

It was very moving. I stood there with my head uncovered for a moment and thought of Mike.

*Saturday 10 November*

Bin Laden is alleged to have given an interview in which he said he had nuclear and chemical weapons, and he wouldn't use them unless the Americans did. It has been reported that Richard Perle has suggested that when they have finished with Afghanistan, the US might move on to Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Syria and other states considered a threat to the US, and doesn't care whether the coalition sticks together. The US is just going to impose its will.

That's no doubt how the Roman Empire grew, the Chinese Empire grew, the Ottoman Empire grew. You feel very weak up against it, but that's the best way to see it, as an absolutely naked exercise of American global power.

*Sunday 11 November*

Blunkett is introducing some new legislation that will allow him to arrest and hold without trial people who are on suspicion – i.e. internment without trial, in effect. He gets very angry if anyone criticises him. I think it's all just using the crisis as an excuse for repressing civil liberties. Human-rights lawyers are planning to appeal against it under the Human Rights Act. You do just have to fight.

Otherwise, not much news that I can think of. The war goes on, winter is almost upon us, some people are no doubt starving and freezing already.

*Tuesday 13 November*

Jeremy Corbyn put it clearly that we've sacrificed our civil liberties, we've sacrificed the United Nations, which is now seen as a sort of inflated Oxfam, which the Americans entirely ignore. We should be demanding no resumption of the bombing of Afghanistan; secondly, no attack on Iraq or other countries; and thirdly, that humanitarian aid be given absolutely massive priority, and that the United Nations should be restored to its proper role.

*Sunday 18 November*

To Hyde Park, where a huge crowd was gathering. It was the biggest demonstration I can remember for many, many years. Among those who spoke later in Trafalgar Square were John Pilger, Bianca Jagger, Tariq Ali, Yvonne Ridley, New York trade unionist Michael Letwin, Tennessee-born Dr Jonathan Farley, Jeremy Corbyn, Paul Marsden, Alan Simpson, George Galloway; then there was Germaine Greer, who turned up but was a bit late, the journalist George Monbiot, John Haylett (Editor of the *Morning Star*), Louise Christian, Paul Mackney, Bernard Reagan, David Nellist, Mike Mansfield and a whole range of others.