

WILL THE GA REMOVE ITS NOSE TO SPITE ITS FACE?

AP

By Spencer Morgan

January 12, 2020

Will the General Assembly take action to censure its largest contributor? Following the assassination of an Irani General in Iraq, the General Assembly is considering a resolution condemning the largest contributor of dues to the UN operating budget. The US claims its actions were taken in self-defense and authorized under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

The U.S. killed General Qassem Soleimani in an airstrike conducted while the General was traveling in Baghdad on December 29th. The Lebanese Republic submitted a resolution condemning the action to the General Assembly on Thursday. It has been cosponsored by the Republics of Syria and Iraq.

European and African block states have yet to comment. China is expected to join the Resolution. The U.S. is the largest provider of funds to UN operations, contributing roughly 22 percent of the annual budget. Trump has been very critical of US contributions and has threatened to pull or hold U.S. funds. The U.S. has yet to comment on the resolution submitted by Lebanon.

On Jan 8th, Iran retaliated for Soleimani's death by firing missiles at military facilities housing U.S. troops in Iraq. According to the Washington Post, eight U.S. soldiers were injured in the bombing. U.S. President Donald Trump previously issued a statement denying any casualties.

Article 51 requires a report to the Security Council on all actions taken in self-defense under the Charter. The U.S. report provided mixed messages. In a statement to the U.N. Security Council, Ambassador Kelly Craft said the U.S. also stands "ready to engage without preconditions in serious negotiations with Iran, with the goal of preventing further endangerment of international peace and security or escalation by the Iranian regime." Craft further warned they were "prepared to take additional actions in the region as necessary to continue to protect U.S. personnel and interests."

Word Count: 300

Commented [SM(1): Catchy Headline

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Commented [SM(3): The first Sentence (The Hook) - Provides the principle subject of the article and is engaging enough to draw the reader in further.

Commented [SM(4): The First Paragraph (Top-Line Take-Away): The remainder of the first paragraph gives a summary of the important events/issues. After reading the first paragraph the reader should know the principle thesis of the article

Commented [SM(5): The Body (Meat and Potatoes) – What are the parties' reactions or comments? What background is necessary to understand why this is occurring?

Commented [SM(6): Last Paragraph (Wrap-Up) – Less interesting, but relevant details; suggest what may happen next; important disclaimers.

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