

News from Senator

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INDIA & PAKISTAN

THE DANGER IS REAL

IT IS BOTH TRAGIC AND IRONIC THAT -- WHILE THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION TAKE MAJOR STRIDES TOWARD REDUCING THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR IN EUROPE -- INDIA AND PAKISTAN MAY BE SLIDING TOWARD A MILITARY CONFLICT THAT COULD, IN A WORST CASE SCENARIO, PRODUCE AN EXCHANGE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

THIS IS NOT SOME IDLE WORRY. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF REVEALING ANY CLASSIFIED OR SENSITIVE INFORMATION. BUT I WILL SAY THIS: THE THREAT -- BOTH OF WAR, AND OF NUCLEAR WAR -- IS REAL. IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO KEEP THINGS FROM GETTING OUT OF HAND -- BUT THE TIDE IS RUNNING IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, AND TIME MAY BE RUNNING OUT.

THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE CRISIS IN SOUTH ASIA IS THE DETERIORATING SITUATION IN KASHMIR -- WHERE HUNDREDS HAVE ALREADY DIED. NO ONE IS FREE FROM BLAME FOR CAUSING, AND EXACERBATING, THE CURRENT CRISIS.

IRRESPONSIBLE AND EXTREME ELEMENTS IN BOTH INDIA AND PAKISTAN ARE FUELING THE FLAMES OF HATRED AND TENSION. NEITHER THE INDIAN NOR THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT HAS YET UNDERTAKEN ANY EFFECTIVE INITIATIVE TO REDUCE TENSIONS.

OF COURSE, THIS IS NOT JUST A MATTER FOR THE TWO DIRECTLY INVOLVED NATIONS. A WAR BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN WILL INEVITABLY IMPACT ON THE U.S., THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND ALL THE NATIONS OF THE REGION. A NUCLEAR WAR WOULD HAVE EARTH-SHAKING IMPLICATIONS FOR EVERY NATION ON EARTH.

THIS IS THE BUSINESS OF US ALL.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIA, AND A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO USE ITS INFLUENCE IN NEW DELHI TO URGE RESTRAINT ON THE INDIAN GOVERNMENT.

CHINA IS ONE OF PAKISTAN'S CLOSEST FRIENDS AND IS A MAJOR SUPPLIER OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN. IT OUGHT TO BE URGING THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT TO SHOW SIMILAR RESTRAINT.

AND WE HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH GOVERNMENTS, AND PERHAPS A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO USE OUR "GOOD OFFICES" TO HELP FIND A WAY OUT OF THIS CRISIS.

I COMMEND TO ALL SENATORS A COLUMN WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES, WRITTEN BY LEONARD SPECTOR OF THE CARNEGIE ENDOWMENT -- WHICH LAYS OUT AND ANALYZES THE BASIC FACTS SURROUNDING THIS CRISIS.

AND, IN CLOSING, MR. PRESIDENT, I URGE ALL SENATORS TO GIVE SPECIAL ATTENTION TO THIS POTENTIALLY DISASTROUS SITUATION.

WE ALL HAVE AN ENORMOUS STAKE IN WHAT HAPPENS IN KASHMIR, AND A RESPONSIBILITY TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO WAR -- AND ESPECIALLY NO NUCLEAR WAR -- BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN.

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GORBACHEV

IN MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GORBACHEV DURING THE SUMMIT, I SPECIFICALLY ASKED HIM TO PRESS SYRIA'S ASSAD AND HIS OTHER FRIENDS IN THE REGION TO PLAY A MORE CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE, ON ISSUES LIKE THE PEACE PROCESS AND OUR HOSTAGES. HE DIDN'T DIRECTLY RESPOND, BUT I AM HOPEFUL WE WILL SEE FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE SOVIET ACTION. I KNOWⁿ PRESIDENT BUSH RAISED THIS ISSUE WITH GORBACHEV, TOO.

