

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **ARMS CONTROL**

### DEMOCRATS SHOULD SUPPORT PRESIDENT'S BOLD PLAN, NOT RUSH TO GUT DEFENSE BUDGET

ON FRIDAY EVENING, PRESIDENT BUSH ANNOUNCED A BOLD AND SWEEPING INITIATIVE THAT I HOPE WILL LEAD THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION INTO A NEW ERA.

THERE HAS BEEN A GREAT DEAL OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE "NEW WORLD ORDER"--WHAT IT WILL LOOK LIKE, WHAT IT MEANS. FOR THE DEMOCRATS, THE "NEW WORLD ORDER" HAS MEANT A "NEW" EXCUSE FOR SLASHING DEFENSE DOLLARS AND/OR SHIFTING THEM TO DOMESTIC PROGRAMS.

WELL, THE PRESIDENT -- THROUGH HIS PROPOSALS -- HAS PUT REAL MEANING -- NOT EMPTY POLITICAL GESTURES -- INTO THE PHRASE "NEW WORLD ORDER."

I COMMEND THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS LEADERSHIP. HE IS LAUNCHING A NEW COURSE -- A COURSE THAT WILL MOVE US BEYOND THE COLD WAR.

#### PROMOTING SECURITY & STABILITY

THE PRESIDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE ARMS CONTROL AND DEFENSE INITIATIVES HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO LEAD US TO A FUTURE OF GREATER SECURITY AND GREATER STABILITY AT SUBSTANTIALLY LOWER LEVELS OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND WITH DEFENSES AGAINST BALLISTIC MISSILES.

FIRST, I WOULD NOTE THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO ACCELERATE THE PACE OF ICBM REDUCTIONS UNDER THE START TREATY. I THINK THIS IS AN EXCELLENT IDEA.

BUT, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO GO BEYOND START. HE PROPOSED THAT WE NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIET UNION THE ELIMINATION OF ALL ICBMs WITH MULTIPLE WARHEADS -- THE MOST DESTABILIZING NUCLEAR WEAPONS -- AND MOVE TO A REGIME OF ONLY SINGLE-WARHEAD MISSILES.

ANOTHER INITIATIVE THAT HAS THE POTENTIAL OF SIGNIFICANTLY CONTRIBUTING TO OUR SECURITY IS THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE SOVIETS AN AGREEMENT THAT WOULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR MUTUAL DEPLOYMENT OF BALLISTIC MISSILE DEFENSES AGAINST LIMITED STRIKES. BOTH THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION ARE THREATENED BY THE PROLIFERATION OF BALLISTIC MISSILE AND NUCLEAR WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. AND, BOTH OUR NATIONS HAVE A MUTUAL INTEREST IN BEING ABLE TO DEFEND AGAINST AN ACCIDENTAL OR UNAUTHORIZED LAUNCH OF A NUCLEAR WEAPON.

THE PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED SEVERAL UNILATERAL STEPS -- MEASURES THAT I BELIEVE UNDERLINE HIS COMMITMENT TO LEADING THE

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UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD INTO AN ERA OF PEACE AND SECURITY. THE PRESIDENT HAS AUTHORIZED THE WITHDRAWAL AND DESTRUCTION OF ALL NUCLEAR ARTILLERY SHELLS AND NUCLEAR WARHEADS FOR SHORT RANGE SYSTEMS. IN ADDITION, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE WITHDRAWING ALL TACTICAL NUCLEAR WEAPONS FROM OUR SURFACE NAVY AND ATTACK SUBMARINES. MOREOVER, THE UNITED STATES WILL BE TAKING CERTAIN ICBMs--THAT ARE SCHEDULED TO BE REDUCED UNDER THE START TREATY -- OFF ALERT STATUS.

MANY OF THESE INITIATIVES WILL NEED TO BE NEGOTIATED WITH THE SOVIET UNION. BUT, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE SOVIET UNION, THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCH NEGOTIATIONS ARE VERY GOOD. I HOPE THAT THE NEW SOVIET LEADERSHIP WILL BE ABLE TO MEET THIS CHALLENGE.

#### DEMOCRAT TEMPTATION TO GUT DEFENSE BUDGET

BUT, ANOTHER CHALLENGE REMAINS AND THAT CHALLENGE LIES BEFORE THE CONGRESS. THE CONGRESS NEEDS TO GET ON BOARD THE PRESIDENT'S PROGRAM. SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES HAVE ARGUED THAT THE PRESIDENT IS NOT RESPONDING TO THE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION. THEY HAVE USED THIS ARGUMENT AS A COVER FOR GUTTING THE DEFENSE BUDGET.

THIS PROPOSAL IS PROOF THAT THESE CRITICS WERE ABSOLUTELY WRONG. THE PRESIDENT HAS RECOGNIZED THE NEW REALITIES IN THE SOVIET UNION. HE HAS IDENTIFIED THE NEW THREATS TO OUR SECURITY. HE HAS ASSESSED THE SITUATION. AND, HE HAS COME FORWARD WITH A HISTORIC INITIATIVE WHICH WILL HAVE MOMENTOUS, AND I BELIEVE, BENEFICIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY INTO THE NEXT CENTURY.

NO DOUBT MANY DEMOCRATS WILL RUN TO THE FLOOR AND SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD GO FURTHER -- THAT HE SHOULD CANCEL THE B-2 AND SDI AND OTHER PROGRAMS CRITICAL TO OUR NATIONAL DEFENSE. THE DANGERS OF THIS APPROACH ARE DISCUSSED IN AN EDITORIAL IN TODAY'S WALL STREET JOURNAL ENTITLED, "WHO NEEDS ARMS CONTROL?" WHILE I DON'T AGREE WITH ALL OF THE POINTS MADE IN THE PIECE, I AGREE WITH ITS ANALYSIS THAT THE B-2 AND SDI ARE IDEALLY SUITED TO MEET THE THREATS OF THE FUTURE. THE PRESIDENT HAS MADE THAT JUDGMENT, AS WELL.

#### THE LESSONS OF THE GULF WAR

THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: DESPITE THE DRAMATIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, AMERICA STILL NEEDS A STRONG DEFENSE TO PROTECT OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE RECENT WAR IN THE GULF DEMONSTRATED THAT WE STILL NEED THE BEST TROOPS AND THE BEST TECHNOLOGY TO DEFEND THESE INTERESTS. AS THE PRESIDENT SAID, "WE MUST IMPLEMENT A COHERENT PLAN FOR A SIGNIFICANTLY SMALLER BUT FULLY CAPABLE MILITARY, ONE THAT ENHANCES STABILITY BUT IS STILL SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE ANY POTENTIAL ADVERSARY THAT THE COST OF AGGRESSION WOULD EXCEED ANY POSSIBLE GAIN."

I CHALLENGE MY COLLEAGUES TO SUPPORT THE PRESIDENT. NOW IS THE TIME TO ABANDON DEFENSE-BASHING RHETORIC AND DEFENSE-GUTTING TACTICS AND TO FOLLOW THE PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTFUL LEAD TO A MORE SECURE FUTURE.

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