

The enemies of freedom are not idle, and neither are we. Our Government is taking unprecedented measures to defend the homeland. And from Pakistan to the Philippines to the Horn of Africa, we are hunting down Al Qaida killers. So far, nearly one-half of Al Qaida's senior operatives have been captured or killed. And we will remain on the hunt until they are all brought to justice.

This Nation accepts the responsibilities of keeping the peace. And the best way to keep the peace is to make sure that our military remains second to none. On this Armed Forces Day, we are grateful to all who serve and sacrifice as members of the United States Army, Navy, Coast Guard, Air Force, and Marines.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 1:55 p.m. on May 16 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on May 17. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on May 16 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to former President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Statement on the Terrorist Bombings in Casablanca, Morocco

May 17, 2003

I strongly condemn the terrorist bombings in Casablanca, Morocco, that have taken many innocent lives. On behalf of the American people, I extend condolences to the families of the victims and our hopes for a quick recovery to those injured.

These acts of murder show, once again, that terrorism respects no boundaries nor borders. Casablanca is a city well-known for its tolerance and its diverse range of religious and ethnic communities.

These acts demonstrate that the war against terror goes on. Morocco is a close friend of the United States, and we offer assistance to the Government of Morocco to help track down and bring to justice those responsible.

Remarks at a Welcoming Ceremony for President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the Philippines

May 19, 2003

President Bush. Madam President, Attorney Arroyo, members of the Philippine delegation, Members of Congress, and distinguished guests: On behalf of the American people, Laura and I welcome you to the United States.

This is the first state visit by the leader of an Asian country during my administration. You honor the American people with your visit, because our two nations share special ties of history and friendship and family. And we share a commitment to the defense of democracy and the advance of freedom.

Just over a century ago, Americans and Filipinos worked side by side to liberate the Philippines. Nearly half a century later, in a World War, our soldiers fought and died together in places like Bataan and Corregidor. And on this foundation of common sacrifice, America and the Philippines built an alliance that remains strong, an alliance that is essential to the peace of the Pacific.

In this new century, both our nations are threatened by terrorism, and we are determined to fight that threat until it is defeated. Our diplomats and law enforcement and intelligence officers are working arm-in-arm to disrupt terror plots, to cut off terrorist financing, and to bring the terrorists to justice.

President Arroyo has welcomed American troops to train and advise their Philippine counterparts in Philippine-led antiterror operations. And she has been a leader in building broader cooperation against terror throughout the Asian Pacific region.

Madam President, for all you have done to make our world safer, America thanks you.

Last week's terrorist attacks in Saudi Arabia that killed innocent civilians from the United States, the Philippines, and many other nations remind us that the war on terror continues. The world's free nations have the courage and the determination to fight this war, and together we will defeat the forces of global terror.

President Arroyo also recognizes the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction. And she spoke with strength and conviction of the