

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE RESOLUTION ON GENEVA SUMMIT

I AM PLEASED TO BE JOINED BY THE DISTINGUISHED MINORITY LEADER IN OFFERING A RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THE UPCOMING SUMMIT MEETING OF PRESIDENT REAGAN AND SOVIET GENERAL SECRETARY GORBACHEV.

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ASK FOR UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO ADD THE FOLLOWING SENATORS AS COSPONSORS OF THIS RESOLUTION: LUGAR, PELL, GOLDWATER, NUNN, STEVENS, KENNEDY, WARNER, HOLLINGS, THURMOND, EXON, NICKLES, DECONCINI, SIMPSON AND BOREN.

MUCH -- PERHAPS, IN SOME WAYS, TOO MUCH -- HAS ALREADY BEEN WRITTEN AND SAID ABOUT THE SUMMIT. SO I DON'T WANT TO SAY A GREAT DEAL MORE. BUT I WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT THREE THINGS WHICH GO TO THE HEART OF THE RESOLUTION I AND THE DISTINGUISHED MINORITY LEADER OFFER TODAY AND WHICH GO TO THE HEART OF THE SUMMIT ITSELF.

OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS

THE FIRST IS OPPORTUNITY. THE SUMMIT OFFERS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITIES WE HAVE HAD IN THIS DECADE TO BEGIN THE PROCESS OF FORGING A MORE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE SOVIET UNION.

IT IS A CHANCE TO EXPLORE WHETHER WE CAN AGREE ON GUIDELINES FOR A REAL NEGOTIATION ON REDUCING NUCLEAR AND SPACE WEAPONS.

IT IS A CHANCE TO MAKE PROGRESS ON THE QUESTION OF NON-PROLIFERATION, IN WHICH WE AND THE SOVIETS SHOULD SHARE THE SAME FUNDAMENTAL GOALS.

IT IS A CHANCE TO TALK ABOUT REGIONAL ISSUES AND TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS A COMMON INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK TO DEAL WITH THEM.

IT IS A CHANCE TO LET THE SOVIETS KNOW, IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS, THAT THEIR CONDUCT ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES IS A MAJOR BARRIER TO BETTER RELATIONS.

IT IS A CHANCE TO DISCUSS A MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES CAN COMMUNICATE BETTER, AT THE NATIONAL LEADER LEVEL AND AT ALL OTHER LEVELS.

REALISTIC EXPECTATIONS

SO THE OPPORTUNITY IS THERE. BUT OPPORTUNITY MUST BE WEIGHED AGAINST A SECOND FACTOR, REALITY.

ONE REALITY IS THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS OUR ADVERSARY, A VERY POWERFUL ADVERSARY. ITS GOALS ARE DIFFERENT FROM OURS. ITS STRATEGY IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS. ITS CONDUCT IS DIFFERENT FROM OURS. IF WE EXPECT THAT WE WILL FIND GORBACHEV TO BE OTHER THAN A TOUGH, DIE-HARD COMMUNIST, DETERMINED TO DO WHATEVER HE CAN TO ADVANCE THE INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET STATE, THEN WE SHALL BE BADLY DISAPPOINTED. IF WE EXPECT THESE TALKS TO BE EASY OR SUFFUSED WITH FRIENDSHIP AND GOOD-WILL, THEN WE SHALL BE BADLY DISAPPOINTED.

ANOTHER REALITY IS THAT THE PROBLEMS WE ARE DEALING WITH, ESPECIALLY THE ARMS CONTROL ISSUES, ARE AMONG THE MOST COMPLEX THAT CONFRONT MANKIND. COMPREHENSIVE, DETAILED SOLUTIONS TO THESE PROBLEMS ARE JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IN GENEVA. MAJOR BREAKTHROUGHS, WHICH MIGHT LEAD TO EASY SOLUTIONS, ARE JUST NOT GOING TO HAPPEN IN GENEVA.

THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR -- AND WHAT WE CAN REALISTICALLY HOPE FOR -- IS THAT OUR NATIONAL LEADERS WILL CONFIRM THAT OUR COUNTRIES HAVE A REAL INTEREST IN FINDING SOLUTIONS AND CAN SET UP SOME GENERAL KIND OF FRAMEWORK IN WHICH NEGOTIATIONS ON THESE MATTERS CAN PROCEED. IF WE ACCOMPLISH THAT, IT WILL BE A LOT.

UNITY WITH OUR ALLIES, UNITY AT HOME

FINALLY, I WANT TO SPEAK OF UNITY, IN TWO RESPECTS. FIRST, WE WOULD NOT HAVE COME THIS FAR -- WE WOULD NOT HAVE GORBACHEV COMING TO A SUMMIT AND WE WOULD NOT HAVE THE RUSSIANS NEGOTIATING ARMS CONTROL IN GENEVA -- WERE IT NOT FOR THE UNITY OF THE WESTERN ALLIANCE IN THE FACE OF SOVIET THREATS AND BLANDISHMENTS. I WOULD CITE, IN PARTICULAR, THE NATO ALLIANCE DECISION TO GO FORWARD WITH THE INF DEPLOYMENTS, WHICH WAS AN ESSENTIAL FACTOR IN BRINGING US TO WHERE WE ARE TODAY.

SECOND, THERE IS OUR OWN UNITY HERE AT HOME. THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS AND THE PEOPLE ARE UNITED IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR A STRONG AMERICA; UNITED IN THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE WESTERN ALLIANCE; UNITED IN THEIR DETERMINATION TO EXPLORE ALL REASONABLE AVENUES FOR DIALOGUE AND COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION; AND UNITED IN THEIR COMMITMENT TO FREEDOM AROUND THE GLOBE AND HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL PEOPLE.

THIS UNITY IS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE POSITION OF STRENGTH FROM WHICH THE PRESIDENT WILL NEGOTIATE WITH GORBACHEV. IT IS THE FOUNDATION FOR OUR HOPE THAT THE SOVIETS WILL RECOGNIZE THE FUTILITY OF THEIR AGGRESSIVE, THREATENING POLICIES, ON MATTERS RANGING FROM NUCLEAR ARMAMENTS TO REGIONAL CONFLICTS AROUND THE GLOBE.

THE RESOLUTION I OFFER TODAY STRIKES THESE THREE THEMES -- OPPORTUNITY; REALITY; AND UNITY. IT OFFERS US THE VEHICLE TO MAKE CLEAR OUR SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, AS HE

APPROACHES THESE IMPORTANT MEETINGS IN GENEVA. ITS PASSAGE WILL BE OF DIRECT HELP TO THE PRESIDENT IN ACHIEVING THE GOALS WE ALL SEEK -- A MORE SECURE AMERICA, A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD, A MORE COMPREHENSIVE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS AROUND THE GLOBE.

THE ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE CLEAR TO ME THAT IT WOULD WELCOME THIS RESOLUTION. THE MINORITY LEADER'S LEADING ROLE IN BRINGING THIS RESOLUTION TO FRUITION INDICATES ITS BIPARTISAN NATURE.

SO, MR. PRESIDENT, LET US SPEAK WITH ONE VOICE, REPUBLICANS AND DEMOCRATS ALIKE. LET US DO THAT BY VOTING, ALL 100 OF US, FOR THIS RESOLUTION.