

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

SLOVAK WORLD CONGRESS  
SHERATON PARK HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 17, 1978

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I AM PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU TODAY AT YOUR FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AS YOU COMMEMORATE YOUR PAST AND LOOK TO THE TASKS THAT LIE AHEAD.

FOREFATHERS SOUGHT BETTER LIFE

YOUR FATHERS AND FOREFATHERS CAME TO THIS COUNTRY, AS DID MANY OTHER EUROPEANS, TO SEEK FREEDOM FROM REPRESSION AND AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A BETTER LIFE. BUT LIFE IN AMERICA WAS NOT EASY FOR THEM. THE JOBS AVAILABLE TO THE NEW IMMIGRANTS WERE IN THE COAL MINNING CENTER OF THE NORTHEAST. THE WORK WAS HARD, THE HOURS LONG, AND THE PAY MEAGER. NEVERTHELESS YOUR FOREFATHERS TOOK THESE JOBS AND SETTLED IN SUCH CITIES AS JOHNSTOWN, PITTSBURGH, AND POINT MARION. THEY WORKED HARD,

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SAVING MONEY TO SEND BACK HOME TO SUPPORT FAMILIES THERE. SLOWLY, WITH SHEER DETERMINATION AND THEIR OWN HARD WORK, THEY CLIMBED OUT OF THE POVERTY AND UP THE ECONOMIC LADDER OF SUCCESS, NOT OF COURSE WITHOUT FACING AND OVERCOMING DISCRIMINATION ALONG THE WAY. NOT HAVING ANYONE TO HELP THEM, YOUR FOREFATHERS DID NOT SIT AROUND COMPLAINING BUT FORMED FRATERNAL AND MUTUAL BENEFIT SOCIETIES. THROUGH THESE ORGANIZATIONS THEY ORGANIZED AND BUILT CHURCHES, SCHOOLS AND LODGE HALLS. TODAY THESE ORGANIZATIONS ARE AMONG THE STRONGEST IN THE UNITED STATES, AND YOU CAN JUSTIFIABLY BE PROUD OF THEM.

WHILE THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ARE FEARFUL OF ETHNIC DIVERSITY, AMERICA WELCOMES IT AND ENCOURAGES IT. AMERICA DRAWS ITS STRENGTH TODAY FROM ITS PEOPLE AND THEIR VARIED BACKGROUNDS.

TODAY, WE ARE ALL PROUD OF THE MANY PROMINENT SLOVAK AMERICANS. SUCH A MAN AS EUGENE CERNAN, ONE OF THE FEW MEN TO HAVE TAKEN PART IN OUR

*Michael Hand,*

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SPACE EFFORT.

ETHNIC ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH HELSINKI

IT IS EASY TO FORGET ABOUT THE CONCERNS AND PROBLEMS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD. BUT TO YOUR CREDIT, YOU HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN YOUR ROOTS NOR THOSE WHO ARE TODAY SUFFERING UNDER THE YOKE OF SOVIET TYRANNY.

WHEN I ADDRESSED THE PLENARY SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE IN BELGRADE LAST NOVEMBER, I POINTED OUT TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THE EASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS WHY THE UNITED STATES WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE VARIOUS PRINCIPLES. I STATED:



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WE ARE A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS, PEOPLE WHO HAVE COME FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROMISE OF AMERICA. MOST OF OUR POPULATION COMES FROM EUROPEAN BACKGROUNDS. THEY HAVE CULTURAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY WITH MOST OF THE PARTICIPATING STATES IN THIS MEETING. THEY ACTIVELY MAINTAIN THEIR INTEREST IN THEIR HERITAGE AND IN THEIR FORMER HOMELANDS.

THEY EXPRESS THEIR INTEREST THROUGH ASSOCIATIONS AND ORGANIZATIONS THROUGHOUT AMERICA. THEY HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN NOT ONLY ABOUT THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS OF BASKET II AND PRINCIPLE VII, BUT ALSO ABOUT THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF ALL PEOPLES.

