

A Right to Kidnap?

How can President Bush violate international law by ordering abductions in other countries and have the power to authorize action inconsistent with the U.N. Charter, even order the FBI to make arrests in other countries in violation of their laws, without granting the identical rights and powers to all other heads of state, like Saddam Hussein ["U.S. 'Power' on Abductions Detailed," Aug. 14]?

Does not the Bush administration's claimed right to kidnap or arrest those it regards as "terrorists" or "drug-traffickers" in other countries give other countries the same rights within the United States?

Has the administration not in fact validated and justified the taking of American hostages in other countries, as Iran did? And hasn't it given legal sanction to violation of our laws against murder to the murders in the United States by Libya and Chile?

HAROLD WEISBERG
Frederick

Dear Joe,

8/27/91

The Washington Post used the letter of which I do not recall sending a copy, although I might have, and I remain dumbfounded at the total absence of editorial comment by the Post or on the oped page once this was formally stated as US policy. It carries being gendarme to the world a step farther. Does it not say much about what has happened to us in the last dozen years, that this radical departure from law and Constitution could be formally stated as national policy and that it would then be greeted by silence. Of course I do not know that there was no comment in Congress. But I heard none and heard of none on radio and TV and saw nothing in the local of DC papers. ...I've heard from only two people of the many who get the Post and know me and I'd have thought that most of them would feel as I do about this. And, of course, what

it represents. ... In any event, it seems apparent that if I had not taken the few moments this letter took there would not have been any interpretation or comment in the Post for its readers.... That was a big favor, the little thing of calling my sister Alma. Not only did it spare lil questioning when she wanted none, Alma appreciated it very much. She phoned Sunday when Gloria, Marvii, their son Jon and his son Alexi were here, with a cousin you may not recall, as of my days in Wilmington, Sylvia Goldberg. She was related through one of her parents to the ~~Bla~~ Balicks, who you do know. She and her sister changed their name back to what it was before the immigration people decided to change it to something more usual. It was and became Golodner. We had a nice dinner party at the restaurant of our Korean friends. Alma phoned while they were her so the cordless phone took quite a trip, retruning with a bucket of peaches I'd assumed the fungi, bugs and/or animals got and, entirely unsprayed and unfertilized, they were perfect. Go figure, if you remember that phrse of our youth.... But I began with a point I lost: it need not be a waste of time writing to papers despite the odds against publication. Taking the time is a manifestation of belief in representative society, despite the abuses and corruption of it, and an effort to help it to work as it should. And if nobody tries....

Harold