

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 225-6521

✓83

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 13 -- Eighty-nine U.S. Senators have signed a letter expressing "outrage" at the "persistent, callous attitude manifested toward U.S. personnel missing in action and at the inhumane treatment of U.S. prisoners of war in Southeast Asia."

The letter, circulated by Senators Bob Dole (R-Kans.) and Birch Bayh (D-Ind.) was sent today to North Vietnam Premier Pham Van Dong.

"The North Vietnamese have blatantly ignored standards for the treatment of prisoners of war as set forth in the Geneva Convention -- a treaty they signed in 1957," Dole said.

"It is my hope that this concerted effort by Senators from both sides of the aisle will bring to the North Vietnamese the realization that Americans and the American government will not let this issue rest until all American prisoners have been identified and returned."

Text of the letter and list of the Senators signing it follows:

Dear Mr. Premier:

We, the undersigned members of the United States Senate, feel compelled to personally express our outrage at the persistent, callous attitude manifested toward United States personnel missing in action and the inhumane treatment of United States prisoners detained in Southeast Asia.

In obvious disregard of human decency, the Democratic Republic of Vietnam continually has refused to adhere to basic humanitarian obligations concerning detained prisoners.

As Senators, while we have differed over policies pursued by the United States in Southeast Asia, we wish the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to recognize that we are of one mind and one voice in insisting that United States prisoners be treated in accordance with universal humanitarian principles. It is also our belief that release of all American prisoners would be a most significant step toward bringing peace in Southeast Asia.

Dole

--2--

Birch Bayh (D-Ind.); Bob Dole (R-Kans.); Gordon Allott (R-Colo.); Clinton Anderson (D-N.M.); Howard Baker (R-Tenn.); Henry Bellmon, (R-Okla.); Wallace Bennett, (R-Utah); Alan Bible (D-Nev.); Caleb Boggs (R-Del.); Edward Brooke (R-Mass.); Quentin Burdick (D-N.D.); Harry Byrd (D-Va.); Howard Cannon (D-Nev.); Clifford Case (R-N.J.); Frank Church (D-Idaho); Marlow Cook (R-Ky.); John Sherman Cooper (R-Ky.); Norris Cotton (R-N.H.); Alan Cranston (D-Calif.); Carl Curtis (R-Neb.); Thomas Dodd (D-Conn.); Peter Dominick (R-Colo.); Tom Eagleton (D-Mo.); James Eastland (D-Miss.); Allen Ellender (D-La.); Paul Fannin (R-Ariz.); Hiram Fong (R-Hawaii); Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.); Charles Goodell (R-N.Y.); Albert Gore (D-Tenn.); Mike Gravel (D-Alaska); Robert Griffin (R-Mich.); Edward Gurney (R-Fla.); Clifford Hansen (R-Wyo.); Fred Harris (D-Okla.); Philip Hart (D-Mich.); Vance Hartke (D-Ind.); Mark Hatfield (R-Ore.); Spessard Holland (D-Fla.); Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.); Roman Hruska (R-Neb.); Harold Hughes (D-Iowa); Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii); Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.); Everett Jordan (D-N.C.); Len Jordan (R-Idaho); Warren Magnuson (D-Wash.); Mike Mansfield (D-Montana); Charles Mathias (R-Md.); George McGovern (D-S.D.); Thomas McIntyre (D-N.H.); Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.); Jack Miller (R-Iowa); Gale McGee (D-Wyo.); Walter Mondale (D-Minn.); Joseph Montoya (D-N.M.); Frank Moss (D-Utah); Karl Mundt (R-S.D.); George Murphy (R-Calif.); Edmund Muskie (D-Maine); Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisc.); Bob Packwood (R-Ore.); James Pearson (R-Kans.); Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.); Charles Percy (R-Ill.); Winston Prouty (R-Vt.); William Proxmire (D-Wisc.); Jennings Randolph (D-W.Va.); Abraham Ribicoff (D-Conn.); William Saxbe (R-Ohio); Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.); Hugh Scott (R-Pa.); Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine); Ralph Smith (R-Ill.); John Sparkman (D-Ala.); William Spong (D-Va.); John Stennis (D-Miss.); Ted Stevens (R-Alaska); Stuart Symington (D-Mo.); Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.); Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.); John Tower (R-Tex.); Joseph Tydings (R-Md.); Harrison Williams (D-N.J.); John Williams (R-Del.); Milton Young (R-N.D.); Ralph Yarborough (D-Tex.); John Pastore (D-R.I.); Stephen Young (R-Ohio).