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terrorism

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THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 31, 1986

RADIO ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE NATION

Camp David

12:06 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: My fellow Americans, history is likely to record that 1986 was the year when the world, at long last, came to grips with the plague of terrorism. For too long, the world was paralyzed by the argument that terrorism could not be stopped until the grievances of terrorists were addressed. The complicated and heartrending issues that perplex mankind are no excuse for violent, inhumane attacks, nor do they excuse not taking aggressive action against those who deliberately slaughter innocent people.

In our world, there are enumerable groups and organizations with grievances, some justified, some not. Only a tiny fraction has been ruthless enough to try to achieve their ends through vicious and cowardly acts of violence upon unarmed victims. Perversely, it is often the terrorists themselves who prevent peacefully negotiated solutions. So, perhaps the first step in solving some of these fundamental challenges in getting to the root cause of conflict is to declare that terrorism is not an acceptable alternative and will not be tolerated.

Effective anti-terrorist action has also been thwarted by the claim that, as the quip goes, "One man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter." That's a catchy phrase, but also misleading. Freedom fighters do not need to terrorize a population into submission. Freedom fighters target the military forces and the organized instruments of repression keeping dictatorial regimes in power. Freedom fighters struggle to liberate their citizens from oppression and to establish a form of government that reflects the will of the people.

Now, this is not to say that those who are fighting for freedom are perfect, or that we should ignore problems arising from passion and conflict. Nevertheless, one has to be blind, ignorant, or simply unwilling to see the truth if he or she is unable to distinguish between those I just described and terrorists.

Terrorists intentionally kill or maim unarmed civilians; often women and children, often third parties who are not in any way part of a dictatorial regime. Terrorists are always the enemies of democracy. Luckily, the world is shaking free from its lethargy and moving forward to stop the bloodshed.

Nearly a month ago in Tokyo, the leaders of the major Western democracies hammered out an agreement on tough measures to eradicate this evil. Ironically, the progress made in Tokyo is now imperiled by a lack of consistent support at home. For nearly a year now, a handful of United States Senators have held up approval of a supplementary extradition treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom. This agreement, when ratified, would prevent terrorists who have kidnapped, killed, or maimed people in Britain, from finding refuge in our country. Today these killers are able to do just that

by labeling their vile acts as political.

Well in Tokyo, the democracies declared there is no political or any other justification for terrorist acts, and those who commit them should be brought to justice. The world is watching. If actions by a few Senators allow terrorists to find safe haven in the United States, then there will be irreparable damage. Refusal to approve the supplementary treaty would undermine our ability to pressure other countries to extradite terrorists who have murdered our citizens. And rejection of this treaty would be an affront to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher -- one European leader who, at great political risk, stood shoulder to shoulder with us during our operations against Qaddafi's terrorism.

Some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have gone so far as to prepare a substitute treaty permitting those who have murdered British policemen and soldiers, for so-called political reasons, to avoid extradition. Well, this substitute is not a compromise -- it's retreat. Its passage would be a victory for terrorism and a defeat for all we've been trying to do to stop this evil.

One concern about the treaty is that it may set a precedent for other treaties, which will then be used against those who simply oppose totalitarian regimes. We can never permit that to happen. Our country will always remain the beacon of hope and freedom to all oppressed peoples.

I therefore urge the Senate to promptly approve the revised treaty and reinforce the momentum building against terrorism. With good sense, courage and international cooperation, our struggle against terrorism will be won. And the United States will lead the way into a freer and more peaceful tomorrow.

Until next week, thanks for listening and God bless you.

