

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE GENEVA SUMMIT IS HOPEFUL BEGINNING

LIKE ALL MY COLLEAGUES, I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO WELCOME THE PRESIDENT BACK THIS EVENING, TO CONGRATULATE HIM ON A JOB WELL DONE AND TO HEAR HIS REPORT ON THE GENEVA SUMMIT.

THE JOINT STATEMENT RELEASED IN GENEVA, AND THE PUBLIC COMMENTS MADE BY THE PRESIDENT AND SOVIET LEADER GORBACHEV, INDICATE THE SUMMIT WAS A HOPEFUL BEGINNING TO A PROCESS OF DIALOGUE AND NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE HOPE WILL BECOME MORE COMPREHENSIVE AND BRING MORE CONCRETE PROGRESS IN THE FUTURE. IN PARTICULAR, THE DECISION TO HOLD FUTURE SUMMITS, INCLUDING THE NEXT ONE IN WASHINGTON NEXT SUMMER, IS A WELCOME DEVELOPMENT.

SOME POSITIVE IMMEDIATE RESULTS WERE ALSO ACHIEVED. THE FACT THAT THE SOVIETS JOINED US IN URGING THAT THE ARMS CONTROL TALKS BE ACCELERATED OFFERS SOME HOPE THAT FUTURE ROUNDS WILL BRING MORE SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS AND LESS PROPAGANDA AND POSTURING. GORBACHEV'S CATEGORICAL ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONCEPT OF A POSSIBLE INTERIM INF AGREEMENT, SEPARATE FROM SDI OR ANY OTHER ISSUE, IS ALSO A POSITIVE SIGN.

I WOULD ALSO TAKE SPECIAL NOTE OF THE STRONG STATEMENT FAVORING A PROHIBITION ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF EXISTING STOCKPILES OF SUCH WEAPONS. IF THE SOVIETS ARE WILLING TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THAT STATEMENT WITH SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS, WE MAY BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE LONG-OVERDUE PROGRESS IN DEVELOPING A WORKABLE INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT.

AND, OF COURSE, THE LOWER PROFILE ACHIEVEMENTS -- INCREASING CULTURAL EXCHANGES, OPENING NEW CONSULATES IN NEW YORK AND KIEV, TALKS ON RISK REDUCTION CENTERS AND THE LIKE -- ARE ALSO USEFUL STEPS IN THE DIRECTION OF BETTER COMMUNICATIONS AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES.

THROUGH HIS LEADERSHIP, THE PRESIDENT HAS GIVEN US A GOOD START ON THE ROAD WE ALL HOPE WILL BRING US A MORE SECURE AND STABLE WORLD. AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED HIS LEADERSHIP, AND THE UNIFIED SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT I'M PROUD THE SENATE HAS SHOWN, AS WE MOVE DOWN THAT ROAD TO THE TOUGH CHALLENGES THAT LIE AHEAD.