

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

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

INF CLOSER TO SENATE CONSIDERATION:
GENEVA REPORTS ENCOURAGING
STATEMENT OF SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE

I UNDERSTAND THAT A SHORT TIME AGO SECRETARY SHULTZ AND FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE WRAPPED UP THEIR INF DISCUSSIONS IN GENEVA. WE DO NOT HAVE ANY DETAILS AT THIS TIME, BUT SECRETARY SHULTZ IS SENDING POSITIVE SIGNALS TO CAPITOL HILL.

ACCORDING TO REPORTS, HE SAYS "WE HAVE REACHED A COMPLETELY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT" ON THE INF TREATY'S OUTSTANDING ISSUES. THE SECRETARY ADDED THAT HE THINKS THE AGREEMENT WILL BE WELL RECEIVED HERE IN THE SENATE.

NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER COLIN POWELL IS FLYING BACK IMMEDIATELY SO THAT HE CAN BRIEF THE SENATE LEADERSHIP ON WHAT WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN GENEVA. IN FACT, I'VE JUST BEEN ASKED TO SET UP A MEETING TOMMORROW.

I SINCERELY HOPE GENERAL POWELL BRINGS US AN EXPLICIT U.S.-SOVIET COMMON UNDERSTANDING ON THE SO-CALLED FUTURES ISSUE. I ALSO HOPE HE REPORTS THAT FOREIGN MINISTER SHEVARDNADZE HAS CONFIRMED THAT THE SOVIET UNION WILL LIVE UP TO THE LETTER OF THE INSPECTION PROTOCOL TO THE TREATY.

IF THAT IS THE MESSAGE WE RECEIVE, WE SHOULD MOVE QUICKLY ON CONSIDERATION OF THE INF TREATY. I BELIEVE WE SHOULD START ON MONDAY AND TRY TO GIVE PRESIDENT REAGAN ADVICE AND CONSENT TO RATIFICATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE ALL AGREE THAT THE SENATE CANNOT RUSH TO MEET ARTIFICIAL DEADLINES. AND THE ADMINISTRATION AGREED WITH US ON MONDAY THAT WE WOULD NOT BRING IT UP UNTIL THESE ISSUES ARE RESOLVED.

BUT IF THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES ARE RESOLVED, I THINK WE SHOULD BRING OUR FOUR MONTH EXAMINATION OF THE TREATY TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION WITH RATIFICATION AT THE MOSCOW SUMMIT. OF COURSE, I WILL WORK CLOSELY WITH THE MAJORITY LEADER ON THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.

BUT REGARDLESS OF WHAT DETAILS WE LEARN TOMORROW, THERE IS A POINT ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE SENATE IN TREATY-MAKING WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE TODAY. I SAID AT THE OUTSET THAT THE SENATE WOULD PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE. AND IT HAS DONE JUST THAT. THE CONSTITUTION GIVES US A "SECOND LOOK" TO INSURE THAT ANY POTENTIAL PROBLEMS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED BEFORE THE UNITED STATES BECOMES LEGALLY BOUND.

IN OTHER WORDS, THE SYSTEM WORKED.

THE PROBLEMS WHICH WE HOPE SECRETARY SHULTZ HAS NOW IRONED OUT WERE UNCOVERED IN THE COURSE OF SENATE SCRUTINY. THE COURSE OF ACTION WE CHOSE WAS DEVELOPED BY A BIPARTISAN SENATE EFFORT IN COOPERATION WITH THE ADMINISTRATION.

THE FACT IS THAT THE INF TREATY IS A GOOD TREATY WHICH WILL WIN SENATE APPROVAL WITH A LARGE BI-PARTISAN MAJORITY. WE -- AND ALL AMERICANS -- CAN BE CONFIDENT IN THAT VOTE BECAUSE OF THE SENATE'S THOROUGH WORK.