

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BILL KATS
(202) 224 8947

WOODCOCK ENDANGERS NORMALIZATION WITH CHINA

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today expressed fears echoed in the international diplomatic community that the process of normalization between the United States and the People's Republic of China is in danger of being politicized "to the point where the Chinese and our mutual relations are in a no-win situation." Dole spoke reacting partly to U.S. Ambassador to China Leonard Woodcock's press conference in Peking yesterday, where Woodcock warned that China might sharply curtail relations if Republican presidential candidate Ronald Reagan were elected and expanded ties with Taiwan.

"Amb. Woodcock's attack yesterday continues a Carter campaign tactic of using supposedly exempt nonpolitical federal offices for reelection purposes," Dole charged. "It is not without significance that yesterday Mr. Woodcock's unprofessional political statement came so conveniently close to the endorsement of the President by the United Auto Worker's Union which he formerly headed," said Dole.

"Ambassador Woodcock was rewarded with his current post for his long record as a spear carrier for the Democratic party, but he ought to be worried about what's going on in China right now," Dole said. "That's his job. In fact, he ought to be warning the Chinese to stay out of American politics instead of echoing their attacks on Governor Reagan."

"Aside from the obvious political nature of the remarks, in authorizing such misuse of the ambassadorial rank, Mr. Carter damages our foreign policy far more than anyone else could. Carter is up to his old tricks: commit a monster gaffe, and then accuse your opponent of the same act. Mr. Carter is the President and is responsible for the death of bipartisan foreign policy in this country by arranging a former labor leader and lifelong activist Democrat, turned foreign affairs expert, to attack Governor Reagan under the guise of concern for foreign affairs."

"The Chinese are playing into candidate Carter's hands by interfering in our political process. I wonder how they would react if we started making charges about their own political crisis?" Dole asked.

Chinese Politics Volatile

The Senator from Kansas, who played a major role in the Congressional action on the Taiwan Relations Act making diplomatic relations possible with Peking, referred to a major leadership shake-up underway in China. "Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping and Communist Party Chairman Hua Guofeng are currently locked in a bitter leadership struggle just days before China's legislature convenes," Dole said. Quoting friends in the diplomatic community, Dole said, "Three prominent ministers have been forced to resign and the vital post of Defense Minister is being hotly contested between the two factions. China ought to be warned by Ambassador Woodcock that it would be best if both countries stayed out of each other's internal politics. I agree with Governor Reagan's statement in Los Angeles when he said 'Isn't it strange I've had the same position for a long, long time and it only just now has become an issue, now that the campaign is underway?'"

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Reagan's Policy Consistent With the Record

"Ambassador Woodcock's alleged concern, and that of the PRC officials, over a future Reagan policy on Taiwan is ill-founded and exaggerated," Dole said. "I helped write the legislation on Taiwan and this administration has been petty and mean in carrying out its provisions towards Taiwan. All Governor Reagan seems to be saying is that we need to re-establish our formerly cordial ties with a longtime ally. He certainly doesn't suggest our relations that started with Mr. Nixon's trip to Peking should retrogress.

"Mr. Mondale's attack on Mr. Reagan's China policy implies that it runs counter to that of the last three Presidents. On the contrary, both Nixon and Ford could have recognized Peking at any time but the sticking point was always Taiwan, which they refused to abandon. Without gaining any bargaining chips, and without consulting Congress as he was mandated by law to do, Carter derecognized Taiwan. Against his strong protests, Congress rewrote the Taiwan Relations Act, and it would have been even more favorable to Taiwan if he hadn't opposed it, and in my opinion, Peking would have accepted it then. It may be too late for major changes now."

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