

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FULL TEXT OF SENATE FLOOR STATEMENT:
DOLE ON RELEASE OF AMERICAN HOSTAGE FRANK REED

WASHINGTON - MR. PRESIDENT, I WANTED TO INDICATE MY THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN THE RELEASE OF YET ANOTHER HOSTAGE, WHICH HAS JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED -- FRANK HERBERT REED -- AND TO SAY THANK YOU FOR ALL OF US AND FOR ALL AMERICANS AND PARTICULARLY FOR MEMBERS OF MR. REED'S FAMILY, HIS 91-YEAR OLD MOTHER AND HIS FAMILY.

AND AGAIN, IT COULD BE AN INDICATION OF IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH SOME OF THE COUNTRIES WHO ARE HOLDING THE HOSTAGES, WHETHER IT BE IRAN OR WHETHER IT BE GROUPS CONTROLLED BY IRAN HOLDING HOSTAGES IN LEBANON. AND I PARTICULARLY WANT TO THANK PRESIDENT ASSAD AND THOSE SYRAIN OFFICIALS WHO HAVE BEEN COOPERATIVE AND HELPFUL IN THE RELEASE OF MR. POLHILL AND NOW THE RELEASE OF MR. REED. IN MY VIEW, THE LEADERS OF THOSE COUNTRIES SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE GRATEFUL, AND THAT WE DO CONSIDER THIS TO BE A HUMANITARIAN THING TO DO, BUT THAT WE'LL NOT BE SATISFIED UNTIL ALL AMERICAN HOSTAGES AND ALL OTHER HOSTAGES ARE RELEASED. WE ARE OPPOSED TO TERRORISM IN ANY FORM. WE WILL NOT CONDONE TERRORISM IN ANY FORM.

I WOULD ALSO SAY THAT I DO KNOW THAT SOME OF THE LEADERS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD ARE FRUSTRATED SOMETIMES BY WHAT WE DO IN THE CONGRESS, AND BY RESOLUTIONS WE PASS THAT ARE QUITE SENSITIVE IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. I HOPE THAT WE DON'T PASS ANY RESOLUTIONS HERE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS -- LET'S GIVE EVERYTHING A CHANCE TO WORK. AND THE BOTTOM LINE IS, LET'S DO ALL WE CAN TO FREE ALL THE HOSTAGES, INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE AMERICANS.

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