

SPEECH OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

TO THE COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS

NOVEMBER 16, 1985

WASHINGTON HILTON, WASHINGTON, D.C.

EARLIER TODAY THE PRESIDENT LEFT FOR GENEVA. I KNOW HE
CARRIES WITH HIM THE SUPPORT OF EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM, AND INDEED
OF ALL AMERICANS, AS HE PURSUES HIS IMPORTANT AGENDA OF PEACE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS. THIS WEEK I WAS PLEASED TO SPONSOR A RESOLUTION
UNDERSCORING THE SENATE'S SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT, AND EVEN
MORE PLEASED THAT IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

- 2 -

I KNOW ONE ITEM HIGH ON THE PRESIDENT'S AGENDA WILL BE HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWS AND DISSIDENTS, AND THE PROBLEM OF JEWISH EMIGRATION. ON THIS ISSUE, TOO, THE PRESIDENT KNOWS HE HAS THE SENATE'S FULL SUPPORT AS REFLECTED IN A PETITION SIGNED BY ALL SENATORS ON SEPTEMBER 24, PLEDGING "OUR FIRM SUPPORT FOR THE PRESIDENT'S URGING MR. GORBACHEV TO UNDERTAKE JUST AND EXPEDITIOUS CORRECTION TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE USSR."

THE PRESIDENT ALSO WILL UNDOUBTEDLY PRESS THE SOVIETS ON THEIR FAILURE TO LIVE UP TO THE HELSINKI ACCORDS. BY REFUSING TO GRANT EMIGRATION VISAS TO 400,000 JEWS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO LEAVE, BY IMPRISONING INNOCENT PEOPLE FOR SUCH CRIMES AS BELONGING TO HELSINKI WATCH COMMITTEES, CORRESPONDING WITH PUBLIC FIGURES IN THE WEST AND TEACHING HEBREW, THE SOVIET UNION IS IN VIOLATION OF THIS TREATY.

- 3 -

WE HOPE THAT UNDER THE NEW LEADERSHIP THESE CONDITIONS WILL CHANGE. THERE ARE SOME HOPEFUL SIGNS -- ALLOWING ELENA BONNER TO SEEK MEDICAL TREATMENT ABROAD AND THE AGREEMENT TO RESOLVE TEN OF THE SEPARATED SPOUSE CASES, ARE SMALL STEPS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION. BUT THERE ARE ALSO DISTURBING SIGNS THAT THE PATTERN OF SUPPRESSION AND OPPRESSION WILL CONTINUE. JUST LAST WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE, LEONID VOLVOVSKY WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING LEON URIS' BOOK "EXODUS."

THREE STEPS

IF THE SOVIETS ARE SERIOUS ABOUT IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH US, THERE ARE THREE CONCRETE STEPS THEY SHOULD TAKE NOW:
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, DISAVOW THE U.N. RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM - IT IS AN ABOMINATION - AND LET ALL SOVIET JEWS WHO WANT TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN ISRAEL GO.

- 4 -

BEFORE I LEAVE THE SUBJECT OF EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL, LET ME ALSO MENTION THE PLIGHT OF THE 8-10,000 ETHIOPIAN JEWS WHO STILL ARE IN THEIR COUNTRY, BUT WANT DESPERATELY TO LEAVE.

LET US HOPE AND PRAY THAT THE STRUGGLE OF ALL ETHIOPIANS WILL SOON COME TO AN END. THAT THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WILL CHANGE ITS POLICIES AND PERMIT THOSE ETHIOPIAN JEWS WHO WISH TO RESETTLE IN ISRAEL, AND WHO WOULD BE WELCOMED THERE WITH OPEN ARMS, TO LEAVE.

ISRAEL MUST BE STRONG

IN CONFRONTING THESE AND OTHER CHALLENGES, THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL MUST REMAIN FAITHFUL PARTNERS. AS PART OF THAT PARTNERSHIP, ISRAEL MUST BE MILITARILY SECURE, AND ECONOMICALLY HEALTHY. AND WE MUST CONTINUE TO HELP ISRAEL STAY THAT WAY. ONE

- 5 -

WAY IS THROUGH OUR SECURITY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. AND I AM PLEASED TO NOTE IN THE PAPER TODAY THAT THE ADMINISTRATION IS NEAR AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL ON AN FY 87 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PACKAGE.

