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DOLE PRAISES SHULTZ, URGES SWIFT SENATE CONFIRMATION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today had the following statement inserted into the Foreign Relations Committee hearing record during the confirmation hearing of Secretary of State-designate George Shultz:

Those of us who have had an opportunity to work with him during his many years of government service in the past -- especially when he served as Secretary of Labor and as Secretary of the Treasury -- have been deeply impressed by his outstanding qualities of dedication, intelligence, good judgment and good sense. Our country has already profited very substantially from the contributions he has made not only in public service but also as an energetic businessman and as a teacher.

In his new capacity as Secretary of State, George Shultz will provide a firm and consistent right hand to the President, who also has known him well for many years. I am confident that the process of formulating foreign policy, with all of its personal as well as institutional complexities, will move forward smoothly with his participation.

Beyond his substantive expertise and his wide personal appeal here at home, George Shultz has also won the confidence and the friendship of many officials in other countries, in Europe and elsewhere, with whom he will be working as Secretary of State. This asset will, I am sure, be of special value as we work to overcome some of the many quite serious differences of view and differences of approach that have recently emerged in our relations with these countries, especially in the area of international economic and trade policy.

George's particular skill in this area — and his close personal involvement in economic policy issues on a very current basis as a result of his active participation in preparations for the most recent economic summit in Versailles in June — is one that has become increasingly important for a secretary of state to have. Foreign economic and monetary policy matters have become increasingly linked to the more traditional political and security aspects of our overall foreign policy, and this linkage is also growing in the foreign policies of all the countries with which we must deal. In the effort to sort out these difficult linkages and relationships, and to establish a firm and effective foreign policy that embraces all these issues. The contribution that he will make will be of the highest importance to us.

It is a difficult world, and a difficult moment, that we face today with negotiations underway on strategic arms control with the Soviet Union, with a painful conflict in the Middle East and the risk of even more widespread violence to come, with deep strains in our relationships with our allies especially in the area of economic and trade policy. George Shultz will face as difficult a task as any secretary of state has ever confronted, but I welcome him to his new field of endeavor and look forward to working closely with him.