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McKinney's Disgrace

Does Rep. Cynthia McKinney want to defeat terrorism — or just to blame it on America?

Judging from the letter she sent Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal, it looks clearly, and distressingly, like the latter.

The Georgia Democrat actually apologized for Mayor Giuliani's decision to rip up the prince's \$10 million check.

That was Giuliani's principled answer to the prince's suggestion that U.S. policy toward Israel was to blame for the Sept. 11 attacks and that America might want to rethink its Mideast policies.

Amazingly, McKinney told the prince he was right.

Sorry, Rep. McKinney. Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda thugs attacked us because they are evil and demented.

End of story.

And as Giuliani pointedly said in refusing the check, nothing can justify or excuse their actions.

No U.S. policy needs to be changed — except the pre-Sept. 11 timidity against terrorists. And maybe America's tolerance for people like McKinney, who try to excuse the killing of thousands of innocent people.

Such people only lend aid and comfort to the terrorists — and undermine America's war against them.

But give McKinney the benefit of the

doubt: Her ultimate goal may not have been to boost terrorism (even if that's what she accomplished), but merely to score parochial political points and pad the pockets of her favorite supporters.

McKinney, an African-American, claims certain U.S. institutions — the schools, health care, the judicial system — are bad for blacks. And then tries to horn in on the prince's cash.

"Although your offer was not accepted by Mayor Giuliani," she writes, "I would like to ask you to consider ... [directing] your generosity to help improve the state of Black America and build better lives."

McKinney can say whatever she wants.

But one might expect more from a member of the U.S. Congress. Particularly one on the House Armed Services Committee, as McKinney is.

She doesn't deserve the honor.

Remember, the nation is at war. For McKinney to bewail the state of U.S. race relations in hopes of getting the prince to cough up a check to black-oriented charities — and undermine that war effort in the process — is beyond selfish.

In the words of her home-state senator and fellow Democrat, Zell Miller: It's "disgraceful."

McKinney should be tossed off the committee — at least until she understands the meaning of patriotism.

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