

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

SECURITY PROBLEMS IN MOSCOW

THE PRESIDENT YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED -- AMONG OTHER THINGS -- THAT SECRETARY SHULTZ WILL GO FORWARD WITH HIS VISIT TO THE SOVIET UNION, DESPITE THE SERIOUS SECURITY PROBLEMS THAT HAVE EMERGED WITH OUR EMBASSIES -- CURRENT AND NEW -- THERE.

I DON'T TAKE ISSUE WITH THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION. BUT I DO SAY THIS: THE ONLY WAY THIS VISIT MAKES SENSE IS IF WE USE THE OCCASION TO LAY DOWN SOME TOUGH MARKERS WITH THE SOVIETS.

SHULTZ MUST TELL SHEVARDNADZE, LOUD AND CLEAR: ENOUGH OF THIS NONSENSE. IF THE SOVIETS GO ON PLAYING THIS DANGEROUS GAME -- WELL, TWO CAN PLAY. THE SOVIETS ARE BUILDING AN EMBASSY HERE, JUST AS WE ARE IN MOSCOW. AND THE SIMPLE RULE OUGHT TO BE: WHAT HAPPENS TO OUR EMBASSY THERE, HAPPENS TO THEIRS HERE.

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: IF THE SOVIETS WANT ANY KIND OF PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS -- IF THEY WANT TO DO ANY KIND OF SERIOUS BUSINESS -- THEN THEY'RE GOING TO HAVE TO PLAY BY SOME BASIC RULES. AND THAT BETTER BE THE MESSAGE SECRETARY SHULTZ CARRIES WITH HIM.

THE PROPER PERSPECTIVE

LET'S KEEP THE PROBLEMS THAT HAVE EMERGED IN PERSPECTIVE. THEY'RE NOT JUST THE PROBLEMS OF THIS ADMINISTRATION. THEY CAN'T ALL BE PILED ON RONALD REAGAN'S DOORSTEP. THESE PROBLEMS WERE DISCOVERED ON HIS WATCH, BUT THEIR ROOTS GO BACK BEFORE RONALD REAGAN ARRIVED IN TOWN.

PLANNING FOR OUR EMBASSY IN MOSCOW GOES BACK TO THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION. CONSTRUCTION ON THE EMBASSY BEGAN BACK IN 1977, DURING THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT,

THE DECISION TO ALLOW THE SOVIETS TO MOVE INTO THEIR NEW EMBASSY COMPOUND -- LONG BEFORE OURS WAS READY -- WAS MADE THAT SAME YEAR, BY PRESIDENT CARTER. IT WAS THAT DECISION WHICH MARKED THE FIRST, FUNDAMENTAL BREAKING OF LINKAGE BETWEEN PROGRESS ON THE SOVIET EMBASSY HERE AND OURS IN MOSCOW. IT PUT US BEHIND AN EIGHT BALL, AND WE STILL FIND OURSELVES THERE TODAY.

THE ROOT PROBLEM

SO THE ROOT PROBLEM IS NOT THIS ADMINISTRATION'S. BUT THE ROOT PROBLEM DOES HAVE THESE TWO CHARACTERISTICS. FIRST, THE SOVIETS HAVE GONE RECKLESSLY BEYOND THE BOUNDS OF ACCEPTABLE CONDUCT, AND HAVE TO BE PULLED BACK IN. THIS ADMINISTRATION, INDEED, HAS THE RESPONSIBILITY TO DO THAT. AND I THINK IT WILL.

AND, SECOND, THE PROBLEM ON OUR END IS NOT ONLY LONG-STANDING, BUT IT ALSO GOES BEYOND MOSCOW AND REACHES DEEP INTO THE BUREAUCRACY OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND OTHER INVOLVED AGENCIES.

FOUR OTHER EMBASSY PROJECTS ARE PLANNED IN EASTERN EUROPE. MANY OTHERS ARE ON THE DRAWING BOARD OR UNDER CONSTRUCTION AROUND THE WORLD. IF THESE PROJECTS GO FORWARD IN THE SAME WAY THAT THE MOSCOW EMBASSY DID, THE SECURITY FALLOUT COULD MAKE WHAT WE'VE ALREADY SEEN LOOK LIKE A PICNIC.

