

*9/11 Public Discourse Project*  
**FACT SHEET**

- - August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2005 - -

## FOREIGN POLICY: AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, AND SAUDI ARABIA

---

### THE 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT RECOMMENDED:

#### No Terrorist Sanctuaries

**Recommendation:** The U.S. government must identify and prioritize actual or potential terrorist sanctuaries. For each, it should have a realistic strategy to keep possible terrorists insecure and on the run, using all elements of national power. We should reach out, listen to, and work with other countries that can help.

#### Afghanistan

**Recommendation:** The United States and the international community should make a long-term commitment to a secure and stable Afghanistan, in order to give the government a reasonable opportunity to improve the life of the Afghan people. Afghanistan must not again become a sanctuary for international crime and terrorism. The United States and the international community should help the Afghan government extend its authority over the country, with a strategy and nation-by-nation commitments to achieve their objectives.

#### Pakistan

**Recommendation:** If Musharraf stands for enlightened moderation in a fight for his life and for the life of his country, the United States should be willing to make hard choices too, and make the difficult long-term commitment to the future of Pakistan. Sustaining the current scale of aid to Pakistan, the United States should support Pakistan's government in its struggle against extremists with a comprehensive effort that extends from military aid to support for better education, so long as Pakistan's leaders remain willing to make difficult choices of their own.

#### Saudi Arabia

**Recommendation:** The problems in the U.S.-Saudi relationship must be confronted, openly. The United States and Saudi Arabia must determine if they can build a relationship that political leaders on both sides are prepared to publicly defend—a relationship about more than oil. It should include a shared commitment to political and economic reform, as Saudis make common cause with the outside world. It should include a shared interest in greater tolerance and cultural respect, translating into a commitment to fight the violent extremists who foment hatred.

#### Turning a National Strategy into a Coalition Strategy

**Recommendation:** The United States should engage other nations in developing a comprehensive coalition strategy against Islamist terrorism. There are several multilateral institutions in which such issues should be addressed. But the most important policies should be discussed and coordinated in a flexible contact group of leading coalition governments. This is a good place, for example, to develop joint strategies for targeting terrorist travel, or for hammering out a common strategy for the places where terrorists may be finding sanctuary.

#### Other Foreign Policy Recommendations:

- Preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction warrants a maximum effort by the U.S. government. The Cooperative Threat Reduction program and the Proliferation Security Initiative should be strengthened and expanded.
- Public diplomacy, including international broadcasting, exchanges, and embassy outreach, should be strengthened.
- The U.S. should support political reform and economic liberalization in the Arab and Muslim world.
- The U.S. government should assist the governments of Muslim states that commit to investing in secular education.