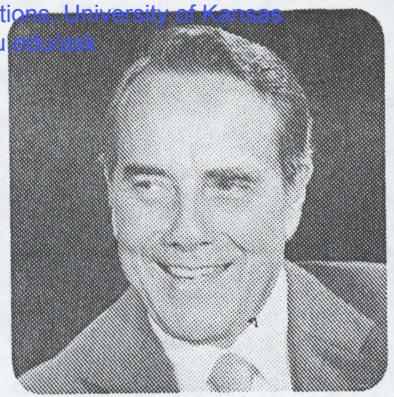


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 30, 1990

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DOLE TO MEET GORBACHEV TWICE DURING SUMMIT;
STATE DINNER, MEETING WITH CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TOP AGENDA

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) WILL MEET TWICE WITH SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV DURING THIS WEEK'S U.S.-SOVIET SUMMIT IN WASHINGTON. DOLE WILL ATTEND A STATE DINNER HONORING GORBACHEV THURSDAY NIGHT AT THE WHITE HOUSE. DOLE WILL ALSO BE JOINED BY CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS FOR A MEETING WITH GORBACHEV AT THE SOVIET EMBASSY ON FRIDAY MORNING.

"THE LAST TIME GORBACHEV WAS HERE IN 1987, HE WAS IN A VERY STRONG POSITION. BUT WITH ALL THE PROBLEMS HE HAS AT HOME, I THINK HE'S IN A MUCH WEAKER POSITION NOW," DOLE SAID. "IN MY VIEW, A LOT DEPENDS ON WHAT PRESIDENT BUSH DOES -- PRESIDENT BUSH HAS THE LEVERAGE AND THE STRONG HAND, AND THAT'S WHY I'M HOPEFUL WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS ON SOME OF THE CRITICAL ISSUES," DOLE ADDED.

"I'M ESPECIALLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE PLIGHT OF THE BALTIC STATES -- LITHUANIA, ESTONIA AND LATVIA. I'VE RECENTLY MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL THREE STATES, AND THEY WANT THEIR INDEPENDENCE. THEY OUGHT TO HAVE IT, AND GORBACHEV OUGHT TO RECOGNIZE IT AND FREE THE BALTIC REPUBLICS," DOLE ASSERTED. "ON TOP OF THE ACCORDS THAT MAY BE SIGNED, I ALSO HOPE WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS IN REDUCING THE SOVIETS' BUILDUP OF CONVENTIONAL FORCES -- THE SOLDIERS, THE TANKS, THE GUNS, THE PLANES -- WHICH REMAIN IN EASTERN EUROPE."

DOLE MET WITH GORBACHEV DURING THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT IN 1987, AND AGAIN IN MOSCOW IN 1988.

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