

News from Senator

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LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION ON SOVIET CRACK DOWN: NO BUSINESS AS USUAL

I AM PLEASED TO JOIN SENATOR BYRD IN OFFERING THIS RESOLUTION.

I SUSPECT THAT I SPEAK FOR BOTH OF US IN SAYING: I WISH WE COULD DO MORE THAN THIS RESOLUTION -- I NOW HE HAS BEEN WORKING HARD ON THAT SIDE OF THE AISLE TO PRODUCE A RESOLUTION THAT WOULD EXERT EVEN MORE DIRECTLY THE ECONOMIC LEVERAGE THAT WE HAVE OVER MOSCOW. I COMMEND HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS.

BUT SENATOR BYRD AND I SHARE THIS VIEW: WE MUST DO SOMETHING, NOW.

STALINISM REVISTED

WE MUST LET THE SOVIET UNION KNOW, NOW, THAT THE CONGRESS WILL NOT TOLERATE AN "OLD ORDER" REACTION IN THE BALTICS -- EVEN WHILE OUR MAIN ATTENTION IS FOCUSED ON A "NEW ORDER" TEST OF RESOLVE IN THE PERSIAN GULF.

WE WILL NOT TOLERATE UNKNOWN AND UNNAMED KREMLIN APPARAT IMPLEMENTING A NEO-STALINIST CRACKDOWN IN THE BALTICS -- WHILE WE PRACTICE BUSINESS AS USUAL WITH GORBACHEV IN MOSCOW.

IN LAUNCHING ITS CRACKDOWN IN THE BALTICS, I'M SURE THE KREMLIN HAS BANKED ON THE FACT THAT ALL EYES ARE FOCUSED ON THE PERSIAN GULF. I'M SURE THE KREMLIN HAS REASONED THAT -- WITH SO MUCH ON THE LINE IN THE GULF -- WE WILL NOT BE INCLINED TO "ROCK THE BOAT" IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

LET NO ONE MISREAD WHERE AMERICA STANDS, EITHER IN THE PERSIAN GULF OR IN THE BALTICS.

THE LINE IS DRAWN

THERE MAY BE A LINE IN THE SAND IN SAUDI ARABIA -- BUT THERE IS NO LINE WHICH DIVIDES THE PRINCIPLES AT ISSUE IN THE GULF, AND IN THE BALTICS. INDEED, THERE IS A LINE OF REASONING, OR PRINCIPLE, WHICH BRINGS THEM TOGETHER.

FOR WHAT IS ON THE LINE IN THE GULF IS WHETHER AMERICA WILL TOLERATE THE BRUTAL REPRESSION BY A POWERFUL AND RUTHLESS NATION AGAINST A SMALL AND DEFENSELESS NEIGHBOR.

AND WHAT IS ON THE LINE IN THE BALTICS IS, ON THE BOTTOM LINE, EXACTLY THE SAME THING.

EXPLICITLY AND IMPLICITLY, WE HAVE STRUCK A DEAL WITH MOSCOW.

WE HAVE AGREED TO A NEW STRUCTURE OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS NOT BECAUSE WE THINK GORBACHEV IS A GREAT GUY, BUT BECAUSE WE HAVE PERCEIVED --AND HAVE BEEN LED TO BELIEVE -- THAT THERE IS A NEW CHARACTER TO SOVIET POLICIES, AT HOME AND ABROAD. THOSE NEW RELATIONS SERVE AMERICAN INTERESTS, AND THE INTERESTS OF INTERNATIONAL STABILITY AND PEACE. WE HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THE SOVIET POWER STRUCTURE -- NOT OUT OF SOME NEW-BORN ALTRUISM, BUT THE SAME OLD SELF-INTEREST THAT GUIDES ALL NATIONS -- HAS COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT IT CANNOT PROSPER, OR PERHAPS EVEN SURVIVE, BY PURSUING THE "OLD ORDER," STALINIST STYLE OF POLITICS AND POLICIES.

COMMITMENT TO REFORM, NOT GORBACHEV

OUR FUNDAMENTAL COMMITMENT IS NOT TO GORBACHEV -- BUT TO THE REFORMIST POLICIES HE HAS BEEN ESPOUSING AND IMPLEMENTING.

IF HE TURNS HIS BACK ON THOSE POLICIES -- THE DEAL IS OFF. THAT IS THE SIMPLE AND STRONG MESSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION.

PRESIDENT GORBACHEV CANNOT CONSTRUCT A "BUBBLE" AROUND THE SOVIET UNION AND THE BALTICS, AND -- INSIDE THAT BUBBLE -- CANNOT TURN BACK THE CLOCK TO THE ERA OF STALIN; AND SOMEHOW THINK THAT WILL NOT AFFECT U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS.

IT WON'T WORK IN THE BALTICS. IT WON'T WASH IN THE CONGRESS.

I URGE THAT WE SEND THAT MESSAGE, STRONG AND CLEAR, TO MOSCOW -- BY PASSING THIS RESOLUTION.

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