END

12:11 P.M. EDT

Document	No.	
Document	NO.	2

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:5/30/86		ACTION/CONCU	RRENCE/			
SUBJECT: _	PRESIDENTIAL	RADIO TAL	K: TE	CRRORISM		
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(Rohrabacher/BE) May 30, 1986 11:30 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TERRORISM

SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

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The world is watching. If actions by a few Senators allow terrorists to find safe haven in the United States, then there will be irreparable damage. Refusal to approve the supplementary treaty would undermine our ability to pressure other countries to extradite terrorists who have murdered our citizens. And rejection of this treaty would be an affront to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, one European leader who, at great political risk, stood shoulder to shoulder with us during our operations against Qadhafi's terrorism.

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DS per Chew

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(Rohrabacher/BE) May 30, 1986 9:00 a.m.

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Document No.	
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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	5/30/86	ACTION/CONCU	RRENCE/CO	MMENT DUE BY: ASAP -	10:00 am TODAY
SUBJECT:	REVISED PRESIDENTIAL	RADIO TALK		rism day, May 31, 1986	
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REMARKS:

REVISED

Please provide your comments and edits directly to Ben Elliott with an information copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

(Rohrabacher/BE) May 30, 1986 9:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TERRORISM SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

My fellow Americans, history is likely to record that 1986 was the year when the world, at long last, came to grips with the plague of terrorism.

For too long, the world was paralyzed by the argument that terrorism cannot be stopped until the grievances of terrorists are addressed. The complicated and heart-rending issues that perplex mankind are no excuse for vile and inhumane attacks, nor are they excuses for not taking aggressive action against those who slaughter innocent people.

In our world there are innumerable groups and organizations with grievances, some justified, some not. Only a tiny fraction have been ruthless enough to try to achieve their ends through vicious and cowardly acts of violence upon unarmed victims.

Ironically, it is often the terrorists themselves who prevent peacefully negotiated solutions. So, perhaps the first step in solving some of these fundamental challenges, in getting to the root cause of conflict, is to declare that terrorism is no longer an acceptable alternative and will not be tolerated.

Effective anti-terrorist action has also been thwarted by the claim that -- as the quip goes -- "One man's terrorist, is another man's freedom fighter." A catchy phrase, but also misleading.

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The world is watching. If the Senate, for any reason, makes it possible for terrorists to find safe haven in the United States, it will do irreparable damage. Refusal to approve the treaty would undermine our ability to pressure other countries to extradite terrorists who have murdered our citizens. And rejection of this treaty would be a slap in the face to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the one European leader who, at great political risk, stood shoulder to shoulder with us during our operations against Libya.

Some members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee have gone so far as to prepare a substitute treaty. It would permit those who have murdered British policemen and soldiers for so-called political reasons to avoid extradition. The substitute is not compromise, it is retreat. Its passage would be a victory for terrorism and a defeat for all we've been trying to do to stop this evil.

One concern about the treaty is that it may set a precedent for other treaties, which will then be used against non-terrorists who simply oppose totalitarian regimes. We will never permit that to happen. Our country will always remain the beacon of hope and freedom to all oppressed peoples.

The Senate, then, should promptly approve the treaty and reinforce the momentum building against terrorism.

If we have good sense, courage, and work together, the war against terrorism will be won, and the United States will lead

the way into a more peaceful tomorrow. After all, we are still the land of the free and the home of the brave. Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher/BE) May 30, 1986 9:00 a.m.

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

May 30, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM:

RODNEY B. McDANIEL

SUBJECT:

Presidential Saturday Radio Address: Terrorism

Attached at Tab A are the NSC recommended changes to the draft Presidential remarks for the Saturday Radio Address on terrorism.

cc: David Chew

Attachment

Tab A - Proposed Remarks w/changes

Document No.	#4216
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ASAP - 10:00 am TODAY

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	5/30/86	ACTION/COM	CURR	ENCE/C	OMMENT DUE BY:	ASAP -	10:00 a	m TODAY
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5/30/86

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RESPONSE:

action: OLN JMP 1BM RKS ups. WRP Harley

> David L. Chew **Staff Secretary** Ext. 2702

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TERRORISM

TERRORISM SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

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The world is watching. If the Senate, for any reason, makes it possible for terrorists to find safe haven in the United States, it will do irreparable damage. Refusal to approve the treaty would undermine our ability to pressure other countries to extradite terrorists who have murdered our citizens. And rejection of this treaty would be an slap in the face to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the one European leader who, at great political risk, stood shoulder to shoulder with us during our operations against Libya.

