



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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FT. RILEY EXPANSION

ARMY DROPS PLANS FOR MORE LAND AT FORT RILEY; **DOLE CALLS IT WIN/WIN**

WASHINGTON -- The United States Army has decided to drop its plans to acquire more land around Fort Riley, a decision applauded today by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas).

"This is a win/win decision for the greater Fort Riley area," Dole said. "Family farmers will no longer have to worry about giving up their land, and the Army has assured me that today's decision in no way diminishes its strong support for this important military base."

"I have insisted from the start of this controversy that the Army owed our state a thorough and fair review, and to demonstrate an absolute need for every extra inch of land. The Army has come to the conclusion that it does not need any more land for training purposes. With tight budgets, adequate existing facilities and the high-tech success in the Persian Gulf, it looks like the right decision to me."

"Meanwhile, I will continue to do all I can to make certain that Fort Riley remains one of America's premier installations. Kansas is proud of the Big Red One, and we are certainly aware of the tremendous role the Fort plays in our state's economy. Still, there are no guarantees, with changing defense missions in the post-Cold War world, and as Congressional pressure to gut the military continues on Capitol Hill."

Senator Dole has played an active role in the ongoing discussions between the Army, local officials and landowners. In order to keep this critical issue on the front burner, Senator Dole went right to the top, bringing to Kansas Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney, Army Chief-of-Staff Carl Vuono and Secretary of the Army Michael Stone for personal inspections at Fort Riley and the surrounding area.

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AMERICAN AID: INVESTING IN OUR FUTURE

NOW SOME WILL SAY: WHY SHOULD WE HELP? WHY SHOULD WE SPEND MONEY TO HELP RUSSIANS AND OTHERS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION WHEN SO MANY AMERICANS ARE STILL IN NEED?

WELL, I DON'T SEE SENSIBLE PROGRAMS OF AMERICAN AID AS JUST SOME KIND OF GIVE-AWAY TO HELP FACELESS FOREIGNERS. I SEE IT AS THE EXACT KIND OF INVESTMENT IN AMERICA'S OWN FUTURE THAT I JUST TALKED ABOUT. AND PRESIDENT YELTSIN MADE IT CLEAR TO KANSAS AUDIENCES AGAIN AND AGAIN: HE DOESN'T SEE IT AS JUST A GIVE-AWAY EITHER, BUT AS THE BEGINNING OF A WHOLE NEW KIND OF COOPERATIVE, MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP ACROSS THE BOARD -- STRATEGICALLY, POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY.

IF DEMOCRACY FAILS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, WHO KNOWS WHAT WILL FOLLOW. WHO KNOWS WHOSE FINGERS WILL FINALLY END UP ON THOSE NUCLEAR BUTTONS IN MOSCOW, KIEV, OR KAZAKHSTAN.

IF FREE MARKETS ARE ALLOWED TO FAIL IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION, IT WILL NOT ONLY BE THE PEOPLE OF THOSE NEW DEMOCRACIES WHO WILL SUFFER. AMERICANS WILL BE THE LOSERS, TOO. WE WILL LOSE VAST NEW MARKETS FOR OUR PRODUCTS -- MARKETS WHICH, ALREADY ARE VITAL TO THE HEALTH OF THE KANSAS FARM ECONOMY. WE WILL LOST A VAST NEW ARENA FOR LUCRATIVE INVESTMENT.

OF COURSE, WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR EYE ON THE BALL. THROWING MONEY AT MOSCOW WILL NOT SOLVE MOSCOW'S PROBLEMS, ANYMORE THAN THROWING MONEY AT OUR CITIES, SUBURBS AND FARMS WILL SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS.

BUT WE CAN HELP RUSSIA AND THE OTHER REPUBLICS IN WAYS THAT WE CAN AFFORD AND THAT MAKE SENSE. THE WEEK BEFORE LAST, WE PASSED A BILL ON AID, TRADE AND INVESTMENT FOR THE FORMER SOVIET UNION THAT MAKES REAL SENSE -- COMMON SENSE; DOLLARS AND CENTS. IT PROVIDES WELL-FOCUSED PROGRAMS OF CREDIT, CREDIT GUARANTEES AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE; AND ENCOURAGES AND PROVIDES INCENTIVES FOR PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT AND TRADE THAT WILL MAKE A REAL, LONG-TERM DIFFERENCE IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

THAT'S THE WAY TO GO, TO HELP RUSSIA AND THE OTHER FLEDGLING DEMOCRACIES; TO PRESERVE AMERICA'S LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE WORLD; AND TO ADVANCE THE LONG-TERM INTERESTS OF OUR OWN NATION AND PEOPLE.

GREATER DAYS LIE AHEAD

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, AND GRADUATES: THIS NATION HAS A GREAT HISTORY, AND NO TIME IN THAT HISTORY HAS BEEN MORE IMPORTANT AND EXCITING THAN THE TIME IN WHICH WE ALL LIVE. BUT AMERICA'S GREATEST DAYS STILL LIE AHEAD.

SO ENJOY THIS ONE SPECIAL DAY IN YOUR LIVES -- ENJOY EVERY MINUTE OF IT. AND THEN GO OUT AND TAKE FULL ADVANTAGE OF THE EVEN GREATER DAYS THAT LIE AHEAD, FOR YOU AS INDIVIDUALS, AND FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

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