TO THE LEADERS OF THE REGION, I AGAIN ADDRESS THE SAME APPEAL OUR DELEGATION DELIVERED BACK IN APRIL: DON'T LET THIS WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY BE SLAMMED SHUT, THROUGH A CONTINUED ESCALATION OF VIOLENCE AND INCENDIARY RHETORIC.

SADDAM HUSSEIN

TO PRESIDENT HUSSEIN OF IRAQ I SAY AGAIN: WE WANT MORE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH YOUR NATION -- BUT WE WILL NOT HAVE THOSE RELATIONS AS LONG AS YOU CONTINUE ON A PATH OF ANTI-AMERICAN AND ANTI-ISRAELI ACTIONS AND RHETORIC.

PRESIDENT ASSAD

TO PRESIDENT ASSAD OF SYRIA I SAY: JOIN THE PEACE PROCESS NOW. YOU CAN MAKE A DECISIVE DIFFERENCE.

PRESIDENT MUBARAK

TO PRESIDENT MUBARAK OF EGYPT, I URGE AGAIN: CONTINUE TO SHOW THE GREAT LEADERSHIP YOU HAVE SHOWN FOR PEACE. SO MUCH DEPENDS ON YOUR COURAGE AND PERSEVERANCE.

PLO

TO THE PLO LEADERSHIP, I WANT TO DELIVER A SPECIAL MESSAGE: THIS IS TRULY A TIME OF TESTING -- OF YOUR COMMITMENT TO A COURSE OF NEGOTIATIONS. YOU HAVE FORMALLY RENOUNCED THE USE OF TERRORISM -- BUT SOME WHO ARE ASSOCIATED WITH YOU CONTINUE NOT ONLY TO CONDONE, BUT TO CONDUCT, TERRORISM.

THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT, AND WILL NOT, NEGOTIATE WITH TERRORISTS. ON THAT BASIC POINT, ALL AMERICANS AGREE.

IF YOU WISH TO CONTINUE A DIALOGUE, YOUR OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM MUST BE REAL, AS WELL AS RHETORICAL. IT IS TIME, NOW, TO DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS.

ISRAEL

FINALLY, TO THE LEADERS OF ISRAEL, I SAY AGAIN: THE PARALYSIS OF YOUR POLICY, AND THE OCCASIONAL EXCESSES OF YOUR ADMINISTRATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, HURTS ISRAEL MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

IT IS TIME TO SERIOUSLY REEXAMINE THE QUESTION OF WHETHER YOU HAVE DONE ALL YOU SHOULD DO TO MINIMIZE THE VIOLENCE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

IT IS TIME TO RE-THINK YOUR SETTLEMENT POLICIES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES; GRAND PRINCIPLES ABOUT "FREEDOM TO SETTLE" ARE IMPORTANT AND FINE -- BUT THERE IS A REAL WORLD OUT THERE, WHICH -- NO MATTER HOW THE QUESTIONS OF SOVEREIGNTY ARE RESOLVED -- CANNOT TRULY BE HOME TO SETTLERS FROM ANY NATION OR GROUP UNTIL THERE IS REAL PEACE.

IT IS TIME, ABOVE ALL, TO GET YOUR POLITICAL HOUSE IN ORDER, SO THAT A STRONG, EFFECTIVE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT CAN MAKE RATIONAL DECISIONS ON THE PEACE PROCESS THAT WILL BE IN ISRAEL'S LONG-TERM INTEREST.

THE EVENTS OF RECENT DAYS TEACH AGAIN A LESSON THAT THE LEADERS AND PEOPLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST MUST SOON HEED -- TIME IS RUNNING OUT. SOON, THERE MUST BE A DECISIVE MOVE TOWARD PEACE, OR A GRADUAL -- OR PERHAPS NOT EVEN SO GRADUAL -- DRIFT TOWARD RENEWED VIOLENCE AND WAR.

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