

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

DANILOFF RELEASE

I AM PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE TO ANY WHO MAY NOT ALREADY HAVE HEARD IT THAT U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT JOURNALIST NICK DANILOFF HAS BEEN RELEASED BY THE SOVIETS AND IS NOW EN ROUTE, OR SOON WILL BE, BACK TO THE UNITED STATES.

ALTHOUGH ALL THE INFORMATION SURROUNDING DANILOFF'S RELEASE IS NOT YET AVAILABLE, IT APPEARS HIS RELEASE IS UNCONDITIONAL. IMPLICITLY, AT LEAST, THE SOVIETS ARE ADMITTING THAT NICK DANILOFF WAS NOT A SPY, AND THEY'RE TRYING TO FIND A WAY OUT OF A COLOSSAL BLUNDER.

IF THERE ARE SOME OTHER SHOES TO DROP ON THIS MATTER -- MORE DETAILS ON ANY DEAL SURROUNDING THE RELEASE -- I WILL HOLD OFF COMMENTING ON THEM UNTIL IT IS CLEAR WHAT HAPPENS. FOR NOW, LET ME JUST SAY THAT THE SENATE HAS SPOKEN FORMALLY ON THE DANILOFF CASE TWICE -- WE PASSED TWO STRONG RESOLUTIONS -- AND I THINK EVERY SENATOR HAS PERSONALLY SPOKEN OUT ON THIS MATTER. I WIRED GORBACHEV DIRECTLY ON THIS CASE, AND I KNOW OTHER SENATORS DID, TOO. ALL OF US WERE OUTRAGED BY DANILOFF'S ARREST AND MISTREATMENT; ALL OF US WERE UNITED IN A DEMAND FOR HIS RELEASE. AND WE ARE ALL VERY, VERY PLEASED THAT HE IS COMING HOME, SAFELY AND WITH NO QUESTION ABOUT HIS INNOCENCE OF THE CHARGES LEVIED AGAINST HIM BY THE SOVIETS.

THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN, ESSENTIALLY, A HUMANITARIAN, HUMAN RIGHTS AND VERY PERSONAL CASE, NOT A POLITICAL ONE -- THOUGH IT DID REFLECT ONCE AGAIN THE VERY HARSH POLITICAL REALITIES OF THE SOVIET STATE. SO, ON A PERSONAL LEVEL, I WANT TO OFFER TO NICK DANILOFF THE WISH FOR A QUICK, SAFE TRIP HOME.

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