



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON, KULTURA AT ISPORTS

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION MEMORANDUM

No. 288, s. 2001

**DISCUSSION OF VALUABLE LESSONS AND INSIGHTS
FROM THE WORLD TRADE CENTER TERRORIST
ATTACK AND RELATED EVENTS**

1. An important aspect of a child's education is to be conscious of contemporary global events which may have strong implications on the life of his/her country and its people.
2. The recent terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and Pentagon in the heart of America and the response during and after the incident is one such event from which schoolchildren can draw valuable lessons and insights.

For instance, there was a firefighter responding after the first tower was bombed who admitted his great fear as he was entering the tower but nevertheless said that this is a job which he has to perform. This story clearly shows his sense of duty even at great risk to his own life.

This is akin to 11 year old Sajid Bulig's example. When the Bocaue pagoda sank, Sajid saved nine (9) children and gave his own life trying to save the tenth.

3. Accordingly all schools are directed to choose a day in the month of October to discuss this recent important event in appropriate subjects to be able to draw out its full significance in our lives. No special programs or gatherings need to be organized but simply a discussion during the appropriate subjects.
4. The following are some of the suggested points for classroom discussions:
 - a) Values that have been demonstrated by those directly and indirectly involved, e.g. the passengers who decided to fight the hijackers; the firemen, policeman and others participating in the rescue efforts; and the actions taken by American leaders and other nations in the aftermath of the terrorist attack.
 - b) How to avoid a recurrence of such an event through peace education, efforts for international cooperation and understanding. Terrorism is a crime against humanity and decency. It must be fought. It must be suppressed. But in fighting it, no person can become a terrorist as well. *rsu*

"Bawat Graduate, Bayani at Marangal"

- c) How to respond to such incidents through disaster preparedness programs and participation in relief and rehabilitation efforts.
 - d) The UN response against terrorism (Annex A).
5. For immediate and wide implementation.

Raul S. Roco

RAUL S. ROCO
Secretary

RSR/RCB

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Encl.:

As stated

Reference:

None

Allotment: 1--(D.O. 50-97)

To be indicated in the Perpetual Index
under the following subjects:

BUREAUS & OFFICES
CLASSES
SCHOOLS

The UN against Terrorism

ANNEX A

Terrorism is a problem that can only be tackled through global cooperation. The UN has taken both legal and political steps to combat terrorism.

- In the political sphere, the General Assembly has repeatedly condemned all acts of international terrorism. The International Convention against Terrorist Bombing, adopted by the Assembly in 1997, provides that States either prosecute or extradite those accused of terrorist bombing. The Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism, adopted in 1994, is a concrete action plan outlining national and international measures to be taken by States against terrorism.
- In the legal sphere, the UN and its agencies have developed a comprehensive network of international agreements that constitute the legal grounds to combat terrorism. These include conventions on offences committed on aircraft (1963), on the seizure of aircraft (1970), on acts against the safety of civil aviation (1971), on preventing and punishing crimes against diplomats (1973), on hostage-taking (1979), on the protection of nuclear material (1979), on acts against the safety of maritime navigation (1988), on attacks at international airports (1988), on marking plastic explosives to make them detectable (1991) and on terrorist bombings (1997).

With respect to recent attacks in US, the United Nations has issued the following guidance:

1. The United Nations stands with the United States, and with New York, its host city, in the terrible ordeal to which they have been subjected. Within 30 hours of the attacks, the Secretary-General, the Security Council and the General Assembly had unanimously condemned these barbaric acts and voted to support actions to bring those responsible to justice, as well as those who aid, support, or harbour them.
2. Terrorism is a global scourge, and must be met by a united response from all nations. The United Nations is an indispensable forum in which an effective global response can be worked out and coordinated. To be effective, the response must have the full support of the broadest possible coalition of States.

3. Our response must not bring new divisions within or between nations. No people, no region and no religion should be condemned because of the unspeakable acts of a few individuals. Islam in particular, as President Bush and many other national leaders have pointed out, is a religion of peace, and Muslims across the world were as much appalled as any of us were by last week's attacks.
4. If anything, last week's events make the work of the United Nations even more important. We must confront violence and hatred even more resolutely. We must also intensify our struggle to overcome extreme poverty and its attendant ills – conflict, inequities, ignorance and disease.

In a statement following the attacks in New York and Washington D.C., the UN Secretary-General said; "There can be no doubt that these attacks are deliberate acts of terrorism, carefully planned and coordinated – and as such I condemn them utterly. Terrorism must be fought absolutely wherever it appears. In such moments, cool and reasoned judgment is more essential than ever. We do not know yet who is behind these acts, or what objective they hope to achieve. What we do know is that no just cause can be advanced by terror".

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