

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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PRESIDENT'S TRIP TO MOSCOW

**DOLE HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS ABOUT TRIP; PRESIDENT MUST USE
OPPORTUNITY TO PRESS AMERICAN CONCERNS;
URGES PRESIDENT TO ALSO COMMEMORATE V-E DAY IN LONDON**

No doubt the Russian people made great sacrifices during World War II. While this is clearly President Clinton's call, I have some serious reservations about his decision to go to Moscow on May 9, particularly in light of the ongoing Russian assault on Chechnya. I am concerned that this visit may send the wrong signal to President Yeltsin -- namely, that he doesn't have to worry about U.S.-Russian differences, especially with respect to Chechnya and in the area of foreign policy.

Now that he has made the decision to go, it seems to me that President Clinton must use the opportunity of his visit to address in detail the following matters:

- (1) U.S. strong objections to the brutal violence against Russian citizens in Chechnya;
- (2) U.S. strong objections to Russia's plans to provide nuclear reactors to Iran;
- (3) U.S. refusal to subject NATO enlargement to a Russian veto;
- (4) U.S. displeasure with Russian support for the rogue regimes in Iraq, Iran, Serbia, and Cuba.

Moreover, the President must deliver the message that the Russian government's support in the United States Congress is decreasing and that its action will determine the level of U.S. assistance it receives.

I would hope the President would also consider attending ceremonies in London, Paris, and Berlin. While there is no doubt the Russian people were crucial partners in the Allied war effort, we must recognize it was the British and the French who fought Nazi Germany from the beginning, and it is the Federal Republic of Germany which has become the model of democracy and reconciliation in the Post-Cold War era.

I would specifically urge the President to go to London on May 8 to celebrate V-E Day with the British, our closest allies, whose soldiers and leaders played a critical role during the Second World War. Let us not forget that without the courage, strength, and determination of Winston Churchill -- who was in daily contact with our President from the bunker beneath the Foreign Office -- this victory may not have been possible.

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