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 Για ουεις - ουρησια

[IMAGE]

MAKE WAR ON POVERTY TO DEFEAT TERRORISM, SAYS COOK

NO.

PES President Robin Cook will today call for world action against poverty in order to defeat fundamentalism and terrorist threats.

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He will set out three priorities for Europe in the 21st century - a drive to curb global poverty, a leadership role in environment protection and an end to divisions between East and West and between poor and rich.

In a keynote address in Madrid to the Spanish thinktank Fundaci-n Alternativas, Mr Cook will argue: 'If we want to defeat fundamentalism and its threat of terrorism and violence, then we must first drain the reservoirs of poverty in which fundamentalism takes hold.

'If we deny people the economic opportunity to lead a full life, or to live in dignity, then we need not be surprised if in those circumstances, some people fall prey to the spurious self-respect that they can find in fundamentalism.'

Mr Cook is expected to call on next month's Monterrey conference to reverse a decline in development aid. He will say: 'If the rich countries of the world are entitled to ask the poor countries to be our allies in a war against terrorism, then they are entitled to ask us to be their allies in a war against poverty.'

Europe's strength as the world's largest, richest single market and its historic ties with many of the poorest countries put it in a powerful position to lead demands for fairer trade within the global economy, he will say, adding that 'frank and courageous decisions' on reform of the common agricultural policy will be needed as part of a new drive against poverty.

Mr Cook will also warn of the need for effective international action on the environment. 'The United States may refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol,' he will say, 'but it cannot refuse the impact on its environment of climate change. We are all in this together.'

And he will praise the 'crucial role' of the EU and the success of its security role in bringing former Yugoslav leader Slobodan Milosevic to trial in The Hague and 'in bringing security and freedom to the Balkans on our South East border.'

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