

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SENATOR BOB DOLE
REMARKS FOR KANSAS DAY BANQUET
JANUARY 26, 1991**

THANK YOU. LIKE MANY OF YOU, I'VE BEEN COMING TO THESE KANSAS DAY BANQUETS FOR MANY YEARS. BUT THIS ONE SEEMS DIFFERENT FROM ALL THE REST.

IN TIMES LIKE THIS, THE UPS AND DOWNS OF KANSAS POLITICS SEEM LESS IMPORTANT; THE LATEST RUMOR ON WHO'S RUNNING FOR OFFICE, A LITTLE LESS EARTH-SHATTERING.

I BELIEVE THAT WE MEET TONIGHT NOT AS REPUBLICANS, BUT AS AMERICANS. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF TIME FOR POLITICS IN THE FUTURE. BUT IN THE COMING WEEKS AND MONTHS, WE MUST STAND UNITED AS WE MEET THE CHALLENGES FACING OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.

THE GULF

THE MOST PRESSING CHALLENGE, OF COURSE, COMES FROM SADDAM HUSSEIN. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN OFFER ANY INSIGHTS THAT YOU HAVEN'T PICKED UP ON CNN, BUT I DO WANT TO SHARE A FEW THOUGHTS.

FIRST, I THINK THAT SADDAM'S BEHAVIOR HAS PROVEN THAT PRESIDENT BUSH'S DECISION TO ENFORCE THE U.N. RESOLUTION WAS RIGHT.

IT'S CLEAR THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF STOPPING WITH THE INVASION OF KUWAIT, AND EVERY INTENTION OF BUILDING A MILITARY MACHINE CAPABLE OF SPREADING TERROR THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

HE'S ORDERED SCUD ATTACKS ON ISRAEL FOR NO OTHER REASON THAN TERROR. HE'S PARADED POW'S BEFORE TELEVISION CAMERAS, FORCING THEM TO MAKE OBVIOUSLY COERCED STATEMENTS. AND HE'S THREATENED TO AGAIN USE HUMAN BEINGS AS HUMAN SHIELDS--WHICH IS INHUMAN BEHAVIOR--BUT CERTAINLY IN KEEPING WITH SADDAM'S TRACK RECORD.

THIS IS A MAN WITH NO MORALS AND NO SHAME. HE HAS TORTURED, GASED, AND MURDERED LITERALLY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HIS OWN PEOPLE.

WHICH BRINGS ME TO MY NEXT POINT. WE'RE DEALING WITH A DICTATOR WHO WAS PERFECTLY WILLING TO SACRIFICE 300,000 OF HIS TROOPS IN A FRUITLESS EIGHT-YEAR WAR AGAINST IRAN.

DESPITE OUR INITIAL SUCCESSES, THE WAR IS NOT OVER. IT'S NOT GOING TO END TOMORROW OR THE DAY AFTER. AND THAT'S DIFFICULT FOR MANY AMERICANS TO ACCEPT. WE'VE BEEN SPOILED RECENTLY. WE'RE USED TO ACTIONS LIKE GRENADA OR PANAMA, WHERE OUR TROOPS WENT IN, ACCOMPLISHED THEIR MISSION IN A DAY OR TWO WITH MINIMAL CASUALTIES, AND GOT OUT. IN FACT, THERE WAS A HEADLINE IN ONE NEWSPAPER ON DAY SIX OF THE WAR WHICH SAID "WAR DRAGS ON."

THE RELATIVELY SMALL NUMBER OF AMERICAN AND COALITION CASUALTIES IS THE BEST NEWS OF THE FIRST WEEK OF WAR. AND WE SHOULD KEEP THIS GOOD NEWS COMING BY CONTINUING TO POUND IRAQ FROM THE AIR AND BRING SADDAM TO TERMS, BEFORE OUR GROUND TROOPS ARE SENT IN.

I SPENT THANKSGIVING WITH OUR TROOPS IN SAUDI ARABIA. AND WHEN I LOOKED INTO EYES OF THESE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN, I SAW THEIR PARENTS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THEIR CHILDREN. THERE ARE 13,000 YOUNG KANSANS IN THE GULF. THEY COME FROM EVERY COUNTY, EVERY CITY, EVERY WALK OF LIFE. THEY DIDN'T ASK TO GO THERE, BUT THEY WENT, KNOWING THEY WERE DOING THEIR DUTY.

AND THE DUTY THAT WE OWE OUR TROOPS IS TO ENSURE THAT WHEN OUR MISSION IS COMPLETE, AND SADDAM UNDERSTANDS THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS ACTIONS, WE SAFELY BRING HOME AS MANY AS POSSIBLE OF THESE 13,000 KANSANS, AND THEIR FELLOW SOLDIERS.

THE BALTICS

WHILE THE GULF WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MUCH OF OUR FOCUS, THE SITUATION IN THE BALTIC STATES DESERVES OUR CLOSE ATTENTION.

