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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

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MADRID PEACE TALKS

MID-EAST PEACE CONFERENCE A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY FOR REAL PEACE

THE CLICHE SAYS THAT A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS. IF THAT IS SO, THE PICTURES TODAY FROM MADRID -- PICTURES OF ARABS AND ISRAELIS, TOGETHER AROUND A TABLE -- THOSE PICTURES SPEAK ELOQUENTLY OF THE HISTORIC NATURE OF THESE TALKS.

FOR MORE THAN FOUR DECADES, THE NATIONS AND PEOPLE OF THAT REGION HAVE LIVED WITH WAR, AND VIOLENCE, AND HATRED, AND SUSPICION. TODAY, THEY BEGIN TO TALK ABOUT PEACE.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S OPENING REMARKS STRUCK EXACTLY THE RIGHT NOTE; OR, TO BE MORE PRECISE, EXACTLY THE RIGHT TWO NOTES: HOPEFUL, BUT REALISTIC.

THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY; THE KIND OF OPPORTUNITY THAT ANOTHER AMERICAN PRESIDENT, IN ANOTHER ERA, TALKING ABOUT ANOTHER SITUATION, CALLED "THE LAST, BEST HOPE FOR PEACE." IF THESE TALKS FINALLY FAIL, A UNIQUE CHANCE FOR REAL PEACE, AT A UNIQUE POINT IN WORLD HISTORY, WILL BE LOST.

HE PUT THE MONKEY SQUARELY ON THE BACKS OF THE DELEGATIONS AND DELEGATES GATHERED IN MADRID. IT IS UP TO THEM TO PUT ASIDE PREJUDICE AND PROPAGANDA, AND SINCERELY EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR PEACE. IT IS UP TO THEM TO GIVE PEACE A CHANCE. THE FATE OF THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN IS IN THEIR HANDS.

GOAL OF REAL PEACE REQUIRES REAL GIVE-AND-TAKE

THE PRESIDENT STRESSED THAT THE GOAL OF THIS CONFERENCE MUST BE A REAL PEACE, NOT SHORT-TERM, BAND-AID PALLIATIVES. A REAL PEACE MEANS BINDING TREATIES, FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. A REAL PEACE MEANS SECURITY FOR ISRAEL, AND FOR ALL THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE REGION. A REAL PEACE MEANS JUSTICE FOR THE PALESTINIANS, AND FOR ALL THE OTHER PEOPLE OF THE REGION.

PRESIDENT BUSH REMINDED EVERYONE, TOO, THAT SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS REQUIRE NOT JUST POSTURING AND PROPAGANDA, BUT REAL GIVE-AND-TAKE. COMPROMISE. GIVING SOMETHING TO GET SOMETHING. ALL SIDES HAVE TO GIVE. ALL SIDES HAVE TO GET. OTHERWISE THESE TALKS WON'T WORK, AND THERE WILL BE NO PEACE FOR ANYONE.

FINALLY, THE PRESIDENT TALKED FRANKLY ABOUT THE TOUGH TASKS AHEAD. TODAY IS A DAY OF GREAT HOPE; BUT IT MUST ALSO BE A DAY OF REALISM AND DETERMINATION. THESE TALKS WILL NOT BE EASY. THEY WILL NOT BE QUICK. THEY WILL NOT PRODUCE PEACE TOMORROW, OR NEXT WEEK, OR NEXT MONTH.

THIS IS A MARATHON, NOT A SPRINT. AND WE ALL BETTER BE READY TO GO THE FULL "26 MILES" OF THIS MARATHON -- AND THEN BE READY TO GO THE "EXTRA MILE" FOR PEACE.

I'M CONVINCED PRESIDENT BUSH IS READY. READY TO PROVIDE THE SAME KIND OF STEADY, SURE LEADERSHIP THAT CATALYZED THIS CONFERENCE. READY TO DO THAT FOR AS LONG AS IT TAKES.

I HOPE THE DELEGATIONS AND DELEGATES IN MADRID ARE READY. I HOPE THEY BROUGHT PLENTY OF LUGGAGE, BECAUSE THEY'RE GOING TO BE AT IT FOR A WHILE.

SUPPORTING PRESIDENT BUSH'S LEADERSHIP

AND I HOPE THE CONGRESS IS READY, TOO. READY TO BACK THE PRESIDENT IN THIS GREAT EFFORT AT PEACE -- JUST AS WE DID EARLIER THIS YEAR IN A TIME OF WAR. READY TO LET HIM DO HIS JOB, AS PRESIDENT, WITHOUT THE "BENEFIT" -- AND THAT'S IN QUOTES -- OF INCESSANT SECOND-GUESSING, AND MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACKING. AND WITHOUT ALLOWING OURSELVES TO BECOME A LOBBYIST FOR ANY SIDE, AGAINST OUR OWN PRESIDENT, IF THINGS DON'T GO QUITE RIGHT.

THIS IS AN HISTORIC, AND HOPEFUL, DAY. I KNOW EVERY SENATOR JOINS ME IN CONGRATULATING PRESIDENT BUSH ON THE DIPLOMACY WHICH HAS BROUGHT US TO THIS POINT, AND ON HIS FINE SPEECH. AND I KNOW THAT EVERY SENATOR JOINS ME IN CHALLENGING ALL OF THOSE GATHERED IN MADRID TO LIVE UP TO THE CRITICAL RESPONSIBILITY THAT HISTORY HAS PLACED ON THEM, AND TO MAKE THESE TALKS A SUCCESS.

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