

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REMARKS AT DEDICATION OF UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS'
DOLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER

THIS IS A VERY SPECIAL OCCASION FOR ME. IT'S NOT EVERY DAY THAT SOMEONE GETS A BUILDING NAMED AFTER HIM -- AND IT'S EVEN RARER THAT A BUILDING IS NAMED AFTER SOMEONE WHO IS STILL ALIVE. UNLESS, OF COURSE, YOU'RE DONALD TRUMP -- AND EVEN THAT MAY BE CHANGING.

IN FACT, WHEN I WAS A STUDENT AT K.U., I DIDN'T WORRY SO MUCH ABOUT HAVING A BUILDING NAMED AFTER ME. THE ONLY THING ON MY MIND BACK THEN WAS FINDING A WAY TO STAY IN SCHOOL! I REMEMBER DEAN WOODRUFF INFORMING ME THERE WERE SOME REAL QUESTIONS ABOUT THAT ONE.

BUT THEN WORLD WAR TWO CAME ALONG AND THE LIVES OF EVERY YOUNG AMERICAN TOOK A SUDDEN TURN.

IN A VERY REAL SENSE, THAT IS WHY I AM HERE TODAY.

BUT TODAY ISN'T ABOUT BOB DOLE. AND IT ISN'T ABOUT A BUILDING. TODAY WE ARE DEDICATING AN EXCITING NEW RESOURCE FOR THE PEOPLE OF KANSAS.

IT WAS WORTH THE FIGHT TO WIN CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR THE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER; IT WAS WORTH ALL THE EFFORTS OF THOSE WHO HAVE PROVIDED THE MATCHING FUNDS; AND IT WAS CERTAINLY WORTH THE TIRELESS COMMITMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY TO GET THE JOB DONE.

IT WAS ALL WORTH IT BECAUSE OF THE CENTER'S UNPARALLELED MISSION TO PROMOTE RESEARCH OF HUMAN LIFE -- FOR INFANTS, CHILDREN, ADOLESCENTS, ADULTS, THE HANDICAPPED SEEKING TO LEAD PRODUCTIVE LIVES.

AND IT COULDN'T BE MORE APPROPRIATE THAT THE CENTER IS OPENING IN THE YEAR IN WHICH WE ENACTED THE LANDMARK AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PROVIDING LONG-NEEDED CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTIONS TO OUR NATION'S 43 MILLION PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. IN KEEPING WITH THIS HISTORIC LEGISLATION -- AND OUR NATION'S RECOGNITION OF THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED -- THIS HUMAN DEVELOPMENT CENTER SETS A NEW STANDARD FOR ACCESSIBILITY FOR HANDICAPPED AMERICANS.

BUT WHAT IS MOST EXCITING ABOUT THIS STATE-OF-THE-ART RESEARCH CENTER IS WHAT IT IS GOING TO DO -- FOR PEOPLE AND FOR KANSAS.

HERE, RESEARCHERS WILL DEVELOP PROCEDURES FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS TO OVERCOME HANDICAPS; THEY WILL DEVELOP PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS TO PREPARE CHILDREN, REGARDLESS OF DISABILITY, FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS; THEY WILL PRODUCE EDUCATION TECHNIQUES AND STUDY MATERIALS TO HELP CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES LEARN MORE; AND THEY WILL INITIATE PROGRAMS TO HELP FAMILIES OF DISABLED PEOPLE. AND PERHAPS MOST REMARKABLY OF ALL, THE CENTER WILL DEVELOP BIOMEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL STRATEGIES AIMED AT PREVENTING THE VERY CAUSES OF DISABILITIES.

RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE MANY BENEFITS, AND ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT IS THAT PEOPLE ARE LIVING LONGER LIVES. BUT LIVING LONGER PRESENTS NEW CHALLENGES FOR INDIVIDUALS AND SOCIETY. THIS UNIQUE CENTER SEEKS TO MEET THOSE CHALLENGES AS THE HOME TO THE NEW INSTITUTE FOR LIFE SPAN STUDIES.

THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE OUTSTANDING INITIATIVES THAT WILL BE TAKING PLACE IN THIS BUILDING.

ALL OF THIS ADDS UP TO BIG DIVIDENDS FOR THE STATE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS. IN OUR CHANGING WORLD, HIGHER EDUCATION AND ADVANCED RESEARCH WILL BE AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES IN THE YEARS TO COME. THIS CENTER WILL BE A MAGNET FOR EXPERTS FROM AROUND THE NATION AND THE WORLD -- THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THIS CENTER WILL TAKE K.U. INTO THE 21ST CENTURY AS A LEADER IN RESEARCH OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, FROM THE CRADLE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE HUMAN LIFE SPAN.

I AM PROUD OF WHAT THIS CENTER STANDS FOR, I AM PROUD TO HAVE MY NAME ASSOCIATED WITH IT, BUT MOST OF ALL, I AM PROUD THAT IT STANDS HERE, ON THE CAMPUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS.

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SHOCKING OPPRESSION

IN THIS MEETING WE LEARNED THE FOLLOWING:

- A YOUNG MAN WAS BRUTALLY BEATEN THAT MORNING BY THE SERBIAN POLICE; WE BROUGHT HIS PHOTO BACK WITH US, ALONG WITH PHOTOS OF PEOPLE WHO WERE BEING LED AWAY BY POLICE, PEOPLE WHOSE "CRIME" WAS WAITING TO SEE OUR DELEGATION, PEOPLE WHOSE "CRIME" WAS RAISING THEIR HANDS UP AND MAKING A "V" SIGN.
- ALBANIAN RADIO AND TV PROGRAMS AND STATIONS HAVE BEEN SHUT DOWN.
- 6,000 ALBANIANS HAVE BEEN FIRED BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL VIEWS AND OPEN SUPPORT OF DEMOCRACY.
- ALBANIAN DOCTORS HAVE ALSO LOST THEIR JOBS AND HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY SERBIANS WHO CAN'T COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR ALBANIAN PATIENTS.
- AN ALBANIAN LABOR LEADER IS IN JAIL FOR CALLING A STRIKE.

THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. THE ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA DO NOT HAVE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY, DO NOT HAVE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, DO NOT HAVE FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. YET, THE HARD-LINE SERBIAN AUTHORITIES DENY THAT THE RIGHTS OF ALBANIANS ARE BEING VIOLATED. INSTEAD, THEY CLAIM THAT NO MINORITY HAS MORE RIGHTS THAN THE ALBANIANS IN YUGOSLAVIA. MOREOVER, THIS LINE WAS ECHOED BY THE PRESIDENT OF YUGOSLAVIA AND OTHER FEDERAL OFFICIALS IN BELGRADE.

WHILE IN PRISTINA, WE ALSO MET WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE SERBIAN COMMUNITY IN KOSOVA, INCLUDING CLERGY FROM THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH.

WE MADE IT CLEAR THAT WE DID NOT COME TO KOSOVA TO ADVOCATE A PARTICULAR VIEW OR ETHNIC GROUP, BUT TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVA AND FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA.

IT WAS CLEAR FROM OUR MEETING WITH THE SERBS OF KOSOVA THAT TENSIONS ARE HIGH AND THAT THE POLICE-STATE ATMOSPHERE IS WEARING HEAVY ON THEIR COMMUNITY, AS WELL.

AMERICAN ARRESTED

OUR DELEGATION HAS BEEN BACK FOR TWO WEEKS AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED; COMMUNIST REPRESSION LIVES ON IN KOSOVA. BUT, IT IS NOT ONLY DIRECTED TOWARD THOSE WHO LIVE THERE, BUT TOWARDS AMERICAN CITIZENS, AS WELL.

