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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE, SCHMITT, 31 OTHER SENATORS ASK FOR RELEASE OF UKRAINIAN DISSIDENT LUKYANENKO

WASHINGTON -- Thirty-three U.S. senators today signed a letter to the leader of the Communist Party of the Ukraine, urging him to release dissident Lev Lukyanenko, a member of the Kiev-based Helsinki Monitoring Group who is now on trial for anti-Soviet agitation and propaganda.

The letter was drafted by Sens. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Harrison Schmitt (R-N.M.).

The senators asked that Lukyanenko be released because of humanitarian considerations. Lukyanenko has already served 15 years in Soviet prisons on treason charges and is in poor health. He has also applied for an exit visa.

In addition to Sens. Dole and Schmitt, those cosigning the letter were: Sens. Bayh, Lugar, Curtis, Heinz, Williams, Stone, Anderson, Hatch, McClure, Proxmire, Ribicoff, Danforth, Durkin, Deconcini, Javits, Domenici, Griffin, Stevens, Haskell, Allen, Bentsen, Metzenbaum, Percy, Byrd, Case, Schweiker, Brooke, Goldwater, Hart, Hayakawa and Riegle.

Following is the text of the letter, addressed to Mr. Volodymyr Shcherbitsky, first secretary of the Communist Party of the Ukraine:

We, as members of the United States Senate are writing on behalf of Lev Lukyanenko. He is a member of the Kiev-based Helsinki Monitoring Group and is now on trial for anti-Soviet agitation and propoganda in the small town of Horodnya.

In 1975, Secretary Brezhnev signed the Helsinki Agreement and therefore, committed the U.S.S.R. to the implementation of its provisions. Mr. Lukyanenko and his colleagues were merely responding to the initiatives of the Soviet government. We can only applaud the actions of citizens who offered to help their government implement its own international agreements. Thus far, Ukraine has been relatively isolated from international life despite the great achievements of her citizens in athletic, cultural, and economic life. By actively working to implement the provisions of the Helsinki Agreement within her own borders, Ukraine could also begin to enter the international political arena. Greater Ukrainian participation in proceedings such as the Helsinki Agreement would certainly be a major contribution to world peace and international harmony. The actions of people like Lev Lukyanenko, therefore, appear to us as actions that should be rewarded and not punished.

We realize that you consider this an internal matter of the Ukrainian Republic. There are humanitarian considerations that we would like you to take into account, however. Lukyanenko has already suffered a great deal in the past and is in poor health. He has also applied for an exit visa. His release at this time would have a positive effect on relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. We urge you to act positively on our appeal on behalf of Lev Lukyanenko.