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DOLE COMMENTS ON JOINT U.S.-SOVIET STATEMENT ON MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Following are excerpts from the text of remarks Senator Bob Dole will make at noon today to the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants:

USSR-US DECLARATION BURDENS ISRAEL

It has become painfully clear, in the face of all reason -- in the face of decency itself, that the obligation of redeeming the Carter Administration's reputation in the international arena has been placed squarely on Israel's over-burdened shoulders.

GENEVA CONFERENCE - WHATEVER THE COST

In an Administration where style takes precedence over substance, SALT, human rights, China and Panama represent one public relations disaster after another. Now, whatever the cost to Israel, the Carter Administration is desperately insistent that there be a Geneva Conference before the year is out. And since it has little influence on the Arab nations and none whatever over the PLO, Israel must be made to conform to demands which threaten its very existence. To achieve this, the Carter Administration has violated agreements made by America with Israel. The Administration has publicized every disagreement with Israel in an effort to make the Israelis appear intransigent, while at the same time papering over disagreements with the Arab states, including the refusal of the PLO to agree to Israel's right to exist.

The Administration has brought the Soviet Union back into the Middle Eastern arena from which they had been excluded by years of diligent, painstaking effort on the part of the United States and by their own brutal, blind attempts to manipulate their friends in the Middle East. It is worth noting that the Russian failure in its relations with the Arab states was predicated on behavior similar to that which the U.S. now exhibits toward Israel. All this is in the service of what the President's national security advisor arrogantly calls "leverage." It is not leverage, it is blackmail. And it is a disgrace to the United States.

SIGNIFICANT POLICY DEPARTURE

The sudden move to bring the Soviets back into the Middle East arena is a policy departure of enormous significance. We have a right to know what it means. Is this the quid pro quo for renewed progress on Strategic Arms Limitation Talks, so badly bungled last spring? Is it a prelude to the Helsinki Conference on human rights due to reconvene in Belgrade? What are we getting in return for stabbing Israel in the back? And is the product worth the price?

The U.S.-Soviet statement on the Middle East makes no mention of U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, so carefully crafted as a basis for a settlement, and so thoroughly rejected by the PLO. It makes no mention of any obligation to recognize the existence of Israel. It was produced in violation of written agreements to consult with Israel on such matters. And it was produced without consultation with Congress.

One thing is very clear. The Soviets have exacted a heavy price from Mr. Carter in return for such headlines as "Gromyko Holds Hopes of Carter Brezhnev Talks." The ground that was lost in Moscow last winter is being brought back at heavily inflated cost. And Israel, if Mr. Carter has his way, is to be compelled to absorb that cost.