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One concern about the treaty is that it may set a precedent for other treaties, which will then be used against those non-terrorists who simply oppose totalitarian regimes. We will never permit that to happen. Our country will always remain the beacon of hope and freedom to all oppressed peoples.

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If we have good sense, courage, and work together, the war against terrorism will be won, and the United States will lead

the way into a more peaceful tomorrow. After all, we are still the land of the free and the home of the brave. Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher/BE) May 30, 1986 9:00 a.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TERRORISM SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

My fellow Americans, history is likely to record that 1986 was the year when the world, at long last, came to grips with the plague of terrorism.

For too long, the world was paralyzed by the argument that terrorism cannot be stopped until the grievances of terrorists are addressed. The complicated and heart-rending issues that perplex mankind are no excuse for vile and inhumane attacks, nor are they excuses for not taking aggressive action against those who slaughter innocent people.

In our world there are innumerable groups and organizations with grievances, some justified, some not. Only a tiny fraction have been ruthless enough to try to achieve their ends through vicious and cowardly acts of violence upon unarmed victims.

Ironically, it is often the terrorists themselves who prevent peacefully negotiated solutions. So, perhaps the first step in solving some of these fundamental challenges, in getting to the root cause of conflict, is to declare that terrorism is no longer an acceptable alternative and will not be tolerated.

Effective anti-terrorist action has also been thwarted by the claim that -- as the quip goes -- "One man's terrorist, is another man's freedom fighter." A catchy phrase, but also misleading.

Freedom fighters do not need to terrorize a population into submission. Freedom fighters, for the most part, target the

military forces and the organized instruments of repression which keep dictatorial regimes in power. Freedom fighters struggle to liberate their citizens from oppression and to establish a form of government that reflects the will of the people.

This is not to say that those who are fighting for freedom are perfect or that we should ignore problems arising from passion and conflict. Nevertheless, one has to be blind, ignorant, or simply unwilling to see the truth if he or she is unable to distinguish between those I just described and terrorists. Terrorists intentionally kill or maim unarmed civilians, often women and children, often third parties who are not in any way part of a dictatorial regime. Terrorists are always the enemies of democracy.

Luckily, the world is shaking free from its lethargy and moving forward to stop the bloodshed. One month ago in Tokyo, the leaders of the major Western democracies hammered out an agreement on tough measures to eradicate this evil.

Ironically, the progress made in Tokyo is now imperiled by a lack of consistent support at home. For nearly a year now, a handful of United States Senators have held up approval of a supplementary extradition treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom. This agreement, if ratified, would prevent terrorists who have kidnapped, killed, or maimed people in Britain from finding refuge in our country. Today, these killers are able to do just that by labeling their vile acts as "political." In Tokyo, the democracies declared there is no

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

May 29, 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR BEN ELLIOTT

FROM:

RODNEY B. McDANIEL

SUBJECT:

Presidential Saturday Radio Address: Terrorism

Craig Coy and Peter Sommer met with Dana Rohrabacher concerning this Saturday's Presidential Radio Address. We have suggested a slightly different approach to the speech. Dana has agreed to revise the remarks by COB tomorrow. Attached at Tab A are proposed remarks that Dana may draw upon.

cc: David Chew

Attachment

Tab A - Proposed Remarks

A DRAFT RADIO ADDRESS FOR MAY 31, 1986

Good afternoon. I would like to talk to you today about a subject that is on everyone's mind — terrorism. Terrorism is one of the most important issues facing the civilized world, and yet it is also one of the most confusing.

