

317

FROM: THE OFFICE OF US SENATOR BOB DOLE
NE SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20510
(202) 225-8946

PAKISTAN REFUGEE RELIEF

FOR RELEASE UPON DELIVERY - OCTOBER 6, 1971

WASHINGTON, D.C., OCT. 6, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today said, "President Nixon's program provides not only for the refugees in India but also seeks the means to alleviate suffering and avert famine in East Pakistan. This is a broad and balanced humanitarian approach to the whole problem --- not an ideologically inspired half solution."

Dole, discussing the Pakistan relief program on the Senate floor, emphasized that the President's program is based on the view that one cannot approach this problem by dealing only with the refugees in India. He said that proposed legislation to provide \$400 million in assistance for refugees in India is welcome but makes no provision for dealing with the root of the problem in East Pakistan.

"The problem of the refugees is only one part of a larger problem. It is woefully short-sighted to talk only about them. If we were to concentrate only on their relief, we would almost certainly assure that they would become permanent refugees, and we would probably assure that their number would increase.

I, for one, could not be party to a policy which doomed millions of people to a permanent life as refugees and made no realistic provision for at least trying to create conditions which might permit them to return home, and allay conditions which would create still more of them."

The Kansas Senator said that some Americans, "certain members of this body in particular have suggested we can help by simply giving outraged voice to our indignation. They have tried that and have been denied access to East Pakistan. Yet, East Pakistan is where the solution or the exacerbation of this problem will be found. It is, therefore, of the greatest importance that in the name of morality we not cut ourselves off from the only people -- the Government of Pakistan -- that have the capacity to change the immediate situation."