

News

- Current News
- Video
- Press Briefings
- Proclamations
- Executive Orders
- Radio Addresses

News by Date

- November 2003
- October 2003
- September 2003
- August 2003
- July 2003
- June 2003
- May 2003
- April 2003
- March 2003
- February 2003
- January 2003
- December 2002
- November 2002
- October 2002
- September 2002
- August 2002
- July 2002
- June 2002 May 2002
- April 2002
- March 2002
- February 2002
- January 2002
- December 2001
- November 2001
- October 2001
- September 2001
- August 2001
- July 2001
- June 2001
- May 2001
- April 2001
- March 2001
- February 2001
- January 2001

Appointments Nominations



For Immediate Release Office of the Press Secretary November 21, 2003

President Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Turkey

Remarks by President Bush and Prime Minister Blair to the **Travel Pool** All-Weather Pitch Sedgefield Community College Sedgefield, England



2:22 P.M. (Local)

PRESIDENT BUSH: It was a sad day yesterday, but it's a day that reminds us all that we've got a job to do, that is to defeat terror.

Q What did you tell Erdogan, sir?

THE PRESIDENT: What?

Q What did you tell the Turkish leader?

PRESIDENT BUSH: I told him our prayers are with his people. I told him that we will work with him to defeat terror, and that the terrorists have decided to use Turkey as a front.

Q -- specific aid, like sending FBI agents or investigators?

PRESIDENT BUSH: You'll see as time goes on. Both countries want to help. Obviously, we need to share intelligence. The best way to defeat al Qaeda-type killers is to share intelligence and then work with local authorities to hunt these killers down.

Great Britain has got a fantastic intelligence service, and we've got a good one, as well. And we want to work with countries like Turkey to anticipate and to find killers.

Q Is Turkey a new front in this war on terror?

PRESIDENT BUSH: It sure is. Two major explosions. And Iraq is a front, Turkey is a front, anywhere where the terrorists think they can strike is a front.

Q -- Turkish officials wanted to go and strike al Qaeda in perhaps another country or another site?

President Condemns Terrorist Attacks in Turkey

Application





Photo Essays

Federal Facts Federal Statistics

West Wing History PRESIDENT BUSH: We'll work with any country willing to fight off terror. Just like Great Britain. This country is fortunate to have a Prime Minister who is clear-sighted about the threats of the 21st century. And America is lucky to have a friend as strong as Tony Blair.

Q Do you like having all these press around you?

PRESIDENT BUSH: Do I like having all the press around me? Let me see here. (Laughter.) Now, who has the final -- let me ask, who has the final word, I wonder, me or the press? I love the press around me. Just take a look at this lot. Take, for example, Scott. He thinks he's a fine runner -- until he came out to the ranch -- never mind. (Laughter.)

PRIME MINISTER BLAIR: I'll tell you the truth a bit later, okay? (Laughter.)

THE PRESIDENT: Yes, we like the press. A vibrant society is a society with a free press.

Thank you all.

END 2:26 P.M. (Local)

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President | Vice President | First Lady | Mrs. Cheney | News & Policies | History & Tours | Kids | Your Government | Appointments | Jobs | Contact | Text only

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