

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
UPON RECEIVING RIGHTEOUSNESS AWARD ON BEHALF OF U.S. CONGRESS
SUNDAY, NOV.3, 1985,
WESTIN HOTEL, DETROIT, MICHIGAN

THANK YOU. IT IS A VERY SPECIAL HONOR FOR ME TO BE HERE
TONIGHT, AND ON BEHALF OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE RECEIVE THIS
FIRST "RIGHTEOUSNESS" AWARD. ~~AND I WOULD LIKE TO~~ OFFER THE
SENATE'S THANKS TO RABBI CHARLES ROSENZVEIG, WHO HAS BEEN THE
MOVING FORCE BEHIND MICHIGAN'S HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER, AS WELL
AS OTHER MEMBERS OF THE CENTER'S BOARD WHO SELECTED CONGRESS FOR
THIS TRIBUTE.

RIGHTEOUSNESS IS A VERY LOFTY WORD -- ONE THAT MANY WOULD
FIND DIFFICULT TO IMAGINE IN ASSOCIATION WITH CONGRESS. BUT IF
THE WORD RIGHTEOUS OR MORALLY CORRECT CAN BE APPLIED TO ANY
ACTION TAKEN BY CONGRESS, IT IS, I BELIEVE, CERTAINLY AN ACCURATE
DESCRIPTION OF WHAT THIS NATION DID WHEN WE OPENED OUR DOORS AND
PROVIDED ASYLUM FOR THE SURVIVORS OF THE NAZI HOLOCAUST.

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THE UNITED STATES CHOSE TO JOIN THE ALLIED FORCES IN WORLD WAR II. WE CHOSE TO FIGHT FOR THE IDEALS OUR NATION WAS FOUNDED UPON. AND WHEN THE WAR WAS FINALLY FINISHED WE HAD A CHOICE TO ESTABLISH AMERICA AS A BEACON OF HOPE FOR A GENERATION OF SUFFERING EUROPEAN HOLOCAUST VICTIMS.

IT WAS A WISE CHOICE WE MADE -- NOT ONLY IN A MORAL SENSE -- BECAUSE IT REAFFIRMED AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE SAFE HAVEN FOR THOSE WHO FLEE THE TERRORS OF OPPRESSION AND TYRANNY. BUT WISE BECAUSE IT STRENGTHENED AN ALREADY STRONG NATION. THE MEN AND WOMEN AND CHILDREN WHO CAME TO OUR COUNTRY DURING THAT PERIOD AS HOMELESS REFUGEES DID NOT TURN OUT TO BE WARDS OF THE STATE IN THEIR NEW HOMELAND. MUCH THE OPPOSITE -- THEY HAVE BECOME A TREMENDOUS SOURCE OF LEADERSHIP, CREATIVITY AND MORAL STRENGTH. FROM THOSE FAMILIES HAVE COME SOME OF OUR MOST TALENTED LEADERS -- IN GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, MEDICINE, ACADEMIA AND THE ARTS. ~~I'M TALKING ABOUT THE THOUSANDS OF SURVIVORS AROUND THE COUNTRY, SUCH AS HENRY DOREMAN WHO YOU ARE HONORING TONIGHT AND OTHER OF YOU IN THIS ROOM, WHO HAVE THROUGH THEIR TALENTS AND INDUSTRY, MADE THEIR COMMUNITIES AND THIS NATION STRONGER AND MORE VITAL.~~

[Handwritten signature: "W. H. Doreman"]

THE HOLOCAUST CENTER, WHICH SOME OF YOU HELPED CREATE, LETS VISITORS PLAY A VIDEO GAME CALLED "LIFE CHANCE." THE OBJECT IS TO SEE IF YOU CAN SURVIVE. THE PLAYER MAKES CHOICES IN ORDER TO TRY TO ESCAPE THE NAZIS. AS THE GAME MAKES CLEAR, NO MATTER WHAT THE CHOICE, ESCAPING WAS NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE.

[Handwritten signature: "W. H. Doreman"]

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TODAY, THE UNITED STATES FACES CHOICES OF ITS OWN. BUT THE RESULTS ARE NOT NEARLY AS INEVITABLE. WHILE THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY THAT AN ABOMINATION SUCH AS THE HOLOCAUST COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN , WE CAN SEE THE SAME FACE OF DEPRAVITY IN TERRORISTS WHO MASQUERADE AS GUERRILLAS IN "LIBERATION MOVEMENTS' -- BLOWING UP HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS IN ISRAEL, KILLING INNOCENT VACATIONERS, HIJACKING PLANES AND SHIPS.

