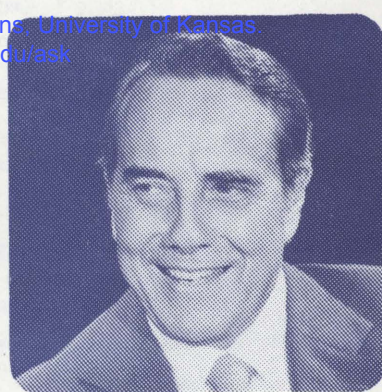


BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE ON SADDAM & HOSTAGES

TIMID CONGRESS STILL NOT A PLAYER

IF THE HOSTAGES REALLY DO COME OUT, CONGRESS WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE ANY CREDIT, THAT'S FOR SURE -- IT'S BEEN SITTING ON THE SIDELINES FROM DAY ONE.

DESPITE THE MIXED SIGNALS CLUTTERING THE AIRWAVES FROM CAPITOL HILL, IT LOOKS LIKE SADDAM IS FINALLY HEARING THE ADMINISTRATION'S TOUGH MESSAGE LOUD AND CLEAR.

SADDAM'S OFFER IS THE LATEST EVIDENCE THAT THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY OF STRENGTH AND RESOLVE IN THE GULF IS PAYING DIVIDENDS. WHILE PRESIDENT BUSH AND THE UNITED NATIONS HAD THE COURAGE TO FORCE SADDAM'S HAND, CONGRESS SAT ON ITS HANDS AND TRIED TO TIE THE PRESIDENT'S BEHIND HIS BACK.

OF COURSE, THE HOSTAGES SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN HELD CAPTIVE IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO THEIR RELEASE SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS ANY KIND OF FAVOR OR HUMANITARIAN GESTURE.

WE'VE LEARNED THAT SADDAM'S PROMISES DON'T ADD UP TO MUCH, SO WE'LL WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENS. THE BOTTOMLINE HASN'T CHANGED: EVERY LAST HOSTAGE MUST COME HOME AND IRAQ MUST GET OUT OF KUWAIT.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THE PRESIDENT'S POLICY IS WORKING. THE LAST THING WE NEED ARE ANY MORE TIMID SIGNALS FROM CONGRESS.

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