



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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THE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS OF REMARKS BY
SENATOR BOB DOLE
PREPARED FOR DELIVERY THIS MORNING AT A
BOARD MEETING OF THE CORN REFINERS ASSOCI-
ATION, MADISON HOTEL, WASHINGTON, D.C.

TALK OF SUMMIT DELAY DISTURBING

It is with great regret that I read the recent suggestion of one of my colleagues calling for the postponement of next week's summit meeting between Soviet Party Chief Brezhnev and President Nixon. This strikes me as precisely the wrong time for such a suggestion. There could be no greater mistake nor any greater blow to the foundation of peace than to postpone those meetings.

It would be wrong -- and more, it would be folly -- to allow the Watergate preoccupations of the moment to bring the operations of this Government to a standstill. And I must disagree with those who -- for whatever good intention -- counsel caution in this most important pursuit -- the pursuit of peace.

The furor of the front page is being confused with the President's ability to govern. The excitement of the hearing room is being confused with the fact that the work of the Chief Executive continues under long-held Constitutional procedures.

It is my judgment that a threat exists quite opposite from the one that has been outlined. The President's conduct of foreign policy throughout his tenure has been expert. The prospects for continued progress remain quite good. The only danger is that those who expect a turn for the worse in foreign affairs -- will, by their thinking, make it so.

For my part, I have no doubt whatsoever in Mr. Nixon's ability to walk carefully and skillfully down the difficult road of sensitive negotiation. His record, in this regard, speaks volumes.

PRECEDENTS FOR SUCCESS

I think that it is fair to assure our fellow citizens that President Nixon won't be limping into these negotiations. The great foreign policy successes of Mr. Nixon -- in China, Vietnam, and Russia -- did not come through a weakened negotiating position. These successes came about because of Mr. Nixon's capabilities as a seasoned negotiator.

Last year, broad steps were taken by the Soviet Union and the United States with regard to the limitation of defensive nuclear weapons. New and important trade agreements were signed. As each of these steps were taken, and as each new negotiating benchmark is reached, America and the World move closer to lasting peace. For the first time in too many years, a generation of Americans can grow up without the ever-present fear of confrontation.

This is what is at stake next week, and no one understands the stakes as well as the President.

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NEW PROGRESS EXPECTED

Those who fear that too many concessions will be made in light of current domestic events express a fear founded not in fact, but in conjecture. When Mr. Brezhnev arrives next week, he knows he will not be dealing with the Congress of the United States or the editorial writers and television commentators. He knows, instead, that he will be dealing with a President who has full constitutional powers to conduct the foreign policy of the United States. I am convinced that new progress will be made and new goals will be reached. The work of peace is not easy and the permanence of peace has always been one of man's most fragile dreams, yet it is work that must be done and a dream which can be fulfilled.

I can think of no greater mistake to make than that of trying to postpone the solution of the world's problems and of America's problems. We cannot stick our heads in the sand to wait till the storm has passed, but we must weather the storm as we have weathered them before. What a tragic error it would be to miss opportunities and to avoid our responsibilities by pleading the difficulty of our mission.

WORK OF PEACE MUST GO ON

Foreign policy is not a baseball game to be rescheduled with rain checks. And the concerns of Americans are important enough that momentary passions must not delay the desire to deal with those concerns. This is no time for the fear of failure, but it is time to meet our responsibilities and overcome the obstacles.

The summit should go on and it must go on. We could make excuses forever as to why the crucial work of peace should be postponed. But if we did that, the work of peace might not be completed. I have no fear that the president will negotiate the best agreement he can get, and I see no reason for any American to doubt that. More importantly, I am convinced that Mr. Brezhnev does not doubt that.

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