

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: WALT RIKER
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1987 DALE TATE (202) 224-3135

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE GORBACHEV ACCEPTS 0-0 ON INF SYSTEMS

MR. PRESIDENT:

I WANT TO TAKE JUST A MOMENT TO ADVISE THE SENATE THAT SOVIET MEDIA HAVE REPORTED AN INTERVIEW WITH SOVIET LEADER GORBACHEV, IN WHICH HE ACCEPTS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL -- WHICH I HAVE STRONGLY SECONDED -- OF 0-0 LEVELS GLOBALLY ON INF SYSTEMS.

AS I AND OTHER OBSERVERS HAVE SUGGESTED, 0-0 IS ALMOST IMPERATIVE IF WE ARE TO HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN A VERIFICATION REGIME FOR INF SYSTEMS. RESOLUTION OF THAT ISSUE ON TERMS WE HAVE PROPOSED WOULD BE A SIGNIFICANT STEP FORWARD TOWARD AN ACCEPTABLE INF AGREEMENT.

I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT, IN HIS INTERVIEW, GORBACHEV MAKES NO MENTION WHATSOEVER OF ONE OF THE REMAINING UNRESOLVED ISSUES RELATING TO A POSSIBLE INF AGREEMENT -- THE FUTURE OF THE WEST GERMAN PERSHINGSS. WHETHER THAT SUGGESTS SOVIET WILLINGNESS NOT TO CONTEST OUR VIEW OF THAT ISSUE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

AS ALWAYS, WE OUGHT TO VIEW THIS NEWS, WELCOME AS IT IS, WITH CAUTION. THE PROOF IS IN THE PUDDING -- IN THIS CASE, THE PUDDING BEING THE FIRM, SIGNED-AND-SEALED PROPOSALS THE SOVIETS LAY ON THE TABLE IN GENEVA. PERHAPS WE WILL SEE SUCH A PROPOSAL IN THE PLENARY SCHEDULED FOR TOMORROW IN GENEVA.

AS WE WAIT, LET'S DO SO WITH FIRMNESS, PATIENCE AND UNITY. THAT'S WHAT BROUGHT US THIS FAR, AND THAT'S WHAT CAN KEEP PROGRESS COMING.