

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 27, 1991

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

PRESIDENT'S DEFENSE POLICY ADDRESS

DOLE CALLS PRESIDENT'S BOLD PROPOSAL "GIANT STEP" FORWARD

President Bush's bold defense and arms control proposal is another giant step in turning the promise of a "new world order" into a concrete reality -- a reality of greater stability in the world, and great security for the United States.

For years we existed under a regime called "MAD" -- mutually assured destruction. But the Bush proposal moves away from "MAD-ness" in the direction of strategic sanity.

I particularly want to applaud two elements of the President's proposal: his calls for (1) a mutual elimination of MIRVed ICBM's -- probably the single most important step we can take to enhance strategic stability, and (2) an agreement to permit limited deployment of non-nuclear defenses to protect against limited ballistic missile attacks -- exactly the kind of strategic insurance we will need in the "real world" of the 1990's and into the 21st century.

I would also note that the President's proposal is a comprehensive package -- some parts involving unilateral initiatives, that the President calls on the Soviets to match; and some parts involving negotiated changes in the strategic arsenals and postures of the U.S. and the Soviet Union. Clearly, full implementation of this package means the Soviets are going to have to cooperate. The President has put the ball squarely in their court.

The bottom line is that President Bush has again put America right where we should be -- out front; with the initiative; providing strong, sensible leadership for the world. There is going to be a lot of discussion about the President's initiative, including here in Congress, as there should be -- but I hope and expect that overall it will get strong backing from the Congress and from the American people.

###