poland, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia? Thousands died, thousands were imprisoned, tortured or deported to Siberia while the United Nations stood by idle.

And what of the war in Vietnam? Did the United Nations move a hair to stop it? The Communists activated their propaganda machine, trying to divide Americans. World opinion expressed at the United Nations pressured the United States to pull out of Vietnam without winning a victory over Communism. Even after the American forces departed from Vietnam, neighboring Laos and Cambodia, millions were killed to "cleanse" the country. Where was the United Nations? Where were the "peace" demonstrators? Where were the human rights advocates?

While the United Nations was clueless, the United States took leadership in eliminating Communism, whose vulnerability had been demonstrated by the freedom fighters in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. These uprisings had also shown the people's unquenchable thirst for freedom. President Reagan combined forces with the great spiritual leader and Polish hero Pope John Paul II to initiate the collapse of the "Evil Empire" of the Communist Soviet Union.

Notice that it was the United States, not the United Nations, that saved Europe yet another time.

When Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, it was the United States and its allies who fought and freed Kuwait. The United Nations decided that a cease-fire agreement in which Saddam promised to liquidate all his weapons of mass destruction was sufficient peace insurance. Of course, Saddam did not fulfill his obligations, but the United Nations was unable to enforce them. The United Nations did not even act when it became known that Saddam was using his arsenal of chemical weapons to eradicate his own people's fight for freedom.

Those who harbored hatred toward the United States were emboldened by the lame and indecisive attitude of the United Nations. The result? Sept. 11, 2001.

President Bush requested that the United Nations live up to its contractual obligation to defend the world against weapons of mass destruction.

There was a lengthy bureaucratic debate in which those nations whose freedom our country restored in World War II turned against the proposals of the United States. Those who had a financial interest in Saddam's rearmament blocked enforcement of the conditions imposed by the cease-fire agreement. Once again, the United States has been forced to act on its own to protect our country and the world from the danger of terrorist destruction.

On April 4, a headline in The Tribune read, "Former Soviet army generals helped Saddam with War strategy." Could this have something to do with Russia's reluctance to support any action against Saddam?

I have sketched this history to show how our country has always been willing to defend freedom, not only our own but that of the whole world. President Bush follows the example of the great presidents of the United States. He shows unwavering dedication to keeping his presidential oath. While other countries follow their economic interests, he stands tall, fulfilling his duty to God and country.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN SETH MICHAUD

HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to United States Marine Captain Seth Michaud, who died on Sunday, June 22, 2003, in service to his country.

Seth Michaud was a resident of Hudson, Massachusetts, in my Congressional District. In 1994, he graduated from Hudson High School, where he excelled in both academics and sports. I supported Seth's application to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD., and was proud when he was accepted, announcing the news at a town meeting that included his family, friends, and neighbors. Seth graduated from the Pensacola Naval Flight School in 1999, and was certified as a helicopter pilot in December, 2000.

At the time of his death, Capt. Michaud was a helicopter commander, killed when a B-52 dropped nine M117 general purpose bombs during a practice mission. Seth was watching the routine training exercise from atop a ridge on the Gondoria Range in northeastern Africa, off the coast of Djibouti. He was standing outside his CH-53E helicopter when the bomb exploded. Eight other service personnel were also injured. Seth Michaud had been assigned to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 461, based at New River Marine Corps in North Carolina.

Capt. Michaud and about 50 other personnel from Combined Joint Task Force—Horn of Africa were participating in training exercises that involved the coordination of aerial bombardment missions. This exercise was the fourth of its kind since the task force's arrival in December. The task force's mission is to lead the U.S. war on terrorism, by intercepting or disrupting terrorist operatives in that region of the world. Seth, like many other soldiers who have answered their nation's call to service, paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and liberty.

Seth is survived by his loving wife Karen Marie, and their 18-month-old son, Ian. He also leaves his parents, Francis and Karen of Hudson, a brother, Ethan, and a sister, Samantha, as well as several other relatives and friends.

Seth Michaud was a United States Marine, a loving father, husband, son, and brother, and his commitment to his Nation and his family is one for which he will be forever remembered. His family knows that Seth's dedication to his service was of great value to him. They remember him for his photographic memory, his passion for flying, and his love for his family.

Capt. Seth Michaud served his family, his hometown, and his country, proudly and faithfully.