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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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AID TO THE REPUBLICS

SEIZE THE MOMENT FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN

AT A MEETING THIS MORNING WITH THE BIPARTISAN LEADERSHIP, PRESIDENT BUSH OUTLINED A NEW PACKAGE OF MEASURES TO AID THE REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION (THE COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES). THE ADMINISTRATION'S PACKAGE BUILDS ON THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF PREVIOUS U.S. HUMANITARIAN AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO THE CIS, AND REPRESENTS A MAJOR AND TIMELY INITIATIVE IN OUR EVOLVING RELATIONS WITH THESE NEW STATES.

THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE REFLECTS THE FACT THAT THIS IS AN HISTORIC MOMENT IN WORLD HISTORY. IF WE ACT WISELY AND BOLDLY NOW, WE CAN HELP CREATE A MORE PEACEFUL, STABLE AND PROSPEROUS FUTURE FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION -- AND EVEN MORE TO THE POINT, FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

DIVIDENDS FOR AMERICA

IF WE MAKE THE INVESTMENT NOW, THAT INVESTMENT CAN PAY ENORMOUS DIVIDENDS FOR OURSELVES, AND FOR OUR CHILDREN. THAT IS THE OPPORTUNITY BEFORE US NOW.

THE ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSALS ARE INTENDED TO BE PART OF AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT IN WHICH OTHER PROSPEROUS NATIONS WITH A STAKE IN THE FUTURE OF THE C.I.S. WOULD PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE. BUT THE PROPOSALS ALSO UNDERSCORE THE PRESIDENT'S CONVICTION -- WHICH I SHARE -- THAT AMERICA, AS THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD, MUST ACT LIKE THE LEADER. WE MUST BE NOT ONLY A PLAYER, BUT A LEADING PLAYER. THAT MEANS WE MUST COME TO THE TABLE WITH SOME CHIPS.

THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS WILL WORK -- WILL CHANGE FROM PROPOSALS INTO POLICY -- ONLY WITH BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FROM THE CONGRESS. I THINK THE MEETING TODAY REPRESENTS AN EXCELLENT START IN FORGING THAT KIND OF COOPERATIVE EFFORT. I HAVE ALREADY SPOKEN TO A NUMBER OF SENATORS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE AISLE, AND I AM OPTIMISTIC THAT WE HAVE A STRONG CORE GROUP READY TO ROLL UP OUR SLEEVES AND GET TO WORK.

WE HAVE THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS, WHICH I BELIEVE ARE SOUND, AND RESPONSIBLE, AND FORWARD-LOOKING. SOME PARTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S PACKAGE CAN BE IMPLEMENTED THROUGH EXECUTIVE ACTION. THOSE ELEMENTS REQUIRE NO NEW RESOURCES OR LEGISLATION.

OTHER PARTS OF THE PACKAGE WILL REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL. CERTAINLY, WE IN CONGRESS ALSO HAVE MANY IDEAS -- SOME OF THEM OVERLAPPING THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSALS, SOME OF THEM COMPLEMENTING WHAT THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED TODAY. WITHOUT DOUBT, THE LEGISLATION WE FINALLY PASS WILL INCLUDE IMPORTANT IN-PUT FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE. THE PRESIDENT HAS INDICATED BOTH PUBLICLY AND IN PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS WITH ME THAT HE WELCOMES THAT KIND OF ACTIVE CONGRESSIONAL ROLE, AND INDEED BELIEVES IT IS ESSENTIAL BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS ISSUE AND THE URGENCY OF RESPONDING TO THE PROBLEMS AND THE OPPORTUNITIES WHICH CONFRONT US IN THE C.I.S.

TIME FOR REASONABLE ACTION FROM CONGRESS

IT'S A TALL ORDER, ESPECIALLY FOR AN ELECTION YEAR. CONGRESS MUST RISE ABOVE POSTURING AND PARTISANSHIP, AND WORK RESPONSIBLY AND EXPEDITIOUSLY TO CRAFT A FINAL PACKAGE. IT WON'T BE EASY, BUT IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE SUCCEED.

I MIGHT NOTE THAT, WITHIN A FEW MINUTES AFTER THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED HIS PACKAGE, GOVERNOR CLINTON MADE A SPEECH GENERALLY WELCOMING THE PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVE AND OUTLINING SOME OF HIS OWN IDEAS IN THIS AREA. SO, HOPEFULLY, THIS IS ONE SUBJECT, AT LEAST, THAT WE WILL NOT BE DRAGGED INTO THE PARTISAN-POTSHOTTING OF A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

THIS IS FAR TOO IMPORTANT FOR THE NATION. AS PRESIDENT BUSH STATED THIS MORNING, THIS IS A DEFINING MOMENT IN HISTORY, BOTH FOR THESE NEW STATES AND FOR AMERICAN SECURITY INTERESTS. THE DEMOCRATIC LEADERS OF THE NEW STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION -- PEOPLE LIKE YELTSIN, AND KRAVCHUK, AND TER PETROSSIAN -- ARE PROVIDING COURAGEOUS AND DETERMINED LEADERSHIP. IT IS UP TO US TO MATCH THEIR BOLDNESS AND SEIZE THIS MOMENT, FOR OURSELVES AND FOR OUR CHILDREN.

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