

When in England at a fairly large conference, Colin Powell was asked by >> the Archbishop of Canterbury if our plans for Iraq were just an example >> of empire building by George Bush. >> >> He answered by saying, 'Over the years, the United States has sent many >> of its fine young men and women into great peril to fight for freedom >> beyond our borders. The only amount of land we have ever asked for in >> return is enough to bury those that did not return. >> >> It became very quiet in the room. >> >> ~~~~~ >> >> Then there was a conference in France where a number of international >> engineers were taking part, including French and American. During a break >> one of the French engineers came back into the room saying 'Have you >> heard the latest dumb stunt Bush has done? He has sent an aircraft >> carrier to Indonesia to help the tsunami victims. What does he intended >> to do, bomb them?' >> >> A Boeing engineer stood up and replied quietly: 'Our carriers have three >> hospitals on board that can treat several hundred people; they are >> nuclear powered and can supply emergency electrical power to shore >> facilities; they have three cafeterias with the capacity to feed 5,000 >> people three meals a day, they can produce several thousand gallons of >> fresh water from sea water each day, and they carry half a dozen >> helicopters for use in transporting victims and injured to and from their >> flight deck.. We have eleven such ships; how many does France have?' >> >> >> Once again, dead silence. >> >> ~~~~~ >> >> A U.S. Navy Admiral was attending a naval conference that included >> Admirals from the U.S., English, Canadian, Australian and French navies. >> At a cocktail reception, he found himself standing with a large group of >> officers that included personnel from most of those countries. Everyone >> was chatting away in English as they sipped their drinks but a French >> admiral suddenly complained that, 'whereas Europeans learn many >> languages, Americans learn only English.' He then asked, 'Why is it that >> we always have to speak English in these conferences rather than speaking >> French?' >> >> Without hesitating, the American Admiral replied 'Maybe it's because the >> Brits, Canadians, Aussies and Americans arranged it so you wouldn't have >> to speak German.' >> >> You could have heard a pin drop >> >>

~~~~~ >> >> AND THIS STORY FITS RIGHT IN WITH THE ABOVE >> >> A group of Americans, retired teachers, recently went to France on a >> tour. Robert Whiting, an elderly gentleman of 83, arrived in Paris by >> plane. >> >> At French Customs, he took a few minutes to locate his passport in his >> carry on. "You have been to France before, monsieur?" the customs officer >> asked sarcastically. >> >> Mr. Whiting admitted that he had been to France previously. >> >> "Then you should know enough to have your passport ready." >> >> The American said, "The last time I was here, I didn't have to show it." >> >> "Impossible. Americans always have to show your passports on arrival in >> France!" >> >> The American senior gave the Frenchman a long hard look. Then he quietly >> explained. "Well, when I came ashore at Omaha Beach on D-Day in '44 to >> help liberate this country, I couldn't find any damn Frenchmen to show it >> to."