Some have said that terrorism will only be eliminated if we solve the root causes. There is no doubt that finding solutions to the problems that prevent people from living in peace and freedom must be achieved. But we must recognize that just people with just grievances do not use terrorism as a weapon. And we need to recognize that it is the terrorist who seeks to block peacefully negotiated solutions to problems.

Let me also clear up another popular misconception about terrorism -- the one about "One man's freedom fighter is another

man's terrorist." Freedom fighters attack the armed forces of an established regime; terrorists, on the other hand, deliberately murder and maim the unarmed and the innocent. To equate the two places callous criminals along side brave defenders of freedom and jeopardizes the very foundation of our basic principles and values.

Often we hear that innocent hostages should be exchanged for jailed terrorists. Others say that those who fight back against terrorists are no better than terrorists. I will not accept that — right does not equal wrong; innocent is not the same as wicked; and, good cannot be bad. To say otherwise is to corrupt our language and morals.

People around the world look to the United States for strength and leadership. This is natural and we accept the responsibilities that freedom requires. This responsibility

must be borne by our government, the media, as well as you -- our citizens. All of us must exercise what has been called "civic valor" and stand up to the terrorists no matter how painful the consequences.

I have done my part as have our brave diplomats and servicemen.

The Tokyo Summit has shown that our allies are increasingly willing to do their part. Now eyes are focused on Congress.

Last June representatives of the United States and the United Kingdom signed a supplementary extradition treaty designed to make clear that persons accused of crimes of violence in one of our two countries could not escape justice by fleeing to the other country and claiming some political motivation for their offense. Too often in the past, terrorists who had kidnaped, killed, and maimed in Britain had fled to the United States and been protected by our courts on the ground that their offenses

were "political".

Recent events have underlined more clearly than ever the need for the civilized international community to stand together in the fight against terrorism. Ensuring that terrorists will be brought to justice is a key weapon in that fight. Our joint declaration on terrorism at the Tokyo Summit emphasized that there can be no justification whatsoever for terrorist acts, and recognized the need for "improved extradition procedures...for bringing to trial those who have perpetrated acts of terrorism.

Unfortunately some members of the United States Senate has refused — for nearly a year now — to approve our supplementary extradition treaty with the United Kingdom. This is the first attempt to amend an extradition protocol; it will be followed by negotiations with other nations with whom we have extradition treaties. Each of these will be negotiated separately and

carefully to ensure only those involved in criminal acts of terrorism will be subject to return. Our country will always be the beacon of hope and freedom for the truly oppressed.

Our friends around the world see this as a test of whether the United States operates under a double standard, demanding the surrender of terrorists in other countries who claim they acted for political reasons, but granting safehaven to terrorists who flee to the United States and offer the same excuse. These handful of Senators undermine our ability to get other countries to extradite terrorists we are trying to apprehend —— like Abu Abbas, admitted mastermind of the ACHILLE LAURO hijacking, who recently threatened publicly to perpetrate further acts of terrorism against Americans.

The opponents of this treaty have prepared a "substitute treaty".

Their version would allow terrorists who murder policemen or

soldiers -- the very people who protect the rest of us from terrorism -- to avoid extradition on the ground that their heinous actions were "political" in nature. At the same time, this substitute treaty would create wide loopholes through which even terrorists who attack civilians could escape justice. This proposal would not in any way contribute to our battle against international terrorism. It is simply unacceptable.

I find it especially shameful that these Senators are unwiling to help the people of the United Kingdom, including Northern

Ireland, fight their terrorist threat at the same time that we ask -- and receive -- invaluable British assistance in responding to terrorist threats from Libya and elsewhere.

Our supplementary extradition treaty with the United Kingdom is not a radical new departure or a threat to civil liberties. Its concept is based on the of the European Convention for the

Suppression of Terrorism, concluded ten years ago, and since ratified by many European countries which have a strong and demonstrated commitment to human rights.

