

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
"TIME TO EXAMINE ALTERNATE BASE SITES IN PACIFIC"
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 13, 1986

THE NIGHT BEFORE LAST, THE PRESIDENT SPOKE FOR ALL AMERICANS IN EXPRESSING CONCERN ABOUT RECENT EVENTS IN THE PHILIPPINES WHILE UNDERSCORING OUR DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN OUR STRONG TIES WITH THE PEOPLE OF THAT COUNTRY.

THE PRESIDENT NOTED, TOO, THE CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MILITARY FACILITIES WE HAVE AT THE TWO BASES THERE, CLARK AIR BASE AND SUBIC BAY NAVAL BASE. THOSE FACILITIES, OR FACILITIES LIKE THEM, ARE CRUCIAL TO OUR ABILITY TO PROTECT OUR SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE PACIFIC REGION.

AND LET ME STRESS, SO THERE IS NO MISUNDERSTANDING -- WE EXPECT AND WE ARE PLANNING TO MAINTAIN OUR PRESENCE AT CLARK AND SUBIC. I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THAT, WHATEVER THE FINAL DECISION OF THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE CONCERNING THEIR OWN LEADERSHIP, THERE IS A CONSENSUS IN THE PHILIPPINES THAT CLARK AND SUBIC SERVE THE MUTUAL INTERESTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES AND SHOULD BE MAINTAINED.

BUT, AS THE PRESIDENT ALSO SAID, WE MUST BE READY FOR ANY CONTINGENCY, EVEN THOSE WE DON'T EXPECT. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY DONE SOME EXAMINATION OF ALTERNATE BASING SITES IN THE PACIFIC. IN LIGHT OF THE UNSETTLED SITUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND THE LEAD TIME NECESSARY SHOULD ANY OPERATIONAL DECISIONS HAVE TO BE IMPLEMENTED, I THINK WE SHOULD ACCELERATE THAT CONTINGENCY PLANNING.

FOR THAT REASON, I PLAN TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION NEXT WEEK WHICH WOULD DIRECT THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT, IN CONSULTATION WITH OTHER EXECUTIVE AGENCIES, TO UNDERTAKE ON A PRIORITY BASIS A FULL-SCALE FEASIBILITY AND COST STUDY OF THE RELOCATION OF THE FACILITIES AT CLARK AND SUBIC TO OTHER SITES IN THE PACIFIC. THE LEGISLATION WOULD REQUIRE A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS ON THE RESULTS OF THAT STUDY BY THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR. IN THAT WAY, ALL OF US COULD BE REASSURED THAT, WHATEVER DEVELOPMENTS MAY OCCUR IN THE PHILLIPINES, THE VITAL SECURITY INTERESTS OF OUR NATION WILL BE PROTECTED.