

News from Senator

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BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS NO TO ARAFAT

WASHINGTON -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KAN.) TODAY WROTE SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE SHULTZ URGING HIM TO REJECT ANY VISA APPLICATION MADE BY, OR ON BEHALF OF, YASSER ARAFAT. THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT REPORTS THAT ARAFAT PLANS TO ATTEND A U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL SESSION IN NEW YORK NEXT MONTH.

In a floor statement, Dole said: "I don't want Arafat in New York, spreading his poison. I don't want him at the UN, which is supposed to be a forum to encourage civilized conduct among nations. He doesn't deserve to be there. His presence would be an insult."

The following is the text of the letter to Secretary Shultz:

The Honorable George P. Shultz
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am deeply disturbed by reports that the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Yasser Arafat, intends to attend a United Nations Security Council session in New York in June.

Arafat and the PLO have long espoused terrorism as a method of achieving their political goals and have practiced terrorism against innocent Americans and others around the globe. Arafat's presence in New York would be an insult to the hundreds of Americans who have suffered and died as a result of PLO-sponsored terror. His appearance at the UN would be a mockery of that organization's stated purpose, to encourage peaceful, civilized relations among nations.

I do not want Arafat in the United States spreading his poison. The American people do not want him here. I am sure you don't either.

We have the right to deny him a visa, under the Immigration and Naturalization Act and other laws and in accord with our headquarters agreement with the UN. I urge you to instruct all US consular personnel around the globe to reject any visa application made by or on behalf of Yasser Arafat.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate