

REMARKS BY
THE HONORABLE ROBERT DOLE
UNITED STATES SENATOR

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICANS OF ASIAN INDIAN DESCENT
ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY
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LAST MONTH IN NEW DELHI, VICE PRESIDENT BUSH DISCUSSED THE VALUES SHARED BY INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES -- INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND FREEDOM.

"FIRST," HE SAID, "IS OUR COMMON HERITAGE AS TWO NATIONS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE ANTI-COLONIAL STRUGGLE. WE BOTH KNOW THE PAIN AND PRICE OF INDEPENDENCE, AND WE BOTH APPRECIATE THE NECESSITY OF CAREFULLY GUARDING OUR HARD-WON FREEDOM."

THE VICE PRESIDENT POINTED OUT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES WILL BE HAVING ELECTIONS SOON, AND HE SAID, "OUR COMMON DEMOCRATIC TRADITIONS HOLD OUR NATIONS IN AN ENDURING ALLIANCE OF THE SPIRIT -- THE VIBRANT, UNBREAKABLE ALLIANCE OF FREE MEN EVERYWHERE."

THE THIRD SHARED VALUE HE MENTIONED IS "OPENNESS OF DISCUSSION AND DEBATE, WHETHER IN THE POLITICAL ARENA OR IN A FREE PRESS."

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THE SHARED VALUES BETWEEN YOUR OLD COUNTRY AND YOUR NEW ONE CAN FORM THE BASIS FOR YOUR PRODUCTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE EXCITING PROCESS THAT IS POLITICS IN THE UNITED STATES. WITHOUT SUCH PARTICIPATION, YOU ABDICATE NOT ONLY YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE AMERICA A BETTER PLACE, BUT ALSO YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO DO SO.

I SUSPECT THAT MOST OF YOU CAME TO THIS COUNTRY -- OR ARE DESCENDED FROM IMMIGRANTS WHO CAME HERE -- BECAUSE AMERICA IS THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. I ALSO SUSPECT THAT FOUR YEARS AGO, MANY OF YOU SHARED THE DOUBTS MANY AMERICANS FELT ABOUT WHETHER THE DAYS OF UNLIMITED OPPORTUNITY IN AMERICA WERE OVER.

FOUR YEARS AGO, AMERICA FACED THE GREATEST CHALLENGE IN OUR POST-WAR HISTORY.

OUR NATION'S DEFENSES WERE DANGEROUSLY WEAK. WE HAD SUFFERED HUMILIATION IN IRAN, AND THERE WAS THE SENSE THAT WE HAD LOST THE RESPECT OF FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE.

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OUR NATION LACKED LEADERSHIP. EVEN IN WASHINGTON OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS FAILED TO TRUST IN THE COURAGE AND CHARACTER OF AMERICANS, ATTRIBUTING OUR PROBLEMS TO A NATIONAL "MALAISE."

QUICK-FIX GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS, GROWING MORE OBESE BY THE MINUTE AND OFTEN IMPOSED ON THE AMERICAN PEOPLE AGAINST THEIR WILL, THREATENED THE VERY FABRIC OF OUR SOCIETY.

YEARS OF GOVERNMENT OVERSPENDING AND OVERTAXING HAD LEFT US IN THE WORST ECONOMIC MESS SINCE THE GREAT DEPRESSION. IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE LAST DECADE, TAXES DOUBLED; YET, FEDERAL SPENDING INCREASED EVEN MORE.

INFLATION ROSE TO OVER 12 PERCENT IN 1980. INTEREST RATES WERE OVER 21 PERCENT.

PRODUCTIVITY, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION AND WORKERS' EARNINGS WERE DOWN. THE ONLY THINGS GOING UP WERE PRICES, UNEMPLOYMENT, TAXES, POVERTY AND THE SIZE OF GOVERNMENT.

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AMERICANS WERE READY TO MAKE A NEW BEGINNING. SO WE ELECTED PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN AND VICE PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH TO LEAD US INTO A MORE PROMISING FUTURE.

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY IN THESE LAST THREE YEARS. NOW THERE IS A RENEWED ENERGY AND OPTIMISM THROUGHOUT THE LAND.

