

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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DOLE WELCOMES DEMOCRATS TO FOREIGN AID EFFORT  
REJECTS THEIR "RAID ON TREASURY";  
DOLE STICKS WITH ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUT PROPOSAL

I AM PLEASED TO READ IN THIS MORNING'S WASHINGTON POST THAT MY DEMOCRATIC FRIENDS -- SENATORS PELL, BIDEN AND SIMON -- HAVE NOW JOINED ME, AND PRESIDENT BUSH, IN POINTING OUT THE NEED TO HELP THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES OF EASTERN EUROPE.

AS THE SENATE KNOWS, TWO WEEKS AGO I PROPOSED THAT WE MAKE A VERY MODEST, 5%, ACROSS-THE-BOARD CUT IN EARMARKED FOREIGN AID PROGRAMS -- IN PART TO FIND MONEY TO HELP THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES. SINCE THEN, OF COURSE, THE PRESIDENT HAS SUBMITTED HIS BUDGET, WHICH INCLUDES SEVERAL HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS IN "NEW MONEY" FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

SO I WELCOME THE FACT THAT THESE KEY DEMOCRATIC SENATORS HAVE NOW TAKEN UP THIS ISSUE. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT BRIEFLY ON THEIR PROPOSAL.

FIRST, I AM DISAPPOINTED THAT THEY HAVE CHOSEN, IN KNEE JERK FASHION, TO PROPOSE A RAID ON THE DEFENSE BUDGET TO FUND THEIR INITIATIVE.

YESTERDAY'S RUMORS OF GORBACHEV'S POSSIBLE DEMISE APPARENTLY ARE PREMATURE. BUT THEY POINT UP AGAIN HOW RISKY IT IS FOR US TO START SPENDING A "PEACE DIVIDEND" BASED ON A FUNDAMENTAL CHANGE IN SOVIET BEHAVIOR -- WHEN THE SOVIETS ARE STILL SORTING OUT FUNDAMENTAL QUESTIONS OF THEIR OWN POLITICAL SYSTEM AND LEADERSHIP.

AS MY PROPOSAL INDICATED, WE OUGHT TO START BY MAKING SURE WE ARE GETTING MAXIMUM "BANG FOR THE BUCK" FROM OUR EXISTING AID BUDGET.

I AM PLEASED THAT SOME MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS THE POLISH-AMERICAN CONGRESS AND VARIOUS GREEK-AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ENDORSED MY PROPOSAL -- DESPITE THE FACT THAT, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, IT WOULD MEAN SMALL CUTS IN AID FOR BOTH GREECE AND POLAND. I ASK TO INCLUDE IN THE RECORD LETTERS I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THESE GROUPS, ENDORSING MY PROPOSAL.

I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT THE APPROACH SUGGESTED BY THE DEMOCRATIC SENATORS WILL STILL LEAVE UP TO 35 COUNTRIES "DANGLING IN THE WIND" AS FAR AS THEIR OWN NEED FOR AMERICAN AID IS CONCERNED. I'M TALKING ABOUT IMPORTANT COUNTRIES LIKE THOSE ON THE FRONT LINES IN THE WAR AGAINST DRUGS -- BOLIVIA, PERU AND OTHERS; KEY COUNTRIES IN AFRICA SUCH AS ZAIRE, KENYA, LIBERIA; AND MANY OTHERS AROUND THE GLOBE.

WE HAVE LONG-STANDING AND IMPORTANT RELATIONS WITH THESE COUNTRIES. BECAUSE OF EXCESSIVE EARMARKING, THEY ARE IN DANGER OF BEING "ZEROED OUT" THIS YEAR. IF WE DON'T CURB OUR APPETITE FOR EARMARKING IN FY91, THEY'LL BE RIGHT BACK ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK.

SO I HOPE MY DEMOCRATIC FRIENDS WILL JOIN ME IN CONSIDERING HOW WE CAN HELP MEET THEIR NEEDS, TOO -- AND NOT JUST PROPOSE ANOTHER RAID ON THE PENTAGON'S BUDGET.

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