FOREIGN POLICY

IN THE WAKE OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

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Past Foreign Policy

--------- More Passive

Before September II the attitude of the U.S concerning other countries was more passive. But on September 11, 2001, the terrorist attacks in New York awoke a sleeping giant. There have been many attacks in the recent years and many people have died, but the U.S. was unable, or unwilling, to do anything but try to reprimand them. The American government was like a father telling his children to stop behaving badly; this kind of punishment only works for so long and only gets you so far.

In the past eight years, there have been three major attacks on American sites. the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, the embassy bombings in 1998, and the attacks on the U.S.S. Cole in 2000. In all cases the United States tried their best to catch the responsible parties, and those who were caught were prosecuted. Ramzi Yousef was convicted of the February 26, 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center, and from other foiled plots that are believed to be linked to al-Qaeda. Yet once again, it was like the United States was just putting their foot down and telling them not to attack again. There were many lives lost in all three attacks, but it looks as if it took a huge attack like the September II attack on the World Trade Center, to make the United States realize that there is a need to do more than just find individual terrorist and put them in jail. It is time for the father to stop telling his child to stop doing wrong and start taking the necessary steps for punishment.

Since the attacks on September II, there has been a no-nonsense policy in the United States against terrorism, stating you the people are either with us or against us.
There are many examples of what has changed formally here in the U.S. but we will discuss that later. Right now I want to talk about the change in attitude that the U.S. has undergone since September II. There are many examples of how the public has reacted negatively to the use of military force around the globe. In the sixties, many people protested the Vietnam War; they wanted the war to stop and our troops to come home.

And these protests on the Vietnam War were the first that stirred up such a reaction about the use of Militia. Professor AS' AD Abukhalil of California State University, Stanislaus, commented, "The United States had to go to war; the public demanded it, and revenge-a word that has become acceptable in polite company- dictated it." This statement sums up what we have been talking about here. People today are not protesting this war in fact they are encouraging it. It could today be caused by fear or anger, but it is here and it is unlike anything that the people of this country have seen. We will capture the people responsible for this vicious act, and all of the people who are even remotely involved with the terrorist action.

In the rest of our presentation we will be informing you about many bills that have been sent to Congress, some were passed some are in the process and some are waiting for their turn, but the all show how the U.S is taking a much different look at its foreign policy.

In June 2001 the United States had bills in Congress regarding the Taliban. One bill condemned the recent order made by the Taliban regime of Afghanistan to require Hindus in Afghanistan to wear symbols identifying them as Hindus. This bill demanded that the Taliban regime revoke its order and conform its laws to all basic international
and human rights standards. It also called on the Pakistan Government to use its influence to demand the Taliban to revoke the new policy.

According to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, an important aspect of this war, is Afghanistian's relief and reconstruction. Throughout the entire campaign it has been reiterated that this war cannot be mischaracterized as a war against the Afghan people, or against the entire Muslim religion. It is known that the majority of the people of Afghanistan want to get rid of the Taliban regime, but by causing them as much pain and misery as the United States has recently felt will only destroy their country which could, in turn, direct their anger towards us.

With this in mind, the United States must back up their words with money, funded through a proposed bill. The bill would keep the Afghan people safely fed, clothed, and sheltered this winter. This bill should have an immediate propriety. An international fund for the relief, reconstruction, and recovery of Central Asia and Southwest Asia is anticipated to be established through the United Nations. The fund would initially address the needs of the Afghans displaced by drought and war. In the long run, the fund would help stabilize the whole region.

The Foreign Relations committee would like to kick off the effort by issuing a check for $1 billion dollars, which would meet the refugees’ short-term needs. Along with this $1 billion dollars would be a promise for more to come, as long as other nations would join in. This effort will be a multinational, multiyear, and a multibillion dollar commitment. Some other items might include the following: a creation of secular schools in both Pakistan and Afghanistan; a restoration of woman's rights; de-mining operations so that farmers can farm their land; creation of full-scale hospitals and village medical
clinics in Afghanistan and throughout the region, a crop substitution program for
narcotics, and the building basic infrastructure. In doing this the United States will prove
that they are a nation of reconstruction, not a nation of destruction.

