

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
- ISIL -
A COALITION IS THERE WAITING FOR US!



By Stephen L. Bakke  September 8, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

E.J. Dionne is a liberal columnist and, in my opinion, a frequent apologist for the Obama Administration. He wrote an article yesterday that kinda' "stuck in my craw." His message was that there's more to Obama's actions than is obvious to us, the average uninformed observers. Dionne claimed that much of what Obama is doing is behind the scenes (i.e. beyond the sound bite), including "coalition building." The implication was that Obama's deliberate method in these matters is generally successful. As you can imagine, I had to write something about that right away!

Here's my response:

ISIL – A coalition is there waiting for us!

Re: "In foreign policy, Obama is beyond the sound bite" – September 7. In this opinion E.J. Dionne comes to Obama's rescue over declining public opinion about the president's handling of aggressive terrorism in general, and the ISIL crisis in particular. In summary, Dionne is telling the public that there's more to Obama's actions than is obvious to us, the average uninformed observers.

Dionne writes that while Obama should accelerate the process he is following, "nevertheless, the president's critics at home should also step back. They should stop pretending that careful, deliberate planning is a grievous sin and acknowledge the high costs of impulsive action."

In other words, Dionne is claiming that much of what Obama is doing is behind the scenes (i.e. beyond the sound bite), including "coalition building." The implication is that Obama's deliberate method in these matters is generally successful. **To Mr. Dionne I have to say that it's grossly inaccurate to insinuate that Obama's foreign policy fits anything close to a classical definition of success.**

And as far as spending time "coalition building," I can assure both Dionne and the president that **a coalition is already there, waiting for our recently absent leadership.**

