

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE: SUMMIT TRIP WAS WORTH IT; PRAISES REAGAN, VISITS WITH GORBACHEV

WASHINGTON -- SAYING IT WAS "AN HONOR TO REPRESENT THE WORLD'S GREATEST DEMOCRACY" AT THE MOSCOW SUMMIT, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY RETURNED TO CAPITOL HILL WHERE HE PRAISED PRESIDENT REAGAN FOR HIS "HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS" IN THE SOVIET UNION.

"ALTHOUGH THE JOURNEY TO MOSCOW AND BACK WAS GRUELING -- 25 HOURS IN RUSSIA AND 25 HOURS IN THE AIR -- IT WAS WORTH IT," DOLE SAID.

DOLE AND SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB BYRD ATTENDED THE SUMMIT AT THE INVITATION OF PRESIDENT REAGAN.

"IT WAS AN HONOR TO REPRESENT THE WORLD'S GREATEST DEMOCRACY. THE SENATE LEADERSHIP'S PRESENCE IN MOSCOW UNDERScoreD THE DIFFERENCES IN OUR POLITICAL SYSTEMS: OURS IS A UNIQUE SYSTEM OF CHECKS AND BALANCES, THEIRS IS A RUBBER STAMP," DOLE SAID.

"PRESIDENT REAGAN IS TO BE CONGRATULATED FOR HIS HISTORIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN MOSCOW. THE RATIFICATION OF THE INF TREATY IS A TOWERING ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS ADMINISTRATION, THE FIRST TREATY TO EVER ELIMINATE AN ENTIRE CLASS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

"I DON'T AGREE AT ALL WITH SOME OF THE REPORTS WE'RE HEARING ABOUT THE SUMMIT, THAT SOMEHOW 'NOTHING HAPPENED'. QUITE TO THE CONTRARY, THERE WERE A NUMBER OF IMPRESSIVE INITIATIVES -- WE RATIFIED A MAJOR TREATY, AND CONCLUDED A NUMBER OF AGREEMENTS THAT WILL PAVE THE WAY FOR MORE STUDENT EXCHANGES, AND COOPERATION ON DRUG INTERDICTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT."

"AS USUAL, SUMMIT EXPECTATIONS WERE BLOWN ALL OUT OF PROPORTION. HOWEVER, DESPITE THE MEDIA CLAMOR FOR A START AGREEMENT, THE PRESIDENT DEMONSTRATED ONCE AGAIN HE'S NOT READY TO GIVE AWAY THE STORE JUST TO MAKE SOME NEWS," DOLE SAID.

DURING THE OFFICIAL U.S. DINNER FOR THE SOVIETS, SENATOR DOLE WAS SEATED NEXT TO MIKHAIL GORBACHEV. DOLE DISCUSSED A VARIETY OF ISSUES WITH THE SOVIET LEADER FOR THREE HOURS, INCLUDING TRADE, AGRICULTURE, ECONOMIC REFORM, WOMEN IN GOVERNMENT, AND THE RIGHTS OF DISABLED PERSONS WORLDWIDE.

"NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MISTER GORBACHEV IS A FORMIDABLE LEADER. HE IS SMART, UP TO SPEED ON THE ISSUES, VERY FRANK AND VERY CONFIDENT," DOLE SAID.