

September 4, 2005

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To the nine member BRAC team,:

Received

In this day of terrorist activity against America, it is my opinion that to continue the plan of base closings across this country would severely weaken our homeland security. Our country is vulnerable to attacks. Our borders have been, and remain, open to hostile invaders planning the unthinkable. To remove bases needed for quick response to possible terror attacks on the homeland is sheer folly. Even so, our homeland security already is so ineffectual, and uncoordinated without any real authority, that thousands in Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi have already died as a result of hurricane Katrina. To our shame, and national disgrace, our much needed military was brought in too late for many citizens.

I am and have always been a strong conservative Republican all of my adult life. I supported President Bush in his War on Terror, and the Iraq War. I believe that when he decided upon that plan, he had valid reason to believe that we were in danger of Iraq's use of WMDs against us. I also believe Iraq had plenty of time to hide their weapons, by transporting them to other countries who did not want any shift in power in the Middle-East.

However, I believe strongly that Secretary of Defense, Donald Rumsfeld,'s ambitions for the United States to assume "the global commons" as America's military turf is wrong. To assume our super-power status grants us the privilege of policing "the global commons" with our military, is both dangerous and unconstitutional. There is no "global commons". It is "the world", made up of many countries, of which we are one. Yes, we are stronger than the others, and have come to others' rescue, when they have been attacked and were too weak to respond, always a defensive mode.

But to assume the Super-Power, with designs to pre-emptively strike with precision, anywhere in the world, arbitrarily committing our military, for many years to come, to whatever the presiding military analysts convince the President is the "only way to solve" their and/or our problems, will betray the very purpose of this country's conception. The concept of a "global commons" holds visions of World Superiority, and ambitions toward World Dominance.

Yes, we need to be prepared, in our God-given right to DEFEND ourselves and others, when necessary. But, we are not to assume an aggressive military force over this world, defending our position as the "Big Daddy" over "the Global Commons".

We must NEVER allow our own defenses here at home to remain weak, because, if we don't remain strong here at home with our HOMELAND SECURITY, we may wake up some day, after running all over the world "fixing it's problems, and find we don't have anything left to DEFEND! And don't think it can't happen!

Abraham Lincoln warned us:

"At what point shall we expect the approach of danger? By what means shall we fortify against it? Shall we expect some transatlantic military giant, to step the Ocean, and crush us at a blow? Never! All the armies of Europe, Asia and Africa combined, with all the treasure of the earth (our own excepted) in their military chest; with a Buonaparte for a commander, could not by force, take a drink from the Ohio, or make a track on the Blue Ridge, in a trial of a thousand years. At what point, then, is the approach of danger to be expected? I answer, if it ever reach us it must spring up amongst us. It cannot come from abroad. If destruction be our lot, we must ourselves be its author and finisher. As a nation of freemen, we must live through all time, or die by suicide.

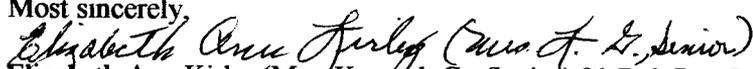
The Collected Works of Abraham Lincoln edited by Roy P. Basler, Volume I, "Address Before the Young Men's Lyceum, of Springfield, Illinois (January 27, 1838), p. 109-.from Abraham Lincoln's Research Site

http://home.att.net/~rjnorton/Lincoln_78.html

"Oh, say, does that Star-Spangled Banner yet wave, o'er the Land of the Free, and the Home of the Brave?"

I join President Bush in his prayer, "May God *continue* to bless America." Amen!

Most sincerely,



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c: President, George W. Bush

c: Senate Majority Leader, Wm. H. Frist

c: Speaker of the House, J. Dennis Hastert