

REMARKS OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE DINNER HONORING
STEPHEN M. ROSS
JUNE 9, 1986
PIERRE HOTEL, NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK

THANK YOU MR. (MARTIN) EDELMAN. IT IS A REAL PLEASURE TO
SHARE THIS EVENING WITH YOU. GIVEN STEVE'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE
REAL-ESTATE BUSINESS, AND MY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE TAX REFORM BILL
NOW BEFORE THE SENATE, I WAS EXPECTING MY INVITATION TO BE
REVOKED. BUT MAYBE STEVE FELT THE BEST HOPE FOR THE INDUSTRY WAS
TO GET ME OUT OF WASHINGTON FOR THE EVENING.

I'VE HAD THE HONOR OF KNOWING STEVE'S UNCLE MAX FISHER FOR
QUITE SOME TIME. BUT IT WAS ONLY RECENTLY THAT I MET THE MAN YOU
ARE SALUTING TONIGHT WITH YOUR HUMANITARIAN AWARD, STEVE ROSS.

- 2 -

IT DIDN'T TAKE MUCH TIME, HOWEVER, TO DISCOVER THAT STEVE IS A VERY SPECIAL PERSON -- ONE OF THOSE RARE INDIVIDUALS WHO COMBINES A KEEN BUSINESS SENSE WITH JUST AS KEEN A REGARD AND COMMITMENT TO HIS FELLOW MAN.

IT IS RARE THAT THE TWO GO HAND-IN-HAND. BUT STEVE, WITH HIS MAGNIFICENT SUCCESS IN THE REAL-ESTATE AND OTHER BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND HIS OUTSTANDING PUBLIC SERVICE -- WORKING WITH THE JEWISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE AGED, AS A TRUSTEE OF THE FEDERAL JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES OF NEW YORK, AND AS AN OWNER OF THE BALTIMORE STARS FOOTBALL TEAM -- HAS MARRIED THE TWO AS WELL AS ANYONE I HAVE MET.

ALL HIS FAMILY AND FRIENDS SHOULD "SCHLEP NACHAS" (PHONETIC MEANS TAKE JOY AND PRIDE) FROM HIS MANY ACHIEVEMENTS AND ESPECIALLY THE HONOR THE AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE IS BESTOWING UPON HIM TONIGHT.

THE DICTIONARY DEFINES A HUMANITARIAN AS ONE WHO HAS CONCERN FOR HELPING OR IMPROVING THE WELFARE OF MANKIND.

FOR ME, A HUMANITARIAN IS A PERSON WHO LOOKS BEYOND HIS OWN PERSONAL NEEDS -- BEYOND LOOKING OUT FOR NUMBER ONE. IT IS A PERSON WHO TAKES THE TIME, NOT JUST TO WRITE A CHECK, TO GIVE BACK SOME OF THE GOOD HE HAS RECEIVED.

IN MANY WAYS IT IS EASIER FOR THOSE OF US IN GOVERNMENT TO EXPRESS OUR COMMITMENT TO THE COMMUNITY, THE COMMUNITY AT HOME OR ABROAD. WE HAVE THE CHOICES LAID BEFORE US EVERY DAY. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS SAY YES.

WHETHER IT IS PROVIDING MONEY FOR NUTRITION PROGRAMS FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS; GUARANTEEING THAT EVERY MAN HAS THE RIGHT TO VOTE; OR REFORMING THE TAX CODE SO THAT MILLIONS OF MIDDLE AND LOWER INCOME INDIVIDUALS WILL BEAR NO, OR AT LEAST A LIGHTER, BURDEN -- I BELIEVE THOSE OF US WHO HOLD PUBLIC OFFICE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, A DUTY, TO INSURE THAT THOSE WE REPRESENT HAVE THE CHANCE TO ENJOY THE RIGHTS THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ENSHRINES.

BUT WE CANNOT MERELY CARE FOR OUR OWN. OUR SENSE OF HUMANITY MUST EXTEND BEYOND OUR BORDERS. THERE IS TOO MUCH INJUSTICE, TOO MUCH PAIN AND SUFFERING IN THE WORLD TO TURN OUR HEADS WITH IMPUNITY.

WHAT CAN WE AS AMERICANS DO? IN RARE INSTANCES -- SUCH AS WITH THE LIBYAN TERRORIST ATTACKS -- WE CAN AND SHOULD RESPOND WITH ACTION.

WE CAN LEND SUPPORT -- ECONOMICALLY, MATERIALLY, AND MILITARILY, TO THOSE INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS WHO HAVE PROVEN TO BE FRIENDS. AND THE UNITED STATES HAS NO GREATER FRIEND IN THE WORLD COMMUNITY, THAN THE STATE OF ISRAEL, WHICH JUST CELEBRATED ITS 38TH ANNIVERSARY.

WE CAN JOIN OTHER NATIONS IN ESTABLISHING RULES OF CONDUCT, RULES BY WHICH THE CIVILIZED NATIONS OF THE WORLD AGREE TO ABIDE. THAT IS WHAT THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION IS ALL ABOUT.

BUT PERHAPS MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL -- AND THIS IS WHERE YOU TOO CAN PLAY A ROLE -- WE MUST USE MORAL SUASION. WE MUST VERBALLY PROTEST EACH INSTANCE WHERE OUR FELLOW MAN'S RIGHTS ARE

- 5 -

IGNORED, OR WORSE YET ABUSED. IN THE BLACK TOWNSHIPS OF SOUTH AFRICA, THE ARID PLAINS OF ETHIOPIA, OR THE GULAGS OF THE SOVIET UNION -- SILENCE, IN THE FACE OF INHUMANITY, IS A SHAME AMERICANS SHOULD REFUSE TO BEAR.

NO ONE, NO COUNTRY, LIKES TO BE PUBLICLY CALLED TO TASK, TO BE EMBARRASSED, HUMILIATED BY THE RELENTLESS REPETITION OF ITS FAILURES. AND NO COUNTRY HAS MORE TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT THAN THE SOVIET UNION. THAT COUNTRY'S MALTREATMENT, ITS PERSECUTION OF JEWISH MEN AND WOMEN AND OTHER DISSIDENTS DEFIES ANY RATIONAL EXPLANATION AND SIMPLY CANNOT BE IGNORED BY THE WORLD COMMUNITY.

LAST MONTH I HAD THE GREAT PRIVILEGE OF MEETING AND PAYING RESPECT TO AN AUTHENTIC HERO -- SOMEONE YOU ALL KNOW ABOUT -- NATAN SHCHARANSKY THE ENORMITY OF THIS MAN'S COURAGE, HIS WIT, HIS WILL, HIS SPIRIT SHOULD BE AN INSPIRATION TO US ALL.

DURING CEREMONIES HONORING MR. SHCHARANSKY IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA IS SAID, "WE WOULD DO HIM STRANGE HONOR INDEED, IF WE WERE TO FORGET THE THOUSANDS WHO STILL LANGUISH BEHIND BARS, AND

WHO SEEK NOTHING MORE THAN THE CHANCE TO EMIGRATE TO A LAND WHERE THEY CAN WORSHIP THEIR GOD AS HE WOULD HAVE THEM. SO TODAY IS ONE OF THANKSGIVING, BUT ALSO OF RENEWED CONCERN -- OF GRATITUDE FOR NATAN SHCHARANSKY'S RESCUE, AND DETERMINATION THAT WE WILL NOT REST UNTIL THE KEY IS TURNED THAT WILL UNLOCK COUNTLESS CELLS IN THAT UNHAPPY LAND WHERE DISSIDENT IS HELD TO BE A CRIMINAL OFFENSE. AND TRUE FAITH IS FEARED AS THE ENEMY OF POLITICAL ORTHODOXY."

MR. SHCHARANSKY IS FREE. AND WE ALL THANK GOD FOR THAT. BUT THERE ARE 400,000 JEWS IN RUSSIA WHO ARE NOT, AND WANT TO BE. JUST LAST FRIDAY I MET WITH THE SISTER OF IDA NUDEL (NEW-DELL), A 55-YEAR OLD ECONOMIST WHO FIRST APPLIED FOR A VISA TO ISRAEL IN 1971. INSTEAD OF A VISA, SHE WAS EXILED TO SIBERIA FOR FOUR YEARS. AND TODAY SHE REMAINS IN THE SOVIET UNION., SICK AND ALONE, AND STILL DESPERATELY WANTING TO LEAVE.

- 7 -

I HAVE SPOKEN OUT, AND I WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO. BUT SO CAN YOU. EACH OF US A RESPONSIBILITY, AS ONE HUMAN BEING LOOKING OUT FOR ANOTHER, TO NEVER FORGET THOSE WHO NEED OUR HELP. WE CAN ALTER THE FATES, WE CAN RIGHT WRONGS, IF ONLY WE WILL. LETTING SOMEONE ELSE DO IT, WHETHER IT IS AN ELECTED OFFICIAL, OR A PAID BUREAUCRAT, WILL NOT SUFFICE. WE MUST BECOME INVOLVED, SPEAK OUT, IF WE ARE TO LIVE UP TO THE IDEALS THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED ON. IT IS WHAT BEING A HUMANITARIAN, BEING AN AMERICAN, IS ALL ABOUT.

THANK YOU.

HAVE ALL BECOME QUITE APPRECIATIVE OF SENATOR DOLE'S SUBSTANCE
AS WELL AS HIS STYLE WHICH INTRODUCES AN HONEST HUMOR TO
BALANCE OUT AND PUT INTO PROSPECTIVE BOTH DIFFICULT TOPICS AND
PERSONALITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, SENATOR ROBERT DOLE.