AMERICANS HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE THAN THEY HAVE HAD IN YEARS.

UNDER PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LEADERSHIP, WE HAVE REBUILT OUR NATIONAL DEFENSES AND GAINED RESPECT AMONG NATIONS WITH A FIRM, COHERENT FOREIGN POLICY. THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN STRENGTHENED AND AMERICA HAS REGAINED ITS STANDING AS THE LEADING ADVOCATE OF PEACE AND FREEDOM IN THE WORLD.

IN 1981, PRESIDENT REAGAN OFFERED A PLAN FOR ECONOMIC RECOVERY, AND IT HAS WORKED.

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BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S FAITH IN THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PRODUCE IF GOVERNMENT WOULD JUST GIVE THEM ENOUGH ELBOW ROOM, THE NATION BEGAN TO PULL ITSELF UPWARD INTO RECOVERY.

INFLATION DROPPED LIKE A ROCK, AND INTEREST RATES FELL BY NEARLY HALF. THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS BEGAN TO TURN UPWARD. MEN AND WOMEN BEGAN TO GO BACK TO WORK.

HOUSES BEGAN TO BE BUILT. AUTOS BEGAN TO BE SOLD. RETAIL SALES BEGAN TO RISE. THE ECONOMY WAS PULLING OUT OF ITS LONG DECLINE.

TODAY, INFLATION IS LESS THAN HALF OF WHAT IT WAS IN 1980, AND INTEREST RATES ARE AROUND HALF OF WHAT THEY WERE. RIDING AN ECONOMIC GROWTH WAVE THAT ALMOST HIT 9 PERCENT THE FIRST QUARTER, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS COME DOWN 3.2 PERCENT IN LESS THAN A YEAR AND A HALF -- THE BEST ECONOMIC RECOVERY IN 30 YEARS.

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IN MAY ALONE, NEARLY 900,000 JOBS WERE CREATED. THE ECONOMIC INDICATORS HAVE BEEN UP EVERY MONTH BUT ONE FOR A YEAR AND A HALF, PRODUCTIVITY WAS UP 4.1 PERCENT IN THE FIRST QUARTER, AND BUSINESS INVESTMENT IS SOARING -- ALL OF WHICH PROMISE TO KEEP THE REAGAN RECOVERY ROLLING.

TODAY, MY MESSAGE TO YOU IS THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S RENEWAL OF HOPE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR AMERICA MEANS HOPE, OPPORTUNITY AND EQUALITY FOR ALL AMERICANS.

FOR TWO HUNDRED YEARS, AMERICA HAS SYMBOLIZED EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL WHO LIVE WITHIN ITS BORDERS.

OUR FOUNDING DOCUMENTS SPOKE OF EQUALITY. OUR LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY AND EQUAL TREATMENT UNDER THE LAW.

PRESIDENT REAGAN IS A FIRM BELIEVER IN EQUALITY AND OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL AMERICANS. HE BELIEVES WE CAN ACHIEVE TRUE EQUALITY BY PROVIDING INDIVIDUALS WITH THE FREEDOM TO CONTROL THEIR OWN DESTINIES.

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IN ORDER TO PRESERVE AMERICA AS THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY,
IT'S IMPORTANT FOR ALL OF US TO UPHOLD THE COMMON VALUES SHARED
BY INDIA AND THE UNITED STATES -- INDEPENDENCE, DEMOCRACY AND
FREEDOM.

I URGE YOU TO WORK HARD TO PRESERVE THOSE VALUES. REGISTER
AND VOTE. WORK AS A VOLUNTEER IN A CAMPAIGN. BECOME ACTIVE IN
COMMUNITY AFFAIRS. AND, THIS YEAR, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO
IS HELP RE-ELECT PRESIDENT REAGAN AND VICE PRESIDENT BUSH.

IF WE PARTICIPATE WITH VIGOR IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS, WE
CAN ASSURE THAT A GROWING ECONOMY AND EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW
COMBINE TO MAKE OPPORTUNITY BOUNTIFULLY AVAILABLE TO ALL
AMERICANS.