BUT IN THE LONG RUN, ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC FUTURE DEPENDS NOT ON GRANTS AND LOANS BUT ON A THRIVING EXPORTING INDUSTRY. THAT'S WHY I WAS PLEASED TO LEAD THE SUCCESSFUL EFFORT FOR AN ISRAELI FREE TRADE AGREEMENT. WHAT THE TRADE AGREEMENT DOES IS PHASE-IN DUTY FREE TREATMENT FOR ALL ISRAELI PRODUCTS IMPORTED TO THIS COUNTRY, AND EQUIVALENT TREATMENT FOR AMERICAN PRODUCTS IMPORTED INTO ISRAEL. THIS WILL PROVIDE INCENTIVE TO ISRAEL'S EXPORTING INDUSTRY AND A SHOT IN THE ARM TO THE WHOLE ISRAELI ECONOMY.

- 6 -

ISRAEL/JORDAN AND THE PEACE PROCESS

WHAT WILL NOT HELP THE ISRAELI ECONOMY, OR THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, IS THE ACCELERATING ARMS RACE THERE. THAT IS WHY I TOOK THE LEAD IN PERSUADING THE ADMINISTRATION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THE PROPOSED ARMS SALE TO JORDAN. BY POSTPONING THE DECISION, WE HAVE LEFT ALL OPTIONS OPEN. IF BY MARCH 1ST JORDAN DOES INDEED COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL, THE PROPOSAL WILL BE RE-EXAMINED.

MEANWHILE, WE MUST CONTINUE TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE A REAL PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. AN AGREEMENT ENCOMPASSING ISRAEL AND JORDAN AND ANY OTHER MIDDLE EAST STATES TRULY INTERESTED IN PEACE CAN DO MORE TO INSURE ISRAEL'S SECURITY THAN ANY ARMS WE CAN PROVIDE.

THAT IS MY HOPE AND I KNOW IT IS YOURS. FOR JEWS EVERYWHERE THE QUEST FOR PEACE IS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE. IT'S THE REASON JEWS ARE THE FIRST TARGET OF ENEMIES OF PEACE AND FREEDOM.

- 7 -

GENOCIDE CONVENTION

THAT'S ALSO WHY JEWS EVERYWHERE ARE UNANIMOUS IN SUPPORTING THE RATIFICATION OF THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION. THE GREATEST CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY IS THE CRIME OF GENOCIDE. IT'S TIME THAT THE UNITED STATES FORMALLY WENT ON RECORD IN SUPPORT OF THIS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. IT MAKES CLEAR THAT GENOCIDE IS AN CRIME OF UNEQUALLED HORROR AND SETS OUT PROCEDURES UNDER WHICH THOSE GUILTY CAN BE BROUGHT TO JUSTICE.

I RENEW MY PLEDGE TO YOU TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO HAVE THIS CONVENTION RATIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS ADJOURNS THIS YEAR.

IN ACTING ON THIS CONVENTION, AS IN EVERYTHING WE DO -- DOMESTICALLY AND IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY -- WE SHOULD REMEMBER THAT OUR MORAL AUTHORITY IS AT STAKE. IT IS THIS AUTHORITY THAT

- 8 -

CONSTITUTES THE MOST IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN US AND OUR
ADVERSARIES, AND IT WILL BE AT THE HEART OF MANY OF THE
DISCUSSIONS THE PRESIDENT HAS IN GENEVA.

WITHOUT THIS MORAL AUTHORITY WE CANNOT HOPE TO BRING TO
OTHERS THE FREEDOMS WE CHERISH AND ENJOY IN THE FREE WORLD.
WITHOUT IT, WE CANNOT HOPE TO RETAIN THESE FREEDOMS FOR
OURSELVES.