On September 14, 2001 Congress gave George W. Bush, President of the United
States, " all the authority he needs to prosecute war against individuals or countries
responsible, without yielding our constitutional right to retain the judgment in the future
as to whether or not force against others could, should, or would be used" (Senator Biden).
This authority permits President Bush to use force against anyone found responsible for
the September II attacks. This means that if any nation harbored a terrorist while in
training, or if the nation financed any terrorists operation, that the nation would be subject
to American military power. This authority that has been granted to the president does
not state a time limit, because the United States government knows that the use of force
against terrorism will not be quick or easy

The President is continuing the one-year National Emergency declared in
Executive Order 12938 This Executive Order was initiated on November 14, 1994 by
President Clinton who saw an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security,
foreign policy, and economy of the United States being posed by the proliferation of
chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

On September 23, 2001 Executive Order 13224 was transmitted to Congress and
published in the Federal register the following day. Executive Order 13224 was to block
property and prohibit transacting with persons who commit, threaten to commit, or
support terrorism It stated that the Secretary of state, the Secretary of treasury and other
agencies should work with other countries in the prevention and suppression for acts of
terrorism, the denial of financing and financial services to terrorists and terrorist's organization, and the sharing of intelligence about funding activities in support of terrorism. The persons included in this would be foreign persons listed in the Annex to the order, foreign persons that have been determined to have committed, or pose a significant threat to, the US, or having been controlled or associated by these foreign persons. Donations to such terrorist's organizations are also prohibited.

Changes have also been made in immigration policies while combating terrorism. The United States has always welcomed immigrants and visitors, yet after the September 11 attacks it has become apparent that some come to the US to commit terrorist's activities. The Attorney General has a Terrorist Tracking Task Force with the assistance of Central Intelligence. Foreign liaison officers from cooperating countries will be invited to serve in the Task Force to expedite investigations and to share data. This task force shall deny entry into the U.S. of aliens associated with, suspected of being engaged in, or supporting terrorists activities. They will also locate, detain, prosecute, or deport any such aliens that already are present in the United States.

The U.S government will also implement laws to the abuse of student visas and prohibit certain international students from receiving training and education in sensitive areas. This program will be able to track the status of a foreign student who receives a visa. The information will include the students proposed area of study, the classes the student is taking and the source of the funds for the student's education. The program may also limit the duration of the student's immigration status. Students from certain countries, or groups of countries are exempt from these requirements.
In addition, the Attorney General will also begin negotiations with Mexico and Canada to assure maximum compatibility of immigration, customs and visa policies. The goal is to have all countries involved only allow foreigners to enter the United States for legitimate purposes. This would help minimize border restrictions that hinder legitimate trans-border commerce. Another goal is to create a shared immigration and customs database with both Mexico and Canada.

On November 14, 2001, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations also approved a measure to reduce Russian nuclear risks. The Debt Reduction for Non-Proliferation Act intends to forgive the repayment of $3.7 billion loans and credits owed to the United States by Russia. It also calls for the cooperation with U.S. efforts in Russia to monitor and reduce nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. This piece of legislation also addresses Russia's pool of unemployed weapons scientists. The House of Representatives or the Senate has not yet approved this act.

The committee also approved two United Nations conventions to suppress terrorist's bombings and the financing of terrorism. The other was a treaty simplifying the process by which United States trademark holders can protect their overseas marks.

Secretary of State Colin Powell is attempting to have a cease-fire in the Middle East so that policies can be made between Israel and Palestinians. Powell will also try to convince Israel to end its occupation and accept a viable Palestinian state. The negotiations will include efforts to arrest, prosecute, and punish those responsible for terrorist's acts.

Another resolution that is being viewed by the Committee of Foreign Relations states that the United States should allocate significantly more resources to combat global
poverty. It is obvious that developing countries do not have the finances, sanitation and access to safe drinking water, as some of the well-developed nations. 12 billion people lack access to safe drinking water, and 3 billion people, about half of the world's population, live on approximately $2 a day. Since the 1960's, the United States has progressively spent less on foreign assistance; in 1962, the United States spent 3 percent of its budget on foreign assistance, whereas in 2001 they spent 0.79 percent of the federal budget on foreign assistance.

Senator Dianne Feinstein (D- California) related the need to increase the budget for foreign assistance to terrorist's acts by stating, "widespread poverty in developing nations contributes to social, economic and political instability which can lead to failed states and the conditions in which terrorists recruitment and terrorists organizations flourish". The President has not yet approved the Department of Defense Authorization for 2002. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld hopes that the President will veto this bill, because of the lack of base closures. This bill reallocated $13 billion from missile defense to either missile defense, or on counter-terrorism. Some examples on how the United States could use this $13 billion would be deterring terrorists from buying or stealing nuclear weapons. Some nuclear facilities in Russia do not even have barbed wire fences around them. The Department of Defense could also acquire the necessary vaccines and antibiotics to protect our armed forces against a range of pathogens.

There are many things that the Federal Government is doing in response to the terrorist's attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. One thing that we must be sure of is that we do not go down the same path as we did with Iraq." Saddam
Hussein, a man who has killed far more Muslims than any American attack before, during, or since the gulf war, has depicted the United States-led actions against Iraq as an assault on Iraqi women and children, an assault on Islam. Yet he is able to put out a boldface lie, the lie that our soldiers have gone out of their way to hurt innocent civilians." (Senator Biden) When America bombs, as it is thought by the Muslim world, it should be blamed for everything else that happens. The United States must reconstruct and help make Afghanistan a better, more stable place, so that we can deter any further terrorists attacks.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


