

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

SHULTZ LETTER ON ARAFAT VISA

ON TWO RECENT OCCASIONS, I HAVE SPOKEN ON THE FLOOR OF MY CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PLO'S YASIR ARAFAT MIGHT SEEK A VISA TO COME TO THE UNITED STATES TO ATTEND A SCHEDULED UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON THE MIDDLE EAST.

ON MAY 21 I WROTE TO SECRETARY SHULTZ, URGING THAT HE ISSUE INSTRUCTIONS TO ALL RELEVANT STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS THAT ANY ARAFAT VISA REQUEST BE DENIED.

I HAVE JUST RECEIVED A REPLY FROM THE SECRETARY, DATED MAY 29, WHICH I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH THE SENATE. IN THAT REPLY, SECRETARY SHULTZ INDICATES THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO ARAFAT VISA APPLICATION SO FAR, NOR IS THERE ANY "FIRM INDICATION" THAT ONE WILL BE FORTHCOMING. WHILE NOTING THAT HE CANNOT MAKE ANY FINAL, LEGAL DECISION ON AN APPLICATION UNTIL ONE ACTUALLY IS PRESENTED, THE SECRETARY DOES SAY:

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. WE SHARE A COMMON DESIRE THAT ARAFAT SHOULD NOT COME TO THE UNITED STATES.

SECRETARY'S WORDS WELCOME

I AM VERY HEARTENED BY THE SECRETARY'S WORDS. I THINK THEY DEMONSTRATE AN INTENTION TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE UNDER OUR LAWS TO INSURE THAT ARAFAT NOT BE GIVEN A FORUM IN OUR COUNTRY TO SPREAD HIS POISON.

I KNOW THAT A NUMBER OF OTHER SENATORS HAVE WRITTEN TO THE SECRETARY ALONG THE SAME LINES AS MY LETTER, AND I KNOW THAT THEY WILL JOIN ME IN WELCOMING THE SECRETARY'S POSITIVE RESPONSE.

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