

Obama's Ferry Fare

On February 25 the U.S. State Department finally got around to renting a small ferry to evacuate some of the Americans trapped in Libya. By that date Chinese citizens had already been evacuated by larger ferries and a navy ship, despite the rough seas. British citizens were evacuated by a warship, the HMS Cumberland. Germany sent three warships, Italy sent one, and Canada sent a C-17 military transport plane. Brazil and Russia evacuated citizens by air. But U.S citizens got one rented ferry that was too small, and which had to wait until the seas calmed before it could travel from the port at Tripoli to Malta.

It is believed there are (or were) about 600 Americans in Libya, and several thousand individuals with dual U.S-Libyan citizenship. The State Department recommended that the U.S. citizens “depart immediately due to the potential for ongoing unrest”—but it offered no immediate means of “departing immediately.” A small ferry, the *Maria Dolores*, was eventually found, but it was several days before it left the dock with 167 stranded Americans.

Amazingly, Obama's State Department told ferry passengers that they would be expected to *reimburse the government for the cost of the voyage!*

Obama, who strongly criticized the Bush administration (“unconscionable ineptitude”) for not doing a better job of evacuating Hurricane Katrina victims—despite their having been given adequate advance warning of the storm—seems to have little sympathy for Americans unfortunate enough to have been stuck in a Libyan revolution without fare for the ferry. George W. Bush was apparently expected to have hundreds of helicopters standing by to rescue every stupid New Orleans resident who foolishly chose to ride out a category 5 hurricane, but Obama can barely manage to rent a too-small ferry more than one week after it was obvious a disaster was in the making in Libya.

One can only imagine the furor the media would have raised had the Bush administration demanded reimbursement for the Coast Guard's rooftop rescues in New Orleans. But Obama, as usual, gets a pass from his media toadies.

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February 28, 2011

Source: <http://pubsecrets.wordpress.com/2011/02/26/obama-on-libya-pathetic-and-dangerously-incompetent/>