

LINDSEY GRAHAM CALLS RAYMOND DAVIS AN “AGENT”

AFP has a report (notably picked up by Pakistan's Dawn) on the Senate's hand-wringing over whether we should tie aid to Pakistan to the release of Raymond Davis, the “consulate employee” who shot two alleged Pakistani spies. Here's what Lindsey Graham had to say:

But Senator Lindsey Graham, the top Republican on Leahy's subcommittee, strongly warned against any rollback of assistance to Pakistan, citing the need for help in the war in Afghanistan and the hunt for suspected terrorists.

“Our relationship's got to be bigger than this,” Graham said.

“This is a friction point, this is a troubling matter, it doesn't play well in Afghanistan. **We can't throw this agent over**, I don't know all the details, but we cannot define the relationship based on one incident because it is too important at a time when we're making progress in Afghanistan,” he said. [my emphasis]

Lindsey, Lindsey, Lindsey! Under Ben Cardin's proposed law criminalizing leaks (and, frankly, under existing law), you could go to jail for such honesty. Good thing you have immunity as a member of Congress.

Though in the spirit of Bob Novak—who claimed to be thinking of a political professional running congressional campaigns in Dick Cheney's state when he called Valerie Plame an “operative”—I suppose Graham could claim he just thought Davis serves some kind of service employee at the consulate, one of the “agents” that help with visas or some such nonsense.

Not that that'll help the tensions over this incident in Pakistan at all.