

SPEECH OF SENATOR MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE  
BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM INTERNATIONAL DINNER OF TRIBUTE  
NOVEMBER 17, 1985, THE WALDORF ASTORIA, NEW YORK CITY

THANK YOU VERY MUCH (MILTON SHAPIRO OR DAVID MACK WILL INTRODUCE YOU). THANKS ALSO TO JOE NAKASH, THE PRESIDENT OF BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM FOR INVITING ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT.

BEFORE I BEGIN, I WANT TO OFFER MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TWO MEN WHO YOU ARE HONORING -- CAPTAIN LEO BERGER AND JAMES HALPERIN. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND, THESE TWO MEN HAVE DEDICATED CONSIDERABLE TIME, ENERGY, AND MONEY, TO MAKING SURE THAT THE WORK STARTED IN 1948 AT BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM CONTINUES. AND THEY ARE MORE THAN DESERVING OF OUR PRAISE AND RECOGNITION.

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EVERY NATION'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE STRENGTH, VITALITY, AND ABILITY OF ITS YOUNG. SO THERE COULD BE NO MORE SIGNIFICANT MISSION THAN THAT OF BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM....TO GIVE YOUNG ISRAELI MEN WHO WOULD OTHERWISE NOT RECEIVE AN EDUCATION...THE CHANCE TO BECOME ARTICULATE AND PRODUCTIVE MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.

ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES SHARE A COMMON CHARACTERISTIC AND A COMMON STRENGTH...WE ARE BOTH NATIONS MADE UP OF IMMIGRANTS. IMMIGRANTS HAVE BUILT, SUSTAINED, AND CONTINUE TO BE A FORCE FOR GROWTH AND PROSPERITY IN OUR COUNTRIES.

IN 1948 ISRAEL WAS CREATED AS A HAVEN FOR REFUGEES FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE. AND BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM WAS CREATED TO SCHOOL AND NOURISH THE CHILDREN OF THESE REFUGEES, ESPECIALLY THOSE FROM IMPOVERISHED FAMILIES THROUGHOUT NORTH AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

#### SOVIET EMIGRATION

TODAY, THE ISSUE OF EMIGRATION FOR SOVIET JEWS --MANY OF WHOM LONG TO SETTLE IN ISRAEL -- IS OF PRIMARY CONCERN. IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE WATCHING THE SUMMIT MEETING IN GENEVA. FOREMOST ON THE AGENDA THERE WILL BE THE ARMS RACE, AND THAT IS AS IT SHOULD BE; NOTHING IS OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR TIME THAN THE ISSUE OF WAR AND PEACE.

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BUT I KNOW PRESIDENT REAGAN WILL ALSO RAISE THE QUESTION OF SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWS AND DISSIDENTS, AND PARTICULARLY THE PROBLEM OF JEWISH EMIGRATION; AND I AM SURE THE PRESIDENT WILL BROACH THE SUBJECT....NOT TO SCORE PUBLIC RELATIONS POINTS...BUT TO ACHIEVE CONCRETE RESULTS.

WE HAVE ASSURED THE PRESIDENT THAT HE HAS THE FULL AND UNANIMOUS COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. SENATE TO THIS UNDERTAKING. ON SEPTEMBER 24, SENATE MINORITY LEADER ROBERT BYRD AND I SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT REAGAN, WITH A PETITION SIGNED BY ALL 100 SENATORS, 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."

EARLIER THIS YEAR, I INTRODUCED A RESOLUTION ASKING THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE ANATOLY SCHARANSKY AND ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE AND REFUSENIKS, AND TO HONOR THE RIGHT OF ALL JEWS LIVING WITHIN THE SOVIET BORDERS TO EMIGRATE. WE APPROVED THE RESOLUTION, AND IT HAS BEEN SIGNED INTO LAW BY THE PRESIDENT.

#### CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

WE PRESS THESE ISSUES BECAUSE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS, AND HAS ALWAYS BEEN, UPPERMOST IN THE AMERICAN CONSCIENCE. BUT IN THE CASE OF THE SOVIET UNION THERE IS ANOTHER, EQUALLY IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION. TEN YEARS AGO THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT AND 34 OTHER GOVERNMENTS INCLUDING THOSE OF WESTERN EUROPE, CANADA

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AND THE U.S., SIGNED A SOLEMN AGREEMENT AT HELSINKI. IN IT THEY PLEDGED TO HONOR PROVISIONS, WHICH DECREE THAT "EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LEAVE ANY COUNTRY, INCLUDING HIS OWN." BY REFUSING TO GRANT EMIGRATION VISAS TO 400,000 JEWS WHO HAVE EXPRESSED THEIR DESIRE TO LEAVE, BY INCARCERATING 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 CLEAR VIOLATION OF THIS TREATY.

MANY OF US HOPED THAT UNDER THE NEW LEADERSHIP THESE CONDITIONS WOULD CHANGE, BUT THE PATTERN OF SUPPRESSION AND OPPRESSION IS CONTINUING WITH GROWING INTENSITY. IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS TWELVE ACTIVISTS HAVE BEEN ARRESTED OR SENTENCED. ONLY LAST WEEK, LEONID VOLVOVSKY WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS IN PRISON FOR DISTRIBUTING LEON URIS' BOOK "EXODUS."

WE MUST TELL THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT THAT WE VIEW THESE BREACHES OF AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT WITH UTMOST GRAVITY. WE MUST TELL THEM THAT IF THEY ARE INDEED EAGER TO IMPROVE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR COUNTRIES THEY MUST REALIZE THAT SUCH IMPROVEMENT IS CRUCIALLY AND VITALLY DEPENDENT ON GOODWILL AND TRUST. IF THEY WANT TO INSPIRE IN OUR PEOPLE THE CONFIDENCE NECESSARY TO REACH AGREEMENTS AND COMPROMISES ON THE MANY ISSUES THAT DIVIDE US, THEY MUST HONOR THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI CONFERENCE.

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THREE CONCRETE STEPS

I BELIEVE THERE ARE THREE CONCRETE STEPS THE SOVIETS CAN TAKE THAT WILL GO A LONG WAY TO USHER IN A NEW ERA IN OUR RELATIONSHIP, AND I CALL UPON THEM FROM THIS FORUM TO TAKE THESE STEPS: RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL, DISAVOW THE U.N. RESOLUTION EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM - IT IS AN ABOMINATION AND INSULT TO EVERY DECENT PERSON - AND LET ALL SOVIET JEWS WHO WANT TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN ISRAEL GO.

WE ALL HOPE, WE MUST HOPE, THAT THE GATES WILL OPEN, AND THAT HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF SOVIET JEWS WILL FIND HAVEN IN ISRAEL. AND IF THEY DO THEN I KNOW THAT ISRAELI CITIZEN WILL OPEN THEIR ARMS AND HEARTS TO THESE REFUGEES...THAT FACILITIES LIKE BOYS TOWN OF JERUSALEM WILL OFFER NOT ONLY HOPE, BUT REAL SERVICES TO THESE NEW CITIZENS, TOOLS TO MAKE THEIR LIVES HAPPY AND COMPLETE.

IN CLOSING, LET ME REAFFIRM MY -- THE ADMINISTRATION'S UNWAVERING SUPPORT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. "NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM" BECAME A REALITY IN 1948. THE UNITED STATES WILL DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO ENSURE THAT THE REALITY ENDURES.

THANK YOU, AND SHALOM.