

REMARKS BY SENATOR BOB DOLE
SCOTTISH RITE ARMED FORCES
APPRECIATION DAY CEREMONY
SCOTTISH RITE TEMPLE
MAY 10, 1985

THANK YOU FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN YOU THIS EVENING TO HELP KICK OFF ARMED FORCES WEEK. THE HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH TEMPLE AND ITS MEMBERS MAKES FOR AN IMPRESSIVE CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF THIS NATION AND SADLY, ITS WARS--ESPECIALLY ONE WHERE A PARTICULAR VICTORY WAS CELEBRATED THIS WEDNESDAY, V-E DAY.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE WORLD WAR II ENDED SOME FOUR DECADES AGO. THIS WEEK THE SENATE PAID TRIBUTE TO THE AMERICAN VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY. THAT VICTORY REPRESENTED, AS THE WORLD LATER CAME TO REALIZE, THE TRIUMPH OF GOOD OVER UNSPEAKABLE EVIL, AND THE PROMISE OF A PEACEFUL FUTURE FOR A EUROPE RAVAGED BY THE BLOODIEST WAR IN ITS HISTORY.

IT WOULD NOT BE FITTING IF WE DID NOT TAKE TIME THIS EVENING TO ACKNOWLEDGE V-E DAY, AND OUR ALLIED VICTORY BECAUSE IT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE SELFLESS HEROISM OF THE 15,000,000

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AMERICANS. WHEN ALL THE GHASTLY TOTALS WERE ADDED UP, 40 MILLION EUROPEANS HAD LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE WAR; ALONG SIDE THEM FELL 160,045 AMERICANS, 45,057 CANADIANS AND THOUSANDS OF OTHERS OF NON-EUROPEAN NATIONALITIES.

A PERSONAL 40TH ANNIVERSARY

AS ONE WHO FOUGHT IN THAT GREAT CONFLICT, IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT APRIL 14 WAS THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DATE ON WHICH I WAS WOUNDED NEAR THE ITALIAN MOUNTAIN TOWN OF CASTE D'AIANO. THAT PERSONAL ANNIVERSARY WAS MARKED IN ITALY LAST MONTH WHERE I LED A CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION IN MEETINGS WITH OUR NATO ALLIES. AS I PLACED A WREATH AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER IN ROME, I WAS REMINDED OF THE PEACE THAT HAS EXISTED IN WESTERN EUROPE SINCE THE WAR. TODAY, AS A NATION, OUR GOAL MUST BE TO MAKE SURE THAT THE PEACE WE FOUGHT FOR SO VALIANTLY IS MAINTAINED. IT REQUIRED SO MUCH OF US, IN MANPOWER, IN MONEY, AND ABOVE ALL, IN SPIRITUAL AND NATIONAL RESOLVE. THOSE OF US WHO TOOK PART IN THE FIGHTING BLESS THE SUBSEQUENT PEACE. WE HAIL THE FRIENDSHIPS THAT GREW OUT OF THE HOSTILITY AND WE PLEDGE OURSELVES ANEW TO THE CAUSE FOR WHICH SO MANY GAVE SO MUCH.

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WITHOUT A DOUBT, MAY 8, 1945 WAS A DAY FOR WHICH MILLIONS OF PEOPLE HAD FOUGHT AND WORKED AND PRAYED AND DIED. LET US HOPE THAT THE LESSONS OF THE PAST HAVE BEEN LEARNED, THAT NO FUTURE WARS NEED BE FOUGHT.

THE PROSPERITY OF WESTERN EUROPE

THINK ABOUT IT--OUT OF THE RAVAGES OF WORLD WAR II A NEW ALLIANCE WAS BORN, SPANNING THE ATLANTIC AND BRINGING TOGETHER THE FREE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA. THE PROSPERITY AND SECURITY OF TODAY'S WESTERN EUROPE ARE SYMBOLS OF THE SUCCESS OF POLICIES INITIATED BY THE U.S. IN THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR II.

THE WORLD'S GREATEST BATTLEGROUND IS NOW A CONTINENT REVIVED AND PROSPEROUS, FREE FROM WAR THESE LAST FOUR DECADES. ON MAY 8, 1945, ONE WORLD ENDED AND A NEW ONE BEGAN. SINCE THEN, THE NATIONS OF WESTERN EUROPE HAVE RISEN FROM THE RUBBLE AND GROWN INTO THE WORLD'S SECOND LARGEST ECONOMIC ENTITY.

