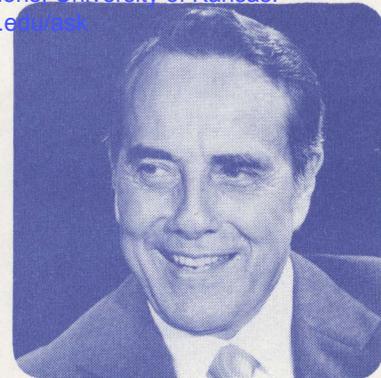


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1986

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
RESOLUTION CITING WIDESPREAD FRAUD IN PHILIPPINE ELECTIONS
FEBRUARY 19, 1986

YESTERDAY I JOINED WITH THE DISTINGUISHED MINORITY LEADER AND A LARGE NUMBER OF OTHER SENATORS TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENATE'S DEEP CONCERN ABOUT THE REPORTED WIDESPREAD FRAUD WHICH MARRED THE RECENT PHILIPPINE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS.

DECLARATIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS OF ELECTORAL VICTORY MEAN LITTLE IF THEY ARE NOT ACCEPTED OR BELIEVED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES. IN SUCH A SITUATION, THERE ARE NO WINNERS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS HAD A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPINES, BASED ON A LONG HISTORY, A COMMON DESIRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND SHARED STRATEGIC INTERESTS. IT IS A RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS VERY MUCH SERVED OUR OWN NATIONAL INTEREST. WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN IT.

BUT LET ME STRESS: WE DON'T SEEK TO INTERFERE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE PHILIPPINES. IT IS NOT OUR RIGHT, AND NOT IN OUR INTEREST, TO TELL THE PHILIPPINE PEOPLE OR THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD WHO WON OR WHO LOST THE PHILIPPINE ELECTION OR WHO SHOULD BE THEIR LEADER. THAT IS NOT THE INTENT OF THE RESOLUTION.

BUT, AS THE RESOLUTION NOTES, OUR INTERESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE BEST SERVED IF THERE IS IN PLACE IN MANILA A STABLE, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. THE RESOLUTION SEEKS TO ENCOURAGE THE PROCESS BY WHICH SUCH A GOVERNMENT CAN EMERGE.

MR. PRESIDENT, THE STAKES IN THE PHILIPPINES ARE HIGH, FOR US AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF THAT TROUBLED COUNTRY. WE HAVE CRITICAL MILITARY INSTALLATIONS THERE, WHICH ARE THE SUBJECT OF A BILL WHICH I WILL INTRODUCE LATER TODAY. IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US THAT THE PHILIPPINES RETURN SOON TO ITS TRADITION OF STABLE, DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT. I AM CONVINCED THAT PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION BY A LARGE MAJORITY WILL BE A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION, AND I URGE ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES TO VOTE FOR IT.