



United States Department of State

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Senator Dole:

JAN 19 1989

Mr. Alan M. Kranowitz, Assistant to the President has asked me to provide a further response to your letter of December 5, 1988 in which you suggested that U.S. and Soviet rededication to the International Decade of Disabled Persons be raised during the President's December meeting with General Secretary Gorbachev in New York. Mr. Kranowitz responded to you directly on December 9, 1988.

Although we understand the subject of the Decade of Disabled Persons did not arise in the President's conversation with Mr. Gorbachev, our UN mission in New York has been successful in promoting the disabled issue in the UN and will continue to discuss the subject with the Soviet Union and other governments.

As you are aware, we are strongly committed to the goals of the Decade and view the concerns of the disabled to be one of the most important UN social issues. For this reason, the United States traditionally co-sponsors a resolution on the Disabled for adoption by the General Assembly. At the Forty-Third Session of the General Assembly last fall, we once again played a lead role in the passage of a resolution reiterating the need to give greater attention to the Decade of Disabled Persons.

At the General Assembly session, US Ambassador Byrne made a statement emphasizing our strong commitment to the goals of the Decade, and recommended that the UN Secretariat review the possibility of launching the Second Decade of Disabled Persons immediately following the completion of the first Decade (1983 - 1992).

The President appreciates your concern for the problems of disabled persons and your support for the goals of the Decade.

Sincerely,

J. Edward Fox  
Assistant Secretary  
Legislative Affairs

The Honorable  
Bob Dole,  
United States Senate.