08/2006

Re: A Good Idea?

Dear Editor,
For those remaining citizens who still think that our occupation of Iraq is accomplishing anything more than massive deficits, indiscriminate destruction and a fertile breeding ground for the next generation of terrorists, I have a single question to ask: do you think we could have won the Cold War by invading Poland? Let's think about it.

With the folly of the occupation of Vietnam still fresh in our minds perhaps we realized that instead of a dangerous and costly military invasion (which would likely have seen the Poles and Russians fighting shoulder to shoulder against us), that we should fight the Cold War by winning the hearts and minds of the people living there. That perhaps we should win economically, politically and socially through student and cultural exchanges, that we should win by spreading our ideas and beliefs through newspapers, radio, TV and movies, that we should win by making our lives more free, by granting more civil rights to our citizens, by supporting and helping those less fortunate and less powerful than ourselves. But most of all that we should win by setting a global example of what it means to have enough military power to fight a terrible war and enough brains to know when not to.

John Donovan
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