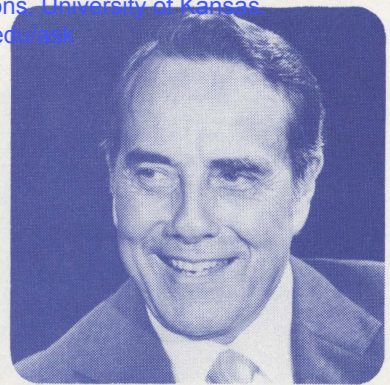


BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1986

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STATEMENT OF MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING AQUINO GOVERNMENT
FEBRUARY 26, 1986

I SEND TO THE DESK A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE SENATE FOR THE NEW PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT CORAZON AQUINO, AND I ASK FOR ITS IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION.

AQUINO GOVERNMENT OFF TO GOOD START

PRESIDENT AQUINO'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN AND ITS AFTERMATH WON HER WIDESPREAD INTERNATIONAL ACCLAIM, AND SHE NOW APPEARS TO BE MOVING WITH THE SAME SKILL AND DECISIVENESS TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. BY REACHING OUT TO INCLUDE RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE FORMER GOVERNMENT IN HER ADMINISTRATION, SHE WILL BROADEN THE BASE OF HER OWN SUPPORT AND INCREASE THE PROSPECTS FOR LONGER-TERM STABILITY IN THE PHILIPPINES -- SOMETHING ESSENTIAL TO THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES.

MAJOR CHALLENGES AHEAD

AS SHE PURSUES THAT AND THE OTHER CHALLENGES FACING THE PHILIPPINES, PRESIDENT AQUINO NEEDS AND DESERVES OUR SUPPORT. THERE IS A NEAR EUPHORIA SURROUNDING THE EMERGENCE OF THE AQUINO GOVERNMENT, A FEELING NOT UNEXPECTED IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES. BUT WE MUST NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS SHE FACES: COMPLETING THE FORMATION OF HER GOVERNMENT AND REVITALIZING PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AT ALL LEVELS; COPING WITH THE POLITICAL JOCKEYING INEVITABLE IN THE KIND OF ABRUPT GOVERNMENTAL TRANSITION WE HAVE SEEN; IMPLEMENTING MUCH-NEEDED REFORM IN THE ARMED SERVICES; AND REFORMING AND RESTORING CONFIDENCE IN AN ECONOMY NOW IN NEAR SHAMBLES.

NOR SHOULD WE SUFFER THE ILLUSION THAT THE NEW GOVERNMENT WILL INEVITABLY VIEW EVERY PROBLEM OR MAKE EVERY DECISION IN PRECISELY THE WAY WE WOULD WISH. THERE IS STILL MUCH WE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT HOW THE AQUINO GOVERNMENT WILL ACT AND EVOLVE. FOR EXAMPLE, PRESIDENT AQUINO HAS COME TO OFFICE WITH AND THROUGH THE SUPPORT OF MANY DISPARATE GROUPS, INCLUDING SOME WHOSE INTERESTS MAY NOT PARALLEL OUR OWN. HOW MUCH SHE WILL WANT OR NEED TO CONTINUE TO RELY ON THOSE ELEMENTS AND HOW MUCH INFLUENCE THEY WILL HAVE ON PHILIPPINE POLICY REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

BASES REMAIN KEY CONCERN

ONE OF OUR MAIN CONCERNS, OF COURSE, WILL BE THE STATUS OF OUR MILITARY FACILITIES AT CLARK AND SUBIC. I AM ENCOURAGED BY THE REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT PRESIDENT AQUINO AND OTHER SENIOR MEMBERS OF HER GOVERNMENT HAVE GIVEN THAT THE BASES AGREEMENT WILL BE HONORED. FROM OUR STANDPOINT, WE CERTAINLY HOPE AND EXPECT THAT IT WILL REMAIN IN FULL EFFECT. AT THE SAME TIME, AS A MATTER OF PRUDENCE, I DO INTEND TO CONTINUE PUSHING FOR PASSAGE OF S. 2078, MY BILL ORDERING A STUDY OF THE FEASIBILITY AND COST OF RELOCATING THOSE FACILITIES.

BIPARTISAN SUPPORT

OUR INTEREST IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OUR SUPPORT FOR THE AQUINO GOVERNMENT ARE NOT PARTISAN MATTERS. I AM PLEASED TO BE JOINED AS COSPONSOR OF THIS RESOLUTION BY THE DISTINGUISHED MINORITY LEADER AND BY SENATORS LUGAR, PELL, KASTEN, KENNEDY, DODD, PRYOR, MELCHER, LEVIN, NUNN AND SASSER.

MEMBERS OF MY STAFF HAVE WORKED CLOSELY WITH STAFF ON THE OTHER SIDE IN DEVELOPING THE LANGUAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION. IT EMBRACES SENTIMENTS I BELIEVE WE ALL CAN SUPPORT. I URGE ALL SENATORS TO JOIN IN PASSING THE RESOLUTION AND SENDING THIS CLEAR MESSAGE OF SUPPORT TO PRESIDENT AQUINO, HER COLLEAGUES IN THE NEW PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND ALL HER COUNTRYMEN.

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