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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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DEFEND AMERICA ACT OF 1996

**POST-COLD WAR THREAT GROWING, DOLE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION
TO DEPLOY NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM BY 2003;
TOP DEFENSE PRIORITY SHOULD BE TO PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS**

Today I will introduce legislation which will have a profound impact on America's future. I am pleased to be joined by the Chairmen of the Armed Services and Foreign Relations Committees, the Chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, the Republican leadership, and other Republicans strongly interested in missile defense, in introducing the "Defend America Act of 1996." An identical bill is being introduced in the House by the Speaker and the Chairmen of the Appropriations Committee and the National Security Committee, among others.

This bill addresses the most fundamental responsibility the U.S. government has to its citizens: to protect them from harm. At present, the United States has no defense -- I repeat -- no defense against ballistic missiles.

The "Defend America Act of 1996" answers the question of whether Americans should be protected from the threat of ballistic missile attack with a resounding, "yes."

There should be no doubt that we have the technical capability to defend our great nation from the growing threat of ballistic missiles. What we need is the will and the leadership.

No Leadership From White House

We have seen no leadership from the White House on this issue. Indeed, we have witnessed a complete denial from the highest levels of the administration that there is even a threat to the United States. President Clinton vetoed the Fiscal Year 1996 Defense Authorization Bill because it required developing a national missile defense system for deployment by the end of 2003. President Clinton refuses to defend America, preferring to rely on the false protection of the Cold-War era Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty.

Threat is Real & Growing

The Cold-War is over and the threat from ballistic missiles is real and growing. Among others, North Korea, Iran, Libya, Iraq, and Syria are seeking to obtain weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile delivery systems. China and Russia have been engaged in transferring related components and technologies.

Just last week, the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, James Woolsey testified before the House National Security Committee on his views of the threat posed by ballistic missiles -- as well as the current national intelligence estimate on this threat. I would like to quote from his testimony:

"We are in the midst of an era of revolutionary improvements in missile guidance. These improvements will soon make ballistic missiles much more effective for blackmail purposes...Even without the need for warheads containing weapons of mass destruction...."

"With such guidance improvements, it is quite reasonable to believe that within a few years Saddam or the Chinese rulers will be able to threaten something far more troubling..."

Woolsey went on to say,

"But, in current circumstances, nuclear blackmail threats against the United States may be effectively posed by...North Korean intermediate ranged missiles targeted on

(more)

With respect to the national intelligence estimate, Woolsey criticized the narrow focus of the estimate which concentrated on indigenous intercontinental ballistic missile development -- as opposed to the transfer of such components and technology. As Woolsey pointed out, since the end of the Cold War, Russia, China, and North Korea have been actively exporting missile technology and components. Furthermore, Woolsey noted that the national intelligence estimate only looked at the threat to the 48 continental states. Well, the last time I checked, Alaska and Hawaii were part of the United States.

The bottom line is that the threat is real and we cannot wait for it to arrive on our doorstep before we act. As former Assistant Secretary of Defense Richard Perle stated before the National Security Committee:

"If we achieve a defensive capability a little before it is absolutely necessary, no harm will have been done. But if we are too late, the result could be catastrophic. In cases like this, it is always wise to err on the side of too much, too soon, rather than too little, too late."

Goal: To Deploy NMD System By 2003

This legislation establishes a clear policy to deploy a National Missile Defense (NMD) system by the end of 2003, that is capable of providing a highly effective defense of U.S. territory against limited, unauthorized or accidental ballistic missile attacks.

The bill also specifies the components of a national missile defense system that are to be developed for deployment, including: an interceptor system, fixed ground-based radars, space-based sensors, and battle management, command, control and communications.

To implement this policy, this legislation directs the Secretary of Defense to: promptly initiate planning to meet this deployment goal; conduct by the end of 1998 an integrated systems test using NMD components; to use streamlined acquisition procedures to reduce cost and increase efficiency; and to develop a follow-on NMD program.

The Secretary of Defense is also required to submit a detailed report to the Congress no later than March 15, 1997, which outlines his plans for implementing this policy, the estimate costs associated with the development and deployment of the NMD system, a cost and operational effectiveness analysis of follow-on options, and a determination of the point at which nmd development would conflict with the ABM treaty.

With respect to the ABM treaty, the legislation urges the President to bring the Russians on board, by pursuing high-level discussions with Russia to amend the ABM treaty to allow for the deployment of the NMD system specified in this Act. If the Russians do agree, the legislation requires any agreement to be submitted to the Senate for advice and consent. However, if a satisfactory agreement is not reached within a year of the date of enactment of this legislation, the president and Congress will consider U.S. withdrawal from the ABM treaty.

GOP United & Committed to Defending America

Deploying a national missile defense system -- which will protect all fifty states -- should be our top defense priority. The "Defend America Act" lays out a realistic and responsible course by which we can do so.

A national missile defense system will not only defend, it will deter -- by reducing the incentive of rogue regimes to acquire ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

I hope that the White House is listening. Republicans are united and clear in their message that America must be defended. We are ready to exercise leadership to fulfill our responsibility to all Americans to protect them from ballistic missile attack.

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DEFEND AMERICA ACT OF 1996 SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

Identifies the legislation as the "Defend America Act of 1996".

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

Establishes the rationale for the policy established in the Act.

- The U.S. has the technical capability to develop and deploy a National Missile Defense (NMD) system.
- The threat posed to the U.S. by the proliferation of ballistic missiles is growing. The trend is toward longer range missiles, including those with intercontinental reach.
- There are ways for determined countries to acquire intercontinental ballistic missiles by means other than indigenous development.
- Deployment by the U.S. of an NMD system will help to deter countries from seeking long-range missiles.
- The danger of an accidental missile launch has not disappeared and deployment of an NMD system will reduce concerns about this threat.
- Deployment of an NMD system can enhance stability in the post-Cold War era. The U.S. and Russia should welcome the opportunity to reduce reliance on threats of nuclear retaliation as the sole basis of stability.
- The authors of the ABM Treaty envisioned the need to change the Treaty as circumstances changed, and they provided the mechanisms to do so in the Treaty. The U.S. and Russia previously considered such changes and should do so again.

SECTION 3. NATIONAL MISSILE DEFENSE POLICY

Establishes U.S. missile defense policy in two areas:

- Deployment by the end of 2003 of an NMD system capable of providing a highly effective defense of U.S. territory against limited, unauthorized, or accidental ballistic missile attacks, and which will be augmented to a layered defense as larger and more sophisticated threats emerge.
- A cooperative transition to a regime that is not based on an offensive-only form of strategic stability.