

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE CAUTIOUSLY WELCOMES SUMMIT MEETING

WASHINGTON -- SENATOR REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE TODAY WELCOMED THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A DECEMBER 7 REAGAN-GORBACHEV SUMMIT, BUT CAUTIONED THAT WE OUGHT TO MOVE TOWARD THE SUMMIT WITH "OUR EYES OPEN, OUR EXPECTATIONS IN CHECK AND OUR FEET FIRMLY ON THE GROUND."

SENATOR DOLE SAID: "I WELCOME THIS NEWS. AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, SUMMITS ARE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO REAL BUSINESS -- AND WE HAVE PLENTY OF IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO DO WITH MR. GORBACHEV. I HOPE THAT -- AFTER THE 'ON AGAIN-OFF AGAIN' PERFORMANCE BY THE KREMLIN THE PAST WEEK -- WE WILL STAY ON TRACK TOWARD A PRODUCTIVE SUMMIT."

ON THE INF QUESTION, DOLE NOTED THAT, "ALL OF US IN THE SENATE WILL BE WAITING TO SEE THAT TREATY; TO READ IT; TO STUDY AND PONDER IT. WE HAPPEN TO THINK HIGHLY OF A DOCUMENT CALLED THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES -- WHICH GIVES US AN IMPORTANT, INDEPENDENT ROLE TO PLAY IN TREATY CONSIDERATION. I HAVE SOME SERIOUS CONCERNS ABOUT THE TREATY AS IT HAS SHAPED UP, THAT I WANT TO SEE ADDRESSED -- PROBABLY THROUGH SOME WELL THOUGHT OUT RESERVATIONS."

DOLE ALSO STRESSED THAT AN INF AGREEMENT IS NOT THE ONLY THING ON OUR AGENDA WITH THE SOVIETS. "WE HAVE SEVERAL OTHER ARMS CONTROL ISSUES -- ESPECIALLY CONVENTIONAL, CHEMICAL AND OFFENSIVE STRATEGIC WEAPONS. AND, EQUALLY IMPORTANT, WE NEED TO CONTINUE TO PRESS THE SOVIETS ON OUR VERY SERIOUS DIFFERENCES WITH THEM ON REGIONAL CONFLICTS, AND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. WE NEED TO LET MR. GORBACHEV KNOW THAT WHAT HIS FORCES DO IN AFGHANISTAN; WHAT HIS SURROGATES DO IN ANGOLA AND NICARAGUA AND KAMPUCHEA; AND WHAT HE DOES TO HIS OWN PEOPLE AT HOME -- SOVIET JEWS; ARMENIANS; LATVIANS; AND ALL THE REST FOR WHOM 'GLASNOST' SO FAR HAS BEEN A PROMISE, NOT A REALITY; WHAT HE DOES IN ALL THESE REALMS WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE A VERY IMPORTANT IMPACT ON OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS."

"A SUMMIT IS NOT AN END, BUT A MEANS TO AN END," DOLE CONCLUDED. "I HOPE WE CAN USE THIS SUMMIT TO MAKE SOME REAL PROGRESS ON THE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES THAT REMAIN BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE SOVIET UNION."