

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
REPUBLICAN NATIONAL HERITAGE CONVENTION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
FRIDAY, MAY 18, 1979

AMERICA IS MANY THINGS TO MANY PEOPLE. BUT TO MILLIONS OF PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN FOREIGN LANDS, SHE IS NOW WHAT SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN--THE LAST, BEST HOPE OF FREEDOM ON EARTH. THIS IS WHAT WE HOPED TO BE AT THE TIME OF OUR BIRTH. IT IS WHAT SET US APART FROM EUROPE'S OPPRESSIVE GOVERNMENTS. IT IS THE VERY ESSENCE OF AMERICANISM.

BUT FREEDOM IS UNDER ASSAULT IN TODAY'S WORLD. YOU DON'T HAVE TO READ MANY NEWSPAPERS TO SEE THAT. YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THE CRUEL HAND OF POLITICAL OPPRESSION, THE PHYSICAL FORCE THAT SNUFFS OUT OUR NATIONALISTIC IDENTITY AND ATTACKS EVEN THE WORSHIP OF THE GOD WHO MADE US IN HIS IMAGE.

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WE ALL MOURN THE SUBJUGATION OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE BY A FACELESS AND TOTALITARIAN FOE. BUT MOURNING IS NOT ENOUGH. IF YOU BELIEVE AS I DO THAT AMERICA IS STILL FREEDOM'S ULTIMATE GUARDIAN, THEN YOU'LL AGREE WITH ME THAT WE HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN OUR STRENGTH. OUR GREATEST CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WORLD HAVE NOT BEEN WEAPONS, BUT IDEAS. BUT IN TODAY'S WORLD, IT IS NECESSARY TO PROTECT IDEAS WITH SUFFICIENT MILITARY AND ECONOMIC STRENGTH AS TO WARD OFF THE ENCROACHMENTS OF OTHERS.

REPUBLICANS BELIEVE IN AMERICA'S MISSION. WE BELIEVE THAT WE LIVE UP TO OUR HERITAGE WHEN WE HOLD OUT A LIGHT TO THOSE IMPRISONED IN DARK CELLS. AND BECAUSE WE BELIEVE THE THINGS WE DO, WE WILL NEVER PERMIT OUR STRENGTH TO SUFFER. WE WILL ASK TOUGH QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEW SALT TREATY, NOT BECAUSE WE QUESTION ARMS CONTROL--WHO COULD POSSIBLY DO THAT?--BUT BECAUSE WE WANT A PEACE AMONG EQUALS, A PEACE THAT WILL LAST.

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WE RAISE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION'S CONDUCT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS--NOT FOR PARTISAN POLITICAL GAIN--BUT BECAUSE WE ARE A PROUD NATION, A GREAT NATION, AND GREAT NATIONS MUST BE PREPARED TO SHOULDER RESPONSIBILITY AND CONDUCT FOREIGN POLICIES THAT ARE BOTH WISE AND COHERENT.

I'VE BEEN A MEMBER OF THE HELSINKI COMMISSION, AND I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE YET TO LIVE UP TO ALL THEIR PROMISES. I WANTED TO BE ON THAT COMMISSION, BECAUSE I WANT TO SEE THE PROMISE OF HELSINKI LIVED UP TO. I WANT TO SEE DISSIDENTS FREE TO RAISE QUESTIONS. I WANT TO SEE JEWS WHO SEEK TO EMIGRATE HAVE THE RIGHT TO DO SO. I WANT TO SEE THE IRON CURTAIN PART, TO LET IN A FRESH WIND OF INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS.

BUT WE CANNOT HOPE TO HOLD THE SOVIETS TO ACCOUNT FOR THEIR ACTIONS WITHOUT ACCOUNTING FOR OUR OWN. BY THAT I MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES CANNOT FOR A MOMENT LET DOWN ITS GUARD. IT CANNOT SACRIFICE MILITARY SUPERIORITY IN THE NAME OF RHETORIC, HOWEVER NOBLE OR INSPIRING. NO ONE WILL SETTLE FOR THE PEACE OF THE GRAVE.

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WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO HISTORY, AND TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN. WE CLAIM TO PRACTICE WHAT WE HAVE PREACHED FOR TWO CENTURIES. WE ARE A NATION OF PRINCIPLES. THOSE PRINCIPLES ARE FREEDOM FOR ALL MEN AND WOMEN, HERE AT HOME AND, ONE DAY, ACROSS THE SEAS AS WELL. WE SHOULD SET AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHERS TO EMULATE.

AND ONE DAY, WHEN WE MOVE ON TO OUR PLACE IN THE SHADOWS, LET IT NEVER BE SAID OF YOU AND I THAT WE SURRENDERED TO POLITICAL EXPEDIENCY, OR THAT WE TURNED OUR BACK ON THE DREAMS OF OUR ANCESTORS, WHETHER THEY WERE BORN IN WASHINGTON OR WARSAW.

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THIS IS WHAT A POLITICAL PARTY IS ALL ABOUT. PRINCIPLE. CONVICTION. TRUST. LET'S NEVER FORGET THAT. LET'S NEVER FORGET THAT OUR PARTY IN ITS 125TH YEAR IS AS COMMITTED TO HUMAN POTENTIAL AND INDIVIDUAL FREEDOM AS IT WAS WHEN IT ROSE UP TO SMITE A SOCIETY THAT WOULD MAKE ANY MAN A SLAVE. LET US ABOLISH SLAVERY WHEREVER IT EXISTS. GOD GRANT US THE STRENGTH TO DO SO.