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WE MUST MAKE IT CLEAR TO MR. GORBACHEV AND THE WORLD THAT THE LINE WE HAVE DRAWN IN THE SAND IN THE GULF, EXTENDS TO LITHUANIA, AND LATVIA, AND ESTONIA, AND WHEREVER A POWERFUL AND RUTHLESS NATION ATTACKS A DEFENSELESS NEIGHBOR.

THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO LOOK AT THE NEWS FROM THE BALTICS. AND BOTH OF THEM ARE DISTURBING. ONE SCENARIO IS THAT THERE ARE SOME ROGUE GENERALS AND HARD-LINERS ORDERING THE CRACKDOWN. IN THAT CASE, THEN GORBACHEV HAS LOST HIS CONTROL. THE OTHER SCENARIO IS THAT GORBACHEV, HIMSELF, ORDERED THE CRACKDOWN. AND IF THAT'S TRUE, HE'S LOST HIS VISION.

GORBACHEV CAN'T HAVE IT BOTH WAYS. HE CAN'T ACCEPT THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WITH ONE HAND, AND STRANGLE DEMOCRACY IN THE BALTICS WITH THE OTHER.

THE SENATE PASSED MY RESOLUTION ON THURSDAY, WHICH LETS MR. GORBACHEV OR WHOEVER IS IN CHARGE KNOW THAT AMERICA'S WILLINGNESS TO SEND ECONOMIC LIFE PRESERVERS TO MOSCOW WILL END UNLESS THE CRACKDOWN STOPS.

IN THE SHORT TERM, THIS MAY HURT AGRICULTURE, AS IT WILL EFFECT GRAIN SALES TO THE SOVIET UNION. BUT IN THE LONG TERM, IT IS FAR BETTER OFF TO CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR DEMOCRATIC REFORMS.

CURRENTLY, IF AMERICA WANTS TO SEND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO REPUBLICS LIKE LITHUANIA AND LATVIA, WE HAVE TO SHIP IT TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT IN MOSCOW. IF WE WANT TO HELP THESE PEOPLE BUILD A BETTER HOUSE, WE SHOULDN'T SEND THE HAMMER AND NAILS TO THE TERMITES. THEREFORE, I HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION WHICH WOULD ALLOW US SHIP ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY TO THE REPUBLICS.

THE ECONOMY

WHILE SOME AMERICANS ARE BEING SHIPPED OFF TO THE GULF, OTHERS ARE BEING LAID OFF HERE AT HOME. THE NEWS FROM ABROAD HAS MOVED TALK OF A RECESSION OFF THE FRONT PAGE, BUT WE SHOULDN'T ALLOW OUR INTENTION TO BE DIVERTED FROM KEEPING AMERICANS EMPLOYED, AND PUTTING OUR FINANCIAL HOUSE IN ORDER.

WE ARE CONFRONTING THE PROSPECT OF MORE THAN \$300 BILLION DEFICITS IN 1991 AND 1992--AND THAT DOESN'T INCLUDE THE COST OF DESERT STORM OR THE S&L BAILOUT.

OUR ANNUAL INTEREST BILL ON THE DEFICIT IS NOW MORE THAN \$200 BILLION--TWICE AS MUCH AS THE ENTIRE FEDERAL BUDGET WHEN I WAS FIRST ELECTED TO CONGRESS.

UNFORTUNATELY, WE CAN'T JUST AIM A PATRIOT MISSILE AT THE DEFICIT AND BLOW IT AWAY. RATHER, CONGRESS MUST CONTINUE TO SHOW COURAGE AND DISCIPLINE, AND IT MUST LIVE UP TO LAST YEAR'S BUDGET SUMMIT AGREEMENT, WHICH PROVIDED REAL, AND LASTING SPENDING CUTS.

CONCLUSION

FINALLY, I DO WANT TO MENTION TONIGHT HOW PROUD I AM OF THE SUPPORT THAT KANSANS HAVE GIVEN TO OUR TROOPS. A REPORTER FROM CNN SPENT THE WEEK HERE, GATHERING OPINIONS FROM AMERICA'S HEARTLAND. AND I NEVER FAILED TO BE IMPRESSED BY THE COMMON SENSE AND PATRIOTISM I HEARD.

WE CAN ALSO BE PROUD THAT A GOOD PORTION OF THE EQUIPMENT KEY TO OUR SUCCESS IN THE GULF IS MANUFACTURED IN KANSAS. THE B-52, THE A-6, AND THE K 135R, WERE ALL BUILT OR REMANUFACTURED HERE IN WICHITA.

IT HAS BEEN A PLEASURE TO BE HERE THIS EVENING, AND LET ME CONCLUDE BY SAYING THAT HOPE AND PRAYER IS THAT AT NEXT YEAR'S BANQUET, WE CAN GET BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF POLITICS.

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