

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
AUGUST 21, 1990

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## DOLE ADDRESSES VFW CONVENTION IN BALTIMORE

YESTERDAY, YOU HEARD FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF. YOUR RESPONSE TO HIS REMARKS SENT A STRONG MESSAGE TO SADDAM HUSSEIN, AND TO PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD: THE V.F.W. STANDS STRONGLY BEHIND THE PRESIDENT -- AS HE CONFRONTS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE OF HIS PRESIDENCY.

TODAY, I WANT TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME OF THE SAME ISSUES THE PRESIDENT DISCUSSED, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE ON CAPITOL HILL -- WHERE I HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RAISING THE PRESIDENT'S BANNER, AND PUSHING HIS PROGRAM.

AS I STAND HERE THIS MORNING, I AM REMINDED THAT -- 22 YEARS AGO TO THE DAY -- SOVIET TANKS ROLLED INTO CZECHOSLOVAKIA, MARKING THE ABRUPT AND ICE-COLD END OF WHAT WAS THEN BEING CALLED THE "PRAGUE SPRING."

THERE WAS A LOT OF HAND-WRINGING IN REACTION TO THE KREMLIN'S AGGRESSION -- BUT NOBODY REALLY DID MUCH ABOUT IT.

THIS TIME, THANK GOD, IT'S DIFFERENT.

THIS TIME, IF SOVIET FORCES MOBILIZE, THEY WILL MOBILIZE ON OUR SIDE -- THE SIDE OF FREEDOM. THIS TIME, VIRTUALLY ALL THE NATIONS OF WORLD ARE STANDING TOGETHER -- AND ACTIVELY STANDING UP TO SADDAM HUSSEIN'S NAKED AGGRESSION. THE LAST TIME, CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND THE OTHER ENSLAVED NATIONS OF EASTERN EUROPE HAD TO WAIT FOR NEARLY A QUARTER CENTURY, AND THAT REMARKABLE SERIES OF EVENTS WE HAVE WITNESSED THESE PAST MONTHS, TO WIN THEIR FREEDOM.

THIS TIME, WE ARE DETERMINED TO MAKE SURE THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN DOES NOT GET AWAY WITH HIS BLOODY GAMBLE; THAT AMERICA'S FRIENDS IN THE REGION ARE NOT OVERRUN; THAT AMERICA'S VITAL INTERESTS -- SECURITY AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS -- ARE PROTECTED.

AND LET ME MAKE ONE POINT SO LOUD AND CLEAR THAT IT WILL BE HEARD AND UNDERSTOOD, NOT ONLY IN BALTIMORE, BUT IN BAGHDAD, TOO: THIS TIME, THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES WILL NOT BOW TO BLACKMAIL.

AND THEY WILL OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT ANY ACTION TAKEN BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO WIN THE FREEDOM OF AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE; OR TO PUNISH THOSE WHO HAVE ASSAULTED OR IMPRISONED INNOCENT AMERICANS.

### "SERMON FROM SADDAM"

ABOUT FOUR MONTHS AGO, I HAD A LITTLE CHAT WITH SADDAM HUSSEIN. I WENT TO IRAQ, WITH A BIPARTISAN DELEGATION OF SENATORS, TO EXPLORE IF THERE WAS ANY CHANCE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SADDAM'S REGIME.

ON THAT OCCASION, WE HEARD A LITTLE "SERMON FROM SADDAM," ON WHAT CONSTITUTED WHAT HE CALLED "REAL GREATNESS" IN THE MODERN WORLD. SUCH "GREATNESS," HE TOLD US, STEMMED NOT FROM MILITARY POWER, BUT THE FORCE OF MORALITY. HE SAID TO US, AND THIS IS A QUOTE: "WHERE A PERSON IS JUST IN HIS POSITION, HE IS THE MIGHTIER ONE. ... WHERE HE PARTAKES IN ATTAINING PEACE, NOT FOR HIMSELF BUT FOR MANKIND AS A WHOLE, HE IS THE MIGHTIER."

I SUSPECT SADDAM'S TROOPS HAVE PUT UP BILLBOARDS WITH THAT QUOTE ALL OVER OCCUPIED KUWAIT.

BUT THAT QUOTE, AND SADDAM'S RECKLESS WORDS AND DEEDS THESE PAST COUPLE OF WEEKS, GIVE YOU SOME IDEA OF THE KIND OF MAN WE ARE DEALING WITH. A MAN WHO LIES THROUGH HIS TEETH. A MAN FOR WHOM CONCEPTS LIKE PEACE -- ARE JUST A COVER TO MASK HIS PLANS FOR WAR.

BUT MARK THIS WELL, TOO: HE IS A STUBBORN, TOUGH, RUTHLESS MAN -- ONE WE MIGHT DESPISE, BUT WE SHOULDN'T UNDERESTIMATE.

WE WILL DO WHAT HAS TO BE DONE -- BUT LET'S GO INTO THIS WITH OUR EYES OPEN. IT WON'T BE EASY. IT WON'T BE PRETTY. IT WON'T BE WITHOUT COST. AND IT MAY NOT BE QUICK.

BUT IT DOES HAVE TO BE DONE.

AND WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WE HAVE TO, TO GET THE JOB DONE.

### A TRULY INTERNATIONAL EFFORT

LET ME UNDERSCORE A KEY POINT. A LOT OF WHAT HAS TO BE DONE IS OVER THERE -- IN SAUDI ARABIA, AND THE SURROUNDING REGION.

NOT ALL OF IT SHOULD BE, OR CAN BE DONE, BY THE UNITED STATES ALONE.

FOR TWO CENTURIES AND IN COUNTLESS EMERGENCIES, OUR RECORD IS CLEAR: WHEN THE BELL RINGS, THE UNITED STATES IS THERE, DOING OUR SHARE AND A WHOLE LOT MORE. WE ARE THERE, TODAY, IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

BUT THE STAKES IN THAT REGION, IN THIS CRISIS, ARE SKY HIGH, NOT ONLY FOR US, BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD COMMUNITY.

IT IS TIME FOR ALL THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.

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