

But my job is not to answer you. [*Laughter*]

Katie [Katie Textor], ABC.

Q. Sir, if you decide on a military solution to Saddam Hussein, have you resigned to go through the U.N. Security Council? Or are you determined to go it alone?

The President. Katie, thank you for asking me about what's going to be in my speech tomorrow. [*Laughter*]

Let me get to the U.N. and give what is an important speech for me. I'll make the case of how I think we ought to proceed, on how we work together to keep the peace. I'm going to the United Nations to give this speech for a reason, because I believe this is an international problem and that we must work together to deal with the problem.

And I am also very mindful of my job as the American President to do everything we can to protect the American people from future attack. And I'm deeply concerned about a leader who has ignored all—who ignored the United Nations for all these years, has refused to conform to resolution after resolution after resolution, who has weapons of mass destruction. And

the battlefield has now shifted to America, so there's a different dynamic than we've ever faced before. And I take these threats seriously. The thing I take most seriously is my job to protect innocent life here on the homeland, and I will respond to this threat starting Thursday. And I look forward to the chance to do so.

In the meantime, tomorrow is going to be a hard day for a lot of Americans. It's going to be a day of tears and a day of prayer and a day of national resolve. It also needs to be a day in which we confirm the values which make us unique and great. And that's one of the reasons I came here today, to be with friends to assure all Americans that we will embrace those values.

So thank you all for coming. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:15 p.m. outside the Embassy. In his remarks, he referred to Ziad Asali, president, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee; and Afghan Ambassador to the U.S. Ishaq Shahryar and his wife, Hafizah. A reporter referred to President Jacques Chirac of France and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Remarks at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia *September 11, 2002*

One year ago, men and women and children were killed here because they were Americans and because this place is a symbol to the world of our country's might and resolve. Today we remember each life; we rededicate this proud symbol; and we renew our commitment to win the war that began here.

The terrorists chose this target hoping to demoralize our country. They failed. Within minutes, brave men and women were rescuing their comrades. Within hours, in this building, the planning began for a military response. Within weeks, com-

mands went forth from this place that would clear terrorist camps and caves and liberate a nation. And within one year, this great building has been made whole once again.

Many civilian and military personnel have now returned to offices they occupied before the attack. The Pentagon is a working building, not a memorial. Yet, the memories of a great tragedy linger here. And for all who knew loss here, life is not the same.

The 184 whose lives were taken in this place—veterans and recruits, soldiers and

civilians, husbands and wives, parents and children—left behind family and friends whose loss cannot be weighed. The murder of innocents cannot be explained, only endured. And though they died in tragedy, they did not die in vain. Their loss has moved a nation to action, in a cause to defend other innocent lives across the world.

This war is waged on many fronts. We've captured more than 2,000 terrorists; a larger number of killers have met their end in combat. We've seized millions in terrorist assets. We're reorganizing the Federal Government to protect the homeland. Yet, there's a great deal left to do. And the greatest tasks and the greatest dangers will fall to the Armed Forces of the United States.

I came to the Presidency with respect for all who wear America's uniform. Every day as your Commander in Chief, my respect and that of our Nation has deepened. I have great confidence in every man and woman who wears the uniform of the United States of America. I am proud of all who have fought on my orders, and this Nation honors all who died in our cause.

Wherever our military is sent in the world, you bring hope and justice and promise of a better day. You are worthy of the traditions you represent, the uniform you wear, the ideals you serve. America is counting on you, and our confidence is well placed.

What happened to our Nation on a September day set in motion the first great struggle of a new century. The enemies who struck us are determined, and they

are resourceful. They will not be stopped by a sense of decency or a hint of conscience, but they will be stopped.

A greater force is amassed against them. They are opposed by freedom-loving people in many lands. They are opposed by our allies who have fought bravely by our side. And as long as terrorists and dictators plot against our lives and our liberty, they will be opposed by the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marines.

We fight as Americans have always fought, not just for ourselves but for the security of our friends and for peace in the world. We fight for the dignity of life against fanatics who feel no shame in murder. We fight to protect the innocent, so that the lawless and the merciless will not inherit the earth.

At every turn of this war, we will always remember how it began and who fell first—the thousands who went to work, boarded a plane, or reported to their posts.

Today the Nation pays our respects to them. Here and in Pennsylvania and in New York, we honor each name and each life. We ask God to bring comfort to every home where they are loved and missed. And on this day and on every day, may He watch over the United States of America.

God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at 10:05 a.m. at the September 11, 2001, crash site. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks.

Address to the Nation From Ellis Island, New York, on the Anniversary of the Terrorist Attacks of September 11 *September 11, 2002*

Good evening. A long year has passed since enemies attacked our country. We've

seen the images so many times, they are seared on our souls, and remembering the