THE UNITED STATES COULD CHOOSE TO IGNORE THESE INCIDENTS -- BUT AS PROVEN BY THE ADMINISTRATION'S ACTIONS IN THE CASE OF THE ACHILLE LAURO SHIPJACKERS, WE WILL NOT. WE WILL NOT TURN OUR BACKS ON THE PERSECUTED, ON THOSE BROWBEATEN LIKE SOVIET JEWS, WE WILL SPEAK OUT, AND TAKE ACTIONS WHEN AND WHERE WE CAN, AGAINST HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES.

BUT WE CAN NEVER TAKE THOSE CHOICES FOR GRANTED. AND THAT IS WHY THE MICHIGAN HOLOCAUST CENTER IS SO IMPORTANT. AND WHY THE AWARD YOU HAVE PRESENTED CONGRESS WITH TONIGHT CARRIES SUCH SIGNIFICANCE. BOTH REMIND US -- THAT UNLESS WE ARE VIGILANT IN OUR DEFENSE OF LIBERTY FOR ALL -- IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN, TO ANY OF US.

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IF ANY OF US ARE FACED WITH PERSECUTION, NONE OF US WILL BE REALLY SECURE. IF ANY OF US BEGIN TO FORGET WHAT HAPPENED DURING THE HOLOCAUST, ALL OF USE WILL FACE A GREATER RISK THAT IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.

AT THE END OF WORLD WAR II, CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE MADE THE RIGHT CHOICES. BUT WE MUST CONSTANTLY REAFFIRM THOSE CHOICES, REAFFIRM OUR COMMITMENT TO DENOUNCE, DEFY, AND DEFEAT, THE TERRORS OF MAN'S INHUMANITY AGAINST MAN.

DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS, OUR EFFORTS, OUR TASK -- TO INSURE THAT A TRAGEDY LIKE THE HOLOCAUST WILL NEVER AGAIN HAPPEN -- HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN. WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A WORLD IN WHICH THE HATRED OF PREJUDICE AND THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE WILL BE ONLY A MEMORY. THAT ALONE WILL BE A TRULY WORTHY MEMORIAL TO THOSE MILLIONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE HOLOCAUST.

THANK YOU.

DRAFT OF SPEECH
ACCEPTING HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL CENTER'S
FIRST RIGHTEOUSNESS AWARD

Jerry Rosen

I'm honored and privileged to accept the first Righteousness Award of the Holocaust Memorial Center on behalf of the U.S. Senate. I understand that this award is to be given not only to honor those who suffered in the holocaust, but as well those who had the moral courage to help. I am, of course, accepting this award only as a representative of a great institution, the United States Congress. When Congress acted after World War II to open the doors of our nation to provide asylum for the survivors of the Nazi holocaust, it not only made the United States virtually the only nation in the world to recognize the enormity of Hitler's crimes against humanity and provide refuge for the victims of these crimes, it was acting in the very best humanitarian and democratic traditions of our Nation.

The United States Congress obviously did the right thing in establishing America as a beacon of hope and freedom for a generation of suffering European holocaust victims. But, it was not only the right thing to do in a moral sense and because it reaffirmed our roots as a Nation of freedom from oppression and tyranny -- it was the right thing to do for the future strength of our Nation, because the men and women and children who came to our country during that period as homeless refugees torn from their own roots by the savageries and dementia of Nazism have turned out to be not wards of the state in their new homeland, but a tremendous source of leadership, creativity

and moral strength.

Far from being a burden to this Nation, the survivors who came here after World War II were a blessing. From those families have come some of our most talented leaders of government, industry, medicine, academia, and the Arts. And, I'm not only talking about those who have risen to national prominence such as Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Detroit's Michael Blumenthal, the former Secretary of the Treasury, and my colleague in the United States Senate, Rudy Boschwitz from Minnesota. I'm talking about the survivors around the country, such as Henry Dorfman who we honor tonight and many of you in this room, who have through their talents and industry, made their communities and this Nation stronger and more vital.

① As important a symbol of recognition as this award is to Congress -- and these days, Congress doesn't often get recognized for political courage -- I would submit that the United States Congress has already received tribute enough through the outstanding achievements and contributions that the survivors and their families have made to this country. These courageous people not only survived the nightmare of the holocaust -- and after what I saw during our tour of the Center today, ~~I think it's~~ a miracle and a testament to the human spirit that anyone survived -- but they've enriched their adopted Nation by their hard work and faith.

that those same impulses of evil still exist. Today, we see the same faces of depravity in terrorists who masquerade as guerillas in "liberation movements" -- blowing up hospitals and schools in Israel, killing innocent vacationers, hijacking planes and ships, and extorting democratic governments and the civilized world, just as the Nazis did ~~50~~ years ago.

