

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ASIAN TRIP STATEMENT
DEPARTURE FROM WASHINGTON
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

WE ARE DEPARTING THIS MORNING ON A TWO WEEK TRIP TO ASIA. IN THE COURSE OF OUR TRIP, WE'LL BE VISITING SOME OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES AND FRIENDS -- SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO DISCUSSIONS WITH TOP LEADERS AT EACH STOP, ON SOME OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES WHICH CONFRONT OUR NATION -- TRADE, DEFENSE AND SECURITY QUESTIONS, POLITICAL ISSUES.

DELEGATION MEMBERS

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE JOURNEY, I THINK, IS REFLECTED IN THE PROMINENCE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION YOU SEE HERE: SENATOR MCCLURE OF IDAHO, SENATOR DOMENICI OF NEW MEXICO, SENATOR COHEN OF MAINE, SENATOR EVANS OF WASHINGTON, SENATOR WILSON OF CALIFORNIA AND SENATOR MOYNIHAN OF NEW YORK.

TRADE ISSUE WILL DOMINATE DISCUSSIONS

TRADE, OF COURSE, IS THE ONE OVERRIDING ISSUE WHICH WE'LL ALL HAVE AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA. MORE SPECIFICALLY, WE'LL BE DISCUSSING THE MATTERS OF OUR HUGE TRADE DEFICITS WITH SOUTH KOREA, JAPAN AND TAIWAN; THE MEASURES WHICH WE THINK THOSE COUNTRIES NEED TO TAKE TO OPEN THEIR MARKETS TO OUR PRODUCTS, ON A COMPETITIVE BASIS; OTHER ACTIONS -- E.G., STEPS IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL MARKETS -- WHICH ARE NEEDED; AND THE ACTIONS WE ARE CONTEMPLATING AT HOME, INCLUDING IN THE SENATE, TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.

OUR MAIN THEMES WILL BE THAT WE WANT TO SOLVE THESE PROBLEMS COOPERATIVELY, BUT OUR PATIENCE IS WEARING OUT. IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME CONCRETE SIGNS THAT COOPERATION IS GOING TO BE POSSIBLE, WE'RE GOING TO TELL OUR FRIENDS, FRANKLY, THAT WE'RE PREPARED TO ACT.

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OTHER ISSUES

OF COURSE, WHILE LOOKING CLOSELY AT TRADE, WE'RE NOT GOING TO IGNORE THE OTHER IMPORTANT ISSUES. WE HAVE A MAJOR SECURITY STAKE IN NORTH ASIA. SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN ARE TWO OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT ALLIES. WE HAVE 40,000 TROOPS IN KOREA, WHICH IS STILL DIRECTLY THREATENED FROM THE NORTH, AND WE HAVE KEY BASES IN JAPAN. CHINA IS AN EMERGING REGIONAL POWER -- ITS COOPERATION IS INTEGRAL TO OUR GLOBAL STRATEGIC CONCEPT. SO WE'RE GOING TO BE DISCUSSING THESE KINDS OF SECURITY RELATED ISSUES.

WE ALSO HAVE IMPORTANT POLITICAL ISSUES ON OUR AGENDA -- WHERE WE ARE ON THE NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE PRC; THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTH KOREA AND ITS PLANS FOR THE 1988 ELECTIONS; JAPAN'S GROWING AND VITAL SUPPORT ON A WHOLE RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ISSUES, RANGING FROM CENTRAL AMERICA TO AFRICA.

SO WE HAVE A VERY FULL PLATE AND A BUSY SCHEDULE AHEAD OF US. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO A PRODUCTIVE AND STIMULATING TRIP, ON WHICH WE'LL BE SEEING SOME OLD FRIENDS AND, WE HOPE, MAKING SOME NEW ONES.

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