

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
AUGUST 19, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

GORBY COUP

WASHINGTON, KANSAS - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) TODAY RELEASED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT. DOLE MADE HIS COMMENTS IN THE MIDST OF A 23-CITY TOUR OF KANSAS, ON THE APPARENT OUSTER OF SOVIET PRESIDENT MIKHAIL GORBACHEV.

"I AM DISMAYED BY THE COUP, BUT NOT TOTALLY SURPRISED, EITHER, BECAUSE GORBACHEV'S BEEN ON THE EDGE FOR A YEAR OR SO. WHAT IS SURPRISING IS THAT HE HAS STAYED IN POWER FOR SO LONG, WHAT WITH ALL THE PRESSURES HE HAS BEEN GETTING FROM BOTH SIDES.

"I BELIEVE THE CRISIS UNDERSCORES A COUPLE OF POINTS I'VE BEEN MAKING FOR A LONG TIME: THE FIRST IS, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO PUT ALL OF OUR EGGS IN GORBACHEV'S BASKET, AND THE SECOND IS, WE'VE GOT TO INCREASE OUR CONTACTS WITH BOTH THE SOVIET CENTRAL GOVERNMENT AND THE REPUBLICS -- WE NEED TO DO MORE IN THE REPUBLICS.

FIRST CASUALTY: TRADE AGREEMENTS

"IT LOOKS LIKE THE FIRST CASUALTY IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS WILL BE THE TRADE AGREEMENT, WHICH IS IMPORTANT TO KANSAS, IMPORTANT TO FARMERS, AND IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS WILL BE PUT ON HOLD, TOO -- ANOTHER AGREEMENT THAT WOULDN'T HAVE A CHANCE IN THE SENATE RIGHT NOW, IN ANY EVENT.

"THE QUESTION WE'RE GETTING IN KANSAS IS 'WHAT ABOUT AGRICULTURE CREDITS?'. IT PROBABLY DOESN'T MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE RIGHT NOW BECAUSE WESTERN BANKS AREN'T GOING TO LOAN THE SOVIETS MONEY IN THIS KIND OF TURMOIL. THE INITIAL IMPACT IS THAT ALL THE GRAIN MARKETS ARE DOWN.

STICK TO EXISTING AGREEMENTS

"THE KEY POLICY POINTS FOR THE UNITED STATES WITH ANY SOVIET REGIME ARE THAT IT MUST STICK TO EXISTING ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS, AND THAT IT CONTINUE TO WITHDRAW ALL ITS FORCES FROM EASTERN EUROPE, WITH NO HEDGING OR DELAY.

"WE ALSO MUST INSIST ON MORE CONSTRUCTIVE POLICIES IN THE THIRD WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN CUBA, AFGHANISTAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST. AT THE SAME TIME, WE MUST WATCH HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE BALTICS, AND CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC REFORMS.

BAD NEWS FOR THE WORLD

"WHILE GORBACHEV WAS NOT VERY POPULAR IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND THE REPUBLICS, I BELIEVE WE'RE GOING TO SEE A NEW APPRECIATION FOR GORBACHEV. MAYBE IT'S TOO LATE, MAYBE YELTSIN WILL RISE TO POWER, MAYBE SOMEBODY ELSE. BUT I THINK THE AVERAGE MAN OR WOMAN IN THE SOVIET UNION IS GOING TO UNDERSTAND THAT AT LEAST GORBACHEV WAS MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

"UNFORTUNATELY, AFTER TODAY, THE COUNTRY'S BEEN TAKEN OVER BY THE HARD LINE, THE ARMY, THE COMMUNIST PARTY, THE KGB AND THE BUREAUCRATS AND IT'S BAD NEWS FOR THE SOVIET PEOPLE, BAD NEWS FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS, AND IT'S BAD NEWS FOR THE WORLD.