UPON OUR RETURN, WE LEARNED THAT ON THE DAY OUR DELEGATION VISITED PRISTINA, A 19 YEAR-OLD AMERICAN WAS ARRESTED BY SERBIAN POLICE IN PRISTINA-- SHABAN KASTRATI WAS BORN IN THE UNITED STATES; HIS MOTHER IS CROATIAN AND HIS FATHER IS AN ALBANIAN FROM KOSOVA. SHABAN WAS VISITING HIS GRANDPARENTS AND ON AUGUST 29--THE DAY OF OUR VISIT--WAS RIDING IN A CAR WITH HIS RELATIVES WHEN THE CAR WAS PULLED OVER BY POLICE WHO DEMANDED IDENTIFICATION. WHEN THE POLICEMAN SAW SHABAN'S U.S. PASSPORT, HE STRUCK HIM AND ARRESTED HIM. SINCE THAT DAY, SHABAN KASTRATI HAS BEEN SERVING A 60-DAY SENTENCE IN A PRISON NEAR PRISTINA, UNDER WHAT OUR STATE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ARE FALSE CHARGES. ALTHOUGH OUR AMBASSADOR HAS DELIVERED PROTESTS TO THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT, THESE DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS HAVE YIELDED NO RESULTS.

ACT ON ALBANIAN RESOLUTION NOW

FOUR MONTHS AGO SENATOR PELL AND I COSPONSORED A SENSE OF CONGRESS RESOLUTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES AGAINST THE ALBANIAN POPULATION IN KOSOVA. IN JUNE, THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTED THE RESOLUTION OUT. IT HAS BEEN ON THE CALENDAR EVER SINCE, BUT SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE BLOCKED ACTION ON IT.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT ON THIS RESOLUTION. NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE A STRONG AND VOCAL STAND IN SUPPORT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY IN YUGOSLAVIA. NOW IS THE TIME TO CHOOSE SIDES--NOT AGAINST ANY OF THE NATIONS WHO MAKE UP YUGOSLAVIA, BUT AGAINST COMMUNIST TYRANNY.

WE HAVE TO THINK NOT ONLY OF THE SUFFERING PEOPLE OF KOSOVA, BUT OF SHABAN KASTRATI, AS WELL. ALBANIANS, CROATIANS, SLOVENES AND SERBS ALL DESERVE THE FREEDOMS THAT COME WITH DEMOCRACY. AND AMERICAN CITIZENS WHO TRAVEL TO YUGOSLAVIA DESERVE TO HAVE THEIR RIGHTS RESPECTED.

THE SITUATION IN KOSOVA IS WORSENING. SEVEN SENATORS GOT A FIRST-HAND LOOK AT THE GRIM REALITY OF LIFE IN KOSOVA. THE SERBIAN GOVERNMENT IS RUNNING A POLICE STATE WITH THE ACQUIESCENCE OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF YUGOSLAVIA. THE UNITED STATES CANNOT SIT THIS OUT ON THE SIDE-LINES, WE HAVE A MORAL OBLIGATION TO TAKE A STRONG STAND IN DEFENSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS OF ALBANIANS AND ALL OF THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA.

IN THE COMING DAYS, I WILL BE IN TOUCH WITH THOSE SENATORS WHO DO NOT WISH THE CONGRESS TO VOICE ITS CONCERNS ABOUT THE TRAGIC HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN KOSOVA.

BUT, I URGE MY COLLEAGUES, ESPECIALLY THE SKEPTICAL ONES TO GO TO KOSOVA--TO SEE FOR THEMSELVES--THE GRIM REALITY THERE. SIX SENATORS TRAVELLED WITH ME--NONE WERE AWARE OF THE SITUATION IN KOSOVA PRIOR TO OUR TRIP--ALL RETURNED GRAVELY CONCERNED ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES THERE AND WITH THE VIEW THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST SPEAK OUT CLEARLY ON THIS TRAGEDY.

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