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CATEGORIES TV RADIO COMMUNICATE WHERE I LIVE INDEX

SEARCH

Go

BBC NEWS



You are in: World: [Europe](#)
 Tuesday, 6 November, 2001, 23:14 GMT

Front Page
 World



Africa
 Americas
 Asia-Pacific
 Europe
 Middle East
 South Asia

From Our Own
 Correspondent

Transcript: Bush's Warsaw speech



Letter From President Bush's address was made by satellite link

America

UK

UK Politics

Business

Sci/Tech

Health

Education

Entertainment

Talking Point

In Depth

AudioVideo

Extracts from US President George W Bush's speech to 17 eastern and central European leaders gathered in Warsaw for a conference on combating terrorism.

Warning that Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaeda organisation is seeking weapons of mass destruction, President Bush says sympathy and supportive words are not enough from countries which share his vision of common responsibility in the war on terror.

"I thank all the nations of central and eastern Europe at this conference.

You are our partners in the fight against terrorism, and we share an important moment in history.

For more than 50 years, the peoples of your region suffered under repressive ideologies that tried to trample human dignity.

Today, our freedom is threatened once again.

Like the fascists and totalitarians before them, these terrorists - al Qaeda, the Taleban regime that supports them, and other terror groups across our world - try to impose their radical views through threats and violence.

“
We have also seen the true nature of these terrorists in the nature of the regime they support in Afghanistan - and it is terrifying
 ”



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We have seen the true nature of these terrorists in the nature of their attacks - they kill thousands of innocent people and then rejoice...

They kill fellow Muslims, many of whom died in the World Trade Center that terrible morning - and then they gloat...

We have also seen the true nature of these terrorists in the nature of the regime they support in Afghanistan - and it is terrifying.

Monuments destroyed

Women are imprisoned in their homes, and are denied access to basic health care and education.

Food sent to help starving people is stolen by their leaders.

The religious monuments of other faiths are destroyed.

Children are forbidden to fly kites, or sing songs, or build snowmen. A girl of seven is beaten for wearing white shoes.

Our enemies have brought only misery and terror to the people of Afghanistan - and now they are trying to export that terror throughout the world.

“
We act now, because we must lift this dark threat from our age and save generations to come
 ”

Al Qaeda operates in more than 60 nations, including some in central and eastern Europe.

These terrorist groups seek to destabilise entire nations and regions.

They are seeking chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Given the means, our enemies would be a threat to every nation and, eventually, to civilisation itself.

War at home

So we are determined to fight this evil, and fight until we are rid of it... We act now, because we must lift this dark threat from our age and save generations to come.

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The people of my nation are now fighting this war at home.

We face a second wave of terrorist attacks in the form of deadly anthrax that has been sent through the US mail.

And we fight abroad with our military, with the help of many nations, because the Taleban regime of Afghanistan refused to turn over the terrorists.

“
**We hunt an enemy
that hides in
shadows and caves**
”

And we are making good progress in a just cause.

Our efforts are directed at terrorist and military targets because - unlike our enemies - we value human life...

Our military is systematically pursuing its mission.

We have destroyed many terrorist training camps. We have severed communication links. We are taking out air defences, and now we are attacking the Taleban's front lines.

Efforts just beginning

It may take a long time, but no matter how long it takes, those who killed thousands of Americans and citizens from more than 80 other nations will be brought to justice...

As I have said from the start, this is a difficult struggle, of uncertain duration.

We hunt an enemy that hides in shadows and caves.

We are at the beginning of our efforts in Afghanistan...

The defeat of terror requires an international coalition of unprecedented scope and co-operation...

Later this week, at the United Nations, I will set out my vision of our common responsibilities in the war on terror.

Vast coalition

I will put every nation on notice that these duties involve more than sympathy or words.

No nation can be neutral in this conflict, because no civilised nation can be secure in a world threatened by terror...

We have a vast coalition that is uniting the world and increasingly isolating the terrorists - a coalition that includes many Arab and Muslim countries.

I am encouraged by what their leaders are saying.

The head of the 22-nation Arab League rejected the claims of the terrorist leader and said he - Osama Bin Laden - "doesn't speak in the name of Arabs and Muslims".

Increasingly, it is clear that this is not just a matter between the United States and the terror network.

As the Egyptian Foreign Minister said: 'There is a war between bin Laden and the whole world.'

Vision challenged

All of us here today understand this: We do not fight Islam, we fight against evil.

I thank all of our coalition partners, and all of you, for your steadfast support.

The last time I was in Warsaw, I talked of our shared vision of a Europe that is whole and free and at peace.

I said we are building a House of Freedom, whose doors are open to all of Europe's people, and whose windows look out to global opportunities beyond.

Now that vision has been challenged, but it will not change.

With your help, our vision... will be realised. And with your help, we will defend the values we hold in common.

Thank you for joining us and may God bless you all."

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In This Section

GO



[^^ Back to top](#)

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