

Even among the members of the North Atlantic Alliance, we must contend with consistent strains that threaten our unity: the invasion of Afghanistan, martial law in Poland, turmoil in Central America. We perceive a growing and disturbing divergence of views between Europe and North America, and a belief that economic and military burdens are unequally shared.

In the face of such uncertainty our people are growing more apprehensive and more critical - more critical of their institutions and their leaders. Once again, people are taking to the streets in significant numbers to express their frustration and calling for measures that others in turn believe will only worsen the situation.

The United States has a special role to play in this dangerously disturbed and divided world; a role based on power and the responsible use of it. Super power, to be more precise, and super-responsibility. This burden places upon Americans an enormous weight, and it is not surprising that you have known moments of self-doubt and withdrawal. The health and vitality of our system and way of life is, ultimately, in your hands.