

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
202/224-3135

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
40TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY
NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY
FT. McNAIR

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU TO COMMEMORATE THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY. THE HISTORY OF THIS HONORED MILITARY INSTITUTION IS BOTH COLORFUL AND CLASSIC. THE NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY, CREATED TO DEVELOP SELECTED OFFICERS AND CIVILIANS FOR DUTIES CONNECTED WITH THE EXECUTION OF NATIONAL POLICY, MAKES FOR AN IMPRESSIVE CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THIS NATION AND ITS WARS--ESPECIALLY THE ONE WHOSE VICTORY WE MARK TODAY.

A PERSONAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY

IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE WORLD WAR II ENDED SOME 4 DECADES AGO. AS ONE WHO FOUGHT IN THAT GREAT CONFLICT, IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT APRIL 14 WAS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE ON WHICH I WAS WOUNDED NEAR THE ITALIAN MOUNTAIN TOWN OF CASTEL D'AIANO. THAT PERSONAL ANNIVERSARY WAS MARKED IN ITALY LAST MONTH WHERE I LED A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO NATO ALLIES. AS I PLACED A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN ROME, I WAS REMINDED OF THE PEACE THAT HAS EXISTED IN WESTERN EUROPE SINCE THE WAR. TODAY, AS A SENATOR, MY GOAL IS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PEACE WE FOUGHT FOR SO VALIANTLY IS MAINTAINED. IT REQUIRED SO MUCH OF US, IN MANPOWER, IN MONEY, AND ABOVE ALL, IN SPIRITUAL AND NATIONAL RESOLVE. THOSE OF US WHO TOOK PART IN THE FIGHTING BLESS THE SUBSEQUENT PEACE. WE HAIL THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT GREW OUT OF THE HOSTILITY AND WE PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE CAUSE FOR WHICH SO MANY GAVE SO MUCH.

MAY 8, 1945 WAS A DAY FOR WHICH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAD FOUGHT AND WORKED AND PRAYED AND DIED. LET US HOPE THAT THE LESSONS OF THE PAST HAVE BEEN LEARNED, AND THAT NO FUTURE WARS NEED BE FOUGHT. YET, OUT OF THE RAVAGES OF WORLD WAR II A NEW ALLIANCE WAS BORN, SPANNING THE ATLANTIC AND BRINGING TOGETHER THE FREE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA.

THE YOUTH OF EUROPE SUPPORT THE ALLIANCE

DURING OUR VISIT TO EUROPE, WE HAD ONE PARTICULAR MEETING-- CERTAINLY ONE OF OUR MOST ENCOURAGING SESSIONS. IN PARIS, FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER HERNU SPOKE AT LENGTH ABOUT THE NEW WAVE OF SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN ALLIANCE AMONG FRANCE'S YOUNG PEOPLE. I AM HAPPY TO REPORT IT WAS A THEME WE HEARD REPLAYED EVERYWHERE. IT SEEMS THE NEW GENERATION, NO LESS THAN OUR OWN, MANY OF WHICH ARE IN THIS GREAT HALL TODAY, ARE COMMITTED TO THE ATLANTIC ALLIANCE AS THE CORNERSTONE OF OUR MUTUAL SECURITY. IT IS DEDICATED, NO LESS THAN WE ARE, TO THE PRESERVATION OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS ON WHICH THE ALLIANCE IS BASED. AND IT IS READY TO CARRY ON THE WORK BEGUN BY THE ALLIANCE NEARLY 40 YEARS AGO-- TO PRESERVE PEACE, DEFEND FREEDOM, AND BUILD PROSPERITY ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC, BY TALKING, WORKING AND STICKING TOGETHER.

U.S. & WESTERN EUROPEAN UNITY

THE SENSE OF UNITY AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ALL HER ALLIES DURING WORLD WAR II RESULTED FROM THIS NATION'S ASSUMING ITS RIGHTFUL ROLE AS A WORLD LEADER. FORTY YEARS LATER, OUR FOREIGN POLICY, OUR NATIONAL STRATEGY MUST BE APPROPRIATE TO THOSE LIBERTIES WE FOUGHT FOR IN WORLD WAR II, AND APPROPRIATE TO THE CHARACTER OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. THIS WILL MEAN HARD CHOICES ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO DO IN THE WORLD, THE ALLIANCES WE MAKE, THE ADVERSARIES WE CHALLENGE, AND THE POLICIES, YOU IN PART, WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR CARRYING OUT.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST BATTLEGROUND IS NOW A CONTINENT REVIVED AND PROSPEROUS, FREE FROM WAR THESE LAST FOUR DECADES. ON MAY 8, 1945, ONE WORLD ENDED AND A NEW ONE BEGAN. SINCE THEN, THE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE HAVE RISEN FROM THE RUBBLE AND GROWN INTO THE WORLD'S SECOND-LARGEST ECONOMIC ENTITY, RANKING BELOW ONLY THE U.S. YET, THE DANGERS PERSIST. THE NEED FOR A STRONG AND EQUITABLE DEFENSE IS EVER PRESENT. SO LONG AS HUMAN FREEDOM IS THREATENED, THEN WE MUST KEEP OUR WATCH. TOGETHER, AS ALLIES, WE POSSESS THE STRENGTH TO DO WHAT HISTORY TELLS US IS RIGHT. UNDER OUR LEADERSHIP, IT IS MY HOPE WE FIND THE WISDOM TO DO WHAT EVER MAY BE NECESSARY. GENERAL MARSHALL, ARCHITECT OF VICTORY IN EUROPE, MAY HAVE PUT IT BEST: "THE ONLY WAY TO WIN A WAR:, HE DECLARED, "IS TO PREVENT IT." THAT IS A RESPONSIBILITY ALL OF US SHARE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.