Hon. George W. Bush, President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: On behalf of the 21-million strong Sikh Nation and especially on behalf of more than 500,000 Sikh Americans, I would like to express our sadness and our sympathies to the people of the United States for the terrible attack on the United States yesterday and for the loss of life it entails. This is a terrible tragedy and we know that you will take appropriate action. Like all Americans, all decent people everywhere, we condemn this brutal and senseless attack.

The Sikh religion recognizes all humanity as our brothers and we pray for the well-being of all. Our prayers and our sympathies are with the people of the United States at this tragic time. We especially pray for the families of those who have departed. May God bring peace to these departed souls and to their families.

We support you and we pray for the people of America. God bless you and God bless America.

Sincerely,

Dr. Guurrmit Singh Aulakh, President, Council of Khalistan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NORMAN D. DICKS
OF WASHINGTON
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. DICKS. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on Roll Call number 338. I would have voted “yes” on this resolution condemning the terrorist attacks earlier this week.

COMMENDING RESCUE WORKERS AND VOLUNTEERS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS
OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, September 13, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the numerous rescue workers and volunteers around the country in their recovery efforts during this terrible tragedy. These brave and heroic citizens are working around the clock to bring calm and restore peace into our beloved nation. Again I wish to convey my thanks and prayers to these courageous rescue workers, their families, and everyone affected by this horrific chain of events. Given its importance, I am honored to speak on behalf of the 17030 Sikh Coalition and the Sikh American community today.

At the time of the attack, I had a suspect whose numerous threats are still being pursued, and I am confident that we all know the names of all that are responsible. We have a suspect whose numerous threats are tantamount to an admission. We have the ability to continue to accumulate evidence to prove his guilt.

I applaud the President in his immediate forceful response to this tragedy. He has mobilized our armed forces and directed all appropriate federal agencies to respond to rescue efforts. I also applaud the leadership of a united Congress. The leadership of both parties have communicated the support of the Congress to the President, and he will have the full support of the legislative branch of our government to provide the necessary resources for recovery and rebuilding, as well as the resources that will be needed to conduct the appropriate responses to the perpetrators of this crime. We will use these resources to find those responsible and to see that justice is served.

As difficult as it is at this time, we must move forward. We cannot give in to the demands of terrorism. The American resolve is stronger than ever. It is a mistake of terrorists to believe that they will divide us. They have brought us together in ways that many people did not believe could happen. It is a mistake of terrorists to believe that we will cower in fear as a result of their actions. They have only strengthened the willpower, purpose, and determination of all Americans.

One of the most cherished freedoms in this country is the right to disagree. Honorable citizens have the right to voice their disagreements with each other without fear of reprisal. Quite often, Members of Congress find themselves engaged in quarselome debate over a variety of issues, which now pale in comparison to the matter that we must deal with in the upcoming days and weeks. Despite these disagreements, the U.S. has always stood for what is right in the world—freedom and democracy. The terrorists believe our ability to disagree is a weakness, and that they can exploit this. They are wrong.

The final casualty numbers will be high—too high to reasonably comprehend. Despite this tragic loss and the crumbling of America’s buildings, America’s foundation is strong. The history of this great nation proves that when the U.S. is roused—the U.S. fights—and the U.S. wins. We will stand together, outraged and resolute, and we will go to any length to bring these criminals, and those who aid and abet them, to justice. We will not properly pay our respects to those who have died until their killers are brought to justice.

From this point forward, the rest of the world, and particularly those who harbor hatred and resentment against the United States, will learn that our strength and courage will not tolerate the acts of terrorists. We may never know the specific message these terrorist groups were trying to send to America, but we do know that they will ultimately receive a response from America that will be loud and clear. God bless the United States of America.