



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Terrorist Bombings in Saudi Arabia & Chechnya

Delivered by Ambassador Stephan M. Minikes to the
Permanent Council, Vienna
May 15, 2003

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you especially for your words of condolence. We want to join you in expressing my country's sympathy to the Russian Federation on the shocking loss of life in the two heinous terrorist attacks in Chechnya over the past several days. Our thoughts are very much with the victims and their families.

Mr. Chairman, terrorism is terrorism wherever it occurs. At the same time as these appalling events in Chechnya, we witnessed the terrorist attacks in Riyadh. These will only serve to strengthen the resolve of the United States, and the rest of the world community, as President Bush announced to the nation and the world, to track down terrorists, to disrupt their networks and their operations, and to bring them to justice. We will not rest until that is accomplished.

By choosing to target innocent civilians, these criminals have shown once again their cowardice and their inhumanity. The world community needs to act because no one is immune from this assault against mankind.

The latest attacks in Saudi Arabia and Chechnya are a reminder to all of us that the war on terror is far from over. National and international efforts must continue unabated to detect and prevent terrorist activities and to dry up the support that these networks have that allow them to operate as terrorists.

As we mourn the loss of innocent lives, I hope we will also resolve to do everything possible to keep such attacks from happening again.

Thank you.