

Senator John Kerry

The Senate
Capitol Hill
Washington

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+
JFK
Merry
microfilm
Draft

Dear Senator Kerry

I hope you have reached home safely after a tiring, but I am sure, rewarding trip to South Asia. It was a pleasure to meet you at the dinner on ~~the~~ January ^{14th} at Mohammad-Daraini's home and listen to your frank expose on PLO-US relations & related issues. I am happy to share with you my feeling that after listening you I feel saddened that ^{in supporting you in 2004 Presidential elect} the Palestinian and Muslim communities of the USA ~~was~~ made a very wise decision. If you had been successful in that election and had followed the approach ~~you~~ ^{you} should have taken that would have been a

You were kind enough to respond to my ⁽²⁾ observations and questions in a very forthright manner. Not was the occasion for further discussion and exchange of viewpoints. But encouraged by your frankness and sensitivity to differing viewpoints I thought I should take the initiative to share with you a few thoughts, with the earnest desire to ~~reach~~ at least enable top American policy-makers to be aware of how others look upon these issues.

You will recollect that I raised the issue of the consequences of the alleged war against terrorism unleashed after the tragic and outrageous event of 9/11 and need to review ~~whether~~ whether the world has become more secure as a result of that or much less, providing more of terrorism that is being fought against.

~~To act the way~~
You were right in ~~acknowledging~~ that terrorism has nothing to do with any religion and that enjoyed an expertise of some distorted ~~view~~ ~~of~~ ~~it~~. You were

some of the atrocious acts done to date ^{claimed to} (3)
from years ~~ago~~ ~~to~~ act in a name of
Islam, although they do not represent the
true faith of Islam or the mainstream of the
Muslim people. You also very rightly
acknowledged the ~~core~~ Muslim concern about
terrorism, recalling the OIC Makki declaration and
the ~~Hajj~~ speech of the Imam Ka'ba on the
occasion of the recent Hajj (pilgrimage).
To put the record straight I want to
inform you that Islam & Muslim leadership
has almost unanimously condemned every act
of terrorism, from whatever source it was
inflicted, individuals, groups or states, Muslims
or others. Immediately after the 9/11 tragedy
^{can be}
~~all~~ leading Muslim scholars and leaders of the
Islamic Movement the world over unequivocally
condemned it through an immediate resolution
on 13th Sept 2001 and a more detailed statement
on 18th Sept 2001 relayed from London. (copy
enclosed). That is not in dispute. However
... .. the following

1. Can terrorism be fought by a war, or is being down ~~under~~ of the present U.S. leadership or do we need a very different or multi-faced strategy?

2. Is it possible to fight terrorism without clearly defining what constitutes terrorism? One cannot fight terrorism without clearly identifying the target, otherwise we would be chasing shadows and adding to confusion. Terrorism as use of force is not synonymous. ^{of force} Liberation struggles are indiscriminately equated with terrorism, then we have to rewrite all history. Even ^{as Nelson Mandela,} George Washington would have to be called by some other appellation!

3. It would be a mistake of historical perspective to target terrorism without addressing the ^{causes} ~~causes~~ ^{that} ~~that~~ ^{drive some} people to use methods that involve violence.