AND MANY PARTS OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND SEVERAL OTHER AGENCIES ARE INVOLVED. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT EVERYONE INVOLVED HAS NOT ALWAYS BEEN ON THE SAME WAVELENGTH. AND I HAVE THE STRONG IMPRESSION THAT ONE ELEMENT, ABOVE ALL OTHERS, HAS BEEN GIVEN THE LEAST PRIORITY. NOT ONLY NOW BUT OVER THE YEARS. THAT'S THE CONSIDERATION OF SECURITY. THAT HAS JUST GOT TO BE CHANGED, STARTING NOW.

NEW LEGISLATION REQUIRED

NEW LEGISLATION IS REQUIRED. MY STAFF, AND THE STAFF OF THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM DELAWARE, MR. ROTH, ARE ALREADY AT WORK CRAFTING LEGISLATION. WE HOPE TO HAVE THE BILL READY TODAY. AND I WOULD HOPE THAT, SHORTLY AFTER THE RECESS, THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES COULD GET DOWN TO SERIOUS WORK ON OUR BILL, TO GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE.

ELEMENTS OF DOLE-ROTH BILL

WHAT'S IN THE BILL? FIRST, WE PUT THE MOSCOW EMBASSY PROBLEMS IN THE RIGHT CONTEXT -- THE CONTEXT OF THE ENTIRE SOVIET AND EAST BLOC ESPIONAGE EFFORT AGAINST THE U.S. WE DEAL WITH THE PROBLEM HERE, BY IMPOSING RATIONAL LIMITS ON ALL THE EAST BLOC EMBASSIES HERE.

AND WE FINALLY MAKE ESPIONAGE IN LAW WHAT IT IS IN FACT: THE MOST HEINOUS KIND OF CRIME, DESERVING OF THE ULTIMATE PENALTY: DEATH.

SECOND, THE BILL RAISES THE STAKES IN THE MOSCOW EMBASSY GAME. UNLESS WE GET SATISFACTION ON OUR LEGITIMATE AND SERIOUS CONCERNS, THE SOVIETS CAN START PACKING FOR A MOVE OUT OF MOUNT ALTO, RIGHT NOW. WE SEE THAT AS A FIRST "SHOT ACROSS THE BOW." THE SOVIETS AND ANYONE ELSE TEMPTED TO FOLLOW THEIR LEAD IN THIS ESPIONAGE GAME HAVE TO LEARN THAT THEY WILL PAY A PRICE FOR THEIR ACTIONS.

THIRD, THE LEGISLATION WILL LAY OUT A PLAN TO GET OUR OWN ADMINISTRATIVE AND SECURITY HOUSE IN ORDER. IT WILL MANDATE A SINGLE, POWERFUL FOCUS IN THE ADMINISTRATION FOR OUR EFFORTS TO ASSURE THE SECURITY OF OUR OVERSEAS FACILITIES, BOTH WHILE THEY ARE UNDER CONSTRUCTION AND AS THEY ARE IN OPERATION. THAT HAS TO BECOME THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY; NOT AN AFTERTHOUGHT.

FOURTH, WE PUT THE HORSE BEFORE THE CART, WHERE IT BELONGS. WE WANT NO MORE WORK ON NEW EMBASSIES, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER COMMUNIST CONTROLLED AREAS, UNTIL WE ARE SURE THAT WORK CAN GO FORWARD PROPERLY. COMFORTABLE QUARTERS, FOR ONCE, WILL HAVE TO TAKE A BACK SEAT TO SECURE FACILITIES.

FINALLY, WE MANDATE SOME NEEDED CHANGES IN EXISTING SECURITY SYSTEMS. WE HAVE TO MAKE SURE OUR PLANS AND OUR PERSONNEL ARE UP TO THE CHALLENGE THEY FACE. OUR BILL WILL BE A GOOD START IN THAT DIRECTION.

TIME FOR CONGRESS TO GET TO WORK

SENATOR ROTH AND I ARE SUBMITTING OUR IDEAS IN THIS LEGISLATION. OTHERS WILL HAVE THEIR OWN IDEAS. THE KEY IS THAT WE GET TO WORK, NOW, BEFORE ANY MORE DAMAGE IS DONE.

I HOPE ALL SENATORS WILL JOIN WITH SENATOR ROTH AND I IN LOOKING INTO THIS SERIOUS MATTER AND CRAFTING SERIOUS LEGISLATION TO HELP US RESOLVE IT.

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