

Points for Kofi Annan Phone Call
(Secretary Albright)

Kofi:

- Today, the US launched military strikes against terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan.
- I wanted to speak to you personally about these actions. The decision to use force is never taken lightly, and I want to make sure you understand fully why we felt compelled to act as we did.
- The international community and the UN clearly recognize the inalienable right of a nation to defend itself from actions taken against and threats to its citizens and to its interests, including from terrorists. The use of force is legally and morally justified in the course of exercising this national right of self-defense.
- For years, Usama bin Laden and his network of terrorist organizations have considered themselves -- in their own words -- to be at "war" with the United States. This group has committed a number of terrorist acts against the United States and others.
- We now have good evidence that this group was, most recently, directly involved in the US bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. And it continues to make explicit, direct threats against the US and its people.
- I have asked our PermRep to share with you the information we have about this group. I ask you to examine it, and I believe you will share our conclusions.
- We did not ask for this conflict, and we have sought to avoid it. We have repeatedly and publicly warned Usama bin Laden's network of terrorist organizations not to commit acts of terror against the US or other parties - a warning it clearly has ignored.
- The US strikes were a necessary and proportionate response to a very real threat to the US and its people - and to others. Today's actions were fully consistent with international law.
- In addition, we made every possible effort to avoid damage to civilians or civilian property not associated with the terrorist targets. And while we deeply regret any collateral damage that may have resulted from the

strikes, the onus is on the terrorists and their hosts who allowed them to operate out of the territories they controlled.

- We cannot, and will not, allow those who commit terrorist acts to go unpunished. Furthermore, we will continue to do everything in our power to prevent those who intend or plan to commit terrorist acts in the future from achieving their objectives.
- The hard truth is that we are engaged in a war with the forces of terror. We did not seek this confrontation, but we will face it, as we have faced conflicts forced upon us in the past, firmly and forthrightly. We were not the first to strike - and we have suffered deeply from the strikes against us - but now we will not rest until we have dealt with the scourge of terrorism.
- We are asking others to join us, particularly at the UN, in taking a strong public stand against terrorism and those who would use terror to further their own agendas. As a first step, we intend to ask that all states become party to all eleven international counter-terrorism conventions, if they have not already done so, and implement them fully.
- The UN is a focal point for the international struggle against terrorism. We hope that you will help rally the world community in this effort and speak out forcefully at the UN against these terrorist crimes. We greatly need your help in making the world a safer place.