

Remarks of Senator Bob Dole
86TH ANNUAL MEETING
of the
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
May 13, 1992

WELCOME TO CAPITOL HILL. I KNOW YOU HAVE A FULL AGENDA,
AND I'M PLEASED TO BE PART OF IT.

YOUR VISIT IS TIMELY. MUCH HAS CHANGED THESE PAST 12
MONTHS, BOTH HERE IN WASHINGTON AND AROUND THE WORLD.

WE'RE ALL STILL GRAPPLING WITH THE MEANING AND IMPORT OF
THE RECENT AND TERRIBLE EVENTS IN LOS ANGELES. THERE ARE NO EASY
ANSWERS.

WHATEVER OUR VIEWS OF THE VERDICT IN THE RODNEY KING
CASE -- AND IT IS HARD NOT TO VIEW THAT VERDICT SKEPTICALLY --
I'M NOT SURE IT SERVES ANYONE'S LONG-TERM INTEREST TO GIVE UP ON
OR START BASHING OUR JUDICIAL PROCESS. IN FACT, OUR JUDICIAL
SYSTEM, OVERALL, HAS PROBABLY DONE MORE TO PROTECT AND ADVANCE
MINORITY RIGHTS THAN ANY OTHER INSTITUTION OF OUR GOVERNMENT.
AND ONE COURT CASE, NO MATTER HOW SHOCKING OR SEEMINGLY UNFAIR
ITS OUTCOME, DOESN'T CHANGE THAT.

MORE TO THE POINT, THE KING CASE CERTAINLY DOESN'T
PROVIDE ANY JUSTIFICATION FOR CRIMINAL VIOLENCE. BURNING AND
LOOTING AND RANDOM ASSAULTS ON INNOCENT PEOPLE DON'T DO A WHIT OF
GOOD FOR EITHER RODNEY KING, OR FOR THE PEOPLE OF EAST LOS ANGELES.

I ALSO DON'T BUY LAYING ALL THE CARNAGE AND THE CHAOS AT
THE DOORSTEP OF ANY ONE PRESIDENT OR ADMINISTRATION, PAST OR
PRESIDENT. LYNDON JOHNSON AND JIMMY CARTER DON'T DESERVE ALL THE
BLAME, TO BE SURE. BUT NEITHER DO RONALD REAGAN AND GEORGE BUSH.

AND I CAN'T BE TOO CLEAR ABOUT THIS -- SOME OF THE BLAME

FALLS ON THOSE WHO RIOT AND LOOT. THEIR ACTIONS ARE UNJUSTIFIED, AND -- NO MATTER WHAT THEIR ECONOMIC OR SOCIAL STATE -- THAT IS NO EXCUSE FOR THE KIND OF LAWLESSNESS AND VIOLENCE WE ALL WITNESSED.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, WE DO HAVE A LOT OF UNFINISHED WORK IN THIS COUNTRY. RACISM IS A SICK AND SAD FACT OF LIFE WITH FAR TOO MANY PEOPLE. AND WE DO HAVE ENORMOUS SOCIAL PROBLEMS -- MANY, BUT NOT ALL OF THEM, CENTERED IN OUR LARGE URBAN AREAS.

THE FACT IS, NOT ONE OF US HAS THE WHOLE ANSWER. THE FACT IS, THIS WHOLE STORY HAS FAR MORE VICTIMS THAN VILLAINS; AND THIS WHOLE PROBLEM YIELDS FAR MORE QUESTIONS THAN SIMPLE ANSWERS.

AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM UNLESS WE SET ASIDE VIOLENCE AND HATRED; PUT DOWN POSTURING AND PARTISANSHIP; AND WORK TOGETHER -- THE ENTIRE NATION -- TO DEAL FORTHRIGHTLY WITH ALL THE COMPLEX ASPECTS OF THIS SITUATION.

WITH POVERTY. WITH SHORTCOMINGS IN OUR EDUCATIONAL, HOUSING AND HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS. ALL OF THAT.

BUT WITH LAWLESSNESS AND CRIME IN THE STREETS, TOO. WITH A BREAKDOWN IN FAMILY VALUES AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY. WITH THE CENSORSHIP ON OPEN DISCOURSE AND CREATIVE POLICY-MAKING IMPOSED BY THE STRICTURES OF "POLITICAL CORRECTNESS" AND TABOOS ON CERTAIN TRUTHS.

