Libya air strike was a mistake

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We have no grounds on which to oppose terrorism.

The killing of civilians in Libya is particularly deplorable because the bombing of Libya was not part of a coherent anti-terrorist policy. Violence should be a last resort. The Reagan administration failed to work with our Western European allies, and the bombing of Libya has caused the biggest split in the Western alliance since the gas pipeline controversy of 1981.

Of course it is always easy to criticize someone else's policies. Senator Kennedy was right. We did have to do something. But what should we have done?

In the future, we must recognize that we live in a complex world and stop pretending that there is a quick military solution to every problem. To most non-Americans, the bombing of Libya was itself a terrorist act. People sometimes tell me diplomacy never works. But how often has violence solved a problem?

We must work with our allies in putting pressure on terrorists. In Libya, economic sanctions would have been very effective if the United States had worked in conjunction with the nations of Western Europe. Other measures, such as restricting the movements of Libyan diplomats, could also be effective.

We must pass the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and support the Non-proliferation Treaty to prevent nations like Libya from getting nuclear weapons.

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