

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 PUBLIC SUPPORTS REAGAN ON REYKJAVIK MEETING

LAST WEEK I SUGGESTED TO THE PRESS AND BROADCAST MEDIA THAT, WITH ALL THE HANDWRINGING OVER A CAPTIVE AMERICAN SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, THEY WERE MISSING THE REAL STORY OF A MARXIST NIGHTMARE IN NICARAGUA. NOW, IF I MAY QUOTE THE PRESIDENT: "THERE YOU GO AGAIN."

FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS, ALL OF US HAVE BEEN SUBJECTED TO SCREAMING HEADLINES ABOUT THE "COLLAPSE" OF THE REYKJAVIK TALKS BECAUSE OF -- AND I'LL QUOTE A TYPICAL LINE FROM THE PRESS -- "BECAUSE OF THE PRESIDENT'S REFUSAL TO GIVE UP STAR WARS." BUT WHILE THE HEADLINE WRITERS HAVE BEEN BUSY AT THEIR WORK, SOME FAR MORE IMPORTANT THINGS HAVE BEEN GOING ON.

FIRST, THE PRESIDENT GAVE US AN AUTHORITATIVE, COMPREHENSIVE ACCOUNT OF WHAT REALLY HAPPENED IN REYKJAVIK. OTHER ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS -- INCLUDING THE SECRETARY OF STATE UP HERE TWO DAYS AGO -- PROVIDED ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF THE TALKS. THEY SET STRAIGHT A RECORD THAT THE MEDIA HAD GOTTEN VERY, VERY WRONG.

THEN THE GENEVA ARMS CONTROL TALKS RESUMED, RIGHT ON SCHEDULE AND WITH THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF THE SOVIET DELEGATION AND, OF COURSE, OUR OWN DELEGATION. AND THE SOVIET SIDE ARRIVED BACK IN GENEVA AMID REPORTS THAT THE "OFFICIAL POLITBURO POSITION" IN MOSCOW WAS THAT THE DOOR WAS STILL OPEN FOR PROGRESS ON ARMS CONTROL.

AND NOW, LAST EVENING, WE BEGIN TO GET THE RETURNS IN ON WHAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE BELIEVE ABOUT REYKJAVIK. AS USUAL, THE PUBLIC SEEMS TO BE TAKING IN WHAT HAPPENED WITH A GREAT DEAL

(MORE)

MORE CALM, PERSPECTIVE AND GOOD COMMON SENSE THAN WE'VE SEEN IN THE PRESS AND -- SAD TO SAY -- FROM SOME PEOPLE UP HERE ON CAPITOL HILL.

HERE'S WHAT THE BRAND-NEW ABC-WASHINGTON POST POLL TELLS US. DO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE APPROVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF THE REYKJAVIK TALKS? 64% SAY YES, WHILE ONLY 22% SAY NO. THREE TIMES AS MANY SUPPORT THE ACTIONS THE PRESIDENT TOOK AS OPPOSE THEM.

WHAT ABOUT GORBACHEV'S ROLE? THE HEADLINES SAY THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON SDI SUNK AN ACCORD. BUT THE PEOPLE, THANK GOODNESS, KNOW BETTER. ONLY 16% OF THOSE POLLED INDICATED THE PRESIDENT SHOULD SHOULDER THE BLAME. FOUR TIMES AS MANY -- FOUR TIMES AS MANY -- PUT THE BLAME WHERE IT BELONGS: ON GORBACHEV'S DOORSTEP.

AND WHAT ABOUT SDI? THE MEDIA WOULD HAVE YOU BELIEVE THAT SDI'S ONLY SUPPORTERS LIVE AT 1600 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE. BUT THE POLLS SAY OTHERWISE. NEARLY THREE OUT OF FIVE OF ALL RESPONDENTS CHARACTERIZED SDI AS "ESSENTIAL" TO THE U.S. -- ESSENTIAL, MEANING, YOU DON'T GIVE IT AWAY JUST SO YOU CAN GET GORBACHEV'S SIGNATURE ON SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT.

LAST WEEK, IN DISCUSSING ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, I ASKED THE CONGRESS TO "LET THE PRESIDENT BE THE PRESIDENT." TODAY, I WANT TO ADD: THANK GOODNESS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE BEING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE -- WISE, TOUGH AND, AS ALWAYS, UNITED BEHIND THEIR PRESIDENT.

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