THESE ARE PROBLEMS AFFECTING ALL OF AMERICA. AND THEIR SOLUTION WILL REQUIRE THE INVOLVEMENT OF ALL AMERICANS.

AND THE RIOTS AND THEIR AFTERMATH, OF COURSE, ARE ONLY

THE MOST RECENT OF THE STARTLING EVENTS OF THE PAST 12 MONTHS.

A YEAR AGO, GEORGE BUSH WAS RIDING HIGH IN THE POLLS, AND THE DEMOCRATS WERE SCRAMBLING TO COME UP WITH A "SACRIFICIAL LAMB" FOR '92.

A YEAR AGO, DEMOCRACY AND FREE MARKETS WERE JUST STARTING TO TAKE ROOT IN EASTERN EUROPE, EVEN AS GORBACHEV STRUGGLED TO SURVIVE IN THE SOVIET UNION.

AND A YEAR AGO, WHILE THE COUNTRY WAS STILL CELEBRATING OUR VICTORY IN DESERT STORM, PRESIDENT BUSH LAUNCHED A MAJOR INITIATIVE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- AN INITIATIVE WHICH, FOR THE FIRST TIME, HAS BROUGHT ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE.

TODAY, A YEAR LATER, WE FACE A PRESENT FULL OF PROMISE - - BUT STILL HOLDING MUCH PERIL, FOR AMERICA AND FOR THE IDEALS WE ESPOUSE.

THAT IS TRUE HERE AT HOME WHERE, HOPEFULLY, WE ARE SEEING THE FIRST CONVINCING SIGNS OF AN ECONOMIC RECOVERY.

IT IS TRUE OVERSEAS, TOO, IN THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, IN SOUTH AFRICA, AND ELSEWHERE AROUND THE GLOBE WHERE FREEDOM CONTINUES TO ASSERT ITS TIMELESS APPEAL.

AND IT IS TRUE, PERHAPS MOST POIGNANTLY OF ALL, IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

LET'S FACE IT: WE AMERICANS ARE NOT A PATIENT PEOPLE. IN WHATEVER WE DO, WE WANT VISIBLE PROGRESS. WE WANT QUICK SOLUTIONS. AS I HAVE SUGGESTED, THAT IS TRUE IN TERMS OF RACE RELATIONS AND SOCIAL PROGRESS IN AMERICA. AND IT IS TRUE IN THE

INTERNATIONAL ARENA, TOO.

IN OUR HASTE TO BRING PROBLEMS TO THEIR ULTIMATE SOLUTION, WE SOMETIMES LOSE SIGHT OF WHERE WE STARTED, WHERE WE ARE, AND HOW FAR WE HAVE COME. WE TEND TO FOCUS NOT ON WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED, BUT INSTEAD ON WHAT THERE IS STILL TO BE DONE.

SO TODAY, IF I HAVE ANY MESSAGE IN REGARD TO THE MIDDLE EAST AND U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS -- LET THE MESSAGE BE THIS: KEEP THINGS IN PERSPECTIVE.

AND -- WITHOUT UNDERESTIMATING THE PROBLEMS AND PITFALLS THAT LIE AHEAD -- LET'S KEEP IN MIND HOW FAR WE HAVE COME.

UNDER PRESIDENT BUSH, WE HAVE SEEN THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM -- AN HISTORIC BREAKTHROUGH FOR FREEDOM IN ITS OWN RIGHT, BUT ALSO THE COLLAPSE OF THE "REAR BASE" OF RADICAL ARAB REGIMES.

UNDER THIS PRESIDENT, WE HAVE SEEN NOT ONLY THE FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL, BUT ALSO THE FALL OF THOSE TOWERING WALLS WHICH FOR YEARS IMPRISONED MILLIONS OF JEWS INSIDE THE SOVIET UNION.

UNDER THIS PRESIDENT, WE HAVE SEEN THE DEFEAT OF THE MOST BELLICOSE AND BOLD OF THE RADICAL ARAB LEADERS, SADDAM HUSSEIN; AND THE DECIMATION OF HIS MILITARY MACHINE, THE MOST POWERFUL IN THE REGION OUTSIDE ISRAEL.

UNDER THIS PRESIDENT, AND GROWING OUT OF HIS BRILLIANT AND DETERMINED DIPLOMACY IN THE AFTERMATH OF DESERT STORM, WE HAVE SEEN ISRAEL ACHIEVE THE CENTRAL GOAL OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY, DIRECT TALKS WITH THE ARAB STATES -- TALKS ARRANGED LARGELY ON ISRAEL'S TERMS.

