

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

SOUTH AFRICA

PRESIDENT'S SPEECH

IN HIS SPEECH ON SOUTH AFRICA YESTERDAY, THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NO LONGER MAINTAIN NORMAL RELATIONS WITH A REGIME BASED ON RACISM. THE PRESIDENT LAID OUT SOME MINIMUM STEPS THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MUST BEGIN TO IMPLEMENT NOW, TO DISMANTLE APARTHEID AND DEMOCRATIZE ITS POLITICAL SYSTEM -- THE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, INCLUDING NELSON MANDELA; THE UNBANNING OF BLACK POLITICAL ORGANIZATIONS; AND, MOST FUNDAMENTAL OF ALL, THE BEGINNING OF A REAL DIALOGUE BETWEEN WHITES AND BLACKS ON THE POLITICAL FUTURE OF THE COUNTRY.

A WORKABLE STRATEGY

THE PRESIDENT'S GUIDELINES FOR THE ACTIONS WE NEED FROM THE SOUTH AFRICAN REGIME ARE RIGHT ON THE MARK. BUT YESTERDAY'S SPEECH LEAVES UNRESOLVED THE DECISION ON HOW WE CAN PRESSURE PRETORIA TO TAKE THE STEPS IT MUST TAKE.

AT THIS MOMENT, SECRETARY SHULTZ IS TESTIFYING BEFORE THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, IN FOLLOW-UP TO THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. I WOULD EXPECT THAT HE WOULD ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF STRATEGY -- HOW WE GET THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FROM WHERE THEY ARE TO WHERE THEY OUGHT TO BE -- IN THE COURSE OF HIS PREPARED STATEMENT OR IN RESPONSE TO COMMITTEE QUESTIONS.

OUR MESSAGE MUST BE CLEAR

I WANT TO SHARE A FEW, VERY BRIEF THOUGHTS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH THE SENATE. FIRST, I BELIEVE THAT NOTHING WE DO IS GOING TO HAVE ANY EFFECT IF THE PRETORIA REGIME FAILS TO UNDERSTAND THAT ALL OF US -- THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES -- ARE UNANIMOUS IN OUR DEMAND FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION. IF WE END UP WITH A PIECE OF LEGISLATION SUBJECT TO EXTENDED AND DIVISIVE DEBATE; TINGED WITH PARTISANSHIP; AND GENERATING A PRESIDENTIAL VETO, THEN WE ARE NOT GOING TO SEND THE KIND OF CLEAR, STRONG MESSAGE THAT WILL DO ANY GOOD.

SECOND, I BELIEVE THE PRESIDENT IS RIGHT IN REJECTING A CUT-AND-RUN APPROACH -- A TERMINATION OF ALL DIALOGUE WITH PRETORIA, TOTAL DISINVESTMENT. THAT WOULD HARM BLACKS FAR MORE THAN WHITES; WOULD LEAD TO MORE VIOLENCE, NOT LESS; AND WOULD NOT SPEED THE END OF APARTHEID.

SOME ACTION NEEDED

THIRD, I ALSO AGREE THAT WE MUST DO SOMETHING TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE SERIOUS. SAYING WE ABHOR APARTHEID IS NOT ENOUGH. WE HAVE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR AVERSION TO THAT INDEFENSIBLE SYSTEM IN A CONCRETE WAY.

SENATORS LUGAR AND KASSEBAUM -- RESPECTIVELY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND ITS AFRICAN SUBCOMMITTEE -- HAVE SUGGESTED SOME USEFUL APPROACHES, WHICH I BELIEVE WILL FORM PART OF THE CORE OF THE LEGISLATION WHICH THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE WILL BE WORKING ON OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

SPECIAL ENVOY

I WOULD PARTICULARLY ENDORSE ONE IDEA WHICH SENATOR KASSEBAUM FIRST RAISED, THAT OF APPOINTING A SPECIAL ENVOY TO SOUTH AFRICA. A SPECIAL ENVOY WITH THE FULL TRUST OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE STRONG BACKING OF THE CONGRESS WOULD BE IN A UNIQUE POSITION TO CONVINCING THE PRETORIA AUTHORITIES THAT WE MEAN BUSINESS. HE OR SHE WOULD ALSO HAVE THE CREDIBILITY TO OPEN COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALL ELEMENTS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL SCENE AND TO HELP BRING THEM TOGETHER IN THE KIND OF SERIOUS DIALOGUE WHICH IS THE ONLY HOPE FOR AVERTING A CATAclysmic OUTCOME.

EFFECT ON OTHER NATIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

IT IS ALSO INCUMBENT UPON US, IF WE ARE TO ACT RESPONSIBLY, THAT WE TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE EFFECT OF ANY ACTIONS WE CONTEMPLATE ON THE OTHER NATIONS OF SOUTHERN AFRICA. IF WE DO GO THE ROUTE OF SANCTIONS AGAINST PRETORIA, WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT ALL THE CONSEQUENCES -- OUTSIDE SOUTH AFRICA AS WELL AS INSIDE THAT COUNTRY.

THE PRETORIA REGIME IS NOT WITHOUT CARDS TO PLAY. THEY HAVE A VIRTUAL STRANGLEHOLD ON THE ECONOMIES OF NEIGHBORING STATES. THEY HAVE ALREADY THREATENED TO PLAY SOME OF THESE CARDS, AND I, FOR ONE, DON'T THINK THEY ARE BLUFFING.

I WOULD HOPE, THEREFORE, THAT WE WILL TAILOR ANY LEGISLATION WE DO PASS TO TAKE THIS FACTOR INTO ACCOUNT AND TO DEAL WITH THE ECONOMIC FALLOUT FROM OUR ACTIONS THROUGHOUT SOUTHERN AFRICA.

UNANIMITY OF GOALS AND APPROACH

WE ARE UNITED IN OUR GOALS IN SOUTH AFRICA. IF WE CAN ACHIEVE A SIMILAR UNANIMITY IN OUR APPROACH, WE CAN HAVE SOME HOPE OF ACHIEVING THOSE GOALS. LET'S PUT ASIDE PARTISANSHIP; LET'S ACT QUICKLY; LET'S ACT AS ONE; LET'S DO WHAT IS RIGHT, FOR US AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA.

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