

# News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, MAY 5, 1986

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,  
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

## STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE SOVIETS SHOW TRUE COLORS

### THE CHERNOBYL TRAGEDY

THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT IS ANOTHER TRAGIC REMINDER OF THE IRRESPONSIBILITY AND CYNICISM OF THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP AND SYSTEM.

CLEARLY, WHAT HAPPENED AT CHERNOBYL WAS A TRAGEDY OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS -- FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE SOVIET UNION, WHO HAVE FELT ITS IMMEDIATE EFFECTS; FOR THE PEOPLE OF NEIGHBORING EUROPE AND ASIA, WHO MAY SUFFER LONG-TERM HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES; AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD, WHO HAVE A STAKE IN THE LESSONS OF CHERNOBYL.

### A NEED -- AND RIGHT -- TO KNOW

ALL OF US HAVE A NEED -- AND A RIGHT -- TO KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED AT CHERNOBYL. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT CAUSED THE ACCIDENT. WE NEED TO KNOW ITS MAGNITUDE, BOTH IN TERMS OF IMMEDIATE PHYSICAL DAMAGE AND THE THREAT OF OFF-SITE RADIATION. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES WERE TAKEN AND, PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT MEASURES WERE NOT TAKEN, BOTH TO PREVENT AND CONTAIN THE ACCIDENT. WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT THE SOVIETS ARE DOING AT THEIR OTHER, SIMILAR FACILITIES, TO INSURE THAT SUCH ACCIDENTS NOT RECUR.

NONE OF THIS INFORMATION IS SOVIET "NATIONAL SECURITY" INFORMATION, BY ANY LEGITIMATE STANDARD. ITS RELEASE WOULD NOT COMPROMISE ANY MILITARY SECRETS OR MAKE THE USSR MILITARILY VULNERABLE. THE ONLY THING THE SOVIETS RISK, BY RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION, IS INFORMED PUBLIC DISCUSSION OF THE ACCIDENT, WHICH MIGHT REVEAL SOVIET TECHNOLOGICAL OR ADMINISTRATIVE SHORTCOMINGS.

(MORE)

## RUSSIAN STONEWALLING

AND YET THE RUSSIANS STONEWALL. THEY STONEWALL US; THEY STONEWALL THE WORLD. THE INFORMATION THEY DO PROVIDE IS MEAGER OR UNBELIEVEABLE. THEY WANT TO PRETEND THAT CHERNOBYL DIDN'T HAPPEN, OR -- IF IT DID -- THAT IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL.

WELL, IT IS A BIG DEAL. A BIG, DISASTROUS DEAL.

IT'S A BIG DEAL FOR THOSE WHO DIED IN THE CHERNOBYL BLAST, AND FOR THEIR FAMILIES. AND THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THE PHOTOS OF THE FACILITY -- A CONCRETE-WALLED FACILITY SMASHED BY THE FORCE OF THE BLOW -- WILL MAKE THEIR OWN JUDGMENTS AS TO WHETHER ONLY TWO DIED IN THAT BLAST.

IT'S A BIG DEAL FOR THE HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS ALMOST CERTAINLY SUFFERING FROM RADIATION POISONING; FOR THE TENS OF THOUSANDS UPROOTED FROM THEIR HOMES AND WONDERING WHEN THEY CAN RETURN AND HOW THEIR LIVES WILL BE CHANGED; FOR THE MILLIONS IN SURROUNDING AREAS, WHO WAKE UP EVERY MORNING AND TUNE IN THEIR TELEVISIONS AND RADIOS, NOT FOR THE WEATHER REPORT BUT TO SEE IF THE RADIATION LEVELS OUTSIDE ARE LOW ENOUGH SO THEY CAN SAFELY LEAVE THEIR HOMES; AND FOR THE MILLIONS IN EUROPE WHO LIVE IN FEAR OF THE MILK THEY DRINK AND THE MEAT THEY EAT.

## LESSONS OF CHERNOBYL WILL NOT GO AWAY

NO MATTER HOW MUCH GORBACHEV AND HIS CRONIES WISH IT, THE CHERNOBYL DISASTER IS NOT GOING TO GO AWAY. THE SOVIETS' CALLOUS DISREGARD FOR THE FEAR AND CONCERN OF MILLIONS AROUND THE WORLD -- THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE FORGOTTEN. THE REVULSION WE ALL FEEL AT THE RUSSIANS' IRRESPONSIBILITY -- THAT WILL BE WITH US AS LONG AS THE FALLOUT FROM THE CHERNOBYL REACTOR.

WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS. WE LIVE ON THE SAME PLANET AND, AS CHERNOBYL MAKES CLEAR, THEY HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO CAUSE ALL OF US ENORMOUS, POTENTIALLY DEADLY PROBLEMS. THEY MAY IGNORE CHERNOBYL, BUT WE CAN'T IGNORE THEM.

BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO BLINDLY TRUST THEM, EITHER. CHERNOBYL -- AND THEIR INHUMANE RESPONSE TO IT -- MAKES THAT CLEAR, TOO.

THE SOVIET LEADERSHIP REALLY IS DIFFERENT THAN WE ARE. THAT'S NOT PROPAGANDA, IT'S A FACT, PROVEN AGAIN BY CHERNOBYL AND ITS AFTERMATH. THEY HAVE DIFFERENT VALUES. THEY HAVE A DIFFERENT SENSE OF PRIORITIES, IN WHICH THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET STATE PREDOMINATE OVER THE HUMANITARIAN INTERESTS OF THE WORLD. AND THEY HAVE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT SENSE OF WHAT CONSTITUTES RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOR.

AS WE PROCEED ON THE FULL RANGE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH GORBACHEV AND HIS ASSOCIATES, LET'S NOT FORGET THAT. LET'S NOT FORGET ONE OF THE REAL LESSONS OF CHERNOBYL.

###

INCLUDING TEAMS OF OBSERVERS, WHO CAN GIVE US INDEPENDENT ASSURANCES THAT NO MORE SANDINISTA "ADVISERS" AND NO MORE SOVIET AND CUBAN-SUPPLIED WEAPONS ARE FLOWING OUT OF NICARAGUA TO THE GUERRILLAS.

WE DON'T WANT SOME EMPTY ASSURANCES THAT THE SOVIET, CUBAN AND TERRORIST PRESENCE WILL BE SCALED DOWN AND THE MILITARY BUILD-UP REVERSED. WE WANT TO KNOW THAT THE SOVIET AND CUBAN FORCES AND THE LIBYAN AND PLO TERRORISTS ARE GETTING OUT, NOW, AND THAT ALL OFFENSIVE WEAPONS ARE BEING CRATED UP AND SHIPPED OUT.

WE DON'T WANT SOME VAGUE PROMISE OF "DEMOCRATIC REFORM" IN NICARAGUA. WE WANT TO KNOW THAT THE CONTRAS AND ALL THE OTHER LEGITIMATE POLITICAL FORCES IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE ABLE TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, STARTING NOW. WE NEED BINDING GUARANTEES ON FREE SPEECH; FREE ELECTIONS; A FREE PRESS; AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR ALL -- GUARANTEES THESE FREEDOMS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED NOW.

#### MINIMUM FORMULA FOR REAL PEACE

THESE ARE MINIMUM GOALS. THE MINIMUM TO MEET OUR LEGITIMATE NEEDS AND CONCERNS. THE MINIMUM TO GIVE PEACE A REAL CHANCE IN CENTRAL AMERICA. ANY OTHER KIND OF AGREEMENT WOULD NOT SERVE OUR INTERESTS; WOULD NOT BE GOOD FOR OUR ALLIES AND FRIENDS IN THE REGION; WOULD NOT HELP THE PEOPLE OF NICARAGUA ACHIEVE THE DEMOCRACY THEY SO BADLY WANT AND DESERVE; AND, ABOVE ALL, WOULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TO THE STABILITY, SECURITY AND THE PEACE OF CENTRAL AMERICA.

THIS MAY BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR THE CONTADORA PROCESS TO WORK -- TO ACHIEVE THE ENDS WE ALL SO STRONGLY WANT. IT MAY BE THE LAST CHANCE, TOO, FOR THE MARXIST REGIME IN NICARAGUA TO TURN AWAY VOLUNTARILY FROM ITS PATH OF UNSAVORY ALLIANCES, MILITARY BUILD-UP, REGIONAL AGGRESSION AND DOMESTIC SUPPRESSION.

I SINCERELY HOPE THE SANDINISTAS TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY. IF THEY DON'T, THOUGH -- AND THEIR PAST RECORD GIVES ME LITTLE OPTIMISM -- LET THEM KNOW, AND LET THE WORLD KNOW, THAT WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO OUR IDEALS, OUR GOALS AND OUR FRIENDS; DETERMINED TO MEET OUR RESPONSIBILITIES; AND PREPARED TO DO WHAT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL INTEREST.

###