



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS  
202-224-8947

## DOLE, KENNEDY OFFER AMENDMENT ON U.S. ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIAN REFUGEES IN VIETNAM

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole, along with Sen. Ted Kennedy (D-Mass.), today introduced an amendment to earmark \$3 million to support efforts by the United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees to feed, clothe and otherwise ease the suffering of thousands of Cambodians living in refugee camps in Vietnam.

It is estimated that some 200,000 Cambodians are living in the camps, after having fled from the horrors of Communist Cambodia.

The amendment would be added to the Foreign Aid Appropriations Bill.

"At present, the United States contributes substantially to relief programs for Indo-Chinese refugees in Thailand," Dole said. "Is there any real justification, then, for denying the same humanitarian consideration for others, simply because they had the misfortune to locate in a country with which we have no political ties? I think not. Genuine humanitarian empathy knows no political boundaries. Knowing, as we do, the horrible conditions in Cambodia which motivated the exodus, we sympathize with all Cambodian refugees, wherever they may reside.

"This humanitarian aid is channeled through the United Nations and directed solely towards those of Cambodian origin who are temporarily settled in refugee camps inside Vietnam's borders," Dole said. "It does not involve United States aid to, or trade with Vietnam. I remain firmly opposed to any type of American aid, trade or 'reparations' for Vietnam."

Dole also said that this was not an attempt to "normalize" relations with Vietnam.

"So long as Vietnam's limited cooperation in accounting for our missing servicemen inspires skepticism, and so long as major questions remain regarding political persecutions of their own people, I will be reluctant to support 'normalization' of United States relations with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam," he said.

In November 1977, Dole introduced a Senate resolution condemning the brutality by the Communist government of Cambodia, and urging the President to join an international effort to end the atrocities in Cambodia. On July 31, 1978, the Senate voted to accept a Dole amendment to the International Monetary Fund Authorization Bill opposing U.S. support for IMF aid to Cambodia, and in August, the Senate accepted a Dole amendment to the Justice Appropriations Bill urging the attorney general to grant special parole authority to allow 15,000 Cambodian refugees to immigrate to America over the next two years.