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CC:"vanVoorst, Carol" <vanvoorstc@state.gov> ("vanVoorst, Carol" <vanvoorstc@state.gov> [UNKNOWN])

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Eric, Halonen issued a joint statement (below) with the presidents of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in Tallinn yesterday in support of the U.S., strongly condemning the "barbaric acts of terrorism committed against the United States of American."

In an interview with YLE TV news (Sept. 18), she discussed the upcoming EU summit and said she expected the gathering to "send a strong signal that the EU shares the responsibility for security, not only European security but global." She also said she expected the summit to provide an EU forum to discuss the EU's stand on terrorism and noted that "as press reports indicate, the attacks were not just targeted against the U.S. but that the EU, too, was to be targeted."

In the September 19 Helsingin Sanomat, Halonen said that Finland is not neutral in this situation and has chosen sides -- against terrorism. She told the reporter, "Immediately after the events, Finland offered mainly humanitarian relief, and the U.S. noted that it would be able to manage with its own resources. We are prepared to discuss possible needs with the other EU member states in the future. After Friday, we will know more,"

At the press conference given by the Baltic area presidents, Halonen hoped for 'cooperation across borders' i.e. cooperation by the United States also with Russia and countries outside Europe. NATO and EU enlargement processes were expected to proceed as hereto and gain greater significance. When asked if the Baltic States were as eager to join NATO now that Article

Five could take them to war in a near future, the Baltic presidents answered 'yes' unanimously.

Text of Statement of the Meeting of the Presidents of
Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

The Presidents of Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland met today in Tallinn at the invitation of President Lennart Meri.

The Presidents strongly condemned the barbaric acts of terrorism committed against the United States of America. They agreed that these terrorist acts were an offence against the freedom and rights of all civilized nations.

The five Presidents expressed their solidarity with the United States and affirmed the determination of their countries to lend support for the battle against terrorism.

Lennart Meri
President of the Republic of Estonia

Tarja Halonen
President of the Republic of Finland

Vaira V?je-Freiberga
President of the Republic of Latvia

Valdas Adamkus
President of the Republic of Lithuania

Aleksander Kwasniewski
President of the Republic of Poland

Tallinn, September 18, 2001

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