News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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IRAQI

STATEMENT

DOLE SAYS BAGHDAD'S LATEST P.R. MOVE "NOTHING NEW;" "IT'S GOING TO FALL LIKE A SCUD"

THERE WAS A LOT OF HOPE AND SURPRISE WHEN BAGHDAD MADE ITS INITIAL ANNOUNCEMENT, BUT AFTER YOU'VE READ THE ENTIRE TEXT, IT'S NOTHING NEW -- IT'S GOING TO FALL LIKE A SCUD.

IF ALL THE CONDITIONS OUTLINED IN THE STATEMENT WERE MET, IT WOULD BE A TOTAL VICTORY FOR SADDAM HUSSEIN AND IT WOULD REWARD HIM IN WAYS THAT GO BEYOND HIS INITIAL AIMS IN INVADING KUWAIT. THE TRUTH OF THE MATTER IS SADDAM HUSSEIN REALIZES THAT HIS BACK IS AGAINST THE WALL -- IF HE'S GOING TO SURVIVE AT ALL POLITICALLY, HE HAS TO SOMEHOW BRING AN END TO THIS WAR, OR USE SOME KIND OF CEASE-FIRE TO PUMP OUT MORE PROPAGANDA.

I THOUGHT AT FIRST IT MIGHT BE A STARTING POINT, AND I'M NOT CERTAIN THAT'S EVEN THE CASE NOW. MY OWN VIEW IS WE OUGHT TO CONTINUE THE MILITARY OPERATIONS JUST AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST --NO LET UP. IF HE'S SERIOUS ABOUT THIS, HE OUGHT TO HAVE A SECOND STATEMENT THAT HE'S WILLING TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS. UNDER TODAY'S STATEMENT, YOU'D HAVE TO ABOLISH A NUMBER OF THE RESOLUTIONS, YOU'D HAVE TO STOP THE ECONOMIC EMBARGO, YOU'D HAVE TO, IN EFFECT, REPAY IRAQ FOR ANY DAMAGES. THE MORE YOU LOOK AT THE LANGUAGE, THE MORE SURPRISED I AM THAT ANYBODY TOOK IT SERIOUSLY.

I THINK WE HAVE TO STAY TUNED, AND SEE IF THIS LATEST PUBLIC RELATIONS MOVE BY SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS ANY IMPACT. RIGHT NOW, IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S ABOUT DOWN FOR THE COUNT.

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