

Bob Dole

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER



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U.S. - RUSSIA SUMMIT UPDATE

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

President Clinton is now in Ukraine. I support his decision to visit Kiev. Economic and political reform in Ukraine are proceeding very well. There is strong bipartisan support for U.S. assistance to Ukraine. It is in the American national interest to strengthen our relations with Ukraine. I hope the President has a successful and productive summit with President Kuchma.

The report cards are now being filed on the Moscow summit. As I said yesterday, I was disappointed at the lack of progress on the two key summit issues: nuclear sales to Iran and the conflict in Chechnya. It seems pretty clear the American agenda at this summit did not fare well. My staff spoke to State Department and National Security Council officials yesterday afternoon. The White House provided my office with copies of all the joint statements from the Moscow summit. To conclude that the summit made little progress in advancing American interests is not politics, and it is not partisan. It is simply a review of the facts.

Sale of Nuclear Reactors to Iran

On Iran, Russia did not agree to cancel its sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. If President Yeltsin cannot make the decision to stop the sale, I do not have great confidence that it will be made later at a lower level. With respect to the much-publicized "concession" on not selling advanced gas centrifuge technology, it seems clear this was floated as a bargaining chip. As recently as last Friday, I note the Washington Post headline: "Russia denies plan to sell gas centrifuge to Iran". It seems this was a plan that designed to be a "concession" from the start.

Just last week when asked if a halt in the gas centrifuge sale would be enough, Secretary of State Christopher said "not at all. We would not be satisfied with that". I agree with the Secretary's assessment. We should not be satisfied. The bottom line is Russia still intends to proceed with a sale of nuclear technology to the outlaw regime in Tehran. This flies in the face of the summit's joint statement on proliferation which pledges "to work together closely to promote broad non-proliferation goals."

Chechnya & Human Rights

On Chechnya, President Yeltsin rejected any effort to address the legitimate concerns of the international community over human rights violations. In President Yeltsin's statement about Chechnya, there is an unfortunate ring of former Soviet leaders rejecting Western concerns over human rights as "meddling." And whatever the political leaders were saying in Moscow, the Russian army kept attacking. Literally within minutes of yesterday's press conference, Russian helicopters attacked Chechen civilian targets.

The situation in Chechnya also raises the issue of the flank limits in the conventional forces in Europe (CFE) treaty. In the Fall, if Russian forces are still in Chechnya, the Russian government will be in violation of these flank limits. The Moscow summit did not result in any assurances of Russian compliance with the CFE limits.

Theater Missile Defenses

On missile defenses, the administration continued down the same path of seeking Russian permission on the deployment of theater missile defenses -- despite the fact that Russian insistence on providing nuclear technology to Iran increases the proliferation threat. The fact is that theater missile defenses

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are not prohibited by the cold-war era ABM treaty. Moreover, the United States must not allow Russia to have a veto over matters of national security.

The summit also failed in what was not on the agenda -- namely Bosnia. As the two presidents were meeting, Sarajevo was being heavily shelled. There was no U.N. response, no NATO response and no summit response.

It is true that Russia agreed to join the Partnership For Peace at this summit -- as they previously agreed to do last year, before abruptly changing their minds at the OSCE summit in Budapest. At this summit, Russia continued to express strong opposition to the expansion of NATO.

Congress Will Review Aid to Russia

Summit diplomacy has a long and distinguished history. Historically, summits have succeeded when the parties had clear agendas, pursued their interests consistently, and were ready, willing and able to meet each others' concerns. And if agreement is not reached, history shows it is better to state the disagreements clearly rather than paper them over. In the case of the Moscow summit, it is clear that President Yeltsin was not in a position to address our concerns. We should admit that forthrightly and respond appropriately. Congress will respond by looking closely at all forms of aid to Russia -- especially aid to the government. Certain types of aid such as democracy support, or "Nunn-Lugar" funding for nuclear clean-up still promote important American interests. Other aid programs may not, and may be halted.

The United States must remain engaged with Russia. It was and is our hope that democracy and free market reforms will prosper. We hope that the Russian elections planned for this year and next year proceed on time -- and that they are free and fair. But Russia is not our only strategic relationship -- we have other interests in other areas. That's why I support the President's decision to visit Ukraine. That's why NATO expansion should not be subject to a Russian veto. And that's why we cannot allow Iran to become a nuclear weapons state.

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* Remarks delivered on Senate floor at approximately 3:45 p.m.

5.12.95

STATEMENT BY SENATOR DOLE
MOSCOW SUMMIT
MR. PRESIDENT:

I WANT TO CONGRATULATE THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS SUCCESSFUL SUMMIT IN KIEV. UNDER PRESIDENT KUCHMA, UKRAINE HAS BECOME A MODEL FOR THE STATES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. AGREEMENT TO DISBAND NUCLEAR WEAPONS. FREE MARKET ECONOMIC REFORMS. FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS. OPEN INVESTMENT CLIMATE. PRESIDENT CLINTON'S VISIT WAS A TIMELY SHOW OF SUPPORT TO THE DESERVING PEOPLE OF UKRAINE. I EXPECT THE CONGRESS TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE'S POLITICAL SUCCESS

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT SAID IN THE MEDIA ABOUT REACTION TO THE MOSCOW SUMMIT. I HAVE EXPRESSED MY DISAPPOINTMENT AT THE RESULTS OF THE MOSCOW SUMMIT. AS I SAID YESTERDAY, THIS IS NOT PARTISAN POLITICS -- IT IS A JUDGMENT BASED ON THE FACTS. I NOTE THAT TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES CARRIES A HEADLINE, "IRAN RELIEVED ON YELTSIN DEAL." IF IRAN IS RELIEVED AT THE RESULTS OF THE SUMMIT, ALL OF US HAVE CAUSE FOR CONCERN. SECRETARY CHRISTOPHER, IN PARTICULAR, HAS LED THE ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO PREVENT NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY FROM REACHING IRAN. I HOPE TO WORK WITH HIM OVER THE COMING MONTHS IN SUPPORT OF THAT IMPORTANT GOAL.

THE REALITY IS, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS GREAT CONTROVERSY OVER PRESIDENT CLINTON'S DECISION TO ATTEND V-E DAY CEREMONIES IN MOSCOW AND NOT IN OTHER CAPITALS. THE PRESIDENT MADE HIS DECISION, AND THE PRESIDENT DECIDED TO ADD TO THE V-E DAY CEREMONIES WITH A SUBSTANTIVE SUMMIT. NOW, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE SUMMIT, JUDGMENTS ARE BEING MADE ABOUT WHAT WAS ACHIEVED. I HAPPEN TO SHARE THE VIEW OF HENRY KISSINGER, THAT A TREMENDOUS OPPORTUNITY WAS MISSED ON THIS OVERSEAS TRIP. I ALSO AGREE WITH DR. KISSINGER THAT "NATO EXPANSION REQUIRES A DECISION, NOT A STUDY." AS HE POINTS OUT, THE CURRENT DRIFT IN U.S. POLICY COULD LEAVE US WITH THE WORST OF ALL WORLDS -- THE DISINTEGRATION OF WESTERN UNITY WITH A STILL-ANXIOUS RUSSIA.

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