

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-8946

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE

"NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CAUSE OF WORLD PEACE"

The Bible tells us that "the work of righteousness shall be peace." On February 21 of this year the President of the United States will begin a journey to do the work of righteousness. He will go to do the work of a people who, however often we may falter and fail in our efforts, still seek to be a righteous people -- a people who covet no nation's holdings.

We covet the future, because it belongs to our children and their children and on. It belongs as well to the children of those who would make themselves our adversaries, and we cannot suppose that the leaders or the laborers of any nation love their children less than we love our own. This much we share with them and more. We share the same planet, and the same destiny as inhabitants of this planet. We share the same fate as children of a just God, Who must judge us all. We share the same responsibility for our deeds-- and we cannot suppose that a just God finds satisfaction in the pain of some of his creatures, and sorrow in the pain of others--so that our deeds must be judged equally with the deeds of those whom we oppose in the world.

In these things that we share, the peoples of the world are united. We see this clearly. It is our hope that the leaders of the other great powers also see it clearly. By what we hold in common, we hope to find a common road to peace. We believe that there is today as great an opportunity as has occurred in this century to find a lasting peace. In this belief and in this hope, President Nixon will go in search of that peace.

And as we all share in the desire for peace, so we must all share in the hope that he will succeed. But our hopes alone are not sufficient. We must send our prayers as well.

(more)

As a gesture of that shared desire and as a demonstration of our good will, I hereby offer a resolution to read as follows:

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the American people share with all the people in the world an earnest desire for peace and the relaxation of tensions among nations; and

WHEREAS it is the policy of the United States to engage in negotiations rather than confrontations with other nations; and will begin an historic visit in the Peoples Republic of China to confer with that nation's leaders with the purpose of seeking more normal relations between the two countries and exchanging views on questions of mutual concern; and

WHEREAS the people of the United States hold the highest and most fervent hopes for the success of the President's mission;

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate (House of Representatives Concurring) That it is the sense of Congress

(1) That Monday, February 21, 1972, be commemorated as a day of united support for the President's efforts in pursuit of the relaxation of international tensions and an enduring and just peace;

(2) That the leaders of all nations and men of good will throughout the world be urged to devote all possible efforts to promote the cause of peace and international harmony as set forth in the preamble to the Charter of the United Nations;

(3) That the President designate Sunday, February 20, 1972, as a National Day of Prayer for the cause of world peace; and

(4) That copies of this resolution be sent to the Governors of the several States and be delivered by the appropriate representatives of the United States Government to the appropriate representatives of every nation of the world.

The quest for peace knows no partisanship, no regionalism -- nor does it recognize nationality or ideology. The quest for peace is its own universal cause.

I extend a firm and open invitation to all my colleagues to join in sponsoring this declaration of our Congress' and our people's hope and support for the President.

And I would trust that with the cooperation of the Senate leadership, it might secure expedited consideration and speedy approval and serve as a means of saying to the President, as in the scriptures, "Go in Peace."