



NATIONAL FRATERNAL ORDER OF POLICE®

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CHUCK CANTERBURY
NATIONAL PRESIDENT

JERRY W. ATNIP
NATIONAL SECRETARY

April 3, 2003

The Honorable John F. Kerry
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kerry,

I am writing to convey the disappointment of the members of the Fraternal Order of Police with your recent remarks calling for a "regime change" in the United States. The use of these words seems to draw a parallel between your quest for the presidency and the military campaign being waged by American troops to liberate the Iraqi people from a brutal tyrant. While I am not surprised at your opposition to our nation's wartime leadership, I am very disturbed by the rhetoric you have chosen to express that disagreement.

You are a friend of law enforcement and a supporter of the Fraternal Order of Police, so let me be candid. You are known for your high-profile and sometimes theatrical opposition to our national leadership in times of war. This was the case when we fought in Vietnam and it is the case now. As a political candidate—especially for the presidency—your motives for opposing this war of liberation are, at best, suspect. It is my hope that political candidates will moderate their criticism of the war until the conflict ends in an American victory. As a Vietnam veteran yourself, you should know how important it is to our troops to know that the American people and their elected leadership are united on the decision to put their lives at risk in a war on foreign soil.

The men and women of law enforcement put their lives on the line every day. Many of them have been activated and have left their beats to serve our nation in Iraq. They need to know that the first priority of their elected leaders is to win this war and bring them home.

I hope that you take into serious consideration the views of the 305,000 members of the Fraternal Order of Police on this issue, as you have done on other issues in the past. Please feel free to contact me or Executive Director Jim Pasco in my Washington office to discuss this matter further.

Sincerely,

Chuck Canterbury
National President