

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE ON MEETING WITH KING HUSSEIN

WE WERE HONORED TO HAVE KING HUSSEIN VISIT US TODAY. ALL OF US ADMIRE THE COURAGE HE HAS SHOWN IN UNDERTAKING RECENT INITIATIVES FOR PEACE.

WE DON'T DISPUTE THAT JORDAN HAS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS. IT IS IN A PRECARIOUS SITUATION, FACING A POTENTIAL THREAT FROM SYRIA. IT COULD BE THREATENED BY OTHER STATES AND FORCES WHICH DO NOT WANT PEACE IN THAT REGION.

THE KING EXPRESSED HIS VIEWS WITH EFFECT AND CANDOR. HE GAVE US HIS ASSURANCES THAT JORDAN SOUGHT AMERICAN ARMS ONLY FOR ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE.

BUT WE CERTAINLY DIDN'T EXPECT TO CLEAR UP ALL THE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE COMPLEX MIDDLE EAST SITUATION IN ONE MEETING. VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS REMAIN -- THE MATTER OF WHO WILL REPRESENT THE PALESTINIANS; HOW YOU WILL STRUCTURE ANY OUTSIDE, INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT IN THE PEACE PROCESS; AND THE MOST BASIC QUESTION OF ALL -- WILL NEW ARMS FOR THE MIDDLE EAST STATES ENCOURAGE STABILITY AND PEACE, OR NOT.

OUR MEETING WAS VERY USEFUL; IT GAVE US SOME OF THE ANSWERS WE NEED; AND IT GAVE US SOME NEW HOPE ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR DIRECT JORDAN-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS.

BUT WE ARE STILL GOING TO BE TAKING A LONG, HARD LOOK AT THE ADMINISTRATION'S REQUEST FOR ARMS FOR JORDAN. IT'S NOT AT ALL CLEAR, YET, WHAT FINAL DECISION CONGRESS WILL MAKE.