NOW, LET ME BE CLEAR. NO ONE HERE HAS HIS OR HER HEAD BURIED IN THE SAND. THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF SUBSTANCE AND NEGOTIATING STRATEGY IN U.S.-ISRAELI RELATIONS. THERE ARE PROBLEMS OF POLICY AND PERCEPTION WHICH HAVE DRIVEN A WEDGE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND MANY IN THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY.

BUT ARE THESE DIFFERENCES IMPORTANT ENOUGH, WHEN MEASURED AGAINST ALL THAT WE HAVE IN COMMON -- ALL THAT ISRAEL SHARES WITH THE U.S., ALL THAT PRESIDENT BUSH SHARES WITH THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF JEWISH AMERICANS -- ARE THE DIFFERENCES SO IMPORTANT THAT THEY SHOULD THREATEN ALL THAT WE HOLD IN COMMON?

MORE TO THE POINT, EXACTLY WHOSE INTERESTS ARE SERVED WHEN ISRAEL AND THE U.S. LET BRUISED FEELINGS LEAD TO BRINKMANSHIP? WHOSE INTERESTS ARE SERVED WHEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMUNITY LET RUMOR AND RHETORIC SUBSTITUTE FOR REASONED COMMUNICATION AND COMPROMISE, AS WE ALL SEEK TO SHAPE AMERICAN POLICIES IN WAYS THAT ADVANCE AMERICAN INTERESTS -- AND DO THAT IN IMPORTANT PART BY INSURING THE SECURITY OF ISRAEL?

WE ARE WELL INTO OUR ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ISRAEL IS COMING TO THE CLOSE OF ITS CAMPAIGN. IT IS A DIFFICULT TIME IN BOTH COUNTRIES TO AVOID POSTURING AND PARTISANSHIP, AND TRY A LITTLE STATESMANSHIP.

BUT DON'T THE STAKES FOR ALL OF US DEMAND THAT WE TRY? THAT WE EACH DO OUR PART TO BRING OUR NATION -- OUR PRESIDENT, AND YOUR COMMUNITY -- TOGETHER, RATHER THAN PLOTTING HOW TO BRING

EACH OTHER TO GRIEF? THAT WE EACH DO OUR PART TO REBUILD AGE-OLD TIES BETWEEN OUR NATION AND ISRAEL -- TIES OF PRINCIPLE AND POLICY THAT TRANSCEND TRANSITORY PROBLEMS?

AS I SAID EARLIER, THESE ARE HISTORIC DAYS, OF BOTH PROMISE AND PERIL. IT IS UP TO US -- AND IN IMPORTANT WAYS TO THE PEOPLE IN THIS ROOM -- TO DECIDE WHICH PATH WE CHOOSE.



The American Jewish
Committee

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

2027 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036, Telephone (202) 265-2000, FAX (202) 462-4664

F.Y.I.

To: Yvonne Hopkins

From: Jason Isaacson

Return ☐ 224-8952

Keep or toss ☐

Post-It™ FYI pad 768s

May 6, 1992

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Leader,

I am writing to express the pleasure and gratitude of the American Jewish Committee that you have agreed to address our Annual Meeting in Washington on May 13, 1992, at 1:00 p.m. in the Russell Senate Caucus Room.

As you know from our earlier correspondence, you will be speaking in the course of the Opening Luncheon of our three-day meeting -- a conference, scheduled in Washington every three years, in which hundreds of our members, active in politics and in civic and Jewish communal affairs, will examine public policy questions central to the American Jewish community in 1992. Just after your presentation, we will be hearing from Senator Mitchell, the Majority Leader, who is scheduled to speak at 1:30 p.m. Earlier, we will be addressed by Senator Lautenberg, who is this year's recipient of the AJC Congressional Leadership Award.

Because of the high interest of our members in politics and public policy, and because our Annual Meeting occurs at roughly the halfway point of the 1992 election campaign, our members would be grateful for your thoughts on the differing policies and approaches of the two parties this year on the key issues of concern to our community.

Last week's verdict in the Rodney King case, which we have deplored, and the shocking violence it triggered in Los Angeles and other cities have gripped our member's attention -- and led us to sharpen our focus in the Annual Meeting on America's neglected urban agenda. We hope you will keep that concern in mind as you address our meeting.

