

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1987

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
SPEECH TO THE MODEL U.N.
SALEM HIGH SCHOOL, SALEM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

Introduction

o AS YOU KNOW, I LIVE IN WASHINGTON. AND KNOWING THE QUALITY OF THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN HERE TODAY, I EXPECT SOME OF YOU WILL BE TAKING UP RESIDENCE THERE ONE DAY, TOO -- AS LEADERS IN GOVERNMENT AND PERHAPS IN CONGRESS.

o I'M PROUD TO BE PART OF OUR GOVERNMENT; PROUD OF THE KIND OF GOVERNMENT WE HAVE IN THE UNITED STATES.

o WE MAKE MISTAKES. BUT, ULTIMATELY, OUR SYSTEM WORKS. THE MISTAKES COME OUT; OUR LEADERS ARE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR THEM; AND WE END UP WITH A BETTER GOVERNMENT AND BETTER COUNTRY.

Lessons of Iran Arms for Hostages Deal

o SOME OF THE RECENT MISTAKES MADE IN GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN DOOZIES -- ESPECIALLY THE IRAN ARMS FOR HOSTAGES DEAL.

o THOSE MISTAKES HAVE HURT THE COUNTRY; THE PRESIDENT; AND HIS POLICIES. THERE'S NO USE DENYING THAT.

o BUT DOWN THE ROAD, I WONDER IF WE'RE NOT GOING TO HAVE A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE. THE REAL LESSON MAY TURN OUT TO BE THE STRENGTH OF THE SYSTEM IN FACING UP TO THE MISTAKES AND DOING SOMETHING ABOUT THEM.

o THE PRESIDENT HAS DONE EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO GET ALL THE FACTS OUT: FROM THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL, TO THE TOWER COMMISSION, TO HIS FULL-SCALE COOPERATION WITH THE CONGRESS IN ITS INVESTIGATIONS.

- o BY AND LARGE, CONGRESS HAS BEEN GOING ABOUT ITS INVESTIGATIONS IN A RESPONSIBLE WAY. WE COULD SPEED THINGS UP A BIT, BUT WE'RE MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
- o ONE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE'S OWN, WARREN RUDMAN, IS PLAYING A KEY ROLE. HE'S ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS I HAVE CONFIDENCE THE SENATE INVESTIGATION IS BEING WELL RUN.
- o I HOPE THE WORST IS OVER, AND WE CAN MOVE ON TO OTHER THINGS -- THE REAL "MEAT" OF GOVERNMENT.

Challenges Ahead: Arms Control

- o WE HAVE ENORMOUS CHALLENGES AHEAD. WE NEED TO FOCUS ON THEM. WE NEED A STRONG PRESIDENT. WE NEED BIPARTISANSHIP.
- o LET ME CONCENTRATE ON ONE AREA, VITAL TO THE SECURITY OF OUR COUNTRY AND TO PEACE IN THE WORLD. AND OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ALL OF YOU HERE TODAY: ARMS CONTROL.
- o PRESIDENT REAGAN CONTINUES TO HAVE ARMS CONTROL AT THE TOP OF HIS AGENDA -- JUST WHERE IT BELONGS.

Reagan Strategy Works

- o HE DOESN'T JUST TALK ABOUT IT. HE HAS LAID OUT, AND FOLLOWED, A COMPREHENSIVE, EFFECTIVE STRATEGY ON ARMS CONTROL. WE ARE WHERE WE ARE BECAUSE OF THAT STRATEGY.
- o THERE SHOULD BE NO DOUBT IN ANYONE'S MIND: ON THIS ISSUE, WE'VE VERY MUCH HAD AN IN-CHARGE, HANDS-ON PRESIDENT, WHO HAS PROVIDED ENORMOUS LEADERSHIP.
- o HE KNEW THAT ONE PREREQUISITE TO REAL ARMS CONTROL WAS A STRONG AMERICA. HE LED THE FIGHT TO REBUILD OUR DEFENSE.
- o ALONE AMONG US, HE FIRST GRASPED THE VISION OF STRATEGIC DEFENSE -- THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE COULD TURN MODERN TECHNOLOGY FROM A MEANS TO DESTROY EACH OTHER, TO A VEHICLE TO INSURE THE SURVIVAL OF ALL MANKIND.
- o AND HE UNDERSTOOD, AS WELL, THAT S.D.I. WOULD BE A POWERFUL INCENTIVE TO THE SOVIETS TO GET BACK TO SERIOUS BARGAINING ON ARMS CONTROL; SOMETHING THEY HAD GIVEN UP IN THE DAYS WHEN AMERICA'S DEFENSE WAS DETERIORATING, AND OUR WILL IN THE FACE OF SOVIET BULLYING WAS BEING QUESTIONED.
- o FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT UNDERSTOOD THAT ALLIED UNITY WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL. WE HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TOWARD REDRESSING THE MILITARY IMBALANCE IN EUROPE, PARTICULARLY IN THE MEDIUM RANGE NUCLEAR FIELD. WE HAVE KEPT NATO INTACT.

- 3 -

Reagan Goals Fundamentally Different

- o AND LET ME SAY THIS: THE PRESIDENT'S ARMS CONTROL GOALS WERE AMBITIOUS. WHAT THIS PRESIDENT HAS SOUGHT IS NOT ONLY A FULLY EQUITABLE AND VERIFIABLE AGREEMENT -- THAT HAS BEEN THE GOAL OF ALL RECENT PRESIDENTS.
- o BUT PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS ALSO BROKEN FUNDAMENTALLY NEW GROUND, BY SETTING OUT TO ACHIEVE MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONRY -- THE ELIMINATION OF ENTIRE SYSTEMS.
- o ALL PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS HAVE SIMPLY SET LIMITS ON THE GROWTH OF NUCLEAR ARSENALS. NO PREVIOUS PRESIDENT HAS LED US INTO AN ABOUT FACE ON WHAT UNTIL NOW HAS APPEARED AS AN ENDLESS ROAD TOWARD MORE AND MORE KILL CAPACITY.