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### PRAGUE REGIME'S VIOLATIONS OF SLOVAK HUMAN RIGHTS

THE SLOVAK WORLD CONGRESS IS CONCERNED WITH THE PRESSURES AND THREATS THAT SLOVAKS HAVE TO ENDURE FROM THE PRAGUE GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS INSTALLED AND IS DIRECTED BY THE SOVIET UNION. SLOVAKS TODAY ARE HAVING TO WITHSTAND THE DENATIONALIZATION POLICY OF THE REGIME IN ALL WALKS OF LIFE. SLOVAK WRITERS AND INTELLECTUALS ARE CENSORED AND SILENCED. SOCIAL SCIENTISTS AND HISTORIANS ARE PENALIZED FOR POSITIVE EVALUATIONS OF THE DUBCEK(DUPE-CHECK)POLICIES AND REFORMS OF 1968. EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ARE BASED ON POLITICAL AND CULTURAL CONFORMITY.

LIKewise, CHURCHES OF ALL DENOMINATIONS IN SLOVAKIA HAVE COME UNDER INCREASING ATTACK. CHURCH BISHOPS AND BELIEVERS ARE JAILED AND PERSECUTED. CHURCH LEADERS ARE FORCED TO SUBMIT TO THE DICTATES OF THE PRAGUE REGIME. ALTHOUGH IT IS NOT SUPRISING, SINCE RELIGION CAN HARDLY BE SAID TO ESPOUSE THE MARXIST-LENINIST DOCTRINE OF LIFE, THE SEVERITY AND THOROUGHNESS OF THE ATTACKS IS DISHEARTENING.

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EVEN FAMILY LIVES HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED AND DESTROYED. AFTER THE FALL OF THE DUBCEK GOVERNMENT, MANY PEOPLE FLED TO THE WEST, LEAVING BEHIND CHILDREN AND RELATIVES. TODAY, TEN YEARS LATER, THEY ARE STILL TRYING TO REUNITE WITH THEIR FAMILIES, MOTHERS WITH THEIR CHILDREN, HUSBANDS WITH WIVES.

IMPROVEMENT EXPECTED AS A RESULT OF HELSINKI

I AM WELL AWARE THAT YOU, LIKE MYSELF, PLACED GREAT HOPES ON THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT. WHEN HUSAK(WHO-SACK)AND THE OTHER COMMUNIST LEADERS, SIGNED THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE IN HELSINKI IN AUGUST OF 1975 WE ALL AWAITED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH PEOPLES OF THE SOVIET UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE LIVE. ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT EXPECT COMPLETE COMPLIANCE BY THE COMMUNISTS WITH THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, WE HOPED FOR AT LEAST SOME MOVEMENT IN THAT DIRECTION. BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO SHIFT AWAY FROM THE POLICY OF "NORMALIZATION" THAT HAS BEEN INSTITUTED BY THE PRAGUE REGIME. IF ANYTHING, THE OPPOSITE HAS BEEN TRUE.



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THAT GOVERNMENT HAS VIOLATED EVERY HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT.

WHEN THE REPORT OF THE FOLLOW-UP BELGRADE CONFERENCE WAS RELEASED IN MARCH, THE STATEMENT MADE NO MENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OR THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION OF ALL PEOPLES. THE UNITED STATES MISSED AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE REALLY MEAN WHAT WE SAY ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS. AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG WAS DISAPPOINTED, I WAS DISAPPOINTED AND I AM SURE THAT YOU WERE ALSO VERY MUCH DISAPPOINTED.

OUR EFFORTS MUST INCREASE

FOR THAT REASON, WE MUST ALL REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS. WE MUST MAKE CRYSTAL CLEAR TO THE COMMUNIST REGIMES THAT OUR CONCERN FOR THEIR VIOLATIONS OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROVISIONS WILL NOT ABATE. WE WILL NOT REMAIN SILENT BUT WILL SPEAK OUT AND NAME NAMES WHEN WE GO TO MADRID IN 1980 FOR THE FOLLOW-UP CONFERENCE.

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OUR CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS NOT A PASSING FAD. THE AIMS AND ACTIVITIES OF YOUR ORGANIZATION ARE A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF THAT DETERMINATION. YOU SENT A DELEGATION TO BELGRADE LAST YEAR. I CAN ONLY APPLAUD AND ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO SO AGAIN IN THE FUTURE. AS YOUR ORGANIZATION GROWS, SO WILL THE CONCERN AND PARTICIPATION OF AN EVER-WIDENING CIRCLE OF AMERICANS IN THE ACTIVE FIGHT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

FOR MY PART, I PLEDGE THAT AS A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE I WILL DO ALL IN MY POWER TO BRING UP SUCH VIOLATIONS. I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE TASKS AHEAD. I AM SURE I WILL BE ABLE TO COUNT ON IT.

THANK YOU.

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