Prompt Senate approval of the treaty would be a significant step in fighting terrorism under the rule of law. We can no longer shirk our responsibility to put our own home in order in the international campaign against terrorism.

Thank you and God bless.

RONALD REAGAN LIBRARY TRANSFER/PARALLEL FILE SHEET

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WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE:	/29/86	ACTION/CONCURR		ENCE/COMMENT DUE BY:		8:00 am	8:00 am, Fri., 5/30	
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RESPONSE:

Thank you.

(Rohrabacher/BE) May 29, 1986 6:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TERRORISM SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

My fellow Americans, 6 weeks ago our military forces attacked selected targets in Libya, a country whose government has been deeply involved in supporting international terrorism. It didn't take long for critics, at home and abroad, to take to the airwaves lambasting our actions. We were told that our attack would drive a wedge between the Western democracies, that it would bolster Libya's support in the Arab world, and strengthen Colonel Qadhafi's grip on power within Libya itself. Now that some time has passed, it is appropriate to take stock of the true consequences of our actions.

Prior to taking military action, we did everything within our power to solve the problem peacefully. We appealed personally to Colonel Qadhafi on numerous occasions to no avail. We then went to our allies and, with little success, asked them to join us in bringing tangible economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on Qadhafi's regime. It was only when all else failed that we decided to act.

Since our raid on Libya, the shrill voices of condemnation have been proven utterly wrong. A new consensus has emerged among the free people of the world about international terrorism. Instead of driving a wedge between the Western democracies, today, we are more unified than ever.

Some minor verbal backing for Libya -- little more than lip service really -- was heard from Middle Eastern governments

shortly after the raid; since then, there is no sign of increased support. In fact, some Middle Eastern leaders, thought to have ties to terrorist groups, have gone out of their way to disclaim this inhumane and cowardly form of warfare. If their statements are followed by changes in policy, it would be a major victory for all civilization and could mark the beginning of better relations between the Arab world and the Western democracies.

At home, Colonel Qadhafi's dictatorial regime -- unlike what the critics predicted -- is weaker, not stronger. The Libyan people must know that we have no quarrel with them. Our conflict is with those who attack unarmed third parties, often women and children, to achieve their ends. Unfortunately, the cowards who perpetrate these crimes compound their evil deeds by hiding behind Arab women and children, as is the case in Libya.

Being a leader is often a difficult and thankless task.

Like it or not, because the United States is a powerful country, other free peoples look to us for leadership and strength. If we are to win the war on terrorism, we must all do our part. It isn't just up to the military, or any one branch of government or, for that matter, just up to the United States.

During our recent summit in Tokyo, we hammered out a tough agreement on measures to be taken to eradicate this evil.

Ironically, one of the biggest stumbling blocks in this war against terrorism -- something that threatens to destroy the momentum we've built up -- is being erected in the United States Senate. The Senate has refused for nearly a year now to approve a supplementary extradition treaty between the United States and

the United Kingdom. This agreement, if ratified, would prevent terrorists who have kidnapped, killed, and maimed people in Britain from finding refuge in our country. Today, these killers are able to do just that by labeling their vile acts as "political." Well, in Tokyo, democracies made it clear, there is no political or any other justification for terrorist acts...and those who commit them should be brought to justice.

The world is watching, and if the Senate, for any reason, makes it possible for terrorists to find safe haven in the United States, our battle against this evil will be irreparably damaged. The Senate's refusal to approve this treaty would undermine our ability to pressure other countries to extradite terrorists like Abu Abbas, admitted mastermind of the Achille Lauro hijacking, who recently publicly threatened further vicious attacks against Americans. Rejection of this treaty would be a slap in the face to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the one European leader who, at great political risk, stood shoulder to shoulder with us after the Libyan raid.

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Some members of Senate Foreign Relations Committee have prepared a substitute treaty. It would permit those who have murdered policemen and soldiers for so-called political reasons to avoid extradition. The substitute is no compromise; it is a retreat. The American people should not stand for this travesty.

