

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
WHITE ROSE FOUNDATION
MARCH 8, 1989

WHEN THE WHITE ROSE FOUNDATION WAS CREATED ON FEBRUARY 23, 1987, I EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANCE I ATTACHED TO THE FOUNDATION IN TERMS OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY.

"THIS RELATIONSHIP WAS NOT BUILT ON A FORGETTING OF THE PAST, BUT ON SHARING VALUES. SHARING THE CONVICTION THAT GOVERNMENTS MUST SECURE THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED AND THAT THEY MUST PROTECT THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THEIR CITIZENS. IT IS VITAL THAT ALL AMERICANS, BUT PARTICULARLY AMERICAN JEWS, LEARN FIRST-HAND ABOUT CONTEMPORARY GERMANY. THE TRAUMA OF THE HOLOCAUST IS SO GREAT THAT IT IS NOT ALTOGETHER SURPRISING IF AMERICAN JEWS HAVE RESERVATIONS ABOUT GERMANY. AND GERMANS OFTEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE ROLE AMERICAN JEWS PLAY IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE. IF MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND SUSPICIONS ARE TO BE OVERCOME, ALL SIDES MUST JOIN IN AN HONEST EXCHANGE OF CONVICTIONS AND ATTITUDES, SO EVENTUALLY, TRUST WILL EMERGE."

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS HAVE ONLY STRENGTHENED MY APPRECIATION FOR THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FOUNDATION'S WORK. THE JENNINGER CONTROVERSY AND THE LIBYAN CHEMICAL PLANT PROBLEM HAVE EMPHASIZED THAT GERMAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS CANNOT BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED, AND THAT IT IS WISE INDEED TO EDUCATE NOT ONLY AMERICANS, BUT ALSO GERMANY'S NEW GENERATION ABOUT THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WHITE ROSE, ONE OF THE IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL ROOTS OF CONTEMPORARY GERMAN DEMOCRACY.

IN MAY OF 1988 THE WHITE ROSE FOUNDATION HELD A GERMAN-JEWISH DIALOGUE IN MUNICH THAT WAS ATTENDED BY MORE THAN TWO THOUSAND PERSONS AND WAS WIDELY REPORTED IN THE GERMAN MEDIA. I HOPE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO CONDUCT A SIMILAR DIALOGUE IN THIS COUNTRY SOMETIME IN 1990 SO THAT MANY AMERICANS WILL LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WHITE ROSE ANTI-NAZI RESISTANCE, ONE OF THE MOST STIRRING STORIES OF THIS CENTURY.