

3rd open letter to G. Bush - Commemorating September 11, 2001

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Vienna, Austria

To the President of the United States of America, the Honorable George W. Bush

Dear Mr. President:

Dear American people:

Exactly 2 years have passed since 19 terrorists killed more than 3000 innocent people of many nationalities. Hijacking 4 American airliners simultaneously with innocent passengers on board, they maneuvered 2 of them to crash into the World Trade Center Towers in New York City. A third plane crashed into the Pentagon while the fourth airliner crashed outside of Shanksville, Pa., on September 11, 2001.

I saw the disaster in Europe on Television and as I realized what had happened, I couldn't hold back my tears. It is still difficult to believe that people can act in such an evil and wicked way. It is very scary to imagine that people of such religious nature can act so destructively. History is full of religious conflicts which arise for many reasons.

I think one of the primary factors contributing to this phenomena is the deep-rooted disharmony that exists amongst the world's religions. Therefore, when we witness the many global tragedies occurring around us, we should recognize how critically important it is that religions come together to have dialogue with one another and to learn to embrace one another. In the modern age most nations have religious ideals which hold a place wholly separate from the centers of secular political power.

Most people have come to accept this reality as the way things ought to be. I believe, however, that it is time that international organizations whose purpose is to support the ideal of world peace, reconsider their relationship with the great religious traditions of the world. Reverend Dr. Moon, as the founder of several world level peace initiatives, including the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP), is now working very hard to bring religious and governmental leaders of the world together under the banner of "reconciliation and love". Currently before the United Nations, is a proposal from the IIFWP for the establishment of an Inter-religious Council or Council of religious representatives, put forward as the final means to secure a lasting world peace.

Political and religious leaders have to work together to avoid religious wars. With an Inter-religious council, I believe there will be a decrease in and eventual elimination of terrorism on earth, and solve the serious urgent crisis of the world.

(As I recall....Germany, Thursday- September 13th, 2001) at 10 o'clock, life in Germany stopped totally for about 5 minutes. People stopped working. Cars, buses and trains stopped. TV stopped ... I think all of Germany became silent for some minutes thinking of the victims of the terror. It was really touching.

That very evening I went to a meeting with friends and we were singing Christians hymns and we prayed to God and then went home. Someone said the words "These times, we are all American" in memory of the words of JFK in Berlin: "Ich bin ein Berliner".

There is such a great sympathy with the Americans and I wish you could feel it. It is indeed a very sad day in the history of America, which you as the American President and the American people will never forget. But I want to assure you that my country Germany and the entire freedom loving world will never forget either. We all will mourn for those who got killed during those inhuman and barbarous acts of terrorism.

We will mourn with you Mr. President and the American people on this 2nd Commemorating day. On this very day my family and I will light a candle and have a special prayer for those who were tragically killed. We will also pray for those who mourn for their beloved ones whom they lost in the WTC, Washington and Pennsylvania.

May our Heavenly Father in heaven console those souls who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and also those left behind who will always be mourning. May God always lead you as the American President, the American people and protect the American men and women in uniform in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Sincerely yours,

Wolfgang Schawaller
(A German National)