Of course, as our previous correspondence notes, our members remain vitally concerned about the health of the U.S.-Israel relationship, Israel's security and well-being in a stable Middle East, American willingness to project force where needed to defend its national security interests, full rights and freedoms for threatened Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union and around the world, and the continued vitality of the American tradition of tolerance and pluralism that has protected minorities and strengthened our Nation for more than two centuries.

Again, we are honored and delighted that you will be addressing -- and enriching -- this 86th Annual Meeting of the American Jewish Committee. If you or your staff have any questions about the program, please do not hesitate to call my office.

Our members are looking forward to being with you on May 13.

Sincerely,

Jason F. Isaacson
Director

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

SENATOR:

The AJC is a very mainstream organization that, like the Jewish community at large, is mostly Democratic but above all pro-Israel.

You can expect a polite-to-warm reception to prepared remarks, and -- if you take questions -- some pointed-to-critical ones on loan guarantees, etc.

I would tend not to do a joint appearance with Mitchell, since he can say the "politically correct" things to get a warmer reception from this group.

AL

04
Feb. 10
Pryor
10
hmm

MEMORANDUM
OF CALL

TO: _____

☐ YOU WERE CALLED BY—

☐ YOU WERE VISITED BY—

Jason Isaacson - Am.

OF (Organization)

JewishC

265-2000

☐ PLEASE CALL →

PHONE NO.
CODE/EXT. _____

☐ WILL CALL AGAIN

☐ IS WAITING TO SEE YOU

☐ RETURNED YOUR CALL

☐ WISHES AN APPOINTMENT

MESSAGE

RE: May 13 Speech
invitation - 325 Russell —

Mitchell said YES & will
come at 1:30 p.m. If this
info. helps Senator's decision

RECEIVED BY

DATE

5-4

TIME

10:10

Wed, May 13

1⁰⁰ 12:00 Noon

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**The American Jewish
Committee**

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April 9, 1992

The Honorable Robert Dole
Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Leader,

On behalf of the American Jewish Committee, it gives me great pleasure to invite you to address the opening luncheon of our 86th Annual Meeting, scheduled for noon on Wednesday, May 13, 1992, in the Senate Caucus Room, 325 Russell Building.

The opening luncheon will kick off a three-day program in which hundreds of our members, active in politics and in civic and Jewish communal affairs, will examine public policy questions central to the American Jewish community in 1992. We are particularly interested in the health of the U.S.-Israel relationship, Israel's security and well-being in a stable Middle East, American willingness to project force where needed to defend its national security interests, full rights and freedoms for threatened Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union and around the world, and the continued vitality of the American tradition of tolerance and pluralism that has protected minorities and strengthened our Nation for more than two centuries.

Because our Washington meeting this year coincides with a critically important national election campaign, we would like to begin our program with a focus on politics. As a tax-exempt educational organization, the American Jewish Committee is, of course, strictly nonpartisan. But our members are deeply interested in political issues and involved in political life, and they and I would be honored to hear your thoughts on the differing policies and approaches of the two parties this year on the key issues of concern to our community. We have asked Senator Mitchell, the Majority Leader, to address our luncheon as well.

Mr. Leader, the American Jewish Committee has applauded your successful efforts over the years to secure the right of emigration for Soviet Jews; the recent wave of emigration to Israel -- the newfound freedom of hundreds of thousands of Jews long oppressed behind the Iron Curtain -- is in no small part due to your diligence and devotion to their cause, and we are grateful. You have won our admiration, as well, for your leadership on ratification of the Genocide Treaty, to cite another of our many areas of common interest and concern. In your legislative efforts, I know you have been supported on numerous occasions by my good friend and our former Washington Representative, Hyman Bookbinder; I would like you to know that Bookie intends to participate in the luncheon to which I am inviting you.

contact: Dottie 265-2000

4-13 copy to Al -- ok per Al

The Honorable Robert Dole
April 9, 1992

Page Two

As you may know, the American Jewish Committee is the Nation's first human relations organization. Founded in 1906, it has been in the forefront of efforts to combat bigotry and anti-Semitism, promote human rights for all, defend democratic values and seek their realization in American public policy. We are committed to Israel's security and welfare and to a strong and close relationship between Israel and the United States.

The American Jewish Committee appreciates your consideration of this invitation. Jason Isaacson, Bookie's successor as our Director of Government and International Affairs, can assist your staff in further details.

I wish you continued success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Alfred H. Moses", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alfred H. Moses
President

AHM/dw