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THE CHANGING NATURE OF GLOBAL SECURITY AND ENSUING CHALLENGES TO NATIONAL ARMED FORCES IN SOUTHEAST EUROPE

Changing Nature of Global Security

The major security problems of our time are international terrorism, failed states and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. These are challenges on a global scale.

I will begin with a brief overview of U.S. counterterrorism efforts: Following the September 11 attacks, the U.S. Government developed a National Strategy for Combating Terrorism, which outlined the policy framework for coordinated actions to prevent terrorist attacks against the United States, its citizens, its interests, and its friends around the world.

We have implemented this strategy to act simultaneously on four fronts:

- Defeat terrorist organizations of global reach by going after their sanctuaries, leadership, finances, and command, control and communications;
- Deny further sponsorship, support, and sanctuary to terrorists by cooperating with other states to take action against these international threats;
- Diminish the underlying conditions that terrorists seek to exploit by enlisting the international community to focus its efforts and resources on the areas most at risk; and
- Defend the United States, its citizens, and interests at home and abroad.

To achieve these ambitious aims, we have sought, with great success, to create and sustain a broad international coalition:

Our multilateral counterterrorism (CT) efforts start at the United Nations. UN Security Council Resolution 1373, adopted with strong U.S. leadership shortly after 9/11, places binding obligations on all UN member states to:

- Prevent and suppress terrorist financing by criminalizing financing, planning, preparing or perpetrating terrorist acts;
- Prohibit nationals from making funds or economic resources available to terrorists;
- Freeze funds and financial assets of terrorists and related entities;
- Refrain from supporting terrorist entities, take necessary steps to prevent commission of terrorist acts, and prevent use of territory for terrorist acts;
- Deny safe haven and prevent movement of terrorists across borders;
- Exchange operational information and enter into agreements to prevent and suppress terrorism, including ratifying the 12 CT conventions and protocols;
- Ensure refugee/asylum laws prevent abuse by terrorists; and
- Prohibit active and passive assistance to terrorists.

Roles of NATO and the OSCE

- NATO invoked Art. 5 after September 11, 2001, sent AWACS to defend U.S. airspace.
- NATO is now training the new Iraqi army.

- OSCE, under Bulgarian leadership this year, is working to control MANPADS, improve shipping-container security, and make border crossings more secure.

Weapons of mass destruction (WMD)— nuclear, biological, and chemical—in the possession of hostile states and terrorists represent one of the greatest security challenges facing the world today. We must pursue a comprehensive strategy to counter this threat in all of its dimensions. An effective strategy for countering WMD, including their use and further proliferation, is an integral component of the National Security Strategy of the United States. As with the war on terrorism, the U.S. approach to combat WMD represents a fundamental change from the past. To succeed, we must take full advantage of today's opportunities, including the application of new technologies, increased emphasis on intelligence collection and analysis, the strengthening of alliance relationships, and the establishment of new partnerships with former adversaries.

Weapons of mass destruction could enable adversaries to inflict massive harm on the United States, our military forces at home and abroad, and our friends and allies. Some states, including several that have supported and continue to support terrorism, already possess WMD and are seeking even greater capabilities, as tools of coercion and intimidation. For them, these are not weapons of last resort, but militarily useful weapons of choice intended to overcome our advantages in conventional forces and to deter us from responding to aggression against our friends and allies in regions of vital interest. In addition, terrorist groups are seeking to acquire WMD with the stated purpose of killing large numbers of our people and those of friends and allies—without compunction and without warning. We will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes and terrorists to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons. We accord the highest priority to the protection of the United States, our forces, and our friends and allies from the existing and growing WMD threat.

What Bulgaria is Doing to Fight Terrorism and Proliferation of WMD

Bulgaria is one of only three countries in Europe that has troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom and both international missions in Afghanistan, as well as SFOR and KFOR. Bulgarian soldiers in Karbala have performed with courage and professionalism, and you should be proud of them. To aid in the fight against terrorist financing, the Government of Bulgaria enacted in February 2003 the Law on Measures Against the Financing of Terrorism, which links existing laws against terrorism with the financing of those crimes. The law was drafted in accordance with the international Financial Action Task Force's Eight Special Recommendations Against the Financing of Terrorism. The Bulgarian Financial Intelligence Agency has full authority to obtain information without a court order, to share information freely with law-enforcement agencies, and to process and act on allegations of terrorist financing. In the past year, Bulgarian Ministry of Interior and Customs training has begun to include nuclear, biological, and chemical detection and handling. Customs officers have begun using the so-called "TRACKER" licensing system as their primary permit-screening tool to control potentially dangerous exports. Sofia is a party to all 12 international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism. We can truly say that the United States and Bulgaria are partners in the Global War on Terrorism.

Conclusion

I hesitate to make recommendations regarding the armed forces because I am a diplomat, not a military officer. However, I think I can make a few general observations:

- The world has changed dramatically since 1989, and again since September 11, 2001.
- The fight against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction is as much political and economic as it is military.

- Information warfare – offensive as well as defensive – has become more important than ever. We must be able to gather and process intelligence in real time if we are to defeat the terrorists.
- In the fight against terrorism, a military's greatest strength is its human capital -- the quality of its soldiers, their training, and the support network that keeps them strong and motivated.
- Weapons systems are important as well, but they are only as good as the soldiers who operate them.

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