



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE ENCOURAGES EASTERN EUROPEAN STRUGGLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION

LOS ANGELES -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today urged the continued resistance against the "crushing weight of Soviet repression and Soviet 'Russification' and the suppression of free thought and expression in Eastern and Baltic Europe."

Speaking at a meeting of the Republican National Heritage Group, Dole said that the Soviet Union's pursuit of a policy of Russification of the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania threatens to eliminate those ethnic groups within another generation.

"Especially in the Baltic states . . . there has been a struggle for national survival in the face of massive Soviet efforts to permanently change the language and culture of those nations through the vehicle of forced Russification," he said.

But, Dole added that he was encouraged by recent efforts to combat this trend, to struggle for freedom, for right to worship, to move about in one's own country, to speak one's own mind.

"Even Romania's overtures to the People's Republic of China represents an encouraging example of a people resisting the pressure of Soviet hegemony and dominance," he said.

"If the suppression and murder of an individual is a crime, then is the elimination of national heritage, of the individuality of an entire people, not an unspeakable atrocity?"

Dole said that we, as Americans, as defenders of human rights, freedom and self-determination, need to encourage efforts for greater individual and national rights.

"Let us resolve to continue our support with actions as well as words for those who struggle to secure basic rights for their countries," he said.