

**The President.** All the time. All the time we're reminding people that this is a performance-oriented world. If you want to win the war on terror, you must perform. And a good area, for example, is in the financial area, where we're constantly working with nations to help them chase down money that is moving illegally. There's a lot of cooperation.

But you asked a very interesting question—do you keep a scorecard? And the answer is, I do. I do, because I'm an old baseball guy, and I like to keep the score. I like to see who's performing and who's not performing. It's a part of being a coalition.

Tommy Franks said something interesting the other day—and by the way, he was one year ahead of Laura at Midland Lee High School. [Laughter] They were “Fighting Rebels” together. [Laughter] But Tommy said, “This war—the phase of this war is kind of like a baseball game.” Of course, my ears perked up. He said, “There will be a lot of moments of boredom, and then there would be some great joy as we”—what he was saying was that we're in a slow pursuit to achieve the objective that Ron talked about.

Last question.

### **Domestic Security**

**Q.** Sir, can you say that the country is more secure today and less vulnerable to terrorism than it was before September 11th?

**The President.** Yes, sir. The country is more secure today and less vulnerable to attack than before September the 11th because the enemy has made it clear that we are a target, and we responded.

America never dreamt before September the 11th anybody would attack us. We knew there were threats. During the summer there had been some threats to overseas assets that we responded to. But we really never felt that—we had the sense that we're invulnerable. And now they've made it clear that they're not afraid to attack us.

And so, one, we're aware. Secondly, we have got a much better system of sharing information—information we gather overseas to agencies here at home. When we get a hint—and by the way, as a result of the coalition, there is much more intelligence-sharing going on. So oftentimes we'll get a lead from

an intelligence service, say in the Middle East or in Europe, and that piece of information will be analyzed and passed immediately on to the FBI, that has now shifted its culture from one of doing important work, like white-collar crime or spy-on-spy work, to prevention. That is the most, primary job of the FBI, is to prevent a further attack.

And there's over 4,000 agents working on every single lead we get—leads that sometimes prove to be false but sometimes indicate that there could be somebody here in the country that is—intends to do us harm. And we will use whatever resources necessary to haul them in if that's the case.

So yes, the country is safer. Is it still—totally safe? No. And that's why, as I've told you, my main job, my main worry for America is to prevent another attack. Every morning at 6:50 a.m. in the morning, I come in here, and I think about the possibilities. And every day I meet with the FBI Director and Tom Ridge and John Ashcroft, along with George Tenet, reminding them that we have an awesome responsibility to do whatever we can to protect the American people. And we've made great progress since September the 11th.

The American people need to know that even though we go into a holiday season, this Government will be doing everything we can to keep our country safe. We're keeping CAPs up, we're keeping—those are military flights around—just to make sure if somebody tries to attack us, there will be—we'll have the measures in place to prevent it.

Listen, I hope you all have a great holiday. Thank you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:10 a.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Ayman Al-Zawahiri, founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad; and Gen. Tommy Franks, USA, commander in chief, U.S. Central Command. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

### **Statement on Pakistan Extremist Groups**

*December 21, 2001*

Yesterday, at a ceremony marking the 100th day since the September 11 terrorist

attacks, I detailed actions the United States Government has taken in response to terrorist attacks here and abroad.

At the same time, I announced that the U.S. Government had blocked the assets of two more terrorist organizations:

- Umma Tameer-e-Nau (UTN), an organization that claimed to feed the hungry and needy of Afghanistan but that in fact provided information about nuclear weapons to Al Qaida; and
- Lashkar-e-Taiba, a stateless sponsor of terrorism that has conducted operations against Indian troops and civilian targets.

I also condemned the terrorist attacks against the Indian Parliament and the Kashmir Legislature and extended condolences to the Indian Government and the families of the victims.

These attacks were meant to strike at India's democracy and kill its leaders but were also intended to undermine Pakistan, harm the rapidly improving U.S.-Pakistan relationship, and to destabilize the global coalition against terrorism.

I have strongly condemned the attacks. I call upon President Musharraf to take decisive action against Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed, and other terrorist organizations, their leaders, finances, and activities.

President Musharraf has condemned the terrorist attacks on the Legislature in Srinagar and on the Indian Parliament. He has said that he would move against those involved in the attacks. As President Musharraf does so, he will have our full support.

### **Joint Statement by the Leaders of the United States of America, Canada and the United Mexican States on Argentina**

*December 21, 2001*

Argentina is our neighbor and friend and we have witnessed recent events with concern and compassion. We hope that all Argentines can come together to find a solution that leads the country back to sustainable growth and prosperity. We applaud the great strength displayed by Argentina's institutions

through this period, and reiterate our confidence in the country's standing as one of the Western Hemisphere's leading democracies.

NOTE: An original was not available for verification of the content of this joint statement.

### **Joint Statement by President George W. Bush and President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the New Kazakhstan-American Relationship**

*December 21, 2001*

We declare our commitment to strengthen the long-term, strategic partnership and cooperation between our nations, seeking to advance a shared vision of a peaceful, prosperous and sovereign Kazakhstan in the 21st Century that is increasingly integrated into the global economy and the community of democratic nations. To this end, we will advance our cooperation on counterterrorism and non-proliferation, democratic political and free-market economic reform, and market-based investment and development of energy resources.

These goals further reflect our recognition that the threats of terrorism and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction endanger the security not only of the United States and Kazakhstan, but of the world at large. We therefore seek to develop our security cooperation to address these challenges and foster cooperation among Kazakhstan, its Central Asian neighbors, the United States, and our European friends, partners, and allies. In pursuit of these objectives, we are determined to deepen cooperation bilaterally and within NATO's Partnership for Peace.

We reiterate our intent to cooperate in the war against terrorism to its conclusion and within the framework of the international coalition. We underscore our support for a broad-based Afghan government at peace internally and with its neighbors. We also pledge our readiness to cooperate in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

Recognizing that Kazakhstan was the first country to renounce its nuclear-weapons status voluntarily, we reaffirm our mutual commitment to the non-proliferation of weapons