

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: WALT RIKER
JULY 31, 1989 (202) 224-5358

SENATE LEADERSHIP AMENDMENT ON HIGGINS EXECUTION

MR. PRESIDENT:

THE TEXT JUST READ SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. THERE IS NO NEED TO
ADD MUCH MORE.

WE ARE OUTRAGED -- EVERY SENATOR, EVERY AMERICAN -- WE ARE
ALL OUTRAGED. WE ARE SICK AND TIRED OF INNOCENT AMERICANS BEING
KIDNAPPED AND MURDERED BY FANATICS POSING AS RELIGIOUS LEADERS;
BY TERRORISTS POSING AS POLITICAL LEADERS.

BUT WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING MORE THAN JUST VENT OUR ANGER.
WE WANT TO SEND STRONG, CLEAR, CONSTRUCTIVE MESSAGES -- MESSAGES
THAT WILL HELP IN AT LEAST A SMALL WAY TO INSURE THAT WE NEVER
HAVE TO GO THROUGH THIS AGAIN.

WE WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT, THAT WE BACK A
POLICY OF MAKING THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THESE OUTRAGES PAY.

WE WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO THE TERRORIST GROUPS THAT
PERPETRATE THESE OUTRAGES THAT THEY WILL PAY.

WE WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO NATIONS LIKE IRAN, WHICH HAVE
MADE THEMSELVES RENEGADE NATIONS THROUGH THEIR RESORT TO
TERRORISM, AND BACKING OF GROUPS WHICH CONDUCT TERRORISM.

AND WE WANT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR CLOSEST ALLIES AND
FRIENDS: THAT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST TERRORISM IS GLOBAL,
CONSTANT, CRITICAL. WE'RE ALL IN IT TOGETHER. AND TO WIN THAT
STRUGGLE, WE MUST ALL ACT TOGETHER.

###

AMENDMENT REGARDING LT. COLONEL HIGGINS

THE RADICAL, LEBANESE-BASED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION WHICH CALLS ITSELF THE "ORGANIZATION OF THE OPPRESSED OF THE EARTH" ANNOUNCED 31 JULY 1989 THAT IT HAD EXECUTED LIEUTENANT COLONEL WILLIAM R. HIGGINS, A MARINE SECONDED TO UNTSO, THE UNITED NATIONS TRUCE SUPERVISION ORGANIZATION, AND KIDNAPPED IN SOUTH LEBANON ON 17 FEBRUARY, 1988;

WHEREAS THAT ORGANIZATION CLAIMED TO HAVE EXECUTED COLONEL HIGGINS IN RESPONSE TO THE RECENT CAPTURE BY ISRAELI COMMANDOS OF A RADICAL MUSLIM SHIITE LEADER, SHEIK ABDUL KARIM OBEID, BELIEVED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ORGANIZATION;

WHEREAS THAT ORGANIZATION RELEASED TO CERTAIN NEWS AGENCIES A VIDEO TAPE PURPORTING TO SHOW LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIGGINS EXECUTED BY HANGING;

WHEREAS IT HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED THAT THE EXECUTION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIGGINS HAS TAKEN PLACE, NOR HAVE ANY DETAILS BEEN PROVIDED ABOUT THE ALLEGED EXECUTION;

WHEREAS THE KIDNAPPING OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIGGINS, WHO WAS ENGAGED ONLY IN CARRYING OUT THE LEGITIMATE U.N. PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES HE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED, WAS WHOLLY UNJUSTIFIED;

WHEREAS IT IS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT THE KIDNAPPING OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIGGINS AND HIS EXECUTION, IF IT INDEED HAS OCCURRED, ARE OUTRAGEOUS ACTS OF TERRORISM WHICH DESERVE THE CONDEMNATION OF ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE;

WHEREAS THERE IS STRONG EVIDENCE THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN HAS SUPPORTED THE ORGANIZATION RESPONSIBLE FOR LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIGGINS' KIDNAPPING AND ALLEGED EXECUTION, AS WELL AS OTHER TERRORIST AND EXTREMIST FORCES INSIDE LEBANON AND THROUGHOUT THE MIDDLE EAST;

NOW THEREFORE IT IS IN THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT:

1. THE SENATE IS OUTRAGED BY THE KIDNAPPING AND THE REPORTS OF COLONEL HIGGINS' EXECUTION, AND CONDEMNS SUCH ACTIONS AS BARBARIC, COWARDLY, AND UTTERLY INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE STANDARDS OF CONDUCT UPHELD BY CIVILIZED PEOPLE.
2. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD UTILIZE ALL AVAILABLE RESOURCES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING ALL AVAILABLE DIPLOMATIC AND INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS, TO DETERMINE THE IDENTITY OF THOSE RESPONSIBLE AND THE DETAILS REGARDING SUCH TERRORIST ACTS.
3. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DETERMINE WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ISOLATE AND BRING TO JUSTICE OR RETALIATE AGAINST THOSE RESPONSIBLE IN A MANNER THAT WOULD REDUCE THE RISK TO AMERICANS FROM TERRORISM.
4. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD RETALIATE AS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE AND FEASIBLE.
5. THE UNITED STATES SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN IRAN THAT WE WILL NOT TOLERATE A CONTINUATION OF PAST POLICIES OF SUPPORT OF GROUPS WHICH UNDERTAKE TERRORIST ACTIONS AGAINST AMERICAN CITIZENS OR DIRECT ASSAULTS ON AMERICAN VITAL INTERESTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST OR ELSEWHERE, AND SHOULD SUCH SUPPORT CONTINUE, THE UNITED STATES WILL HOLD THE AUTHORITIES IN IRAN ACCOUNTABLE FOR THAT SUPPORT AND ACT ACCORDINGLY.
6. THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL SHOULD TAKE ALL NECESSARY STEPS TO HELP ENSURE THAT LIEUTENANT COLONEL HIGGINS, IF STILL ALIVE, IS SAFELY RETURNED TO THE UNITED STATES, AND, IF DEAD, THAT HIS BODY IS RETURNED TO HIS COUNTRY AND FAMILY, AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS DEATH BE IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.
7. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD ENGAGE IN URGENT AND CONTINUED DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL AND OTHER GOVERNMENTS CONCERNING THEIR POLICIES AND ACTIONS WHICH MIGHT HAVE RELEVANCE TO THE INTERESTS OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OR INCREASE THE VULNERABILITY OF UNITED STATES CITIZENS TO ATTACKS BY TERRORISTS.
8. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD CONSULT WITH OTHER NATIONS TO ENSURE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND COORDINATION TO END TERRORIST ATTACKS.

###