

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

ABILENE, KANSAS

APRIL 2, 1969

THE PEACEMAKER

TODAY THE WORLD MOURNS DWIGHT DAVID EISENHOWER, AND WHILE THERE IS A SENSE OF PROFOUND LOSS, THERE IS NOT DESPAIR. AFTER A FULL LIFE OF SERVICE, HIS MEMORY IS UNQUESTIONABLY FOREVER SECURE IN THE AFFECTIONS OF HIS FELLOW MEN EVERYWHERE. HE WAS TRULY A LEADER OF MEN AND OF NATIONS IN WAR AND IN PEACE.

HIS DREAMS AS A BOY IN ABILENE COULD NEVER HAVE ENVISIONED THE HEIGHTS HE WAS TO SCALE IN HIS LIFETIME. FROM A FAMILY OF HUMBLE ORIGINS IN THE HEARTLAND OF AMERICA, GENERAL EISENHOWER ROSE TO SUCCESSFULLY COMMAND THE LARGEST MILITARY FORCE EVER ASSEMBLED.

THE HONESTY AND SINCERITY SO CHARACTERISTIC OF THIS MAN THROUGHOUT HIS LIFE CAN BE TRACED TO THE SPIRITUAL HERITAGE OF HIS ANCESTORS AND STRONG GUIDANCE FROM HIS MOTHER. HIS BROAD GRIN AND GOOD HUMOR THAT REFLECTED THESE QUALITIES MADE HIM A POPULAR IDOL AND WERE PART OF HIS MAGIC. WHEREVER SEEN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, PEOPLE REACTED TO THE SPECIAL QUALITIES EXUDED BY THIS MAN. WINSTON CHURCHILL UNDERSTOOD THESE QUALITIES AND ONCE COMMENTED THAT IKE "WAS A GREAT COMMANDER, WHO NOT ONLY CAN LEAD AN ARMY, BUT CAN STIR MEN'S HEARTS".

THE CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY GENERAL EISENHOWER ARE LEGEND. HIS SUCCESS IN TIME OF WAR MARKED HIM AS A GREAT LEADER OF MEN. THEREAFTER HIS UNPARALLELED SUCCESS IN POLITICS UNDERSCORED THE RESPECT AND CONFIDENCE HE NEJOYED IN AMERICA.

ALTHOUGH GENERAL EISENHOWER WAS A MAN WHO WAS TRAINED TO A CONCERN FOR THE METHODS AND STRATEGIES OF WAR, HE DEMONSTRATED A PROFOUND INTEREST IN PEACE THROUGHOUT HIS LIFETIME.

HE WAS THE FIRST PRESIDENT WHO WAS REQUIRED TO FACE THE FACT THAT, BECAUSE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, THERE IS NO ALTERNATIVE TO PEACE.

AT THE SAME TIME, GENERAL EISENHOWER REALIZED THAT PEACE WOULD COME ONLY THROUGH "FIRMNESS IN THE RIGHT".

HE EXPRESSED THIS THOUGHT IN HIS FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS, WHEN EXPLAINING THE FIXED PRINCIPLES WHICH WOULD GUIDE HIS LABOR FOR WORLD PEACE:

"WE HOLD IT TO BE THE FIRST TASK OF STATESMANSHIP TO DEVELOP THE STRENGTH THAT WILL DETER THE FORCES OF AGGRESSION AND PROMOTE THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE. FOR, AS IT MUST BE THE SUPREME PURPOSE OF ALL FREE MEN, SO IT MUST BE THE DEDICATION OF THEIR LEADERS, TO SAVE HUMANITY FROM PREYING ON ITSELF."

THE GENERAL'S CONCERN FOR PEACE WAS ESPECIALLY EVIDENT IN HIS PRE-INAUGURATION TRIP TO KOREA AND IN HIS ATOMS-FOR-PEACE PLAN, WHICH HE PRESENTED BEFORE THE U. N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON DECEMBER 8, 1953.

EISENHOWER PURSUED HIS CONCEPT OF FIRMNESS THROUGH A POLICY OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO NATIONS THREATENED BY COMMUNIST EXPANSION.

AFTER PARTICIPATING IN THE GENEVA CONFERENCE OF 1954, WHICH RESULTED IN THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE FRENCH FROM INDOCHINA, THE SEATO WAS ESTABLISHED. IN 1956 HE ESTABLISHED THE PRINCIPLE OF RENUNCIATION OF FORCE AT THE TIME OF THE SUEZ EPISODE. SHORTLY THEREAFTER, GENERAL EISENHOWER FORMULATED THE EISENHOWER MIDDLE EAST DOCTRINE WHICH AUTHORIZED THE PRESIDENT TO USE ARMED FORCE AGAINST COMMUNIST AGGRESSION IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THROUGHOUT GENERAL EISENHOWER'S SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD, HE REALIZED THAT AMERICA MUST BE A SHOWPLACE OF LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS. AS HE EXPRESSED IT IN HIS STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS OF JANUARY 6, 1955, A GREAT FUNDAMENTAL OF OUR NATIONAL LIFE IS: "OUR COMMON BELIEF THAT EVERY HUMAN BEING IS ENDOWED WITH DIGNITY AND WITH WORTH AND INALIENABLE RIGHTS. THIS FAITH, WITH ITS COROLLARY -- THAT TO GROW AND FLOURISH, PEOPLE MUST BE FREE -- SHAPES THE INTERESTS AND ASPIRATIONS OF EVERY AMERICAN."

IT IS ONLY NATURAL THAT THOSE OF US FROM KANSAS HAVE ALWAYS EXHIBITED SPECIAL PRIDE IN GENERAL EISENHOWER, FOR AS PRESIDENT NIXON SO ELOQUENTLY STATED SUNDAY, GENERAL EISENHOWER "DID COME FROM THE HEART OF AMERICA -- THE GEOGRAPHICAL AND SPIRITUAL HEART".

GENERAL EISENHOWER ONCE SAID, "I COME FROM THE PEOPLE, THE ORDINARY PEOPLE". KANSANS ARE PROUD TO BE TERMED ORDINARY PEOPLE AND ESPECIALLY PROUD AND HONORED THAT THE PEOPLE FROM WHENCE HE CAME WERE KANSAS PEOPLE.

HIS GREAT TRIUMPHS AND DEEDS WERE ALWAYS MARKED BY THE EXTRA DIMENSIONS OF HIS PERSONALITY, HIS CHARACTER AND HIS HUMANITY.

ON BEHALF OF ALL KANSANS, I PROUDLY SALUTE GENERAL EISENHOWER AS WE PAUSE TO COMMEMORATE HIS GREATNESS.

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