

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BALTIC INDEPENDENCE

BALTICS MUST NOW BUILD ON FREEDOM'S VICTORY;
AMERICA HAS SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY AS LEADER OF FREE WORLD

RUSSELL, KANSAS -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING PRESIDENT BUSH'S ANNOUNCEMENT MONDAY THAT THE U.S. WILL EXTEND FORMAL DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO THE BALTIC REPUBLICS OF ESTONIA, LATVIA AND LITHUANIA:

I JOIN THE BALTIC-AMERICAN COMMUNITY, AND INDEED ALL AMERICANS, IN WELCOMING PRESIDENT BUSH'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF U.S. RECOGNITION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE BALTIC STATES.

THE U.S. -- AS THE WORLD'S ONLY REAL SUPERPOWER AND THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD -- DOES HAVE A SPECIAL ROLE TO PLAY, AND A SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY TO BEAR. PRESIDENT BUSH MOVED ON THE TIMETABLE THAT HE THOUGHT WOULD MAXIMIZE THE CHANCES FOR THE BALTICS TO GET THEIR FREEDOM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, BUT WITHOUT FURTHER BLOODSHED. AND I THINK HIS ACTION HAS HELPED TO INCREASE THE PROSPECTS THAT THE SOVIET CENTRAL GOVERNMENT WILL NOW ACCEDE TO THE BALTICS' DEMANDS FOR FREEDOM.

I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT ALL THE REPUBLICS OF THE "FORMER SOVIET UNION" WHICH NOW SEEK THEIR OWN INDEPENDENCE OWE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THE BALTIC STATES -- WHICH HAVE COURAGEOUSLY LED THE STRUGGLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND SELF-DETERMINATION, OPENING THE DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL THE REST.

AS OUR OWN NATION FOUND OUT MORE THAN TWO CENTURIES AGO, WINNING YOUR FREEDOM IS ONLY THE FIRST STEP. NOW YOU HAVE TO DEFEND IT, AND BUILD ON IT. THAT IS THE TREMENDOUS TASK THE BALTICS NOW FACE. IT IS IN OUR INTEREST TO HELP, AND I WILL CERTAINLY SUPPORT WELL-THOUGHT-OUT EFFORTS TO DO THAT.

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