The United States' response to the September 11 attacks have turned the nation's relationships with other countries into a "kaleidoscope," according to Gary Sick, acting director of the Middle East Institute and a professor at the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA).

"The same pieces are still there, but they are re-arranged and look different," said Sick, speaking at a roundtable sponsored by SIPA's Harriman Institute. "Today, our interests are defending the security of the U.S. That changes how we look at our allies and our enemies. If the U.S. is fighting the Taliban in the Middle East, who does it need as a friend? Iran, which occupies real estate between the U.S. and Israel. That changes how we look at Iran, which shares the same view as the U.S. of those two regimes."

The Taliban controls 90 percent of Afghanistan and has refused to turn over terrorist Osama bin Laden, whom the U.S. believes is behind the September 11 attacks. The roundtable's other speakers, Richard Betts and Robert Legvold, faculty in the School of International and Public Affairs, said Sick's views are shared with one exception: Iran shares the same view as the U.S. of those two regimes.

Gary Sick, acting director of Middle East Institute (SIPA). (See Story on Page 12)