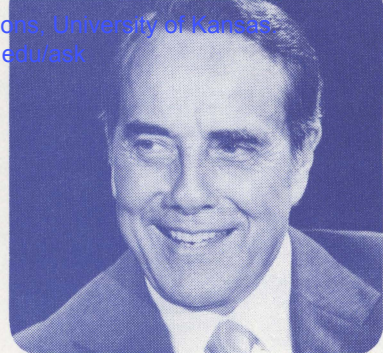


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 7, 1986

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

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

WHITE HOUSE OKAYS ACADEMY APPOINTMENTS FOR DOWNED PILOTS' SONS

THREE WEEKS AGO THIS SENATOR INTRODUCED LEGISLATION ON BEHALF OF SOME VERY SPECIAL PEOPLE. THEY WERE THE FAMILIES OF THE CREW OF AN F-111 AIR FORCE BOMBER THAT WAS SHOT DOWN DURING AMERICA'S RAID AGAINST COLONEL QADDAFI'S TERRORIST BREEDING GROUNDS.

WE STILL MOURN THE LOSS OF THESE BRAVE FLIERS--CAPTAIN FERNANDO RIBAS-DOMINICCI AND CAPTAIN PAUL LORENCE--AND WE STILL REMEMBER THEIR SACRIFICE FOR THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM. AFTER THE RAID, PRESIDENT REAGAN SPOKE WITH THE WIDOWS OF THESE AIR FORCE HEROES TO ASK IF THERE WAS ANYTHING THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF COULD DO FOR THEIR FAMILIES. YES THERE WAS, SAID MRS. RIBAS-DOMINICCI: WHEN MY SON BECOMES OF AGE, AND IF HE IS QUALIFIED, PLEASE ADMIT HIM TO THE AIR FORCE ACADEMY.

AS A RESULT, ON APRIL 18TH, THE SENATOR FROM KANSAS INTRODUCED A BILL TO ADMIT THE CREW MEMBERS' SONS TO THE ACADEMY OF THEIR CHOICE SHOULD THEY DESIRE TO GO AND SHOULD THEY MEET THE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS. BY PROPOSING THIS LEGISLATION, I DID NOT MEAN TO SET A PRECEDENT WHEREBY SUCH APPOINTMENTS WOULD BECOME COMMONPLACE. I JUST SUGGEST THAT THE LEGISLATION AROSE FROM EXTRAORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THAT THIS LEGISLATION IS NO LONGER NECESSARY. AFTER CHECKING PROCEDURES, THE PRESIDENT HAS INFORMED ME THAT HE HAS DIRECTED THE APPOINTMENTS FOR THE SURVIVING SONS OF THE F-111 CREW--AND SO THIS WONDERFUL EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY WILL BE THERE FOR TWO YOUNG AMERICANS.

I AM PLEASED THAT THIS HEARTFELT REQUEST FROM THE WIFE OF A HERO HAS BEEN FULFILLED AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO FOLLOWING THE CAREERS OF YOUNG MR. RIBAS-DOMINICCI AND EVEN YOUNGER MR. LORENCE. THEIR FATHERS HAVE CERTAINLY GIVEN THEM MUCH TO LOOK UP TO--AND A GRATEFUL NATION AGREES.

(MORE)

FOLLOWING IS A COPY OF A MEMORANDUM FROM THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE TO THE SERVICE SECRETARIES IMPLEMENTING THE PRESIDENT'S DIRECTION:



THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

30 APR 1986

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS

SUBJECT: Military Academy Appointments for Peter F. Lorence
and Fernando L. Ribas-Berain

The President has directed that arrangements be made to ensure appointment to the military academy of their choice for Peter Lorence and Fernando Ribas, sons of Captain Paul Lorence and Captain Fernando Ribas, the two missing pilots who participated in the April 14, 1986 action against Libya. Although these children are eligible by law to be nominated for appointment in the category for children of deceased or disabled veterans (CODDV) specific record must be made at each Military Academy to ensure that the President's decision is carried out. Mrs. Lorence and Mrs. Ribas have been informed of the President's desire.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joseph W. Keatinge", is written over the bottom right portion of the memorandum's text.

Attachment