

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

POWS

MITCHELL-DOLE RESOLUTION ON PRISONERS OF WAR

I COMMEND THE DISTINGUISHED MAJORITY LEADER FOR HIS STATEMENT, AND RISE IN SUPPORT OF THE MITCHELL-DOLE RESOLUTION.

OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS, WE HAVE SEEN BLINDFOLDED PILOTS DRAGGED BEFORE CAMERAS IN BAGHDAD. WE HAVE SEEN THESE SAME PILOTS MAKE OBVIOUSLY COERCED STATEMENTS. AND WE HAVE HEARD THE PROMISES OF SADDAM HUSSEIN THAT COALITION PRISONERS OF WAR WOULD BE MOVED TO PERCEIVED MILITARY TARGETS.

AS I SAID TUESDAY, MR. PRESIDENT, AMERICANS MAY HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS ON OUR ENTRANCE INTO HOSTILITIES IN THE GULF CRISIS, BUT WE ARE UNITED IN OUR REVULSION OF SADDAM'S TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

WHILE WE ARE SICKENED BY THESE ACTIONS, WE ARE CERTAINLY NOT SURPRISED. SADDAM'S HISTORY IS ONE OF TORTURE, CRUELTY, AND SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT MEN, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN.

SADDAM ALSO HAS A HISTORY OF MISJUDGING THE AMERICAN PEOPLE. AND HE'S DONE IT AGAIN. PERHAPS SADDAM THINKS THAT BY DISPLAYING AND TORTURING POW'S, AMERICA'S RESOLVE WILL BE WEAKEND.

WHAT A MONUMENTAL BLUNDER. PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION WILL ENSURE THAT LONG AFTER OUR MISSION IN IRAQ IS COMPLETE, THIS BODY AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WILL REMEMBER SADDAM'S REPULSIVE AND COWARDLY BEHAVIOR.

THE RULES FOR PRISONERS OF WAR ARE CHERISHED BY ALL CIVILIZED NATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, UNDER SADDAM'S LEADERSHIP, THE ONCE PROUD COUNTRY HAS CEASED TO BE A CIVILIZED NATION.

WHEN SADAAM'S TROOPS INVADED KUWAIT, PRESIDENT BUSH SAID THAT THE WORLD WOULD HOLD HIM ACCOUNTABLE FOR HIS ACTIONS. AND SO WE HAVE.

PRESIDENT BUSH HAS NOW SAID THAT YOU CAN COUNT ON THE FACT THAT WE WILL ALSO HOLD HIM RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS TREATMENT OF PRISONERS OF WAR.

PASSAGE OF THIS RESOLUTION WILL SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE THAT THE SENATE IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THE PRESIDENT'S PROMISE.

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