

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

REMEMBERING THE UKRAINIAN FAMINE -- THE "HARVEST OF DESPAIR"

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF HYPE LATELY OVER THE NEW 'FALL SERIES' OF NETWORK TELEVISION SHOWS. WELL, I AM NOT A T.V. CRITIC BUT I CAN TELL MY COLLEAGUES THAT THERE IS A PROGRAM WELL-WORTH WATCHING ON PUBLIC TELEVISION THIS EVENING. IT'S A DOCUMENTARY ENTITLED "HARVEST OF DESPAIR", A CHILLING ACCOUNT OF ONE OF THE DARKEST EPISODES IN HUMAN HISTORY: THE DELIBERATE STARVATION OF MILLIONS OF UKRAINIANS BY SOVIET BOSS JOSEF STALIN.

CALCULATED ACT OF REVENGE

IN 1932 AND 1933, THE BREADBASKET OF THE SOVIET UNION WAS STRIPPED OF ITS GOLDEN HARVEST OF WHEAT TO BE REPLACED WITH A HARVEST OF DESPAIR. THE PRECIOUS UKRAINIAN GRAIN WAS TAKEN FROM THEIR FARMS; TAKEN FROM THEIR HANDS; AND TAKEN FROM THEIR MOUTHS. AS A RESULT, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN--HARDWORKING AND PROUD--WERE LEFT TO DIE UNSPEAKABLE DEATHS. IT WAS A CALCULATED ACT OF REVENGE BY THE KREMLIN, DESIGNED TO CRUSH NOT ONLY THE WILL OF THE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT UKRAINIANS BUT ALSO TO ERADICATE THEIR VERY BEING FROM COMMUNIST RUSSIA.

WHAT FOLLOWED WAS A HOLOCAUST. ACCORDING TO SCHOLARS WHO HAVE INVESTIGATED THIS TRAGEDY, AS MANY AS FIVE OR SIX MILLION UKRAINIANS PERISHED IN THE HARVEST OF DESPAIR. IT IS ALMOST UNIMAGINABLE THAT SUCH AN ATROCITY COULD BE SO COLDLY AND WILLINGLY CARRIED OUT. BUT IT WAS. AND SADLY ENOUGH, THE FULL STORY WAS SLOW TO REACH THE FRONT PAGES OF AMERICA'S NEWSPAPERS...AND THAT IS STILL THE CASE EVEN TO THIS DAY.

(MORE)

GETTING THE STORY OUT--AT LAST

THE DOCUMENTARY "HARVEST OF DESPAIR" WAS PRODUCED IN 1983 BY A CANADIAN GROUP FOR THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THIS SAD MOMENT IN HISTORY. UNFORTUNATELY, IT HAS TAKEN THREE LONG YEARS TO PUT THIS AWARD-WINNING FILM ON AMERICAN TELEVISION. ALL I CAN SAY IS 'WHY?'

SO LET ME SALUTE ALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORKED LONG AND HARD TO CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE--AND THE POLITICS OF PUBLIC TELEVISION--TO FINALLY BRING THIS SHOCKING TALE TO OUR T.V. SCREENS. I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT THAT THREE ARTICLES TELLING THE STORY-BEHIND-THE-STORY OF "HARVEST OF DESPAIR" BE INCLUDED IN THE OFFICIAL RECORD.

IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, BUT TONIGHT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN AT LAST JUDGE FOR THEMSELVES. IT IS ON THEIR CHANNEL THIS EVENING----PUBLIC TELEVISION, ON WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY'S OUTSTANDING SHOW "FIRING LINE". I HOPE THAT MY COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN WATCHING THIS SPECIAL SHOW. IN DOING SO, WE WILL HELP REMEMBER--AND HONOR--THE MILLIONS OF INNOCENT VICTIMS OF A RUTHLESS DICTATOR'S "HARVEST OF DESPAIR".

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