

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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**AIPAC POLICY CONFERENCE
EXCERPTS OF REMARKS PREPARED FOR DELIVERY
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE**

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And as we look around the world today, I believe that our partnership is needed now more than ever.

For Israel is entering a critical time in its long struggle for a just, secure, and permanent peace. The peace process is turning out to be difficult, complex, and often frustrating. And success has not come quickly or easily. Talks with Syria are proceeding at a snail's pace. Talks with the Palestinians are making progress, but extremists in the Palestinian camp have not backed away from their brutal campaign of terrorism against Israel.

And there seems to be no end of terrorism and saber rattling emerging from Iran.

Perhaps most worrisome is Iran's push to acquire a nuclear weapons capability and the missiles to deliver them. There should be no mistake: Israel can never be secure with a nuclear-armed Iran.

Many in Congress, including myself, have been calling for an end to all U.S. trade with Iran for some time, and we were pleased when President Clinton joined our cause. I met with Prime Minister Rabin earlier today, and I agree with his assessment that Iran is the number one security threat faced by Israel.

Iran is a terrorist state. And it must never be allowed to obtain nuclear weapons. Period. And when President Clinton is in Russia I trust that he will make it very clear to Boris Yeltsin that providing Iran the wherewithal to continue its nuclear drive and a close friendship with the United States are mutually exclusive goals.

There should also be a clear message to Syria. There will be no improvement in the bilateral relationship with the United States until your policies change on a wide range of issues: no more support for terrorism, no more drug trafficking, and no more occupation of Lebanon.

We all hope and pray that the peace process will succeed. And that the remarkable accomplishments of the past few years were just the beginning. But no one should ever doubt that if the peace process fails, America will stand by Israel.

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Let me now turn to Jerusalem. It is a remarkable and unique city that perhaps more than any other has helped mold the spiritual life of western civilization. Think about it: No other city on earth besides Jerusalem is the capital of the same country, inhabited by the same people, speaking the same language, and worshipping the same God, as it was 3,000 years ago.

Jerusalem is today as it has been for three millennia the heart and soul of the Jewish people. It is also, and should remain forever, the eternal and undivided capital of the State of Israel. Years ago, I was one of those who questioned the wisdom of moving the American embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. I felt that doing so at that time could undermine our efforts and ability to act as a peacemaker.

Today, however, much has changed. There is no Soviet Union. A multinational coalition led by the United States defeated Iraq. Israel is at peace with Egypt and Jordan. The peace process has made great strides, and our commitment to that process is unchallengeable. Delaying the process of moving the Embassy now only sends a message of false hopes. So what are we waiting for?

I was proud to join with 92 of my Senate colleagues in signing a letter last March urging the Administration to move our embassy no later than May 1999. As has so often been the case on Jerusalem, Senators D'Amato and Moynihan led that effort.

The time has come, however, to move beyond letters, expressions of support, and sense of the Congress resolutions. The time has come to enact legislation that will get the job done.

Tomorrow, along with Senator Dan Inouye of Hawaii and Senator John Kyl of Arizona and many others, I will introduce the Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Implementation Act of 1995. It mandates that the United States open a new embassy in Jerusalem no later than May 31, 1999. The legislation also requires groundbreaking for construction next year -- in 1996 -- the 3,000th anniversary of King David's establishment of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.

I have discussed this matter with Speaker Gingrich, and I am pleased to inform you that he will introduce identical legislation in the House of Representatives tomorrow.

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