

Rudy Woke 'em Up; Now UN Diplomats Must Act

New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani is no diplomat. That's a compliment — at least in the context of the extraordinary address on terrorism he delivered with characteristic bluntness and controlled passion to the diplomats at the United Nations Monday.

Giuliani's direct and unadorned message was: It's time now to take action against terrorism, not to talk about it; if you are not with us, you're against us; and if a nation harbors terrorists and won't kick them out, it must be made a pariah by the family of nations.

"This is not the time for further study or vague directives," he told an audience for

whom inconclusive discussions and foggy statements often substitute for any sort of action. "The evidence of terrorism's brutality and inhumanity, of its contempt for life and the concept of peace, is lying beneath the rubble of the World Trade Center less than two miles from where we meet today."

That was Giuliani at his in-your-face best. And the diplomats loved it. It was a refreshing jolt for many who consider themselves not only emissaries of their nations but also citizens of New York City. The last thing they needed to hear about the atrocity committed in the very city that hosts them was another painstaking-

ly nuanced, attenuated and soporific speech that would offend no one and stir no one's soul.

What they got was a bracing blast of Giuliani-style oratory. Nothing fancy. Something like a collective trip to the principal's office with a whiff of fire-and-brimstone thrown in and, to lighten the mood, a shameless bit of New York City boosterism at the end: Take in a show, go to a restaurant, show terrorists we don't fear them. Hizzoner got a thunderous round of well-deserved standing applause.

Now the UN diplomats must do their part and live up to the grand promise of a global coalition against terror.

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