

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE CALLS FOR U.N. INVESTIGATION OF SOVIET NERVE GAS ATROCITIES IN AFGHANISTAN

WASHINGTON -- Calling the Soviets' use of nerve gas in Afghanistan "unmatched by even the most callous violators of international law," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today called for an investigation by the United Nations Committee on Disarmament in Geneva.

"Soviet action is philosophically in violation of the Geneva Protocol of 1925, and would undoubtedly receive worldwide condemnation," Dole said. "While largely symbolic, our unwillingness to overlook this inhuman action by bringing it to the attention of the world will force a judgment to be made. It is my hope that this would force the Russians to reconsider their use of NBC warfare (nuclear, biological and chemical).

"While reports of mass slaughters that date back before the Soviet invasion into Afghanistan become confirmed, far greater atrocities are being committed and the news is slowly beginning to trickle through to the West.

"Nerve gas that renders deaths more horrible than we can imagine is being used by the Soviets in their attempt to suppress further Afghan resistance -- a tactic to which even Hitler refused to resort. At least one gas, Soman, has been identified by intelligence experts. The Defense Intelligence Agency, through interception of Soviet communications, has indicated that the Soviets may also be waging germ warfare in their confrontations with the Afghan tribesmen. This abhorrent action is virtually unprecedented.

"The ferocity with which the Soviets have approached this endeavor is frightening. If this is a reflection of a new Soviet military mood, the world has much to fear. The CIA has reported that the Soviets see these chemical weapons as 'instruments of mass destruction to be used along with nuclear weapons.'

"For four years, the United States has engaged in chemical disarmament negotiations with the Soviet Union. While the United States has complied with the spirit of these negotiations by reducing chemical arsenals, the Soviets have continued to build theirs up. It seems that a logical and rational approach to the reduction of chemical arsenals has not worked, and the United States must begin to formulate a new strategy. The options seem limited and fraught with danger.

"I strongly urge the President and the State Department to press the U.N. Committee on Disarmament for a full investigation on the use of nerve gas by the Soviets. Our civilization cannot afford to have this atrocity swept under the rug. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan has earned worldwide condemnation. But apart from strategic considerations and even the right of the Afghani peoples to choose their own government and live in peace, this violation threatens every human being on this planet in a far more insidious way than even the Hiroshima bomb. The world community must be made fully aware of the facts. Future relations with the Soviet Union by every concerned nation should be predicated on the outcome of a U.N. investigation. It is impossible to contemplate 'business as usual' with a regime capable of such monstrosities."