

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 6, 1989

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DOLE: CHINA TAKES GREAT LEAP BACKWARD

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE DELIVERED THIS STATEMENT TODAY ON THE SENATE FLOOR REGARDING CHINA:

IN THE PAST 72 HOURS, WE HAVE WITNESSED A GREAT LEAP BACKWARD IN CHINA.

BACKWARD TOWARD AN ERA OF SAVAGE REPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

BACKWARD TOWARD A BRUTAL DISDAIN FOR HUMAN LIFE.

BACKWARD INTO A POLITICAL TURMOIL BORDERING ON CHAOS.

NO ONE -- NO ONE IN THIS CITY; NO ONE EVEN IN THE INNER CIRCLES OF THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT -- NO ONE KNOWS WHERE IT WILL ALL END.

BUT SOME THINGS ARE CLEAR.

THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO DATE HAVE BEEN UTTERLY UNJUSTIFIED AND INEXCUSABLE. THE CIVILIZED WORLD IS REPULSED BY WHAT WE HAVE WITNESSED. WE HAVE THE RIGHT, AND AN OBLIGATION, TO SPEAK OUT. AS THE MAJORITY LEADER INDICATED, WE ARE DETERMINED THAT THE SENATE WILL SPEAK OUT TODAY, JUST AS THE PRESIDENT DID YESTERDAY.

THE DAMAGE TO RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO NATIONS HAS ALREADY BEEN SERIOUS; AND THE POTENTIAL FOR FAR MORE PROFOUND DAMAGE IS VERY REAL.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE SEEN AND HEARD WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN BEIJING THESE PAST DAYS. AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL NOT LONG TOLERATE "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH A REGIME THAT MOWS DOWN ITS OWN CITIZENS IN THE STREETS OF ITS CAPITAL. THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT CANNOT CONDUCT NORMAL RELATIONS WITH A REGIME WHICH BELIEVES ITSELF FREE TO ACT THAT WAY.

AS THE PRESIDENT SAID YESTERDAY, WE HAVE A VITAL INTEREST IN GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE P.R.C. BUT WE ALSO HAVE A PROFOUND AND HISTORIC COMMITMENT TO HUMAN FREEDOM AND DIGNITY. THE CHINESE GOVERNMENT MUST UNDERSTAND THAT -- WHILE WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO SHOOT OURSELVES IN THE FOOT -- NEITHER ARE WE GOING TO ASSASSINATE OUR PRINCIPLES, OR TURN OUR BACK ON PEOPLE WHO WANT ONLY TO BE FREE.

(MORE)

THE PRESIDENT HAS SPOKEN STRONGLY AND WISELY. HE HAS SENT A CLEAR, MEASURED MESSAGE. I AM CONVINCED IT IS EXACTLY THE RIGHT MESSAGE -- TRUE TO OUR IDEALS, CONSISTENT WITH OUR INTERESTS.

AND I AM ALSO CONVINCED THE CONGRESS, AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, WILL OVERWHELMINGLY SUPPORT WHAT THE PRESIDENT HAS DONE; AND WILL AGREE WITH WHAT HE, SO FAR, HAS NOT DONE.

BUT LET THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES UNDERSTAND THIS, TOO. THIS SPASM OF BLOOD AND BRUTALITY MUST END, NOW. THEY MUST AGAIN ACCEPT THEIR OWN PEOPLE AS THE END OF THE STATE, AND NOT ITS ENEMY.

ON THAT BASIS, THEY CAN RESUME THEIR PATH TOWARD REFORM AND PROGRESS. AND ON THAT BASIS, WE CAN MUTUALLY RESUME THE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS SO WELL SERVED BOTH OF OUR COUNTRIES.

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