

News from Senator

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DOLE HAILS ADMINISTRATION'S NEW FOOD AID PACKAGE TO POLAND
"GOOD INVESTMENT IN DEMOCRACY & ECONOMIC REFORM IN POLAND"

MR. PRESIDENT:

I AM VERY PLEASED TO ADVISE THOSE SENATORS WHO MAY NOT ALREADY HAVE HEARD THAT THE ADMINISTRATION JUST A FEW MOMENTS AGO ANNOUNCED A NEW FOOD AID INITIATIVE FOR POLAND -- \$50 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FOOD AID FOR FY90.

I ASK UNANIMOUS CONSENT TO PUT THE WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS NEW INITIATIVE IN THE RECORD.

MR. PRESIDENT: THIS NEW PACKAGE WILL BRING TOTAL FOOD AID TO POLAND ANNOUNCED BY THE ADMINISTRATION TO \$108.4 MILLION; AND THE TOTAL AID PACKAGE -- FOOD PLUS OTHER FORMS OF AID -- TO NEARLY A QUARTER OF A BILLION DOLLARS OVER THREE YEARS. AT THIS TIME OF BUDGETARY CRISIS IN OUR OWN GOVERNMENT, THAT IS A BIG, BIG COMMITMENT -- BUT A WELL-JUSTIFIED ONE.

YESTERDAY, I INTRODUCED THE LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT THE PRESIDENT'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL, MADE DURING HIS HISTORIC VISIT TO POLAND AND HUNGARY.

IN THAT STATEMENT, AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS SINCE MY VISIT TO POLAND IN AUGUST -- INCLUDING IN A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT BUSH, IN KENNEBUNKPORT -- I HAVE URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO UNDERTAKE SOME NEW INITIATIVE FOR POLAND. I AM VERY PLEASED AT THIS QUICK RESPONSE.

THE PRESIDENT'S ORIGINAL PROPOSAL WAS MADE AT A TIME WHEN POLAND -- WHILE TAKING SOME IMPORTANT STEPS IN POLITICAL REFORM -- STILL HAD A COMMUNIST-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT. IT SEEMED TO ME IMPORTANT TO SIGNAL OUR INTENT TO DO MORE FOR A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT THAN WE HAD INTENDED FOR A COMMUNIST REGIME.

I ALSO FELT WE SHOULD TAKE SOME ACTION QUICKLY -- TO SIGNAL OUR POLITICAL BACKING FOR THE MAZOWIECKI GOVERNMENT. AS I INDICATED ON MY REPORT TO THE SENATE ON MY TRIP, EVERY POLISH LEADER I MET SAID THE NEW GOVERNMENT'S "HONEYMOON" WOULD BE SHORT. UNLESS IT SHOWS SOME CONCRETE RESULTS QUICKLY, IT COULD RISK LOSING VITAL POLITICAL MOMENTUM -- AND THAT, IN TURN, COULD JEOPARDIZE THE WHOLE DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT IN POLAND.

PRIME MINISTER MAZOWIECKI PUT IT BEST, WHEN HE SAID TO ME: "ANYONE WHO GIVES NOW, GIVES TWICE."

SO, IN MY VIEW, THE STAKES ARE HIGH. AND THIS ADMINISTRATION INITIATIVE WILL HAVE AN IMPACT BEYOND JUST THE DOLLAR VALUE OF THE PACKAGE.

IT WILL BE A CLEAR SIGNAL TO POLAND, AND AROUND THE WORLD, THAT WE ARE PREPARED TO TAKE SPECIAL STEPS TO SUPPORT THE NEW GOVERNMENT. IT WILL HELP THAT GOVERNMENT GET "OVER THE HUMP" OF ITS INITIAL MONTH'S IN OFFICE. IT WILL HELP POLAND GET THROUGH THE UPCOMING WINTER WITH STABLE FOOD SUPPLIES.

IT'S A GOOD DECISION. SOME ADDITIONAL POLITICAL "INSURANCE" FOR THE NEW MAZOWIECKI GOVERNMENT. AND A GOOD INVESTMENT IN DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC REFORM IN POLAND.

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