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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
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HUMAN RIGHTS IN YUGOSLAVIA

THIS MONTH THE UNITED STATES IS PARTICIPATING IN THE COPENHAGEN MEETING OF THE CSCE CONFERENCE ON THE HUMAN DIMENSION. LAST FRIDAY, AMBASSADOR MAX KAMPELMAN -- WHO IS HEADING THE U.S. DELEGATION -- MADE A SPEECH IN COPENHAGEN ADDRESSING THE IMPORTANT MATTER OF THE PROTECTION OF MINORITY RIGHTS.

IN THAT STATEMENT, HE RAISED A NUMBER OF HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES OF GREAT CONCERN TO MYSELF AND SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES. OF PARTICULAR NOTE IS THE FACT THAT HE RAISED THE SERIOUS MATTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST ALBANIANS IN THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVA, YUGOSLAVIA.

WITH RESPECT TO KOSOVA, AMBASSADOR KAMPELMAN SAID, ". . . . THE PROBLEMS THERE WILL NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL THERE IS A GENUINE DIALOGUE WITH DEMOCRATIC ALBANIAN ORGANIZATIONS IN THE AREA. WE URGE THE GOVERNMENT OF THAT COUNTRY TO APPRECIATE THAT THE SEEMINGLY NEVER-ENDING CYCLE OF VIOLENCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE PROVINCE OF KOSOVA ARE MATTERS OF GREAT CONCERN TO MANY OF US."

AMBASSADOR KAMPELMAN IN HIS SPEECH, STRESSES THAT MINORITY RIGHTS MUST BE A PRINCIPLE ACCEPTED BY ALL STATES AND REMINDS US THAT ANY OF US COULD FIND OURSELVES IN THE MINORITY AT SOME POINT IN TIME.

I AGREE WITH AMBASSADOR KAMPELMAN AND I COMMEND HIM AND THE U.S. DELEGATION FOR RAISING THE KOSOVA ISSUE PUBLICLY AT THE CONFERENCE.

SINCE THE EARLY PART OF THIS YEAR, HUNDREDS OF ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA HAVE BEEN ARRESTED AND BEATEN BY SERBIAN POLICE FOR PARTICIPATING IN RALLIES CALLING FOR DEMOCRACY. OVER THIRTY PEOPLE HAVE DIED IN KOSOVA THIS YEAR ALONE, AS A RESULT OF THE OPPRESSIVE MEASURES TAKEN BY THE AUTHORITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA.

THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVA HAD LIVED UNDER MARTIAL LAW FOR ABOUT A YEAR UNTIL A FEW MONTHS AGO WHEN IT WAS LIFTED. BUT, THIS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN ONLY A TEMPORARY REPRIEVE -- ACCORDING TO THIS WEEK'S WIRE REPORTS, THE SERBIAN ASSEMBLY HAS DECLARED A SO-CALLED "STATE OF EMERGENCY" IN KOSOVA ONCE AGAIN.

I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE CONTINUING REPRESSION OF THE DEMOCRATIC MOVEMENT IN KOSOVA, AND IN VIEW OF THIS LATEST MOVE BY THE SERBIAN ASSEMBLY, I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FOR INCREASED VIOLENCE AGAINST THE POPULATION IN KOSOVA. YESTERDAY EVENING, TOGETHER WITH SENATORS PRESSLER AND D'AMATO, I SENT A TELEGRAM TO THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO YUGOSLAVIA, WARREN ZIMMERMAN, COMMUNICATING OUR SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE SITUATION IN KOSOVA AND URGING HIM TO CLOSELY MONITOR EVENTS THERE.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE COSPONSORED A RESOLUTION, S.CON.RES. 124, ALONG WITH SENATORS PELL AND PRESSLER, WHICH EXPRESSES THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AGAINST THE ALBANIAN ETHNIC MINORITY IN YUGOSLAVIA. IT URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA TO OBSERVE FULLY ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT TO ASSURE THE FULL PROTECTION OF THE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS OF THE ALBANIAN NATIONALITY AND ALL OTHER NATIONAL GROUPS IN YUGOSLAVIA. AND, IT URGES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA TO BEGIN A GENUINE DIALOGUE WITH DEMOCRATIC GROUPS IN KOSOVA.

I BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST TAKE A STRONG ROLE IN THE PROMOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY. AND, IN MY VIEW, THE UNITED STATES IS DOING EXACTLY THAT IN COPENHAGEN. WE ARE BEING ABLY REPRESENTED BY AMBASSADOR MAX KAMPELMAN -- A RESPECTED NEGOTIATOR AND TIRELESS ADVOCATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

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