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the free and the home of the brave. Until next week, thanks for listening, and God bless you.

(Rohrabacher) May 29, 1986 5:00 p.m.

PRESIDENTIAL RADIO TALK: TERRORISM SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1986

My fellow Americans, 6 weeks ago our military forces attacked selected targets in Libya, a country whose government had been deeply involved in supporting international terrorism. It didn't take long for critics, at home and abroad, to take to the airwaves lambasting our actions. We were told that our attack would drive a wedge between the Western Democracies, that it would bolster Libya's support in the Arab world, and strengthen Colonel Qadhafi's grip on power within Libya itself. Now that some time has passed, it is appropriate to take stock of the true consequences of our actions.

Prior to taking military action, we did everything within our power to solve the problem peacefully. We appealed personally to Colonel Qadhafi on numerous occasions to no avail. We then went to our allies and, with little success, asked them to join us in bringing tangible economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on the Qadhafi's regime. It was only when all else failed that we decided to act.

Since our raid on Libya, the shrill voices of condemnation have been proven utterly wrong. A new consensus has emerged among the free people of the world about international terrorism. Instead of driving a wedge between the Western Democracies, today, we are more unified than ever. During our summit in Tokyo, we hammered out a tough agreement on measures to be taken to eradicate this evil.

Some minor verbal backing for Libya, little more than lip service, was heard from Middle Eastern governments shortly after the raid; since then, there is no sign of increased support. In fact, some Middle Eastern leaders, thought to have ties to terrorist groups, have gone out of their way to disclaim this inhumane and cowardly form of warfare. If their statements are followed by changes in policy, it would be a major victory for all civilization and could mark the beginning of better relations between the Arab world and the Western Democracies.

At home, Colonel Qadhafi's dictatorial regime -- unlike what the critics predicted -- is in a weaker, not stronger position. The Libyan people must know that we have no quarrel with them. Our conflict is with those who attack unarmed third parties, often women and children, to achieve their ends. Unfortunately, the cowards who perpetrate these crimes compound their evil deeds by hiding behind Arab women and children, as is the case in Libya.

Being a leader is often a difficult and thankless task.

Like it or not, because the United States is a powerful country,
other free peoples look to us for leadership and strength. If we
are to win the war on terrorism, we must all do our part. It
isn't just up to the military, or any one branch of government
or, for that matter, just up to the United States.

Ironically, one of the biggest stumbling blocks in the war against terrorism -- something that threatens to destroy the momentum we've built up -- is being erected in the United States Senate. The Senate has refused for nearly a year now to approve

a supplementary extradition treaty between the United States and the United Kingdom. This agreement, if ratified, would prevent terrorists who have kidnapped, killed, and maimed people in Britain from finding refuge in our country. Today, these killers are able to do just that by labeling their vile acts as "political." Well, in Tokyo, democracies made it clear, there is no political or any other justification for terrorist acts...and those who commit them should be brought to justice.

The world is watching, and if the Senate, for any reason, makes it possible for terrorists to find safe haven in the United States, our battle against this evil will be irreparably damaged. The Senate's refusal to approve this treaty would undermine our ability to pressure other countries to extradite terrorists like Abu Abbas, admitted mastermind of the Achille Lauro hijacking, who recently publicly threatened further vicious attacks against Americans. Rejection of this treaty would be a slap in the face to British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, the one European leader who, at great political risk, stood shoulder to shoulder with us after the Libyan raid.

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Prior to our raid on Libya, we did everything within our power to solve the problem peacefully. We appealed personally to Colonel Qadhafi on numerous occasions; yet he continued his government's support for those perpetrating bloody terrorist acts. We then went to our allies and, with little success, asked them to join us in bringing tangible economic and diplomatic pressure to bear on the Qadhafi's regime. It was only when all else failed that we decided it was time to act.

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