

# BOB DOLE



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## IRANIAN FROZEN ASSETS WOULD BE DISTRIBUTED TO HOSTAGES UNDER DOLE AMENDMENT

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that he would introduce legislation by which the American hostages in Iran, or their families, could recover compensation from the Iranian assets frozen by President Carter.

"American citizens have been held captive in Iran for over nine months," Dole said. "Congress has patiently, and in my view properly, refrained from taking any steps in the hopes that other efforts might free the hostages. At this time, the release of the hostages is still nowhere in sight.

"The provisions of my amendment are quite straightforward. It provides for the transfer of the blocked Iranian assets to the federal government to set up a fund from which payments will be made to the hostages or their families. These payments will be calculated by a set formula: for each day from being taken hostage to the enactment of this legislation each hostage will be entitled to \$200; for each day from the enactment of this law to the day of release from Iran, each hostage will be entitled to \$500. Payments made while the hostages are still in captivity would be held in trust for them by family members. The remainder of the assets will be used to pay damages which may be awarded to the hostages or to others by the courts.

"This is not the place to recount all the exigencies of this crisis which motivate this proposal. Yet, I believe that such legislation will impress upon the Iranian leaders that they cannot continue to violate with impunity the customs and laws which govern intercourse between civilized nations. This mechanism will also give the hostages and their families some, if inadequate, compensation for the suffering they have endured. Furthermore, it gives them some priority over the many other claims, mostly of a commercial nature, which will be made against Iran."

Dole said he intended to attach the amendment to two companion bills, S. 2582/H.R. 6086, which were favorably reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee on July 23, once these bills reach the Senate floor. These bills amend the Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act of 1964 to raise the maximum compensation for civilian employees and military personnel who lose property in foreign countries as a result of evacuation or hostile acts from \$15,000 to \$40,000. Senator Dole supported this legislation.

"This action I am proposing is long overdue," Dole said. "I hope all the members of the Senate will be able to join with me on the Senate floor in support of this amendment."