

*Ray Luther
Al Lehn gave
speech for
Senator Dole*

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
REFUGEES SAVE MISS LIBERTY
TYSONS CORNER MARRIOTT
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1986

THANK YOU TRUNG. IT IS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE WITH YOU TONIGHT TO JOIN IN SALUTING YOUR VERY WORTHWHILE EFFORTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR REFURBISHING THE STATUE OF LIBERTY.

IN A LITTLE OVER A WEEK, A SPRUCED-UP MISS LIBERTY ONCE AGAIN WILL LOOK PROUDLY OUT AT NEW YORK HARBOR. ONCE AGAIN, HER BEACON OF LIGHT WILL SHINE, WELCOMING ALL WHO ENTER THE UNITED STATES.

WHEN EMMA LAZURUS WROTE THOSE IMMORTAL WORDS: "GIVE ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR POOR, YOUR HUDDLED MASSES YEARNING TO BREATHE FREE" THERE WAS A FLOOD OF IMMIGRANTS POURING INTO THIS COUNTRY FROM EVERY CORNER OF THE GLOBE -- THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF MEN AND WOMEN LOOKING FOR STREETS PAVED WITH GOLD, THE PROMISED LAND.

AND MOST OF THEM, IN THEIR OWN WAY, FOUND WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR. THEY FOUND A COUNTRY WHERE HARD WORK AND DETERMINATION PAID OFF; WHERE A MAN OR A WOMAN -- REGARDLESS OF RACE OR RELIGION -- COULD GO TO SCHOOL, OWN A BUSINESS, CHOOSE ANY PROFESSION, RAISE A FAMILY.

THAT FLOOD OF IMMIGRANTS, HAS SLOWED. BUT THERE ARE STILL THOUSANDS WHO COME TO AMERICA EVERY YEAR, TO BUILD NEW LIVES. AND MANY, MANY THOUSANDS MORE WHO WOULD COME, IF ONLY THEY COULD.

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THESE NEW AMERICANS, MANY OF YOU IN THE AUDIENCE TONIGHT, CONTINUE TO PROVE THAT THE AMERICAN DREAM LIVES. AND I CAN THINK OF NO BETTER WAY TO SHOW APPRECIATION THAN WITH THE WORK OF THE REFUGEES SAVE MISS LIBERTY.

BY SHOWING YOUR RESPECT FOR THE STATUE OF LIBERTY, YOU SHOW RESPECT FOR THE PRINCIPLES THIS NATION WAS FOUNDED UPON. YOU PAY TRIBUTE TO THE THOUSANDS WHO CAME BEFORE YOU, AND THE THOUSANDS WHO WILL FOLLOW YOU.

ONE THING WE AMERICANS CANNOT FORGET IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING A HAVEN FOR THOSE WHO WANT, AS EMMA LAZURUS WROTE, TO BREATHE FREE -- WE MUST KEEP OUR ARMS OPEN WIDE TO ACCEPT THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED -- WHETHER THEY COME FROM CAMBODIA OR VIET-NAM, AFGHANISTAN OR CUBA, THE SOVIET UNION OR POLAND. WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION, TO FIGHT FOR THE RIGHT OF THOSE WHO WISH TO EMIGRATE -- TO THIS COUNTRY OR ANY OTHER FREE LAND.

I PLEDGE TO YOU THAT I WILL CONTINUE MY EFFORTS TO PRESS FOR THE RIGHTS OF CAMBODIANS ON THE THAI BORDER AND THE PROCESSING OF CAMBODIANS IN REFUGEE CAMPS; TO FIGHT FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THEIR RIGHT TO MAKE A NEW HOME IN THE WEST, TO PUSH FOR THE FAMILY REUNIFICATION OF ETHIOPIAN JEWS.

IN 1986, JUST AS IN 1886 WHEN THE STATUE OF LIBERTY WAS UNVEILED, THE UNITED STATES STANDS OUT IN THE WORLD OF NATIONS AS THE ULTIMATE LAND OF HOPES AND DREAMS. NO ONE KNOWS THAT BETTER THAN YOU. YOUR BEING HERE TONIGHT, YOUR INVOLVEMENT, HELPS GUARANTEE THAT IT WILL REMAIN THAT WAY FOR YEARS TO COME.