Let there be no mistake: It is the same "~~thing~~" mentality that with demonic zeal built death camps and human ovens for the Third Reich that recently motivated four "freedom fighters" to cold-bloodedly execute a 69 year old, wheelchair bound, ~~paraplegic~~ Jewish American and throw him into the sea.

That's why we must remember -- and never forget -- the holocaust. That's why the Center we visited today is so important. ~~That's why awards such as that which you've honored Congress with today are so important -- recognizing those who stood up to tyranny and provided help to victims.~~

The Memorial Center, and this award, is not only a memorial to those who died in the holocaust -- its a message to the living. A message that -- ~~in an era when some attempt to relativize guilt and blurr distinctions between good and evil -- that it is important that we make moral judgments about some actions and some groups, and that we don't permit a political environment to develop that accepts policies of depravity and terror as a legitimate, or even "understandable" political~~

I'd like to conclude with a personal thought on why it's so important that the world not be permitted to forget, or sweep under the rug of history, the nightmare that engulfed Europe four decades ago. And, this, to me, is really the message embodied in the Hebrew word "Zachor" -- which means remember -- and is incorporated into the Righteousness Award itself.

Many of us fought in Europe against the forces of Nazism and Hitler forty years ago, and some of us still carry reminders of that experience. But, ~~I must say that~~ at the time we were fighting, ~~I don't think~~ any of us really realized the magnitude of the insanity and depravity we were fighting against. When the true sickness of Nazism and the holocaust was publicly revealed when the death camps were discovered, world-wide humanity was shocked and outraged. The community of civilized nations couldn't believe that man could visit such atrocities upon others ~~of his species~~ as a premeditated element of a nation's policy.

Well, unfortunately, in some circles the shock of that nightmare has been diluted by time. There are even some who endeavor to build a case that the holocaust never took place. But even among those who know better, there are those who say that such an abomination could never happen again -- that the holocaust was an aberration of human nature, an historical accident that permitted man to sink to such immoral depths.

Well, I'd like to believe this was true. But, unfortunately, the newspaper headlines we read every week would indicate

force. We must be as resolute in standing up to today's terrorist thugs as we were in recognizing and acting against the nightmare of Nazism.

Unfortunately, there's nothing we can do to bring back those who perished in the Holocaust, but, through their memory, we can and we must ensure that this human tragedy never happens again. Never Again!

That's why we must remember! And, that's why I'm here tonight to accept this award on behalf of the United States Senate.

I thank you on behalf of the Senate for this Award but I assure you, your work here at the Holocaust Center, your achievements, and the message you impart to all of us is honor enough.

— Henry Daymon

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AS HOMELESS REFUGEES DID NOT TURN OUT TO BE WARDS OF THE STATE IN
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TREMENDOUS SOURCE OF LEADERSHIP, CREATIVITY AND MORAL STRENGTH.
FROM THOSE FAMILIES HAVE COME SOME OUR MOST TALENTED LEADERS --
IN GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRY, MEDICINE, ACADEMIA AND THE ARTS.

AS IMPORTANT A SYMBOL OF RECOGNITION AS THIS AWARD IS TO
CONGRESS -- ~~AND THESE DAYS, CONGRESS DOESN'T OFTEN GET RECOGNIZED~~
~~FOR POLITICAL COURAGE~~ -- I WOULD SUBMIT THAT THE UNITED STATES
CONGRESS HAS ALREADY RECEIVED TRIBUTE ENOUGH THROUGH THE
OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS THAT THE SURVIVORS AND

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THEIR FAMILIES HAVE MADE TO THIS COUNTRY. THESE COURAGEOUS
PEOPLE NOT ONLY SURVIVED THE NIGHTMARE OF THE HOLOCAUST -- AND
AFTER WHAT I SAW DURING OUR TOUR OF THE CENTER TODAY, IT IS A
MIRACLE AND A TESTAMENT TO THE HUMAN SPIRIT THAT ANYONE SURVIVED
-- BUT THEY'VE ENRICHED THEIR ADOPTED NATION BY THEIR HARD WORK
AND FAITH.

I'D LIKE TO CONCLUDE WITH A PERSONAL THOUGHT ON WHY IT'S SO
IMPORTANT THAT THE WORLD NOT BE PERMITTED TO FORGET, OR SWEEP
UNDER THE RUG OF HISTORY, THE NIGHTMARE THAT ENGULFED EUROPE FOUR
DECADES AGO. AND, THIS, TO ME, IS REALLY THE MESSAGE EMBODIED IN
THE HEBREW WORD "ZACHOR" -- WHICH MEANS REMEMBER -- AND IS
INCORPORATED INTO THE RIGHTEOUSNESS AWARD ITSELF.

