

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE PROMOTES LAWRENCE "SUNFLOWER SUMMIT" ON SENATE FLOOR --

REMARKS INCLUDED IN CONGRESSIONAL RECORD



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LAWRENCE, KANS., SUMMIT

● Mr. DOLE. Mr. President, I rise today to draw the Senate's attention to a fine and worthy offer that could have a marked benefit for peace. The citizens of Lawrence, Kans., motivated by the desire to make a practical contribution toward reducing world tensions, have offered their college community as the site for a meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Andropov. I understand that that early gesture has been marked by successive meetings and practical planning. Clearly the kind generosity of Mayor David Longhurst and the commissioners of Lawrence sets a tone that would bode very well indeed for the summit.

The Senator from Kansas would also like to mention, Mr. President, that the invitation proceeds from the highly successful experience of the

Kansas relays, where Russian and American athletes recently competed in track events. Key to the organization of this successful event was the Athletes United for Peace group, whose members have also, I understand, been instrumental in the current Lawrence summit initiative.

In the belief that this effort was worth supporting fully, I wrote in support of it to President Reagan, and I ask that my letter, and the replies which I have received from Assistant to the President Kenneth M. Duberstein and Assistant Secretary of State Powell A. Moore, be included in the RECORD.

Mr. President, cynicism about peace and about summits and their possible achievements is a ready commodity. But I know personally that much can be accomplished through personal initiative and good will. I would hope that something of that Kansas spirit would stay with the participants in a Lawrence summit long enough for a real contribution to a more peaceful world to be made. In the meantime, the offer itself and the hard work that is going forward in Lawrence are praiseworthy reflections of American generosity and concern for peace at their very best.

The material follows:

Senator Dole's letter to the White House is on the reverse side.

DEAR SENATOR DOLE: Thank you for forwarding the invitation, on behalf of the citizens of Lawrence, Kansas, for a U.S.-Soviet summit in their city. The President's office referred your letter of May 18, 1983 to the Department of State for careful consideration.

We appreciate the concern of your constituents and their efforts to better the climate of U.S.-Soviet relations. On our part, we have made clear to General Secretary Andropov that the U.S. will continue to be firm in its response to unacceptable Soviet actions, such as the continuing occupation of Afghanistan. But we are also ready and willing to resolve outstanding problems with the Soviet Union. These points have been and will continue to be transmitted to the Soviet side through the Soviet Embassy here, by our Embassy in Moscow, and in other bilateral fora. Concerning the general question of a future U.S.-Soviet summit, President Reagan has said on many occasions that he would be willing to meet Secretary Andropov, but that this would require careful preparation and the expectation of tangible results.

We are continuing an active dialogue with the Soviets to find opportunities for constructive and genuine progress on specific problems, but we must be realistic. It is likely to be a slow and difficult process.

With cordial regards,
Sincerely,

POWELL A. MOORE,
Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.●

U.S. SENATE,

Washington, D.C., May 18, 1983.

The PRESIDENT,
The White House, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I am pleased to endorse the invitation that you have received from the Mayor and Commissioners of Lawrence, Kansas, to meet with General Secretary Yuri Andropov in their community.

Their invitation proceeds from the conviction, which I entirely share, that the warm and friendly Kansas hospitality which all participants in an historic summit could expect in Lawrence would contribute greatly to the summit's success. Clearly the timing for the summit would depend upon many factors, but one of them—the belief that a personal meeting between yourself and General Secretary Andropov would itself generate a more productive atmosphere for peace—is a persuasive argument for an early meeting. I therefore hope that you will be able to meet with the Soviet leader soon, and that you will give favorable consideration to Lawrence, Kansas as the location for the summit.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE,
U.S. Senate.

DOLE RELEASES RESPONSES ON "SUNFLOWER SUMMIT" FROM WHITE HOUSE, STATE DEPARTMENT

DEAR SENATOR DOLE: Thank you for your May 18 letter endorsing the invitation from Mayor Longhurst for the President to meet with Soviet leader Yuri Andropov in Lawrence, Kansas.

We appreciate having your comments and recommendation regarding this very thoughtful invitation to the President. I assure you that most careful consideration will be given to this request.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

KENNETH M. DUBERSTEIN,
Assistant to the President.