

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT
ON JERUSALEM RESOLUTION
AND JERUSALEM POST "INTERVIEW"

- 1) LETTER TO REP. GINGRICH
- 2) TELEGRAM TO JERUSALEM MAYOR KOLLEK

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

April 19, 1990

The Honorable Newt Gingrich
House Republican Whip
United States House of Representatives
Washington

Dear Newt:

I am writing in response to your letter of April 19, criticizing statements I allegedly made about Israel.

Of course, you are free to hold whatever views you want about any issues. Normally, if I disagree with a fellow Republican, I speak to them privately about any problems, instead of holding a press conference. You and your friends have chosen the latter route -- which of course you are free to do.

One thing you could have found out by talking to me is that your criticisms of my comments are largely directed at misquotes, quotes taken out of context, or inaccurate information.

In regard to my comments on Meet the Press concerning the Jerusalem Resolution, you are simply in error -- I did not "express...support for the repeal" of the Resolution. You must either have misheard what I said, and failed to check your faulty recollection with the transcript, or accepted a second hand account of my remarks, without checking its accuracy.

In any event, what I did say was that I regarded Senate passage of the Resolution -- especially in the way that passage was achieved -- as a mistake, and that I would have more to say about the subject. I had that "say" this morning, on the Senate Floor, and -- to insure that, this time, you have an accurate version of my remarks -- I enclose the text of that statement.

I also enclose for your information a copy of a telegram I sent this morning to Teddy Kollek, dealing with his comments on the Resolution to our Codel. I invite you to check my version of events with any member of our Delegation. I am confident they will confirm to you that Kollek said exactly what I have reported that he said in my subsequent remarks -- and, further, that through staff he gave me specific authorization to discuss his views in public.

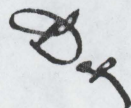
Finally, I strongly urge you to look into the background to those alleged quotes in the Jerusalem Post before drawing any further spurious conclusions. The interview, scheduled to be broadcast on a cable TV show called Shalom America, has never aired. The reason it never aired is that the interviewer abruptly left the show, taking with her the tape and transcript of the interview. Her former producer now tells my office that they regard her as "not reliable." She is now in possession of the only copies the tape, and obviously she is now "peddling" out-of-context excerpts of the interview to any paper that wants to create a sensation. It is regrettable that her efforts fall on such susceptible ears as yours.

The interview took place in January, yet suddenly popped up in the Jerusalem Post three months later, on the very day of my arrival in Israel.

More specifically, the clear context of the interview was my assertion that the leaders of the pro-Israeli lobby are shortsighted and selfish, in their zealous efforts to protect Israel's aid levels at any cost. No one who heard or read the entire interview or who was fair and careful enough to take the time to make sure they were informed -- would suggest, as you seem to, that I have made any personal or ethnic attacks on anyone or on the Jewish community. In fact, I noted with satisfaction, but not surprise, that nearly 60% of American Jews recently polled by the Wall Street Journal supported my proposal to shave aid to Israel and other so-called "earmarked" countries by 5%.

I have a 26 year record of strong support for Israel. I am proud of that record, and will match it against the record of any other member of Congress, including yours and that of your colleagues who joined you this morning. It speaks for itself. And it speaks clearly about my complete agreement with the words from the Republican Platform, which you quote. Unfortunately some people seem to think that, if you disagree with a single policy or practice of the Israeli Government, or criticize anyone who lobbies on behalf of Israel, you should be characterized as "anti-Israel." That is bunk, and I am surprised that you have joined in the narrow but shrill chorus of people who take that tack.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE
United States Senate

P.S. Apparently you've forgotten your private words of praise for my proposal to cut foreign aid "earmarks" -- which would have resulted in a 5% cut for Israel. Or weren't those words for public consumption?

**DOLE RELEASES TELEGRAM
TO JERUSALEM MAYOR KOLLEK
APRIL 19, 1990**

Dear Mr. Mayor: Thank you for your cable, received today, regarding the so-called Jerusalem Resolution which we discussed during our recent visit to Jerusalem.

As you will recall, you raised the Resolution with our Delegation on your initiative; we did not ask you about it. Noting your strong personal support for the proposition that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, you also said the Resolution was ill-timed, because -- by just stirring up controversy without really furthering the prospects of formal American recognition of Jerusalem as the capital -- it served the interests only of extremists on both sides.

You further told us that you had spoken with Senator Moynihan about the Resolution, urging him not to introduce it.

Finally, at the conclusion of the meeting, in response to a direct query from a member of my staff, you indicated you would be happy to be quoted as holding the above views -- providing that they be quoted in their entirety, and specifically including the fact that you strongly held the view that Jerusalem was the capital of Israel and strongly hoped the United States would so recognize it.

I want to assure you that, in all my comments, I have stuck to the letter and spirit of what you said during our meeting, and what you authorized us to say about your comments.

I also want to clear up one particular point: it is not my intention to try to rescind the Jerusalem Resolution. On the contrary, I believe that any further Senate action, in any direction, on the issue of Jerusalem would only exacerbate an already unfortunate situation. I have this morning spoken on the Senate Floor about the general topic of how the Senate takes action on sensitive resolutions, and in that statement referred several times to the Jerusalem Resolution experience. But I do not intend to do anything further legislatively in regard to the substantive issue of Jerusalem.

Sincerely yours, Bob Dole, Republican Leader, United States Senate.