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MANY OF US FOUGHT IN EUROPE AGAINST THE FORCES OF NAZISM AND HITLER FORTY YEARS AGO, AND SOME OF US STILL CARRY GRIM REMINDERS OF THAT EXPERIENCE. BUT AT THE TIME WE WERE FIGHTING NONE OF US REALLY REALIZED THE MAGNITUDE OF THE INSANITY AND DEPRAVITY WE WERE FIGHTING AGAINST. WHEN THE TRUE SICKNESS OF NAZISM AND THE HOLOCAUST WAS PUBLICLY REVEALED WHEN THE DEATH CAMPS WERE DISCOVERED, WORLD-WIDE HUMANITY WAS SHOCKED AND OUTRAGED. THE COMMUNITY OF CIVILIZED NATION'S COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT MAN COULD VISIT SUCH ATROCITIES UPON OTHERS AS A PREMEDITATED ELEMENT OF A NATION'S POLICY.

WELL, UNFORTUNATELY, IN SOME CIRCLES THE SHOCK OF THAT NIGHTMARE HAS BEEN DILUTED BY TIME. THERE ARE EVEN SOME WHO ENDEAVOR TO BUILD A CASE THAT THE HOLOCAUST NEVER TOOK PLACE. BUT EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO KNOW BETTER, THERE ARE THOSE WHO SAY

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THAT SUCH AN ABOMINATION COULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN -- THAT THE
HOLOCAUST WAS AN ABERRATION OF HUMAN NATURE, AN HISTORICAL
ACCIDENT THAT PERMITTED MAN TO SINK TO SUCH IMMORAL DEPTHS.

WELL, I'D LIKE TO BELIEVE THIS WAS TRUE. BUT, UNFORTUNATELY,
THE NEWSPAPER HEADLINES WE READ EVERY WEEK WOULD INDICATE THAT
THOSE SAME IMPULSES OF EVIL STILL EXIST. TODAY, WE SEE THE SAME
FACES OF DEPRAVITY IN TERRORISTS WHO MASQUERADE AS GUERRILLAS IN
"LIBERATION MOVEMENTS" -- BLOWING UP HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS IN
ISRAEL, KILLING INNOCENT VACATIONERS, HIJACKING PLANES AND SHIPS,
AND EXTORTING DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS AND THE CIVILIZED WORLD,
JUST AS THE NAZIS DID YEARS AGO.

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LET THERE BE NO MISTAKE: IT IS THE SAME MENTALITY THAT WITH
DEMONIC ZEAL BUILT DEATH CAMPS AND HUMAN OVENS FOR THE THIRD
REICH THAT RECENTLY MOTIVATED FOUR "FREEDOM FIGHTERS" TO
COLD-BLOODEDLY EXECUTE A 69 YEAR OLD, WHEELCHAIR BOUND, JEWISH
AMERICAN AND THROW HIM INTO THE SEA.

THAT'S WHY WE MUST REMEMBER -- AND NEVER FORGET -- THE
HOLOCAUST. THAT'S WHY THE CENTER WE VISITED TODAY IS SO
IMPORTANT.

THE MEMORIAL CENTER, AND THIS AWARD, IS NOT ONLY A MEMORIAL
TO THOSE WHO DIED IN THE HOLOCAUST -- ITS A MESSAGE TO THE LIVING
-- A MESSAGE THAT IF ANY OF US ARE FACED WITH PERSECUTION, NONE
OF US WILL BE REALLY SECURE. IF ANY OF US BEGIN TO FORGET WHAT
HAPPENED DURING THE HOLOCAUST, ALL OF USE WILL FACE A GREATER
RISK THAT IT COULD HAPPEN AGAIN.

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DESPITE YOUR EFFORTS, OUR EFFORTS, OUR TASK -- TO INSURE THAT
A TRAGEDY LIKE THE HOLOCAUST WILL NEVER AGAIN HAPPEN -- HAS ONLY
JUST BEGUN. WE MUST ALL WORK TOGETHER TO CREATE A WORLD IN WHICH
THE HATRED OF PREJUDICE AND THE THREAT OF VIOLENCE WILL BE ONLY A
MEMORY. THAT ALONE WILL BE A TRULY WORTHY MEMORIAL TO THOSE
MILLIONS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DURING THE HOLOCAUST.

THANK YOU.