



**DEMOCRACY
COALITION
PROJECT**



**Council for a Community
of Democracies**



October 25, 2003

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to urge your support for a foreign policy that we believe reflects the values of the American people, serves our national security interests and enhances the image of the U.S. abroad. Given your strong commitment to democracy we urge you to endorse a comprehensive U.S. foreign policy that accords a central place to the promotion and protection of democracy around the world. As part of such a comprehensive foreign policy, we ask that you as a candidate for the U.S. presidency publicly state your commitment to the following principles and initiatives:

1. The U.S. should exert its leadership in support of democracy around the world and democracy promotion should be considered a vital national security priority of U.S. foreign policy. The promotion of democracy should be made a critical element of any strategy to promote prosperity and preserve U.S. national interests, especially efforts to combat terrorism.
2. The U.S. should strongly and publicly support the Community of Democracies as a significant international force for promoting democracy in and among nations and for the Warsaw Declaration on which it is based.
3. The U.S. should endorse the following goals of the Community of Democracies:
 - a) The building of a powerful democracy caucus at the United Nations;
 - b) Fostering democracy education at home and around the globe;
 - c) Countering threats to democracy wherever and whenever they arise;
 - d) Encouraging regional cooperation and action to implement the mission of the Community of Democracies.
4. The U.S. should, as a matter of policy, promote peaceful transitions to multi-party democracy, under the rule of law, in those countries that continue to be ruled by dictators.
5. The U.S. should reassert support for the Inter-American Democratic Charter and its declaration that: "The peoples of the Americas have a right to democracy and their governments have an obligation to promote and defend it."
6. Members of both parties in the House and Senate within the Congress should create support groups for an activist pro-democracy foreign policy.

7. Congress should increase Department of State and USAID funding to strengthen democracies in transition and increase assistance to those struggling against dictators to enable them to attain democracy.
8. Congress should support the passage of legislation that provides enhanced U.S. foreign aid to countries that respect fundamental political and human rights and civil liberties, including proposed legislation establishing the Millennium Challenge Account.
9. Congress should double the funding for the National Endowment for Democracy and related institutions to promote democracy overseas.
10. The Secretary of Treasury and other relevant cabinet officials should be directed by the President to find ways to support developing democracies in their efforts to create and sustain economic growth, deliver social services and respect human dignity.

The United States has been a beacon of liberty and freedom and in this way has played a critical role in the worldwide movement toward democracy. We believe that our democratic values serve as inspiration to many in other societies only if our actions remain true to the fundamental respect for individual liberties enshrined in our constitution. We urge that during this presidential campaign you embrace the democracy policies and principles we have outlined, and if elected, carry them out.

Above all, we hope to hear from you and your representatives on the specific issues outlined above. All three of our organizations stand ready to discuss them in greater depth.

Sincerely Yours,

Hon. R. James Woolsey
Chairman
Freedom House

Hon. Robert Hunter
Chairman
Council for a Community of Democracies

Dr. Morton Halperin
President
Democracy Coalition Project

Jennifer Windsor
Executive Director
Freedom House

Richard C. Rowson
President
Council for a Community of Democracies

Ted Piccone
Executive Director
Democracy Coalition Project

P.S. Identical letters have been sent to all presidential candidates of the two major parties.