

News from Senator

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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE SOVIET DOUBLE-PLAY ON INF

THREE WEEKS AGO MIKHAIL GORBACHEV SPARKED NOTHING SHORT OF WILD GLEE IN CERTAIN WESTERN CIRCLES BY IMPLYING AN AGREEMENT ON INTERMEDIATE-RANGE NUCLEAR FORCES (INF) WAS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. WE ALL WELCOMED ANY SIGN OF TRUE PROGRESS TOWARD A GOOD AGREEMENT, BUT IT WAS NOT ALTOGETHER CLEAR THAT GORBACHEV'S FEBRUARY 28th SPEECH WAS SUCH A SIGN. I ADVISED THEN THAT WE KEEP OUR FEET ON THE GROUND. SOVIET PRONOUNCEMENTS THIS MONTH ONLY UNDERSCORE THE NEED FOR CAUTION.

RIGHT NOW IT APPEARS THE SOVIETS ARE MORE INTERESTED IN GENERATING FRICTION WITHIN NATO AND SCORING SOME PROPAGANDA POINTS THAN IN REACHING AN INF AGREEMENT.

WHAT IS GORBACHEV'S REAL GAME? ON FEBRUARY 28th HE REMOVED AN OBSTACLE WHICH HE HAD CREATED. LET'S RECALL THAT IT WAS THE SOVIETS WHO FIRST LINKED AN INF AGREEMENT TO AGREEMENT ON STRATEGIC WEAPONS AND CRIPPLING OF SDI. THEN, AT THE GENEVA SUMMIT IN 1985, GORBACHEV DE-LINKED. THAT GOOD NEWS LASTED UNTIL REYKJAVIK WHEN HE ONCE AGAIN LINKED THEM ALL. WESTERN LEADERS OF LEFT, RIGHT AND CENTER BOOED HIM, SO ON FEBRUARY 28th HE, ONCE AGAIN, DE-LINKED. ESSENTIALLY, WE'RE BACK WHERE WE WERE AT THE GENEVA SUMMIT.

SOON AFTER THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S SPEECH, SOVIET OFFICIALS EMBARKED ON PHASE TWO OF THE SET-UP. THEIR CLAIM WAS THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOW BLOCKING AN INF AGREEMENT WITH ITS "NEW" DEMANDS ON VERIFICATION AND SHORTER-RANGE INF MISSILES. THAT'S JUST BALONEY! THEIR ONLY PURPOSE IS TO GENERATE PRESSURE IN WESTERN EUROPE, AND HERE AT HOME, FOR US TO FALL OFF POSITIONS WE HAVE HELD SINCE 1981.

WHAT THESE SOVIET OFFICIALS FAIL TO REMIND YOU OF IS THEIR MONOPOLY ON THESE SHORT-RANGE SYSTEMS, AND THEIR IMPRESSIVE MODERNIZATION EFFORT BEGINNING ABOUT 1979.

THERE ARE TWO SYSTEMS WHICH PRESENT A CONSIDERABLE THREAT TO NATO. THE FIRST IS THE SS-23, AN IMPROVEMENT IN EVERY WAY -- RANGE, ACCURACY AND YIELD -- OVER THE ALREADY LETHAL SCUD. ADDED TO THIS IS THE NEW SCALEBOARD, A FOLLOW-ON FOR THE SS-12. IT TOO REPRESENTS A BIG LEAP IN ACCURACY AND YIELD OVER ITS PREDECESSOR. WITH A 900 KILOMETER RANGE, IT CAN REACH LONDON, PARIS AND ROME FROM ITS EAST EUROPEAN LOCATIONS.

THE UNITED STATES HAS NO COMPARABLE SYSTEMS, AND THAT IS A SITUATION THE SOVIETS WANT TO FREEZE. NO WONDER MANY OF US AND OUR EUROPEAN ALLIES ARE CONCERNED ABOUT ANY DEAL WHICH WOULD ELIMINATE OUR LONGER-RANGE INF -- PERSHING-2 AND CRUISE MISSILES -- AND LEAVE EUROPE THREATENED BY SS-23 AND SCALEBOARD.

IT WON'T WASH. THE U.S. POSITION SINCE 1981 -- I REPEAT, SINCE 1981 -- HAS BEEN THAT WE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO MATCH SOVIET SYSTEMS OF THE SS-23 AND SCALEBOARD TYPES. OUR ALLIES BACK US IN THIS ALL THE WAY.

IT IS TIME FOR THE SOVIETS TO COME CLEAN. DID MIKHAIL GORBACHEV'S SPEECH SIGNAL PROGRESS, OR WAS IT JUST ANOTHER CYNICAL PRONOUNCEMENT OF THE SOVIET DESIRE TO MAINTAIN AND BUILD SUPERIORITY IN EUROPE, AND TO SPLIT US FROM OUR FRIENDS?

ONLY THE SOVIETS CAN ANSWER. IT IS NOT THE UNITED STATES WHICH IS BLOCKING PROGRESS. OUR PROPOSALS ARE NOT NEW. THEY ARE, HOWEVER, NECESSARY FOR AN AGREEMENT.

I SINCERELY HOPE THERE CAN BE AN AGREEMENT, BUT IT MUST BE A GOOD AGREEMENT. THE OLD DOUBLE-PLAY IS NOT GOING TO WORK WITH THIS PRESIDENT. AFTER GORBACHEV'S SPEECH THE PRESIDENT KEPT OUR NEGOTIATORS IN GENEVA AFTER THE END OF THE ROUND OF TALKS. IF THE SOVIETS WANT PROGRESS, THEY HAVE ONLY TO TELL OUR PEOPLE IN GENEVA THIS, AND THEN GET DOWN TO SERIOUS BUSINESS. AMERICA, AND OUR ALLIES, WILL WELCOME AN AGREEMENT WHICH TRULY ENHANCES EUROPEAN SECURITY AND STABILITY.

FINALLY, I AM SURE THAT MY COLLEAGUES ARE AWARE THAT OUR CHIEF NEGOTIATOR, MAX KAMPELMAN, WAS HOSPITALIZED LATE LAST WEEK, AND THAT THEY WOULD JOIN ME IN WISHING HIM A SPEEDY AND FULL RECOVERY. MAX IS DOING WELL, AND MAY BE HOME BY THE WEEKEND. AFTER SOME REST, HE SHOULD BE BACK ON THE JOB WHERE WE NEED HIM. GOD BLESS YOU, MAX.

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