

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2001

The Mayor, the Prince and the \$10 Million

To the Editor:

Re "Citing Comments on Attack, Giuliani Rejects Saudi's Gift" (news article, Oct. 12):

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani acted courageously in returning a \$10 million donation by a Saudi prince to New York City relief efforts, as it proved to be blood money.

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud's citing American policy as the root cause of the Sept. 11 attacks is an endorsement of the terrorists' principles and therefore makes him part of the problem. His desire to contribute money merely indicates that he is duplicitous — a trait that one must suspect is shared widely among President Bush's international coalition. CHIP JOYCE
New York, Oct. 12, 2001

To the Editor:

Re "Citing Comments on Attack, Giuliani Rejects Saudi's Gift" (news article, Oct. 12):

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani has done it again. Just as he was being justly lauded for his leadership during the terrorism crisis, he refuses to accept a \$10 million check from a Saudi prince because the check was paralleled by a suggestion that "the government of the United States of America should re-examine its policies in the Middle East and adopt a more balanced stance toward the Palestinian cause."

The mayor's impulsive act sent a message to all Arabs not to bother trying to help the city, and to the Bush administration not to re-examine its foreign policy. Aren't we supposed to avoid alienating friendly Arab countries right now, and shouldn't we constantly re-examine our foreign policy? Any responsible government does the latter.

DONALD W. FOWLE
New York, Oct. 12, 2001

To the Editor:

Re "Citing Comments on Attack, Giuliani Rejects Saudi's Gift" (news article, Oct. 12):

Many in the Arab-American community thought that Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani had turned over a new leaf, that the World Trade Center tragedy had worked some transformation in the psyche of this complicated man.

To our disappointment, he proved, once again, to be the same old Rudy, with the same mean spirit that led him to throw Yasir Arafat out of a 1995 Lincoln Center concert to which he had been invited.

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud reiterated his condemnation of the heinous attack on our country. He also dutifully reiterated the undeniable truth: that the

genesis of terrorism is in part because of the lopsided American policy in the Middle East toward Israel.

HANI Y. AWADALLAH
President, Arab American
Civic Organization
Paterson, N.J., Oct. 12, 2001

To the Editor:

Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani deserves praise for rejecting the \$10 million check from a Saudi prince after he learned that the prince had criticized America's policies in the Middle East (news article, Oct. 12).

Since Sept. 11, the mayor has risen to the challenge of exercising the high quality of leadership that makes him stand out as one of the greatest mayors our city has ever had. Although the money could have been put to good use, the honor and dignity of our country as evidenced by the mayor is of greater consequence.

HARRIS L. PRESENT
New York, Oct. 12, 2001

To the Editor:

Re "Citing Comments on Attack, Giuliani Rejects Saudi's Gift" (news article, Oct. 12):

Prince Alwaleed bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud (No. 6 on Forbes's list of the world's richest people) believes that the attack on the World Trade Center should prompt the United States to "re-examine its policies in the Middle East" and adopt a different stance toward the Palestinian cause.

Perhaps some introspection is in order. So I would ask Prince Alwaleed: In the wake of the attack, should America re-examine its policy of supporting and defending the repressive Saudi monarchy?

I would also like to ask him what he and the oil-rich House of Saud have done about Palestinian suffering other than to exploit it.

DAN HEYMAN
Scarsdale, N.Y., Oct. 12, 2001

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