

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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PRIME MINISTER KLAUS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole met this week with the Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, His Eminence Vaclav Klaus. The discussion focused on U.S.- Czech relations, including the need for more American investment in the Czech Republic, as well as the issue of NATO enlargement which is the Republic's major foreign policy objective. Senator Dole's statement follows:

"I was impressed by Prime Minister Klaus. He has done a superb job on the economic front in the Czech Republic -- 80% of the economy has been privatized in a few short years. No doubt about it, the Czech Republic is a model of democratic and free market reform.

"During our meeting, Prime Minister Klaus made a strong case for NATO enlargement, and emphasized the widespread support for NATO membership among Czech citizens. In my view, the Czech Republic could make significant contributions to the Alliance and should be commended for its active participation in the Partnership for Peace.

"Furthermore, in addition to strengthening our economic ties, I believe that America must develop closer political and military cooperation with the Czech Republic. This too will facilitate the NATO enlargement process."

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