This press release is from the collections at the Robert J Dole Archive and Special Collections University of Kansas News from Senator





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 1980CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953IRANIAN EMBARGO PREDICTED

WASHINGTON, D.C. ... Today, Senator Bob Dole predicted that economic sanctions would be imposed on Iran. "At long last Iran will begin to feel some pressure from the United States based on firm actions designed to achieve the release of the American hostages," said Dole. "For a long time now many of us have been calling for economic sanctions and embargo against the criminal republic of Iran, but the Administration has hesitated, caught between indecision and uncertainty, to impose them. Mr. Carter finally did threaten to place economic sanctions on the Khomeini regime in January, but he dithered around hoping first that the election of the so-called moderate Bani-Sadr and the convening of a UN commission of inquiry dominated by Third World radicals would bring about an easy solution to the crisis. The miracle didn't happen."

FOREIGN POLICY A SHAMBLES

Dole said, "Mr. Carter's foreign policy is falling apart; he never did have a domestic policy. Yesterday, Mr. Begin rebuffed a U.S. plea to freeze new settlements in the West Bank and Gaza, and it is finally all beginning to catch up with Mr. Carter in the large and unexpected primary losses in New York and Connecticut. The President has been forced by one failure or disaster follow-ing another to do something, and I predict we can at least expect a firm policy of economic retaliation against the Iranian radicals."

Dole went on to note that: "The various Olympic groups here and abroad are refusing to go along with the Moscow boycott. The Russians are digging in for a long occupation in Afghanistan and are using nerve gas on the freedom fighters with seeming impunity from international censure. The Mid-East peace process is dead-locked and in danger of breaking down as the deadline for an agreement on Palestinian autonomy approaches. The President signals a major shift on U.S. policy on this issue with a vote in the United Nations against Israel, and then a couple of days later says it was all a mistake."

In a Senate floor speech Senator Dole went on to talk about providing incentives for Iran to come to terms with the U.S.: "Our past dilemma has been that this gang of terrorists were never given any incentive either by the actions of their own government or by that of the United States to give up their hostages - hostages who have become the terrorists greatest source of domestic power.

"The President has responded with rhetoric and indecision. First he said he would deport illegal Iranian students, but only 46 out of nearly 7,000 found to be deportable have been thrown out. Today we still find Iranian students in this country backing Khomeini and the kidnappers, most recently at a public display at my own University of Kansas. Then Mr. Carter said he would expel Iran's diplomats, but of the original 226 only 49 have left the United States. The President said he would halt all Iranian oil imports, yet it has been reported that of million barrels of oil came into this country from Iran in January.

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FIRM COMMON SENSE APPROACH

"The point I would like to make is that, from the very beginning, many of us have believed the President's policy of delay and caution was not providing the impetus needed to achieve the release of the hostages. Although the hostages are still alive, they have suffered greatly - and U.S. policy has been severly damaged. There is no question that our past inaction has failed its objective. It seems to me that common sense would dictate that we try a firm non-military approach. Neither the United States nor our hostages could hardly be worse off. Iran and her people have, in effect, declared war on the United States. We ought to begin to understand this. In a state of war, you can't afford to let your enemy call all the shots. Now, without much left to lose in either the polls or in damage to U.S. foreign policy, perhaps the President will try the long-delayed sanctions.

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