

Quotations about Chechnya

November 18, 1999

OSCE summit in Istanbul

Gerhard Schroeder, German chancellor:

“War is no way to eliminate terrorism. The massive use of force, which hits the civilian population before all else, must be ended. Therefore, I urgently appeal to the Russian leadership: Resolve the conflict by political means. Respect the rules and principles of OSCE that we have jointly accepted. Do not undermine the stability of these principles and hence that of the organization as a whole.”

Jacques Chirac, French president:

“The human, dramatic consequences of the bombing of Chechnya and the terrible number of victims that have been caused, the casualties among the civilian population are unacceptable. This offensive is a tragic mistake for the whole region.”

Robin Cook, British former foreign minister:

“Like earlier speakers, I question whether the scale of the military action in Chechnya will isolate the terrorists from the general public or whether it will create support for them among the wider population who now suffer.”

<http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/ops/war/1999/11/991118-chechen6.htm>

November 20, 1999

Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Center for Public Affairs

George W. Bush, American president:

“When the Russian government attacks civilians, killing women and children, leaving orphans and refugees, it can no longer expect aid from international lending institutions.”

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/ac2/wp-dyn/A10713-2002May25?language=printer>

February 25, 2000

Press Briefing on the release of Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, 1999

Madeleine Albright, former U.S. secretary of state:

“And for those who devastate whole neighborhoods through indiscriminate attacks, as in Chechnya, brutality is a choice. And in this connection, I want to reiterate today our call for the Russian Government to launch full and open investigations into credible reports of massacres and other human rights violations in Chechnya. The governments I have mentioned, and others,

have the power to choose. They also have the responsibility to change, and we have a responsibility—which we are meeting—to keep the spotlight turned on high until they do.”

<http://secretary.state.gov/www/statements/2000/000225.html>

September 27, 2001

Berlin Summit with Silvio Berlusconi, Gerhard Schroeder, and Vladimir Putin

Silvio Berlusconi, Italian prime minister:

“In the light of recent events on Sept. 11, the Western community should have a different look at the behavior of various fundamentalists. We'll probably have to judge things differently than we have done until now regarding Chechnya. But it does not mean forgetting about various rights such as human, civil and political rights - they must be respected.”

Gerhard Schroeder, German chancellor:

"You know that Chechnya is part of a region in which there is an elevated threat which we have now experienced. The different aspects of Russian policy should be judged accordingly."

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/wtc/analysis/0927berlu.htm>

November 11, 2002

EU—Russia Summit, Brussels

Anders Fogh Rasmussen, Danish prime minister:

“The conflict in Chechnya cannot be regarded only as a terrorist problem. A political solution is the only way to a lasting peace. The European Union will continue to closely follow the developments. Both sides must respect human rights, and those who don't must be brought to trial without delay.”

<http://www.rferl.org/nca/features/2002/11/11112002184702.asp>

June 1, 2003

St. Petersburg Summit

Tony Blair, British prime minister:

“Russia is absolutely right in trying to solve [the problem] through political dialogue. The referendum is a good step forward.”

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/russia/article/0,2763,968129,00.html>

September 27, 2003

Camp David

George W. Bush, U.S. president:

“I respect President Putin’s vision for Russia: a country at peace within its borders, with its neighbors, and with the world, a country in which democracy and freedom and rule of law thrive.”

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/09/20030927-2.html>

November 7, 2003

EU—Russia summit, Rome

Silvio Berlusconi, Italian prime minister:

“In Chechnya, there has been terrorist activity that has produced many attacks against Russian citizens, and there has never been an equivalent response from the Russian Federation. We must stop with the fairy tales and look at reality... [In the last referendum] 80 percent of the voters have democratically decided to belong to the Russian Federation.”

<http://www.repubblica.it/2003/k/sezioni/esteri/putinroma/berluprodi/berluprodi.html>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/3248995.stm>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/elsewhere/journalist/story/0,7792,1080402,00.html>

<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/031107/323/edbyy.html>

December 2, 2003

OSCE 11th Ministerial Council, Maastricht

Colin Powell, U.S. secretary of state:

“Credible reports of abuses by government as well as rebel forces in Chechnya remind us that Russia must ensure respect for human rights even as it combats terrorism and upholds its territorial integrity.”

<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2003/26785.htm>