

News from Senator

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MIDDLE EAST

MORE VIOLENCE, LESS HOPE IN THE MIDDLE EAST: DOLE SAYS TIME RUNNING OUT ON WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

DURING THE EASTER RECESS, I LED A BIPARTISAN SENATE DELEGATION THAT VISITED FIVE COUNTRIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST -- SYRIA, EGYPT, JORDAN, IRAQ AND ISRAEL.

OUR DELEGATION UNANIMOUSLY DELIVERED ONE OVER-RIDING MESSAGE: THAT A CONVERGENCE OF WORLD EVENTS SUGGESTED THAT THERE IS A REAL "WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY" TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST PEACE.

FRANKLY, SOME OF THE HOPES WITH WHICH I RETURNED FROM THAT VISIT HAVE BEEN UNDERMINED BY SUBSEQUENT EVENTS. LIKE ALL AMERICANS, I AM PARTICULARLY APPALLED BY THE UPSURGE IN VIOLENCE OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS, AND THE INCREASING "HEAT" OF THE RHETORIC FLOWING FROM THE ARAB AND PALESTINIAN SIDE.

VIOLENCE AND PROVOCATION

THE MURDER OF INNOCENT PALESTINIANS BY A DERANGED ISRAELI, THE DISORDERLY DEMONSTRATIONS THAT RESULTED IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND ELSEWHERE IN THE REGION, THE ATTEMPT BY PALESTINIAN RADICALS TO LAUNCH A TERRORIST ASSAULT ON ISRAEL, AND THE DEATHS OF MORE PALESTINIANS AT THE HANDS OF ISRAELI SOLDIERS -- ALL THESE TRAGIC EVENTS UNDERScore ONCE AGAIN THE TERRIBLE VOLATILITY OF THE REGION, AND THE URGENT NEED TO BEGIN A PEACE PROCESS THAT WILL ADDRESS THE UNDERLYING, FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS OF ALL PARTIES IN THE REGION.

I AM PARTICULARLY DISTURBED -- BUT, FRANKLY, NOT ALL THAT SURPRISED -- THAT RADICAL FORCES WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT HAVE AGAIN TURNED TO VIOLENCE. WHILE IN JERUSALEM, WE MET WITH A DELEGATION OF TEN SELF-DESCRIBED "MODERATE PALESTINIANS."

PALESTINIANS: NEGOTIATIONS OR VIOLENCE?

THEY TOLD US CANDIDLY THAT -- WHILE THEY FELT THEY NOW HAVE THE SUPPORT OF PERHAPS 70% OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION FOR AN APPROACH STRESSING NEGOTIATIONS, NOT VIOLENCE -- THERE WAS A STRONG, RADICAL, PRO-VIOLENCE "CAMP" WITHIN THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNITY. AND THEY INDICATED THAT, UNLESS THEY -- THE MODERATES -- COULD SHOW SOME RESULTS FROM THE NEGOTIATING TRACK, THE RADICALS WOULD NOT ONLY TURN UP THE VIOLENCE, BUT BEGIN TO WIN THE SUPPORT OF THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION.

I DEEPLY FEAR THAT PROCESS MAY NOW BE UNDERWAY.

I AM ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE PLO LEADERSHIP MAY BE DRIFTING AWAY FROM THE INFLUENCE OF PRESIDENT MUBARAK OF EGYPT -- WHO I AM CONVINCED TRULY WANTS PEACE -- AND TOWARD THE INFLUENCE OF OTHER STATES WHO HAVE NOT YET "DECLARED" FOR PEACE, AND SEEM INTENT ON MAINTAINING A HIGH LEVEL OF INCENDIARY RHETORIC AGAINST ISRAEL. I AM THINKING PARTICULARLY NOW OF IRAQ.

WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY

WE MET WITH PRESIDENT HUSSEIN, AND URGED HIM TO "COOL IT" -- BOTH IN DEED AND WORD. FRANKLY, JUDGING BY HIS PERFORMANCE AT THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED ARAB SUMMIT ON THE SOVIET-ISRAEL IMMIGRATION ISSUE, HE HAS NOT RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO OUR URGING.

THIS REMAINS A CRITICAL AND EXTREMELY DELICATE PERIOD. I AM NOT AS HOPEFUL AS I WAS UPON MY RETURN THAT WE CAN SEE PROGRESS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

BUT THAT "WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY" STILL HAS NOT YET SLAMMED SHUT.

(MORE)

WITH AMERICA'S FULL ENTRY INTO THE WAR, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WERE GALVANIZED INTO ACTION THAT WOULD CHANGE THE WORLD. AMERICAN VALOR ON THE BATTLEFIELD WAS SUPPORTED BY THE EFFORTS OF THE AMERICAN FARMER AND WORKER, AS WE BECAME THE MOST PRODUCTIVE NATION IN HISTORY. BILLIONS OF TONS OF SHIPS, AIRCRAFT, AND VEHICLES WERE PRODUCED AT UNPRECEDENTED RATES. AND, AS THE ARSENAL OF DEMOCRACY BECAME AN AWESOME REALITY TO OUR ENEMIES, AMERICAN FARMERS PRODUCED ENOUGH FOOD TO FEED THE WORLD. IT'S ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT OUR FARMERS SAVED BOTH OUR ALLIES AND OUR DEFEATED ENEMIES FROM STARVATION AFTER THE WAR.

OUR NATION'S PRODUCTIVITY WAS EXCEEDED ONLY BY ITS CREATIVE GENIUS. AMERICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY GAVE US THE ABILITY TO TRANSFORM IMAGINATION, INTO REALITY, WITH AN ENGINEERS EXACTING PRECISION. THE COMPUTER WOULD INCREASE OUR CAPABILITIES IN ALL FIELDS. NEW MEDICAL TECHNIQUES, AND PHARMACEUTICALS WOULD PROVIDE NEW POSSIBILITIES IN HEALTH CARE. NEW MATERIALS AND PROCESSES WOULD FOREVER CHANGE OUR MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES.

MOREOVER, THE PERIOD BETWEEN 1940 AND 1945 WAS A TIME OF GREAT TRANSITION FOR OUR NATION. INTERNATIONALLY, WE BECAME A SUPERPOWER. DOMESTICALLY, WE EXPERIENCED GREAT SOCIAL CHANGES, AS VAST POPULATION SHIFTS CHANGED THE DEMOGRAPHICS OF OUR NATION, AND WOMEN TOOK ON NEW CHALLENGES IN THE WORKPLACE WHICH WOULD REDEFINE THEIR ROLES IN SOCIETY.

THE WEEK OF JUNE 3RD TO JUNE 9TH, IS ESPECIALLY SIGNIFICANT TO OUR NATION. IT WAS DURING THIS FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, 1942, AT MIDWAY, THAT OUR NAVAL FORCES DEALT A DEVASTATING BLOW TO THE JAPANESE NAVY, A VICTORY SO COMPLETE, THAT IT NEVER RECOVERED. IT WAS IN THIS WEEK IN 1944, THAT AMERICANS LIBERATED ROME FROM THE FASCISTS AND STORMED THE BEACHES OF NORMANDY, TO LIBERATE EUROPE FROM THE NAZIS.

I BELIEVE WE NEED TO HONOR THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THIS NATION WHO GAVE THEIR ALL SO THAT OTHERS COULD LIVE IN FREEDOM. I, THEREFORE, SEND THIS JOINT RESOLUTION TO THE DESK TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TO ISSUE A PROCLAMATION ESTABLISHING THE WEEK OF JUNE 3 TO JUNE 9, 1990, AS THE WEEK OF THE NATIONAL OBSERVANCE OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR II.

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