

News from Senator

Please contact us with any questions or comments: <http://dolearchive.ku.edu>

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1986

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

ICELAND: THE PRESIDENT DESERVES THE FULL SUPPORT OF CONGRESS

FLOOR REMARKS OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

WITHIN THE HOUR THE PRESIDENT WILL LEAVE FOR ICELAND. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THE PRESIDENT DESERVES THE FULL SUPPORT OF CONGRESS, 100 PERCENT SUPPORT, NOT SOME KIND OF CONDITIONED SUPPORT THAT DISAPPEARS ONCE THE MEETING IN REYKJAVIK IS OVER.

IT IS SAD TO SAY, BUT THE MISCHIEF ON ARMS CONTROL CONCOCTED ON THE HOUSE SIDE HAS BEEN A DISASTER AS FAR AS TIMING IS CONCERNED. I THINK WE HAVE TO BE REALISTIC.

THE PRESIDENT IS ABOUT TO ENGAGE IN THE HIGHEST STAKES POKER GAME ANY OF US CAN IMAGINE. ON SATURDAY HE WILL BE SITTING DOWN ACROSS THE TABLE FROM MR. GORBACHEV. NOW, MR. GORBACHEV READS THE PAPERS AND WILL HAVE ALL KINDS OF INFORMATION ON WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD, AND ESPECIALLY IN CONGRESS, AND HE WILL KNOW THAT THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE TRYING TO PUT ROADBLOCKS IN THE PRESIDENT'S PATH TO PEACE AND PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL.

THERE ARE SOME WHO NEVER RAN FOR THE PRESIDENCY, WHO ARE INSISTING ON THE HOUSE SIDE THAT THEY IN FACT TAKE THE PRESIDENT'S PLACE, THAT THEY DETERMINE ARMS CONTROL, THAT THEY DETERMINE WHAT WE DO WITH UNRATIFIED SALT AGREEMENTS, THAT THEY DETERMINE WHAT WE DO ABOUT ASAT AND NUCLEAR TESTING AND CHEMICAL WEAPONS.

THERE IS NO DOUBT IN THE MIND OF ANYONE IN THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT IS SINCERE IN HIS EFFORTS TO REACH A MEANINGFUL ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT BEFORE HIS SECOND TERM EXPIRES. I CANNOT FOR THE LIFE OF ME UNDERSTAND WHY SOME KEEP GOING BACK TO AN AGREEMENT THAT WAS NEVER RATIFIED IN THIS BODY, THE SALT II

(MORE)

AGREEMENT. I WOULD HOPE THAT THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP IN THE HOUSE WOULD BACK OFF, COMPLETE ACTION ON THE CONTINUING RESOLUTION, POSTPONE ANY MISCHIEF UNTIL THE PRESIDENT HAS HAD AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY TO DEAL WITH IT FACE TO FACE.

OF COURSE, THERE ARE VERY STRONG DIFFERENCES OF OPINION ABOUT HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED TO ACHIEVE A MEANINGFUL AND VERIFIABLE ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT.

THERE ARE SOME WHO ARE SERIOUSLY CONCERNED, SOME ARE REPUBLICANS AND SOME ARE DEMOCRATS, SOME ARE IN THE CONGRESS, SOME ARE OUT OF THE CONGRESS. BUT IT DOES SEEM TO ME THAT IN THE NEXT 48 TO 72 HOURS WE OUGHT TO LET THE PRESIDENT BE THE PRESIDENT. I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT IS TOO MUCH TO ASK. WE CAN PLAY GAMES. WE WILL BE AROUND NEXT YEAR. I DO NOT EXPECT ANY GREAT AGREEMENTS OVER THE WEEKEND, BUT IF LATER THERE IS A REAL SUMMIT WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THERE IS SOME AGREEMENT, I THINK MOST OF US WOULD BELIEVE THAT IT HAPPENED BECAUSE THE CONGRESS, THE DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, SUPPORTED OUR PRESIDENT, WHETHER WE BE A REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT. SO WE ARE OPTIMISTIC. WE WISH THE PRESIDENT WELL.

###