



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MARCH 7, 1978

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
BOB DOWNEN

DOLE INTRODUCES RESOLUTION ON RHODESIA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today introduced a resolution to support the move towards peace in Rhodesia. Following is the text of his introductory statement:

ENDORING RHODESIAN SETTLEMENT

I am introducing today a Concurrent Resolution to support the move towards peace in Rhodesia.

Many Americans were pleased, as I was, to learn that an internal settlement had been reached last week among political factions in Rhodesia on the matter of majority rule for that nation. After years of difficult bargaining, black and white Rhodesian leaders have reached an historic agreement that will protect rights and interests of all citizens of that nation. It is a momentous accomplishment, and this historic opportunity must not be allowed to deteriorate.

The Western powers, who have long encouraged just such a peaceful resolution of the Rhodesian problem, should now do their part to ensure that radical, Communist-supported factions do not disrupt this unique chance for peace.

For that reason, I believe the United States should now take the initiative to fully endorse the multi-faction agreement, and to encourage the support of other nations as well.

DOLE RESOLUTION

My Resolution calls attention to the significance of the accord signed on March 3, 1978, laying the foundation for transition to majority-rule government by the end of this year. The Resolution recognizes the positive implications of this internal settlement to what is essentially an internal problem, and expresses Senate support for the agreement. Perhaps most importantly, it calls upon our Ambassador to the United Nations to actively encourage international support for the settlement.

There are some who will actively oppose this settlement, whose interests are served only by continuing discord and bloodshed within Rhodesia. We can well expect that the Soviet Union, which already encourages and finances warfare on the horn of the African continent, will chastise this agreement. We know of the opposition of the so-called "Patriotic Front" of the Communist-supported guerrilla units, whose leader threatens to make voting booths "military targets" if settlement provisions are carried out.

It is precisely because of criticism from these elements that we have a special responsibility to endorse and encourage the peaceful transition of governments in Rhodesia. The Resolution I am introducing today will give the United States Senate the opportunity to act early and responsibly in this manner.