

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SHULTZ AGREES WITH DOLE: "NO DESIRE TO SEE ARAFAT IN U.S."

WASHINGTON -- IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE, R-KAN., SECRETARY OF STATE GEORGE P. SHULTZ SAID, IF YASIR ARAFAT APPLIED FOR A U.S. VISA APPLICATION IT WOULD "RECEIVE MY MOST SEVERE SCRUTINY."

Dole wrote Shultz on May 22 to urge that all U.S. consular personnel reject any visa application made by or on behalf of Arafat, who reportedly planned to attend a United Nations Security Council Session in New York this month.

The following is the text of the Shultz letter:

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

May 29, 1986

Dear Senator Dole:

I am responding to your letter of May 21 concerning the possible application for a visa by Yasir Arafat to attend a United Nations Security Council debate that may be held beginning on June 23.

Like you, I have no desire to see Arafat in the United States. Should he apply for a visa, his application will receive my most severe scrutiny, including a thorough review of all the legal and other factors and circumstances pertinent to his application.

As you know, an individual must submit an application before I could act on it. So far, we have received no application from Arafat, nor do we have any firm indication that he actually intends to seek a visa to attend the UN debate. You should know that we oppose holding the debate itself, since we believe firmly that the Security Council is not a forum conducive to achieving a solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute. Arafat's participation would deepen even further our view that such a debate would be futile at best.

I thank you again for informing me of your views. We share a common desire that Arafat should not come to the United States.

Sincerely,

George P. Shultz

The Honorable
Robert Dole,
United States Senate.