

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
202/224-5358

DOLE: TURN UP THE CHINA HEAT ANOTHER NOTCH

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) MADE THIS STATEMENT TODAY UPON INTRODUCTION OF A MITCHELL-DOLE AMENDMENT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT REAUTHORIZATION BILL REGARDING SANCTIONS AGAINST THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.

IT HAS NOW BEEN SOME SIX WEEKS SINCE THE SHAME OF TIENANMEN SQUARE. IN THAT PERIOD, OUR GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENTS AROUND THE WORLD HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR OUTRAGE IN MANY WAYS.

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS SPOKEN FORCEFULLY, AND THE SENATE HAS ACTED ON A NUMBER OF RESOLUTIONS. AS RECENTLY AS THIS TUESDAY, WE PASSED 97-0 AN AMENDMENT TO THE IMMIGRATION BILL, INSURING THAT CHINESE STUDENTS IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD NOT BE FORCED TO RETURN TO NEAR CERTAIN PERSECUTION IN THEIR HOMELAND.

DESPITE ALL OF THESE ACTS, THE CHINESE HAVE SHOWN LITTLE SIGNS OF RELENTING. AS RECENTLY AS TODAY, THERE ARE PRESS REPORTS OF ONE CHINESE WORKER BEING SENTENCED TO TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT FOR THE "CRIME" -- AND THAT'S IN QUOTES -- OF TALKING TO AN AMERICAN TELEVISION REPORT ABOUT THE EVENTS IN TIENANMEN.

I BELIEVE THERE IS STRONG SENTIMENT IN THIS BODY, AND IN THIS COUNTRY, FOR US TO TURN UP THE HEAT ANOTHER NOTCH; TO RAISE THE COST TO THE CHINESE OF THEIR RECKLESS AND REPRESSIVE POLICIES; TO TRY TO MAKE THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE STILL SLIDING DOWN A VERY SLIPPERY AND DANGEROUS SLOPE, AT THE BOTTOM OF WHICH LIES A SEVERELY DAMAGED BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP.

MR. PRESIDENT, THIS BILL, IN ITS SUBSTANTIVE SECTIONS, VERY CLOSELY TRACKS WITH THE LEGISLATION PASSED RECENTLY AND UNANIMOUSLY BY THE HOUSE. IT IMPOSES SOME ADDITIONAL ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON THE CHINESE, AS THE MAJORITY LEADER HAS INDICATED. IT ALSO ALLOWS THE PRESIDENT TO WAIVE IMPOSITION OR CONTINUATION OF THOSE SANCTIONS, IF HE DETERMINES THAT IT IS IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO DO SO.

I AM INFORMED THAT THE ADMINISTRATION -- WHILE IT IS NOT EXACTLY JUMPING UP AND DOWN WITH GLEE THAT WE MIGHT PASS THIS LEGISLATION -- BELIEVES IT CAN LIVE WITH THIS SENATE ACTION. IT IS MY HOPE, IN FACT, THAT SENATE PASSAGE WILL GIVE THE PRESIDENT AND THE ADMINISTRATION A STRONGER AND MORE CREDIBLE HAND TO PLAY IN THEIR DEALINGS WITH BEIJING.

MR. PRESIDENT, ON THIS ISSUE AS ON EVERY OTHER IMPORTANT FOREIGN POLICY ISSUE, WE AS A COUNTRY SPEAK MORE STRONGLY AND EFFECTIVELY WHEN WE SPEAK IN ONE, NONPARTISAN VOICE. THIS IS A BIPARTISAN AMENDMENT; I HOPE AND BELIEVE IT WILL RECEIVE OVERWHELMING SUPPORT. AND I HOPE, FINALLY, THAT THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP WILL LISTEN -- NOT ONLY TO WHAT WE ARE SAYING BUT, FAR MORE IMPORTANT, TO THE VOICE OF THEIR OWN PEOPLE.

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