

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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ARRIVAL STATEMENT
U.S. SENATE DELEGATION
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA -- WE ARE PLEASED TO BE HERE IN SEOUL, ON THE FIRST STOP IN A TRIP THAT WILL ALSO TAKE US TO JAPAN, TAIWAN, HONG KONG AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

AS THOSE OF YOU FAMILIAR WITH AMERICAN POLITICS CAN SEE, I HAVE WITH ME A DELEGATION OF SOME OF THE MOST SENIOR AND INFLUENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE U.S. SENATE -- SENATOR JIM MCCLURE OF IDAHO, PETE DOMENICI OF NEW MEXICO, BILL COHEN OF MAINE, DAN EVANS OF WASHINGTON, PETE WILSON OF CALIFORNIA AND DANIEL MOYNIHAN OF NEW YORK.

IT IS FITTING THAT WE START THIS JOURNEY IN SOUTH KOREA, ONE OF OUR MOST IMPORTANT AND STAUCHEST FRIENDS IN ASIA.

THERE IS A UNIQUE TIE BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES, CHRISTENED WITH THE BLOOD OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICANS WHO DIED HERE IN THE DEFENSE OF LIBERTY. THERE ARE VITAL AMERICAN INTERESTS HERE, TOO -- SECURITY INTERESTS AND POLITICAL INTERESTS -- AND THEY ARE REFLECTED IN THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS ON KOREAN SOIL AND OUR CLOSE AND MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DEFENSE TIES WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT.

AND WE HAVE MAJOR AND GROWING ECONOMIC INTERESTS HERE, AS WELL. U.S. INVESTMENT AND TECHNOLOGY HAVE PLAYED, AND WILL CONTINUE TO PLAY, A MAJOR ROLE IN SPURRING KOREA'S ECONOMIC MIRACLE. AND TRADE HAS GROWN APACE, FOR THE MOST PART TO THE BENEFIT OF BOTH NATIONS.

SO WE ARE HERE TO REAFFIRM THE STRENGTH OF OUR TIES AND THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR INTERESTS HERE.

BUT WE ARE ALSO HERE TO DISCUSS, AS FRIENDS AND IN A COOPERATIVE SPIRIT -- BUT ALSO FRANKLY AND WITH THE URGENCY THEY DESERVE -- SOME SERIOUS BILATERAL PROBLEMS, ESPECIALLY IN THE TRADE AREA. WE HAVE A VERY LARGE -- AND APPARENTLY RAPIDLY GROWING -- TRADE DEFICIT WITH SOUTH KOREA. THERE ARE MANY REASONS FOR THIS. AND, LIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, THE KOREAN CASE HAS GOT TO BE LOOKED AT ON ITS OWN MERITS AND IN LIGHT OF THE SITUATION HERE.

BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT ONE IMPORTANT REASON FOR OUR TRADE DEFICIT IS THAT SOUTH KOREA IS NOT AS OPEN AS IT SHOULD BE TO AMERICAN PRODUCTS THAT CAN BE COMPETITIVE HERE. AND WE KNOW THAT, UNLESS WE CAN DO SOMETHING ABOUT THAT AND OTHER TRADE PROBLEMS ON A COOPERATIVE BASIS, THERE IS GOING TO BE GREAT -- PROBABLY OVERWHELMING -- PRESSURE AT HOME TO TAKE ACTION IN MORE CONFRONTATIONAL, LESS HELPFUL WAYS.

SO WE'LL BE CARRYING TO THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT THE MESSAGE THAT WE VIEW THIS PROBLEM SERIOUSLY, WE WANT TO DEAL WITH IT COOPERATIVELY, BUT WE ARE CONVINCED THAT WE HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT, ONE WAY OR THE OTHER, NOW.

I'M CONFIDENT, AS OLD AND GOOD FRIENDS, THAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND TREMENDOUS GOOD-WILL HERE AND A DETERMINATION TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. AND, CERTAINLY, WE'RE GOING TO AFFIRM THAT DETERMINATION FOR OUR PART.

SO, AGAIN, WE'RE VERY PLEASED TO BE HERE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CALLING ON PRESIDENT CHUN AND THE OTHER SENIOR LEADERS OF THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT. AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO A VERY PRODUCTIVE STAY.