

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 1986

CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE
(202) 224-3135

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

ANATOL MICHELSON: THE TRAGEDY OF THE DIVIDED SPOUSES

TOMORROW AT 11:00 AM, AT THE EMBASSY OF THE SOVIET UNION, A FINE MAN WILL SHOW HIS LOVE AND COMMITMENT TO A WIFE AND DAUGHTER HE HAS NOT SEEN IN THREE DECADES.

THIRTY YEARS AGO THAT MAN, ANATOL MICHELSON, FLED THE SOVIET UNION IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM. A PROMINENT SCIENTIST AND INVENTOR, MICHELSON -- LIKE SO MANY OTHER CREATIVE PEOPLE OVER THE YEARS -- FOUND HE COULD NO LONGER TOLERATE THE OPPRESSION AND INTELLECTUAL STERILITY OF THE SOVIET STATE. TO SURVIVE, HE HAD TO BE FREE.

WHILE ON A TRIP TO WESTERN EUROPE, HE DECIDED TO REMAIN IN THE WEST, WHERE HE COULD BREATHE THE FRESH AIR OF LIBERTY AND CONTRIBUTE TO MANKIND IN A WAY COMMENSURATE WITH HIS VAST TALENTS.

NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE SOVIET STATE RESPONDED TO THIS BRAVE MAN'S DESIRE TO BE FREE IN THE MANNER CALCULATED TO HURT HIM THE MOST. IT DENIED TO HIS WIFE AND CHILD THEIR RIGHT TO JOIN HIM IN THE WEST, AS THEY WANTED. THEIR REFUSAL HAS PERSISTED FOR 30 YEARS, THROUGH COLD WAR AND DETENTE.

MEANWHILE, ANATOL SOUGHT TO BUILD A LIFE FOR HIMSELF. HE CAME TO THE UNITED STATES IN 1963 AND ESTABLISHED HIS HOME HERE. HE BECAME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, EVENTUALLY SETTLING NEAR SARASOTA, FLORIDA, WHERE HE CONTINUES TO MAKE HIS HOME. HIS TALENTS MADE HIM A PROMINENT MEMBER OF OUR SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, AND HE COUNTS AMONG HIS MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS MORE THAN 20 PATENTS.

(MORE)

BUT THROUGH ALL THESE YEARS, ANATOL'S NUMBER ONE GOAL WAS TO WIN FREEDOM FOR HIS WIFE AND CHILD -- TO REUNITE WITH THEM IN THIS, HIS CHOSEN COUNTRY.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY EFFORTS OVER THE YEARS TO ASSIST ANATOL IN WINNING FREEDOM FOR HIS FAMILY. MANY IN THE SENATE AND IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES HAVE URGED THE SOVIETS, THROUGH LETTERS, TELEGRAMS AND PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS, TO ALLOW THE MICHELSON FAMILY TO LEAVE THE SOVIET UNION. TO NO AVAIL.

THROUGH ALL THESE YEARS, AND TO ALL THE PLEAS, THE SOVIET STATE HAS GIVEN A SIMPLE AND BRUTAL ANSWER: NYET -- NO. NO TO ANATOL MICHELSON'S REQUESTS. NO TO HIS FAMILY'S RIGHTS. NO TO THE SIMPLE JUSTICE OF THIS CASE.

TOMORROW, ANATOL MICHELSON WILL AGAIN REQUEST THE SOVIETS TO GRANT HIS FAMILY THEIR RIGHTS AND LET JUSTICE BE DONE. HE WILL GO TO THE SOVIET EMBASSY AT 11:00 AM AND STAND IN SILENT VIGIL FOR THREE HOURS. HE'S NOT GOING TO GET ARRESTED AND MAKE HEADLINES -- HE WILL STAY FAR ENOUGH AWAY FROM THE EMBASSY ENTRANCE TO MEET THE CITY'S CODE. HE WILL BE THERE, INSTEAD, IN THE HOPE THAT THERE IS ENOUGH HUMANITY LEFT IN THE SOVIET SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO HIS PRESENCE WITH SOME MESSAGE OF HOPE.

I HOPE THAT MANY OF MY COLLEAGUES WILL HAVE THE TIME TO GO BY THE EMBASSY AND LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO ANATOL. HIS CAUSE IS THE ONE WE ALWAYS ESPOUSE ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE. IT IS THE CAUSE WE ALWAYS ESPOUSE IN OUR SPEECHES. IT IS THE CAUSE WE SEEK TO SERVE IN OUR PUBLIC CAREERS. IT IS THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

###