

May 6 -
Capitol Rotunda
W.D.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

THANK YOU VERY MUCH ELIE. IT IS A GREAT HONOR TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON BEHALF OF THE HUNDREDS OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS WHO HELPED LIBERATE THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMPS 41 YEARS AGO, AND ON BEHALF, AS WELL, OF THE THOUSANDS OF US WORLD WAR II VETERANS WHO WERE NOT THERE PHYSICALLY, BUT WERE SPIRITUALLY.

TIME PASSES QUICKLY. FOR MANY OF US, THE YEARS SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II, SEEMS LIKE A WINK. MUCH HAS HAPPENED TO TO DISPLACE THE IMMEDIACY, THE HORROR OF THE WAR AND OUR INCREDULITY AT WHAT TOOK PLACE UNDER THE NAZI REIGN OF TERROR. YET NONE OF US WHO WERE ALIVE AND ESPECIALLY THOSE, LIKE I, WHO WERE IN EUROPE DURING THE WAR, CAN ESCAPE THE IMPACT IT HAD ON OUR LIVES. NOR SHOULD WE ESCAPE IT.

THAT IS WHAT THIS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IS ALL ABOUT. REMEMBERING THAT OUR OWN HUMANITY, OUR DECENCY, IS ALWAYS HANGING IN THE BALANCE, THREATENED BY EVILS FROM WITHIN AND FROM OUTSIDE. AND IF WE LET DOWN OUR GUARD, IF WE REFRAIN FROM LENDING A HELPING HAND TO MEN AND WOMEN THE WORLD OVER WHO SIMPLY SEEK THE RIGHT TO BE FREE, THEN WE COULD CONFRONT ANOTHER, IF DIFFERENT, HOLOCAUST OURSELVES.

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EARLIER THIS YEAR THE SENATE TOOK A STEP THAT MAKES CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL NEVER FORGET. WE TOOK CARE OF A PIECE OF LONG-OVERDUE, UNFINISHED BUSINESS. BY AN OVERWHELMING VOTE, THE SENATE RATIFIED THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION, WHICH HAD BEEN APPROVED BY THE UNITED NATIONS BACK IN 1948.

AS I SAID DURING THE SENATE DEBATE, THE GENOCIDE TREATY HAS ENORMOUS SYMBOLIC VALUE AS A WORLDWIDE STATEMENT OF OUTRAGE AND CONDEMNATION OVER VERY REAL HORRORS -- AS REAL AS HITLER'S DEATH CAMPS.

AND AS A NATION THAT ENSHRINES HUMAN DIGNITY AND FREEDOM AS A GOD GIVEN RIGHT IN ITS CONSTITUTION, IT WAS INCUMBENT UPON US TO RATIFY THE GENOCIDE TREATY. AND I'M PROUD TO SAY WE FINALLY DID THAT, BY A VOTE OF 83-11.

THE MASSIVE TRAGEDY OF THE HOLOCAUST FELL UPON THE JEWS OF EUROPE. BUT THERE HAVE BEEN, ARE, AND COULD WILL BE OTHER EXAMPLES OF MAN'S INHUMANITY AGAINST MAN.

THE ONLY HOPE OF AVOIDING SUCH TRAVESTIES IS TO DO WHAT WE ARE DOING RIGHT NOW -- TO REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED IN THE 1940'S SO THAT IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO 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.



United States Holocaust Memorial Council

Office of the
Chairman

April 22, 1986

The Honorable Robert Dole
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Dole:

On Tuesday, May 6, 1986, the United States Holocaust Memorial Council will conduct the annual national civic observance of Days of Remembrance of the Victims of the Holocaust. This year we will pay tribute to the American soldiers who helped liberate the European concentration camps in 1945 by presenting the first Eisenhower Liberation Medal in their honor.

We are deeply grateful to you, Senator Dole, for the many ways you have supported the work of the United States Holocaust Memorial Council. Your pledge, now fulfilled, at the groundbreaking for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, that the United States Senate would ratify the Genocide Treaty reflects your deep sensitivity to a subject that belongs to the darkest days of history, particularly Jewish history.

Therefore, it is a personal honor for me as Chairman of the Council to invite you to represent the United States Senate and address the Council and its guests at this national ceremony. President Reagan, who has addressed these ceremonies in past years, will be out of the country on May 6. Therefore, we have asked Vice President George Bush to represent the Administration and lead the Nation in this annual observance.

The ceremony will take place at noon on Tuesday, May 6, 1986, in the Rotunda of the United States Capitol. I hope very much that you can be with us.

Sincerely, *with warmest wishes:*

Elie Wiesel
Elie Wiesel

M E M O R A N D U M

April 22, 1986

To: SENATOR DOLE
From: AL LEHN
Subject: SPEAKING REQUEST: HOLOCAUST COUNCIL'S
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE EVENT

SPEAKING REQUEST AND BACKGROUND. In the attached letter, the Holocaust Memorial Council's Chairman, Elie Wiesel, requests that you represent the Senate by speaking at the annual Days of Remembrance ceremony in the Rotunda, at 12:00 noon, Tuesday, May 6. You would be expected to speak for 5-10 minutes.

Vice President Bush has been asked to speak for the President (who will be in Tokyo), and Bush is expected to attend.

DECISION:

OK _____

No _____

cc. BETTY
JOYCE

MONDAY, MAY 5, 1986

TO: SENATOR
FROM: DALE
SUBJECT: DAY OR REMEMBRANCE SPEECH

THE PROCESSIONAL TO THE ROTUNDA WILL START AT 11:55. STAFF (WEARING GREEN RIBBONS) WILL MEET YOU AND ESCORT YOU TO A HOLDING ROOM.

SIGMUND STROCHLITZ WILL PRESENT YOU TO ELIE WIESEL, WHO WILL SAY A FEW WORDS AND PRESENT YOU WITH THE EISENHOWER GOLD LIBERATION MEDAL.

THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION AFTERWARDS, IN 2360 RAYBURN WHERE REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.