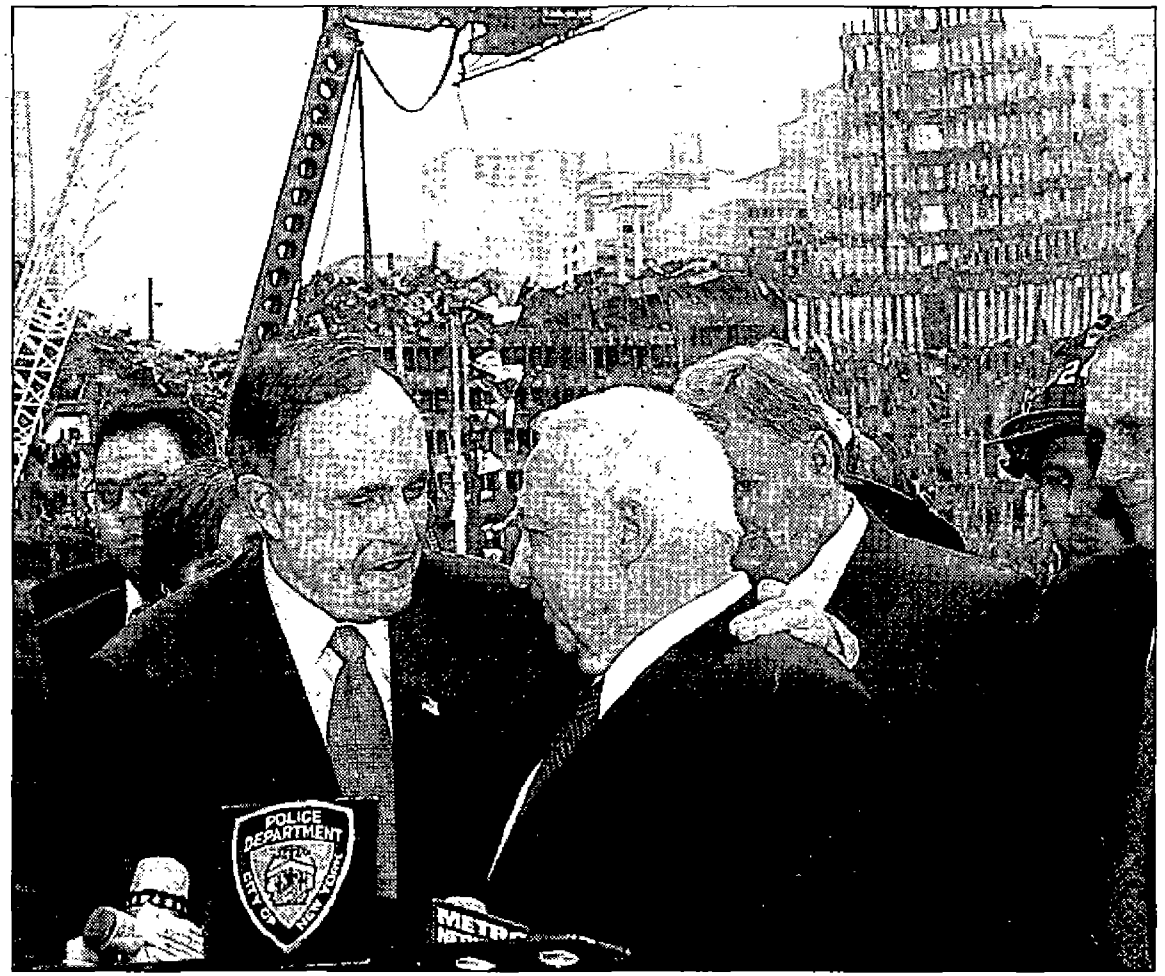
NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

Promise to Beat Terror



AP Photo

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, right, is embraced by Mayor Giuliani after viewing the WTC devastation Friday.

Sharon views WTC ruins with Giuliani

By Dan Janison
STAFF WRITER

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon toured the World Trade Center ruins Friday with Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and vowed, "The democracies will defeat the terror."

At Liberty and West streets, Sharon became the latest world leader to sign the wall covered with flags from around the world, on a viewing platform for bereaved families built a few weeks ago.

Sharon signed his name in English and Hebrew next to an Israeli flag at the site and in a gesture not immediately explained, also signed next to a German flag the message "Shalom."

GROUND ZERO

Others who have signed the symbolic wall memorializing the Sept. 11 massacre of thousands include UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and President George W. Bush.

After the tour, which admitted a small pool of reporters, Giuliani was asked by an Israeli reporter if he regretted recently handing back a $10 million check from a Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Bin Abdulaziz al Saud who urged the United States to rethink its Middle East policy.

"You've got to be kidding," Giuliani said. "No, I'm very proud of it. No way I would take money from

NEWSDAY, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2001

CITY_21MC100_0118335583

NYC-WTC_000415401

NYC 9/11 Public Portal Document

someone who was trying to use that as a way of propagating the idea of moral equivalency between democracies and terrorist states . . . "

"The money was offered to us as an attack on America," Giuliani said.

Sharon, praising the city's police, firefighters and residents, said, "We admire the way you confronted the struggle here."

"Terror is terror, a fight against our values, against our democracies," Sharon said. "And I think the free world should struggle against terror, and take all the necessary steps . . . I can assure you that the democracies will defeat the terror."

During a speech before guests and reporters, Sharon, a longtime general, said, "I saw all the horrors and fears of wars. I saw my best friends being killed, myself have been wounded twice in battles. I believe I understand the importance of peace, if I may say, better than many of the politicians that speak about peace but never had that experience."

CITY_21MC100_011833584

NYC-WTC_000415402