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DAILY NEWS, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

PRESIDENT DRAWS

Says countries must pick side

By HELEN KENNEDY
DAILY NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — President Bush took direct aim at Afghanistan's Taliban rulers last night and demanded they hand over all terrorists in their land "or share their fate."

Bush also called on the U.S. military to be ready, American civilians to be calm and the rest of the world to choose up sides.

"Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists," Bush said in a blunt speech to a joint session of an unusually unified Congress.

Declaring that "freedom and fear are at war," Bush rallied a nation left jittery, grieving and angry by last week's catastrophe, which left 6,807 either dead or missing.

"We are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom," Bush said.

God, he suggested, was on America's side.

"Freedom and fear, justice and cruelty, have always been at war, and we know that God is not neutral between them," Bush said.

Speaking from the same historic chamber where President Franklin D. Roosevelt rallied America after another day of infamy — the Pearl Harbor attack — 60 years ago, Bush sought to energize the nation for a struggle he described as no less urgent than winning World War II.

"Our grief has turned to anger, and anger to resolution," he said. "Whether we bring our enemies to justice, or bring justice to our enemies, justice will be done."

Though it was not a traditional declaration of war, Bush sketched a wide-ranging attack on terror leader Osama Bin Laden's global network that attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

"We will direct every resource at our command — every means of diplomacy, every tool of intelligence, every instrument of law enforcement, every financial influence and every necessary weapon of war — to the disruption and defeat of the global terror network," Bush pledged.

He demanded the Taliban give up all members of Bin Laden's network, Al Qaida, and close all terrorist training camps.

"These demands are not open to negotiation or discussion," Bush said. "The Taliban must act and act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate."

Facing growing pressure even before Bush spoke, the Taliban asked Bin Laden to leave the country yesterday, but Washington quickly said that wasn't good enough.

Bush said he had sympathy for the miserable Afghan people, but took direct aim at their Taliban rulers.

"We condemn the Taliban regime," he said.

Terror Czar

Calling Islamic teachings "good and peaceful," Bush stressed he is targeting only radical extremists.

"The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends," he said.

Bush also announced the creation of a cabinet-level Homeland Defense Security Office to coordinate anti-terrorism efforts at home, and named Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge the nation's new Terror Czar.



NOTICE IS SERVED President Bush issues call for a resolute America, and no nonsense from

A lack of communication between the nation's various security agencies is being partially blamed for the failure to prevent last week's appalling hijackings.

During his speech, Bush hailed Mayor Giuliani and Gov. Pataki as heroes.

Both were in the audience, along with Edward Cardinal Egan, Fire Commissioner Thomas Von Essen, Police Commissioner Bernard Kerik and five heroes of the rescue operation.

Vice President Cheney and House Majority Leader Dick Armey were not present, to ensure national leaders remain in case terrorists wiped out the Capitol. An unprecedented security cordon was placed around the building.

The Congress, which forgot all political differences the moment the first fireball exploded over downtown Manhattan, united to give the President ovation after ovation.

In the wake of an atrocity that killed three times more Americans than died at Pearl Harbor, a President who won office in the nation's most fractious election now commands unparalleled public support.

'Mission and moment'

There was no traditional Democratic response. Instead, Democrats and Republicans joined to give a brief speech of support.

"Great harm has been done to

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LINE IN THE SAND



HARRY HAMBURG DAILY NEWS

Afghanistan, in last night's historic address to a joint session of Congress — and the world.

PRESIDENT BUSH:

"We are a country awakened to danger and called to defend freedom."

"The Taliban must act and act immediately. They will hand over the terrorists, or they will share in their fate."

"The enemy of America is not our many Muslim friends; it is not our many Arab friends. Our enemy is a radical network of terrorists and every government that supports them."

"Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists."

"Terrorists attacked a symbol of American prosperity. They did not touch its source."

us. We have suffered great loss. And in our grief and anger, we have found our mission and our moment," Bush said.

He could have been speaking of himself.

Earlier in the day, he met with Saudi Prince Saud and prayed with a group of religious leaders that included Catholics, Protestants, Orthodox Christians, Jews, Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus and Buddhists.

Among them was Greek Orthodox Archbishop Demetrios Trakatellis, whose tiny jewel of a church, St. Nicholas, once stood about 250 feet from the World Trade Center. He called the prayer service "a religious ceremony in front of God."

In Afghanistan, a council of 1,000 clerics — clearly with the blessing of reclusive Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar — issued an edict asking Bin Laden "to leave Afghanistan whenever possible."

Yanking Bin Laden's welcome mat was a significant move, because hospitality has enormous cultural significance in Afghanistan.

"Our hope now is that America considers the decision of the [clerics] and the issue is solved," Taliban Education Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi told reporters.

But Washington, regarding it as another of many delaying tactics, said asking Bin Laden to leave the country wasn't good enough. "It does not meet America's requirements," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. "This is about much more than one man being allowed to leave voluntarily, presumably, from one safe harbor to another safe harbor."

Military buildup

Even if Bin Laden leaves Afghanistan, there are few countries who would take him. Muttaqi said any departure "would take time," noting that the world's most wanted terrorist can't just hail a cab.

"You know that Osama Bin Laden has a lot of opponents," he said. "It can't be that he goes out on the street and embarks in a taxi."

Meanwhile, the buildup of American might continued in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Sea and 5,000 Air National Guard and Air Force reservists in 25 states are being called up, officials said.

Army Secretary Thomas White said he expects commando and special operations units would have a major role in whatever action the Pentagon is planning.

"We are ready to conduct sustained land combat operations," he said.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said it was important that Americans understand "this is not a quick matter that will be over in a month or even a year."

Rumsfeld said the operation, dubbed Infinite Justice, would likely be renamed because Muslims — including those the U.S. needs as allies — consider the name presumptuous, believing only God can dispense infinite justice.

On Wall Street, stocks plunged again. The Dow lost 382 points and closed below 8,500 for the first time in three years.

Again, airline stocks were among the worst hit.

Bush offered up a bailout package, asking Congress for an immediate $8 billion for the airlines — $3 billion for security upgrades and $5 billion in cash. The package also includes $10 billion in loan guarantees.

The FAA banned all aircraft from flying within 3 miles of all large open-air gatherings and specifically ordered a no-fly zone over all stadiums. The order applies to all aircraft, including blimps.

On TV tonight, a parade of stars will appear in an unprecedented gala benefit to air simultaneously on at least 27 channels. All the networks and many cable outfits have agreed to set aside competition and regular programming to show "America: A Tribute to Heroes."

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