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CNN.com leaves out Annan's plea for US accountability

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UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (AP photo)

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan gave what may be his last speech as UN head from the Truman Presidential Museum and Library in Independence, Missouri on Monday (12/11/06).

CNN.com covered sections of his speech having to do with security and the rule of law, but did not reference or quote from the section on global accountability.

In that section, Annan said "governments must be accountable for their actions in the international arena" which "can often have a decisive effect on the lives of people in other states". He went on to say that the actions of powerful states "have the greatest impact on others".

The section ended with some positive examples of international cooperation, but the initial portion seemed aimed squarely at the US Administration's foreign policy, and perhaps more specifically at the US war in Iraq, which Annan previously called illegal.

Annan was careful with his wording, but may have been trying to foster discussion about holding the US to account internationally for a possibly illegal war. Such discussions are rarely heard in US major media outlets.

Less significantly, CNN.com appeared to have cribbed its story title from the BBC, which posted 'Annan chides US in final speech' to its website on Monday. CNN posted 'Annan chides U.S. in farewell speech' about thirty minutes later.

But CNN.com did not copy the BBC's third sentence in, which read "Mr Annan said states had to be accountable and the UN was the only body where this could be assured."

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