

News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 24, 1991

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DOLE ON BALTICS

MITCHELL-DOLE RESOLUTION ON BALTICS

I AM PLEASED TO OFFER THIS RESOLUTION, AND TO HAVE THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER AS THE PRINCIPAL COSPONSOR.

AT THIS POINT, THERE IS NOT MUCH NEED FOR A LONG SPEECH.

SOVIET TANKS AND TROOPS ROLLING INTO LITHUANIA AND LATVIA HAVE PRETTY WELL SHATTERED ANY ROSE COLORED GLASSES ANYONE WAS STILL WEARING.

GLASNOST AND PERESTROIKA MIGHT NOT BE DEAD, BUT THEY'RE CERTAINLY ON "LIFE SUPPORT" -- AND THERE'S EVERY REASON TO WONDER WHETHER AND WHEN GORBACHEV, OR WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE, IS GOING TO PULL THE FINAL PLUG.

WE PASSED A RESOLUTION VERY MUCH LIKE THIS ONE SEVERAL DAYS AGO. THERE'S NO SIGN THAT MESSAGE GOT THROUGH TO THE KREMLIN.

BUT IT IS WORTH THE EFFORT TO TRY AGAIN. MAYBE WITH A RECORDED VOTE GORBACHEV AND HIS KREMLIN COLLEAGUES WILL GET A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW STRONGLY WE IN THE SENATE FEEL ABOUT THE TRAGEDY IN THE BALTICS, AND WILL SEE THAT WE MEAN WHAT WE SAY.

THERE WILL BE NO "BUSINESS AS USUAL" WITH GORBACHEV -- UNLESS HE RETURNS TO THE PATH OF REFORM AND REASON ON WHICH HE HAD SO IMPRESSIVELY EMBARKED.

THERE WILL BE NO AMERICAN "LIFE PRESERVER" -- IN THE FORM OF AID AND CREDITS AND INTERNATIONAL LEGITIMATION -- NO AMERICAN "LIFE PRESERVER" FOR GORBACHEV'S TOTTERING REGIME, UNLESS GORBACHEV RETURNS TO PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES THAT ARE WORTH PRESERVING.

LET'S TALK TURKEY. THE U.S. HAS BENEFITTED BY GORBACHEV'S RELATIVELY RESPONSIBLE AND REFORMIST POLICIES. AND IT WOULD CERTAINLY BE PREFERABLE TO BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WORKING WITH A RESPONSIBLE SOVIET REGIME.

BUT GORBACHEV NEEDS US A LOT MORE THAN WE NEED HIM.

HIS COUNTRY IS THE ONE FALLING APART AT THE SEAMS.

HIS ECONOMY IS THE ONE FLAT ON ITS BACK.

HIS SOCIETY IS THE ONE RENT WITH SEVERE NATIONAL AND ETHNIC TENSIONS AND VIOLENCE.

WE HAVE A STRONG HAND TO PLAY -- AND WE OUGHT TO PLAY IT.

I HOPE IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR GORBACHEV TO PULL BACK FROM THE VERY PRINCIPLES OF REASON AND REFORM HE HAS SO IMPRESSIVELY CHAMPIONED. I HOPE HE HAS NOT ALREADY IRREVOCABLY CAST HIS LOT WITH THE REPRESSIVE ELEMENTS STILL SO STRONG IN THE SOVIET UNION, OR BEEN RENDERED POLITICALLY IMPOTENT TO DO ANYTHING BUT ACCEDE TO THEIR POLICY DICTATES.

LET US TRY ONCE AGAIN TO SEND THIS MESSAGE TO THE SOVIET UNION -- AND, IN THE INTERESTS OF BOTH OUR NATION AND THE SOVIET UNION, LET US PRAY THAT IT IS NOT TOO LATE FOR THIS MESSAGE TO GET THROUGH.

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