NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

NEW YORK POST, SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2001

Rudy's $10 Million Stand



JAY AMBROSE

MAYOR Giuliani, in saying thanks but no thanks to a $10 million check from a Saudi prince, embraced something far more valuable, and that's the truth that no American policy can be held responsible for the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Prince Alwalee bin Talal, one of the world's richest men, said he wanted to aid victims. But journalists received a statement from him that identified America's Middle East policies as leading to the attack and that called for "a more balanced stance toward the Palestinian cause."

If bin Talal wants to criticize America's policies, that's acceptable, but linking those policies to Sept. 11 is not acceptable. America's policies did not cause this mass murder of innocent men, women and children anymore than the policies of other nations toward Germany caused the Holocaust. In both instances, it was twisted psyches — the fanatical beliefs and all-consuming hatred on the part of evil men — that were responsible.

The terrorists were not people responding in a rational, understandable way to an objective, external reality, but people doing the bidding of their own inner demons. As Giuliani said, "There is no moral equivalent for this attack."

What America wants and has arduously sought is a settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Yasser Arafat himself was quick to condemn the terrorist attacks, for he understands that America's involvement is the best chance Palestinians have for the creation of their own state. America is Israel's friend. That does not make America the enemy of legitimate Palestinian aspirations.

Giuliani's refusal of the check was a means of making a statement that was well worth the cost.

CITY_21MC100_011831037

NYC-WTC_000413422