



TV UNITED NATIONS NATIONS UNIES

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U.N. IN ACTION

ALLIANCE OF CIVILIZATIONS: REDUCING TENSIONS BETWEEN MUSLIM AND WESTERN NATIONS

VIDEO

ISTANBUL SHOTS

SG RECEIVES REPORT

HIGH PANEL MEETING

AUDIO

NARRATION:

Istanbul, a fabled city that connects Europe and Asia, last November hosted the launch of a report aiming at reducing tensions between Muslim and Western nations. (10")

Then UN Secretary General Kofi Annan received the action plan. Turkey and Spain co-sponsored the initiative and Prime Ministers Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero were also present. (15")

Earlier, a multinational group of 20 prominent scholars, politicians and religious leaders put the finishing touches on the report. Their study concluded that the Arab-Israeli conflict, along with military interventions in Afghanistan and Iraq contribute to a sense of resentment and mistrust between Islamic and Western nations. The report suggests that the repression of political opposition and the slow pace of reforms in some Muslim countries are a key factor in the rise of extremism. (33")

SG ARRIVES

Kofi Annan warned of the dangers that prejudice can bring to societies everywhere. (5")

KOFI ANNAN ON CAMERA

KOFI ANNAN: (ENGLISH)

"We need to get away from the stereotypes, generalizations and pre-conceptions and take care not to let crimes committed by individuals or small groups dictate our image of an entire people, an entire region or an entire religion." (18")

AFTERMATH OF MADRID
BOMBINGS / OTHER CONFLICTS

NARRATION:

The idea for the Alliance of Civilizations was suggested by Prime Minister Zapatero in a speech to the UN General Assembly in September 2004, months after the terrorist bombings in Madrid killed 191 people. (15")

POOR CHILDREN AROUND THE
WORLD

The report makes recommendations in the areas of education, media, immigration and programs for young people. (7")

GROUP PHOTO WITH TUTU

Archbishop Desmond Tutu, a member of the panel that drafted the report, remains optimistic. (6")

ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU,
ON CAMERA

DESMOND TUTU: (ENGLISH)

"Human beings have the capacity for great evil but also got the capacity for great good. And ultimately, nothing is beyond resolution." (13")

NARRATION:

UN SECRETARIAT / PHOTO OP /
ORCHESTRA PERFORMANCE AT
GA HALL

In December, at the United Nations General Assembly in New York, Annan, Zapatero and Erdogan came together again, to show support for the action plan. Performing at the event, Daniel Berenboim's West-Eastern Divan Orchestra. (16")

Made up of young musicians from Israel and other Middle East countries, it aims to promote dialogue and reconciliation through music. A large crowd listened to classical pieces by Mozart and Brahms. (13")

The clash of civilizations is not inevitable. Decreasing intolerance and misunderstanding between peoples is the best way to build trust and reduce tensions and extremisms that threaten international peace and security. (15.5")

The Alliance of Civilizations could help to bridge divides and promote dialogue between societies. (7")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by Chaim Litewski for the United Nations.