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## **SUSPEND USSR GRAIN CREDITS**

### **GORBACHEV'S BULLYING OF REPUBLICS MEANS NO "BUSINESS AS USUAL"**

WASHINGTON -- ASSERTING THAT "THE UNITED STATES MUST NOT BE A PARTY TO OPPRESSION AND BLACKMAIL," SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) IS CALLING ON THE U.S. TO SUSPEND GRAIN CREDITS TO THE SOVIET UNION UNTIL PRESIDENT GORBACHEV PROVIDES CONCRETE ASSURANCES THAT AMERICAN GRAIN WILL NOT BE USED TO BULLY THE INDEPENDENCE-MINDED SOVIET REPUBLICS.

"WITH THE WEEKEND'S DISTURBING EVENTS IN LITHUANIA, WE NEED TO RE-EXAMINE CERTAIN ASPECTS OF OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP WITH MOSCOW," DOLE SAID. AS EARLY AS DECEMBER 21, 1990, DOLE SAID SUCH A POLICY RE-EXAMINATION MIGHT BE NECESSARY: "IF GORBACHEV STARTS MOVING TO THE RIGHT, AND WE START SEEING THE KGB AND THE ARMY PLAYING A BIGGER ROLE, ... THEN I THINK WE MAY HAVE TO RE-EVALUATE THINGS LIKE EXPORT CREDITS, DEFENSE SPENDING, AND OUR HOPES TO GET ARMS AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIETS."

#### **EVIDENCE OF GRAIN BLACKMAIL**

ON TOP OF THE SOVIET TROOPS' BLOODY CRACKDOWN IN LITHUANIA OVER THE WEEKEND, DOLE SAID HE HAD LEARNED LAST WEEK FROM THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE SOVIET REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA "THAT GORBACHEV HAS INDICATED THAT THE ONLY REPUBLICS THAT WILL RECEIVE GRAIN AND FEED PURCHASED WITH THE \$1 BILLION IN CREDITS FROM THE UNITED STATES ARE THOSE REPUBLICS THAT AGREE TO SIGN THE UNION TREATY," THEREBY ABANDONING INDEPENDENCE EFFORTS. "IN OTHER WORDS," DOLE SAID, "GORBACHEV IS TRYING TO USE OUR GRAIN CREDITS TO BLACKMAIL MOLDOVA, THE BALTIC REPUBLICS AND ANY OTHER REPUBLIC THAT DOESN'T AGREE TO SIGN THE UNION TREATY. GORBACHEV HAS OFFERED THE PEOPLE OF THESE REPUBLICS TWO OPTIONS: SIGN OR STARVE."

#### **NO "BUSINESS AS USUAL"**

"SO, I BELIEVE THAT UNLESS GORBACHEV PUTS AN IMMEDIATE END TO THE THREATS, BLACKMAIL AND AGGRESSION, THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NOT DEAL WITH HIM IN A 'BUSINESS AS USUAL' MANNER," DOLE ADDED.

"WHILE I HAVE BEEN A STRONG ADVOCATE OF THE RECENT DECISION TO PROVIDE \$1 BILLION IN GRAIN CREDITS TO THE SOVIET UNION, I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD SUSPEND GRAIN CREDITS TO THE SOVIET UNION UNTIL WE RECEIVE CONCRETE ASSURANCES FROM GORBACHEV THAT FEED AND GRAIN PURCHASED WITH OUR ASSISTANCE WILL NOT BE USED AS A MEANS OF COERCION, RATHER THAT IT WILL GO TO THE HUNGRY PEOPLE IN ALL THE REPUBLICS, AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY INTENDED."

#### **NO UNCONDITIONAL AMERICAN SUPPORT**

"TO DATE THE UNITED STATES HAS FIRMLY SUPPORTED PRESIDENT GORBACHEV AND HIS POLICIES OF REFORM. BUT, THIS SUPPORT IS NOT AND CANNOT BE UNCONDITIONAL. YES, WE WANT POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REFORM IN THE SOVIET UNION; YES, WE WANT GLASNOST. BUT, POLITICAL OPPRESSION AND MILITARY AGGRESSION SUCH AS WE HAVE SEEN IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS DO NOT REPRESENT REFORM OR GLASNOST, BUT ABANDONMENT OF THAT PATH, AND REGRESSION INTO THE SOVIET UNION OF THE PAST, THE SOVIET UNION THAT GORBACHEV CLAIMS TO HAVE REJECTED."

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