Reykjavik

- o THE PRESIDENT ALMOST ACHIEVED A BREAKTHROUGH IN REYKJAVIK.
- o SOME WILL SAY THE AGREEMENT NEARLY STRUCK THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN FLAWED; THAT IT IS BETTER NOTHING WAS SIGNED.
- o MAYBE SO. CERTAINLY, IN HINDSIGHT, WE CAN ALWAYS FIND WAYS TO IMPROVE ON WHAT OTHERS -- INDEED, ON WHAT WE OURSELVES -- HAVE DONE.
- o BUT BECAUSE NOTHING WAS SIGNED IN REYKJAVIK, LET'S NOT JUMP TO THE ERRONEOUS CONCLUSION THAT NOTHING WAS ACHIEVED.
- o IN FACT, REYKJAVIK WAS A WATERSHED. FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE SOVIETS NEGOTIATED SERIOUSLY AND IN DETAIL ON LARGE REDUCTIONS IN NUCLEAR WEAPONS. WE ACHIEVED THE OUTLINE OF AGREEMENTS COVERING -- AND IN SOME CASES, ELIMINATING -- SOME OF OUR MOST DEADLY AND DANGEROUS WEAPONS SYSTEMS.
- o REYKJAVIK OPENED THE DOOR TO THE POSSIBILITY WE NOW FACE: AN AGREEMENT WIPING OUT ALL INF SYSTEMS WORLDWIDE.

Long Road Ahead

- o LET'S NOT KID OURSELVES. WE HAVE GONE A LONG WAY DOWN THE ROAD TO A GOOD AGREEMENT, BUT WE'RE NOT THERE YET. MONTHS OF TOUGH, COMPLEX NEGOTIATIONS LIE AHEAD. MAYBE WE'RE NOT GOING TO GET THERE AT ALL.
- o BUT WE HAVE HOPE; REAL HOPE.

Tasks for Congress

- o WHAT ARE THE TASKS FOR THE CONGRESS? TO WORK WITH, NOT AGAINST, THE PRESIDENT. TO PROVIDE HIM THE DEFENSE RESOURCES WE NEED; AVOID UNDERCUTTING HIM THROUGH LEGISLATION THAT GIVES THE

SOVIETS ON A SILVER PLATTER WHAT THEY OUGHT TO BE PAYING FOR IN NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA; SEND SIGNALS OF AMERICAN UNITY AND RESOLVE, NOT THE OPPOSITE.

o WE'VE ALREADY JOINED SOME OF THE KEY ISSUES. WE WANT TO GO FORWARD WITH RATIFICATION OF THE NUCLEAR TESTING TREATIES THE PRESIDENT SUBMITTED. BUT ONLY WITH ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS ON VERIFICATION.

o WE ARE ENGAGED IN A COMPLEX, AND I KNOW FOR MANY CONFUSING, DEBATE ABOUT THE INTERPRETATION OF THE ABM TREATY. TO FULLY UNDERSTAND IT WOULD TAKE A PERSON WHO IS BOTH A CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER AND A NUCLEAR ENGINEER.

o LET ME JUST SAY TWO THINGS ABOUT THE ABM ISSUE. FIRST, THE PRESIDENT MAKES THE CALL ON INTERPRETING THE TREATY. AND THERE ARE MANY OF US IN CONGRESS WHO ARE GOING TO DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO BLOCK ANYONE WHO WANTS TO DO THE PRESIDENT'S JOB FOR HIM.

o AND, SECOND, SDI IS VITAL. IF WE "INTERPRET" IT AWAY, WE'RE GOING TO REGRET IT.

Conclusion

o I STARTED OUT TALKING ABOUT THE IRAN ARMS FOR HOSTAGES SCANDAL. THINK ABOUT HOW THAT KIND OF EVENT WOULD PLAY OUT IN MOSCOW, IN MANAGUA, OR IN SOME OTHER DICTATORIAL REGIME. THINK ABOUT WHETHER THE PEOPLE IN THOSE KINDS OF COUNTRIES WOULD EVER KNOW ABOUT IT FROM THEIR GOVERNMENTS; WHETHER A FREE PRESS COULD EVER HAVE REPORTED IT; WHETHER AN ELECTED PARLIAMENT COULD HAVE DEMANDED ALL THE FACTS.

o IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, I BELIEVE YOU WILL CONCLUDE AS I DO:

o I'M NOT HAPPY AT ALL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. BUT I AM HAPPY -- AND PROUD -- TO BE IN A COUNTRY WHERE WE DEAL WITH MISTAKES THE WAY WE DO. WHERE THE GOVERNMENT IS ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PEOPLE, AND NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

o MANY OF THE COUNTRIES YOU REPRESENT IN THIS ASSEMBLY UNDERSTAND THAT DISTINCTION: BETWEEN FREEDOM AND TYRANNY; BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR. TO THEM, TO THEIR PEOPLE, AMERICA STILL REPRESENTS A BEACON.

o I WANT IT TO STAY THAT WAY. WITH YOUNG LEADERS LIKE YOU, WITH THE KIND OF EXPERIENCE YOU ARE GETTING, I AM CONFIDENT IT WILL.

###