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WE HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM

THERE IS ANOTHER WAR THAT WE CANNOT FORGET. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE NOT YET FULLY RESOLVED OUR NATIONAL DEBATE ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR AND OUR INVOLVEMENT IN IT, THERE IS ONE ASPECT OF THAT WAR ON WHICH THERE SHOULD BE UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT--THAT THE MORE THAN 3 MILLION AMERICANS WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY IN THE VIETNAM THEATER DID SO WITH HONOR, WITH DISTINCTION, AND IN A MANNER CONSISTENT WITH THE HIGHEST TRADITIONS OF OUR MILITARY SERVICES.

SOME 57,000 OF THOSE SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN LOST THEIR LIVES DOING THEIR DUTY. TWO THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED OF THEM ARE STILL LISTED AS MISSING IN ACTION, AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO DEMAND FROM THE COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES IN INDOCHINA A COMPLETE ACCOUNTING FOR THEM.

THOSE WHO SERVED--INCLUDING THOSE WHO WERE FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO HAVE ESCAPED DEATH OR INJURY--SACRIFICED GREATLY FOR THEIR COUNTRY, IN WAYS THAT ONLY OTHER COMBAT VETERANS CAN FULLY APPRECIATE. ALL OF THEM GAVE A PART OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR LIVES TO DO WHAT THEY THOUGHT WAS RIGHT. ALL OF THEM DESERVE THE RECOGNITION AND THE THANKS OF THEIR FELLOW CITIZENS FOR WHAT THEY GAVE.

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IT WAS IN THAT SPIRIT, THAT THE CONGRESS DENOTED MAY 7 AS VIETNAM VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY. IT IS NOT ONLY FITTING THAT WE SET ASIDE A DAY TO HONOR THEIR SERVICE AND THEIR CONTRIBUTION. IT WAS IMPERATIVE THAT WE DO SO. IT IS NOT SOMETHING THAT WE ARE GIVING TO THE VIETNAM VETERANS--IT IS SOMETHING WE OWE TO THEM.

THE ALLIANCES WE KEEP

FORTY YEARS AFTER WORLD WAR II AND TEN YEARS AFTER VIETNAM, OUR FOREIGN POLICY, OUR NATIONAL STRATEGY MUST BE APPROPRIATE TO THOSE LIBERTIES WE FOUGHT FOR IN BOTH THOSE WARS, AND APPROPRIATE TO THE CHARACTER OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. THIS WILL MEAN HARD CHOICES ABOUT WHAT WE WANT TO DO IN THE WORLD, THE ALLIANCES WE MAKE, THE ADVERSARIES WE CHALLENGE, AND THE POLICIES WE INITIATE.

I HAD THE FORTUNATE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE V-E DAY AT THE NATIONAL WAR COLLEGE IN WASHINGTON. AS I SPOKE TO THOSE IN ATTENDANCE, I WAS STRUCK BY THE DIVERSITY OF GENERATIONS. IN THAT ROTUNDA WERE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR I AND II, KOREA, VIETNAM AND EVEN THOSE THAT PARTICIPATED IN THE RESCUE OPERATION IN GRENADA. SOME SOLDIERS PRESENT WERE SO YOUNG THAT THEY HAVE NEVER SEEN CONFLICT. I HOPE IT REMAINS SO. YET, DANGERS WILL ALWAYS BE PRESENT. THE NEED FOR A STRONG AND EQUITABLE DEFENSE

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IS EVER PRESENT. SO LONG AS HUMAN FREEDOM IS THREATENED, WE MUST ALWAYS KEEP OUR WATCH. GENERAL MARSHALL, ARCHITECT OF VICTORY IN EUROPE, MAY HAVE PUT IT BEST: "THE ONLY WAY TO WIN A WAR" HE DECLARED, "IS TO PREVENT IT." THAT IS A RESPONSIBILITY ALL OF US--THE PRESIDENT, THE CONGRESS, FELLOW CITIZENS IN THIS TEMPLE-- MUST SHARE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.