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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 1980

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SENATE SUPPORT QUICKLY GROWING FOR PROSECUTION OF AMERICANS AT TEHRAN CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that his resolution introduced this morning calling for the prosecution of Americans attending the anti-American international conference in Iran had already received the cosponsorship of a large bipartisan group of senators, including all of the Republican Senate leadership.

"This show of support indicates a widely held view that what Ramsey Clark and other Americans did in Tehran runs defiantly contrary to the interests of the United States," Dole said. "We are simply asking the President to enforce a law to ensure that the United States and American hostages being held in Iran are protected."

Dole called upon President Carter to enforce the Logan Act in a sense of the Senate resolution introduced today on the Senate floor. If convicted under the act, each member of the group could be sentenced up to three years in prison and fined \$5,000.

"This resolution would simply express the sense of the Senate that the President instruct the attorney general to carry out his responsibilities with regard to the Logan Act, that is to prosecute to the fullest extent of the law any persons participating with foreign governments in the denigration of the United States," Dole said.

"During the Vietnam War, now a decade in the past, Ramsey Clark, Jane Fonda and some others went to North Vietnam in a misguided attempt to bring peace by giving our enemies legitimacy and by casting blame on the United States, in an environment hostile to America. Our prisoners of war in Hanoi had some reason to regret the presence of Mr. Clark and Ms. Fonda, as many of them have since eloquently testified.

"Today we see a similar situation developing that is more repugnant to us because of those who have failed to learn from the past. They may have acted with good, though misguided intentions, but they were warned by the President's executive order that such unwarranted interference was prohibited and not subject to private, individual interpretation. Yet, these self-proclaimed experts went anyway to attend this conference to condemn America.

"Appropriate courses of action toward Mr. Clark and his friends exist in law, via the Logan Act, and in the executive order banning travel to Iran which was promulgated by President Carter. It would be totally irresponsible for the President to allow the ban on travel to Iran to be violated in this flagrant breach of loyalty. It just seems to me that when the Administration is actively discouraging families of the hostages from going to Iran to plead for the lives of their husbands and fathers, and sons and daughters, that we cannot allow these unofficial apologists for American policy to dictate a United States position before the scandalized eyes of the world."