

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

NO EXCUSE FOR BONN'S DECISION ON HAMADEI

WEST GERMAN DECISION CLEAR

THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT DECISION TO DENY OUR REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF MOHAMMED HAMADEI, THE ACCUSED MURDERER AND HIJACKER OF TWA 847, IS INEXCUSABLE.

HAMADEI HAS BEEN INDICTED FOR THE MURDER OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN. A PASSENGER ON AN AMERICAN PLANE. THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HIM IS STRONG -- AND IS BASED MOSTLY ON ACCOUNTS OF AMERICAN EYEWITNESSES.

MOREOVER, WE HAVE AN EXTRADITION TREATY WITH THE WEST GERMANS. AND THIS LONG-STANDING EXTRADITION REQUEST WAS MADE IN STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THAT TREATY.

AND YET WE ARE TURNED DOWN.
WHY?

BONN'S REASONS WON'T WASH

WELL, BONN SAYS IT WILL PROSECUTE HAMADEI FOR MURDER AND HIJACKING.

MAYBE.

BUT -- UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES -- IT WILL TAKE GERMAN AUTHORITIES AT LEAST A YEAR TO COMPILE THE KIND OF EVIDENCE ALREADY PREPARED FOR COURT ACTION HERE. A WHOLE NEW SET OF LEGAL DELAYING HURDLES WILL BE THROWN UP. WITNESSES' MEMORIES WILL FADE.

WORST OF ALL, AS JOHN CHANCELLOR COMMENTED LAST NIGHT ON NBC, THE QUESTION IS NO LONGER WHETHER HOSTAGE-TAKING WILL WORK IN THIS SITUATION -- IT ALREADY HAS WORKED. THE WEST GERMANS HAVE ALREADY CAVED IN TO THE TERRORISTS DEMANDS THAT HAMADEI NOT BE EXTRADITED. AND -- ALL THE ASSURANCES IN THE WORLD NOTWITHSTANDING -- IS THERE ANYBODY HERE WHO FEELS REALLY SURE THAT SOMEWHERE DOWN THE ROAD -- NEXT MONTH, NEXT YEAR -- THAT WE'RE NOT GOING TO SEE A TRADE OF HAMADEI FOR THE HOSTAGES?

MAKES TALK OF COOPERATION A SHAM

THERE IS NO DENYING THAT WE IN THIS COUNTRY HAVE MADE SOME SERIOUS MISTAKES IN DEALING WITH TERRORISTS. WE TRIED TO TRADE ARMS FOR HOSTAGES, WITH DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES.

BUT THAT IS NO EXCUSE FOR BONN NOW MAKING THE SAME TRAGIC MISTAKE.

ALL OF US -- IN THIS COUNTRY, IN EUROPE, AROUND THE WORLD -- WE'RE FOND OF SAYING TERRORISM IS AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM, THAT REQUIRES A COOPERATIVE, INTERNATIONAL SOLUTION.

BUT IF WE CAN'T GET EXTRADITION OF AN ACCUSED TERRORIST -- ACCUSED OF MURDERING AN AMERICAN -- AGAINST WHOM THERE IS MASSIVE EVIDENCE; IF WE CAN'T GET EXTRADITION FROM ONE OF OUR CLOSEST ALLIES, WITH WHOM WE HAVE A BILATERAL EXTRADITION TREATY WORKED OUT FOR JUST THIS KIND OF SITUATION; AND IF THE ADMITTED REASON WE CAN'T GET IT, IS BECAUSE SOME OTHER HOSTAGES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AND ARE BEING USED AS TRADE BAIT -- THEN ALL OF THIS TALK ABOUT A COOPERATIVE APPROACH TO TERRORISM IS JUST TALK. AND ANY HOPES WE HAVE OF EVER REALLY PUTTING THE LID ON TERRORISM IS IN VAIN.

BONN FLUNKS THE TEST

THE HAMADEI AFFAIR IS A TEST CASE. WEST GERMANY FLUNKED. ALTHOUGH, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, WE CAN'T FORCE WEST GERMANY TO DO ANYTHING, I THINK WE'VE FLUNKED, TOO. WE SHOULD HAVE PUSHED HARDER; SOONER. AND WE SHOULD STILL BE PUSHING TODAY.

THAT MAKES ME ANGRY. IT MAKES ME SAD. AND, I MIGHT SAY, DOUBLY SAD RECALLING THE CONVERSATION I HAD LAST WEEK WITH THE FAMILY OF ROBERT STETHEM -- THE AMERICAN NAVY DIVER KILLED DURING THE TWA HIJACKING.

THEY WEREN'T UP HERE ON CAPITOL HILL SEEKING REVENGE. THEY WERE HERE SEEKING JUSTICE. THE DECISION OF THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT HAS RAISED AN ENORMOUS QUESTION MARK OVER WHETHER TRUE JUSTICE WILL EVER BE DONE.

THE STETHEM FAMILY DOES NOT UNDERSTAND, OR ACCEPT, THIS WEST GERMAN ACTION. I DON'T EITHER. THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GIVE UP THEIR FIGHT; I'M NOT GOING TO GIVE UP TRYING TO HELP THEM GET THE JUSTICE THEY DESERVE.

LATER IN THE DAY, SENATOR D'AMATO AND I WILL BE INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION DEALING WITH THIS AFFAIR. IT WILL LAY OUT THE STAKES, AND WILL LAY IT ON THE LINE WITH THE WEST GERMAN GOVERNMENT. I HOPE ALL SENATORS WILL JOIN US IN PASSING THE RESOLUTION PROMPTLY -- WHILE THERE IS STILL A CHANCE TO SEE JUSTICE DONE.

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