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News from Senator

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DOLE SAYS U.S. SHOULD NOW MOVE TO IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON IRAN

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called upon the Carter Administration to "squeeze Iran as hard as we can" by imposing sanctions following the apparent collapse of efforts to free the hostages.

According to Dole, "Yesterday the crisis created by the kidnapping of U.S. diplomatic personnel entered a new and most critical stage. After 128 days of captivity the diplomatic agreement to free the hostages-- supposedly worked out by the Administration and the Iranian authorities, under the guiding hand of U.N. Secretary Kurt Waldheim-- was finally abandoned, unhonored and unacknowledged by the Moslem Holy Man, Khomeini.

"The tremendous restraint and patience of the American people must be laid aside," continued Dole. "Our inaction has not precipitated the death of our people in Tehran, but neither has it done anything for them. We have tried reasoning with Iran-- and reason has failed. We have refrained from using force-- because of its probable impracticality and danger to the hostages, but also out of our desire to peacefully settle our differences with a sovereign state-- and this has gained us nothing," said Dole.

Squeeze Iran

"Our only effective weapon at hand is sanctions, and we should, impose them now. We should use sanctions as they've never been used before. Thus far little pressure has been brought to bear on the authorities in Iran. We must squeeze them, squeeze them as hard as we can, and bring the full force of economic denial home to this outlaw nation. I do believe this will have an impact on Iran. The Iranians complained bitterly when we froze their assets and credit. We must punish Iran, doing everything short of military intervention," said Dole.

Only Hope

"It is the belief of this Senator that strong action offers us our only hope of ending the captivity of the hostages and achieving their safe release. Groveling before terrorists will not bring the hostages home. I would call on the President and the Congress to back full sanctions against Iran and to urge our allies to do the same. The time has come to act," said Dole.