

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

BIPARTISAN ARMS CONTROL RESOLUTION

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN THE MAJORITY LEADER IN OFFERING THIS RESOLUTION, UNDERSCORING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE A SIGNIFICANT, EQUITABLE AND FULLY VERIFIABLE NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTION AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

AS THE PRESIDENT MADE CLEAR IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS AND IN OTHER RECENT STATEMENTS, ARMS CONTROL REMAINS AT THE VERY TOP OF THE AGENDA FOR THE LAST TWO YEARS OF HIS ADMINISTRATION.

PRESIDENT'S STRATEGY HAS YIELDED GREAT PROGRESS

INDEED, THE ARMS CONTROL PROGRESS ALREADY ACHIEVED IN THE FIRST SIX YEARS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION HAS BEEN REMARKABLE. AND THERE HAS BEEN FAR TOO LITTLE CREDIT GIVEN FOR THAT ACHIEVEMENT.

WHEN HE TOOK OFFICE, THIS PRESIDENT UNDERSTOOD THAT THE FIRST PREREQUISITE FOR GETTING THE SOVIETS ENGAGED IN SERIOUS ARMS CONTROL TALKS WAS DEMONSTRATING THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD THE WILL AND RESOURCES TO MEET ANY SOVIET MILITARY CHALLENGE. WITH THE HELP OF THE CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT HAS ENGINEERED A CRITICALLY NEEDED PROGRAM TO UPGRADE OUR MILITARY -- AND PARTICULARLY OUR STRATEGIC -- FORCES. HE HAS ALSO PUT BEHIND US THE DANGEROUS CONCEPT OF UNILATERAL ADHERENCE TO THE FATALLY FLAWED SALT II TREATY, WHICH HAS PERMITTED A MASSIVE, ONE-SIDED BUILD-UP BY THE SOVIETS.

THE NEXT PREREQUISITE WAS GIVING THE SOVIETS SPECIFIC INCENTIVES TO BRING THEM BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. THAT HAS BEEN DONE IN MANY WAYS, BUT ESPECIALLY THROUGH TWO EFFORTS.

(MORE)

FIRST, BY INSURING THE UNITY OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE -- A UNITY CRITICALLY MANIFEST IN THE DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH INF DEPLOYMENTS IN EUROPE. AND, SECOND, BY LAUNCHING THE STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE, WHICH SIMULTANEOUSLY HAS SERVED AS STICK AND CARROT FOR NEGOTIATIONS. STICK, IN THE SENSE OF A SOVIET REALIZATION THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS PREPARED TO MOVE OUR STRATEGIC COMPETITION INTO HIGH TECHNOLOGY AREAS WHERE WE HAVE A NATURAL ADVANTAGE. AND CARROT, IN OFFERING A NEW VISION FOR THE SECURITY OF BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION. SECURITY BASED NOT ON THE HAZARDOUS DOCTRINE OF MUTUALLY ASSURED DESTRUCTION, BUT BASED INSTEAD ON THE POTENTIAL ABILITY OF EACH NATION TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST ATTACK FROM OTHER NATIONS.

FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT LED AND DIRECTED AN AGGRESSIVE AND CREATIVE DIPLOMACY, IN WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW; IN GENEVA AND REYKJAVIK. AND THE RESULT OF THAT DIPLOMACY HAS BEEN MAJOR STEPS FORWARD TOWARD A MORE SECURE AMERICA AND A SAFER WORLD.

ADVANCES AT REYKJAVIK

AT REYKJAVIK, FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SOVIETS ENGAGED IN SERIOUS, DETAILED TALKS ON NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTIONS -- NOT JUST LIMITS IN GROWTH. WE AGREED -- AT LEAST UNTIL THE SOVIETS SCUTTLED THE AGREEMENT -- ON THE ELIMINATION OF INTERMEDIATE RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES IN EUROPE, AND THEIR STRICT CONTROL AROUND THE WORLD. WE BROKE THE ARTIFICIAL LINKAGE THE SOVIETS HAVE LONG SOUGHT TO PORTRAY BETWEEN OUR FORCES AND THOSE OF GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE. WE REACHED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WHICH COULD HAVE LED TO A 50% REDUCTION IN OVERALL STRATEGIC NUCLEAR FORCES IN AS LITTLE AS FIVE YEARS. AND WE DEMONSTRATED, ONCE AND FOR ALL, THAT IT IS SOVIET OBSTINANCE -- AND NOT SDI -- WHICH IS PREVENTING REAL BREAKTHROUGHS ON ARMS CONTROL.

THE ROAD AHEAD

SO WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY. BUT WE HAVE A LONG WAY STILL TO GO, TOO. AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET THERE UNLESS ALL OF US -- PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS, AMERICA AND ITS ALLIES -- UNLESS WE ALL PULL TOGETHER AND IN THE SAME DIRECTION. WE'RE MOST ASSUREDLY NOT GOING TO GET THERE IF WE HAND THE SOVIETS ON A SILVER PLATTER ANY OF THE ARMS CONTROL VICTORIES THEY CRAVE SO BADLY.

THIS RESOLUTION EXPRESSES OUR DETERMINATION TO GO FORWARD ON THE ROAD TO REAL NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTIONS TOGETHER. IF WE PASS IT -- AND FAR MORE IMPORTANT, IF WE FOLLOW THROUGH AND ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS SPIRIT -- THEN WE HAVE THE BEST CHANCE WE'VE EVER HAD OF GETTING TO THE GOAL WE ALL WANT: A WORLD WHERE NUCLEAR STOCKPILES ARE DRASTICALLY REDUCED; WHERE AMERICA'S SECURITY IS MORE ASSURED; AND WHERE PEACE CAN BE ACHIEVED.

I URGE ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES TO JOIN IN SUPPORTING THIS RESOLUTION, AND IN ACTING, VOTING AND SPEAKING THROUGHOUT THIS CONGRESS IN A WAY WHICH WILL STRENGTHEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE COUNTRY AS WE SEEK REAL PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL.

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