

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JANUARY 31, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

MITCHELL/DOLE RED CROSS RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON THE MITCHELL/DOLE RESOLUTION DEMANDING THAT SADDAM HUSSEIN GIVE THE RED CROSS ACCESS TO ALLIED PRISONERS OF WAR.

I'M PLEASED TO JOIN SENATOR MITCHELL IN OFFERING THIS RESOLUTION.

IF WE'VE LEARNED ONE THING THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, IT'S THAT NO ACTION OF SADDAM HUSSEIN--NO MATTER HOW BRUTAL OR HOW BIZARRE--SHOULD COME AS A SURPRISE. INDEED, THE WORLD HAS WITNESSED A DISGUSTING DISPLAY OF MILITARY TERRORISM...PSYCHOLOGICAL TERRORISM...AND ENVIRONMENTAL TERRORISM.

THERE'S NO GETTING AROUND THE FACT THAT WAR IS A TOUGH BUSINESS. SOLDIERS AND CIVILIANS ON BOTH SIDES HAVE BEEN KILLED AND INJURED, AND UNLESS SADDAM RELEASES KUWAIT, THEN MORE FATALTIES WILL OCCUR.

BUT THROUGHOUT MODERN HISTORY, TRULY CIVILIZED NATIONS HAVE DECLARED THERE IS A FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTS OF WAR, AND WAR CRIMES.

THESE NATIONS UNDERSTOOD THEIR OBLIGATION TO COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE THIRD GENEVA CONVENTION.

THESE RESOLUTIONS INCLUDE GRANTING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS FREE ACCESS TO ALL PRISONERS OF WAR.

THE UNITED STATES AND THE COALITION ARE ABIDING BY THE CONVENTIONS, AND WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. THIS RESOLUTION DEMANDS THE SAME FROM SADDAM HUSSEIN.

WILL THIS RESOLUTION MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN BAGHDAD? PROBABLY NOT. WILL SADDAM FINALLY SURPRISE US AND EXHIBIT SOME DEGREE OF HUMANE, CIVILIZED BEHAVIOR? PROBABLY NOT.

BUT WE OWE IT TO OUR OWN CONSCIENCE, AND MOST OF ALL, TO OUR POW'S AND THEIR FAMILIES TO TRY.

###