

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AT THE UNITED NATIONS

PRESIDENT'S U.N. SPEECH OPENS WITH DANILOFF CASE

THIS MORNING PRESIDENT REAGAN ADDRESSED THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, CONCENTRATING IN HIS REMARKS ON THE STATUS OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR AT THE OUTSET OF HIS SPEECH, THOUGH, THAT ONE ISSUE -- THE UNJUSTIFIED ARREST AND INDICTMENT OF JOURNALIST NICHOLAS DANILOFF -- HAS, TO USE THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS, "CAST A PALL OVER OUR RELATIONS" WITH MOSCOW.

THE PRESIDENT SAID, AND I COULDN'T AGREE MORE, THAT MOSCOW WILL HAVE TO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE CONSEQUENCES IF DANILOFF IS NOT RELEASED UNCONDITIONALLY TO RETURN TO THE U.S. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, ONE OF THE CONSEQUENCES IF THE RUSSIANS CONTINUE TO STONEWALL SHOULD BE NO SUMMIT, PERIOD. AND IF THAT HAPPENS, THE BLAME IS SQUARELY ON MR. GORBACHEV'S SHOULDERS.

HOPE SENATE CAN ACT SOON ON DANILOFF RESOLUTION

I MIGHT SAY, IN THIS REGARD, THAT I ALSO HOPE THAT THE SENATE WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE UP EARLY THIS WEEK THE RESOLUTION ON THE DANILOFF CASE INTRODUCED ON FRIDAY BY THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM NEW HAMPSHIRE, SENATOR HUMPHREY, AND A NUMBER OF COSPONSORS, INCLUDING THIS SENATOR. BECAUSE OF THE OBJECTION OF A SENATOR, WE WERE UNABLE TO TAKE THAT RESOLUTION UP AS WE WANTED TO ON FRIDAY, BUT I HOPE THAT SENATOR WILL RECONSIDER OR THAT WE WILL BE ABLE TO GET TO THE RESOLUTION THROUGH ANOTHER ROUTE SOON.

(MORE)

OTHER ISSUES IN U.N. SPEECH

GETTING BEYOND THE DANILOFF SITUATION, THE PRESIDENT IN HIS U.N. REMARKS ALSO REVIEWED THE STATUS OF OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ITEMS ON OUR AGENDA. HE INDICATED THAT THE NEWEST RESPONSE FROM MR. GORBACHEV ON THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS IN REGARD TO THE ABM TREATY AND SDI IS BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED AND, I THINK IMPLICITLY AT LEAST, SUGGESTED IT MAY OFFER SOME HOPE FOR PROGRESS ON THAT FRONT. THAT IS A CRITICAL ISSUE, WHERE WE WANT NEGOTIATING PROGRESS, BUT WHERE VITAL U.S. INTERESTS ARE AT STAKE. WE WILL WANT TO GO OVER ANY GORBACHEV PROPOSAL WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB, TO INSURE THAT U.S. INTERESTS ARE PRESERVED AND THE MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY IS RETAINED IN OUR SDI R&D EFFORT.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO TOOK SPECIAL NOTE OF THE INITIAL RESULTS FROM THE GATT MEETING. I, TOO, WILL WANT TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THAT -- LET ME JUST SAY NOW THAT I AM PLEASED THAT WE HAVE SUCCEEDED, FINALLY, IN GETTING AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES AND OTHER VITAL ITEMS ON THE GATT AGENDA, WHERE THEY HAVE CLEARLY BELONGED FOR A LONG TIME. BUT IT IS STILL A LONG ROAD FROM GETTING THESE THINGS ON THE AGENDA TO SEEING IF GATT WILL DO SOMETHING SERIOUS ABOUT THEM. FOR THE TIME BEING, I REMAIN HOPEFUL BUT SKEPTICAL.

I URGE THE ATTENTION OF MY COLLEAGUES TO THESE ELEMENTS AND TO OTHERS IN THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH. AS USUAL, HE DID AN EXCELLENT JOB WRAPPING UP AND SELLING AMERICA'S CASE ON THE IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WE FACE.

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