

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE INF NEGOTIATIONS

U.S. PROPOSAL

AS MOST OF US PROBABLY JUST HEARD A FEW MINUTES AGO, THE PRESIDENT HAS ANNOUNCED THAT WE WILL TABLE A NEW, DETAILED INF PROPOSAL TOMORROW IN GENEVA. I WELCOME THAT DEVELOPMENT AS AN IMPORTANT STEP FORWARD ON THE ROAD TOWARD THE KIND OF SIGNIFICANT, EQUITABLE AND FULLY VERIFIABLE ARMS REDUCTION AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN ONE OF THE TOP PRIORITIES OF THE PRESIDENT AND THIS COUNTRY.

WE HAVE BEEN CONSULTING ON THIS PROPOSAL WITH OUR ALLIES IN EUROPE AND ASIA. THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO GO AHEAD MEANS WE HAVE ACHIEVED THE KIND OF UNIFIED ALLIED POSITION THAT IS ESSENTIAL AS WE DEAL WITH THE SOVIETS. THAT SAME KIND OF ALLIED UNITY WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SOVIETS GIVING UP THEIR UNWARRANTED LINKAGE OF PROGRESS ON INF TO SATISFACTION OF OTHER SOVIET ARMS CONTROL DEMANDS, AS GORBACHEV RECENTLY ANNOUNCED.

I SHOULD ALSO NOTE, IN RELATION TO GORBACHEV'S ANNOUNCEMENT, THAT IT REPRESENTS NO GRAND CONCESSION ON THE SOVIET PART. IN FACT, AS MAX KAMPELMAN SAID YESTERDAY IN GENEVA, THE SOVIETS ARE MERELY REMOVING AN OBSTACLE THAT THEY ERECTED IN THE FIRST PLACE.

JUDGING BY THE COMMENTS I HAVE READ AND HEARD FROM OTHER SENATORS, I EXPECT THERE WILL BE WIDE SUPPORT IN THE SENATE FOR THE KIND OF PROPOSAL THE PRESIDENT OUTLINED IN HIS STATEMENT. APPARENTLY, IT WILL TRACK WITH THE TENTATIVE AGREEMENT REACHED IN REYKJAVIK, AND WITH THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS CLEARLY SPELLED OUT: THAT SHORT RANGE FORCES SUCH AS THE SOVIET SCALEBOARD AND SS-23 FORCES ARE INCLUDED; THAT THERE WILL BE AN EFFECTIVE VERIFICATION REGIME; AND THAT THERE WILL BE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO COMPENSATE FOR CURRENT SOVIET SUPERIORITY IN BATTLEFIELD NUCLEAR AND CONVENTIONAL FORCES.

SO I THINK THERE IS GOING TO BE WIDE AGREEMENT ON WHERE WE ARE AND WHERE WE SHOULD GO FROM HERE. BUT I DO THINK IT IS NECESSARY TO CLEAR THE AIR A BIT ON THE QUESTION OF HOW WE GOT HERE.

(MORE)

REAGAN STRATEGY WORKS

AS RECENTLY AS THE PAST TWO WEEKS, SOME OBSERVERS -- INCLUDING SOME SENATORS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE AISLE -- HAVE CHARGED THAT ARMS CONTROL WAS "DEAD" IN THIS ADMINISTRATION. AND THIS IS NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'VE HEARD THAT KIND OF TALK. WE HEARD IT WHEN THE PRESIDENT FIRST ANNOUNCED SDI. WE HEARD IT WHEN HE REFUSED TO GIVE SDI AWAY AT REYKJAVIK. WE HEARD IT WHEN HE ANNOUNCED AN END TO UNILATERAL AMERICAN ADHERENCE TO SALT. AND, AS I SAID, WE HEARD IT AGAIN JUST RECENTLY, ON THE BASIS OF NOTHING BUT A FEW PRESS ACCOUNTS OF DISCUSSIONS IN THE WHITE HOUSE ABOUT INTERPRETING THE ABM TREATY.

AND EACH TIME, THE OBITUARY THAT THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICS HAD WRITTEN TURNED OUT TO BE WRONG.

IN FACT, IT'S TIME WE ALL RECOGNIZED ONE SIMPLE FACT. AND IT'S TIME THE PRESIDENT'S CRITICS -- WHO RELISH SO MUCH CRITICIZING HIM -- ACKNOWLEDGED THIS SAME SIMPLE FACT. WE ARE WHERE WE ARE -- POTENTIALLY NEARING A HISTORIC AGREEMENT, THE FIRST EVER TO REDUCE NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THE RONALD REAGAN'S ARMS CONTROL STRATEGY. WITHOUT RONALD REAGAN, WITHOUT HIS BUILD-UP OF AMERICAN FORCES, WITHOUT SDI -- WE WOULDN'T HAVE THE CHANCE FOR ANY GOOD AGREEMENTS.

ELEMENTS OF REAGAN STRATEGY

THE PRESIDENT'S STRATEGY HAS BEEN BASED ON THREE STRAIGHTFORWARD PROPOSITIONS.

FIRST, AMERICA MUST BE STRONG, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF STRATEGIC AND THEATER NUCLEAR WEAPONS. BECAUSE, IF WE ARE NOT STRONG, THEN THE SOVIETS WILL HAVE NO INITIATIVE TO NEGOTIATE IN THE FIRST PLACE. AND PART OF OUR STRENGTH -- A CRITICAL PART AS FAR AS THE ARMS CONTROL NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCERNED -- HAS BEEN THE PRESIDENT'S STRATEGIC DEFENSE INITIATIVE, SDI, AND HIS DETERMINATION NOT TO GIVE IT AWAY.

NEXT, AMERICA MUST BE UNITED -- BOTH INTERNALLY AND WITH OUR ALLIES. IF ARMS CONTROL BECOMES A BIG PARTISAN ISSUE HERE, IF WE START LEGISLATING CONSTRAINTS ON THE PRESIDENT OR GIVING THINGS AWAY TO THE SOVIETS ON THE FLOOR OF THE SENATE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE NO AGREEMENTS, PERIOD.

FINALLY, AMERICA MUST BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY. WE MUST HAVE A CREATIVE, AGGRESSIVE DIPLOMACY, THAT GIVES AWAY NOTHING CENTRAL TO OUR SECURITY, BUT CONSIDERS OPENLY ALL PROPOSALS WHICH CAN PRESERVE OUR VITAL INTERESTS WHILE REDUCING THE RISKS OF NUCLEAR WAR.

THAT'S THE KIND OF STRATEGY RONALD REAGAN HAS PURSUED -- HERE IN WASHINGTON, IN GENEVA, IN REYKJAVIK. THAT IS REFLECTED ONCE AGAIN, IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT WE HAVE JUST HEARD A FEW MINUTES AGO. THAT'S WHY WE ARE WHERE WE ARE. AND THAT'S WHY WE HAVE SOME REALISTIC HOPE THAT WE CAN MAKE REAL PROGRESS ON NUCLEAR ARMS REDUCTIONS IN THE MONTHS AHEAD.

FINALLY, LET ME SAY THIS. LET'S HOPE FOR AN AGREEMENT. BUT LET'S NOT PERMIT OUR HOPES TO RUN AWAY FROM US. AS I SAID, THERE ARE TOUGH ISSUES -- VERIFICATION AND THE REST -- THAT STILL HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT. THE SOVIETS HAVE INDICATED THEY ARE SERIOUS ABOUT WANTING A SEPARATE INF AGREEMENT; BUT THEY HAVE NOT YET PROVED IT. UNTIL THEY DO, LET US KEEP OUR FEET ON THE GROUND.

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