

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LITHUANIA PRESIDENT INVITES DOLE TO VISIT TROUBLED REPUBLIC.
DOLE "ACCEPTS IN PRINCIPLE",
SALUTES LITHUANIA FOR "STANDING FAST
IN THE FACE OF PROVOCATION AND INTIMIDATION"

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY "ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE", AN INVITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF LITHUANIA TO VISIT THAT BELEAGUERED REPUBLIC.

THAT INVITATION CAME IN A LETTER TO DOLE FROM VYTAUTAS LANDSBERGIS, PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA.

"I AM HONORED TO RECEIVE THIS INVITATION, ESPECIALLY DURING THESE DAYS OF EXTREME TENSION IN LITHUANIA." DOLE SAID. "I ADMIRE THE COURAGE OF THE LITHUANIAN PEOPLE AND THEIR LEADERS. WHILE WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE DURING THESE TROUBLESOME TIMES, IT IS FAIR TO SAY THAT IF PRESIDENT GORBACHEV RESORTS TO FORCE, THEN ALL BETS ARE OFF.

"THE SOVIETS WILL BE IN REAL TROUBLE HERE -- NO TRADE AGREEMENTS, NO TRADE PREFERENCES, AND NO MORE OF THE KIND OF RELATIONS THE KREMLIN IS DESPERATELY SEEKING FROM WASHINGTON.

"IT WOULD BE A SEVERE BLOW TO U.S./SOVIET RELATIONS," DOLE SAID.

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 1990

His Excellency Vytautas Landsbergis
President of the Supreme Council of the
Republic of Lithuania
Vilnius

Dear Mr. President:

I very much appreciate your invitation to make a personal visit to the Republic of Lithuania.

I join all Americans in deep admiration of the courage and determination of the Lithuanian people in asserting their right to independence, in standing fast in the face of provocation and intimidation, and in remaining committed to a non-violent course. As you know, the Senate has recently voted unanimously in favor of a resolution sponsored by our Majority Leader, Senator Mitchell, and myself, declaring our strong support for your struggle for independence.

These are critical days for Lithuania, and for the cause of freedom. All of us wish to do everything possible to support you in your pursuit of your legitimate goals. None of us wishes to do anything to complicate your problems, or needlessly exacerbate an extremely sensitive situation.

But as an expression of my commitment to stand with the people of Lithuania, I am proud to accept in principle your invitation to make a personal visit to Lithuania. I would be happy to discuss with representatives of your Government how and when such a visit can be accomplished in a manner that will be of maximum help to you.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate