

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 10, 1980

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DOLE, BOSCHWITZ ORGANIZING GOP COLLEAGUES FOR MADRID CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) and Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R.-Minn.) are heading up an effort to insure that Republicans have "a strong response" to the situation in Poland in anticipation of the November Madrid follow-up conference to the Helsinki accords.

Dole and Boschwitz sent a "Dear Colleague" letter to GOP Senators on September 3rd. In it they stated, "It is especially important at this time of tension in Eastern Europe, particularly with respect to our fears of Soviet intervention in Polish domestic affairs, that we express concern, and the will and determination to insure that the Soviet Union honors its pledges in previous agreements."

'Keep Pressure On'

Senator Dole, who is a member of the Helsinki Commission and has been a strong advocate of human rights in Eastern Europe throughout his public career, said the U.S. should "keep the pressure on" to insure that the Soviets understand that any actions they may take in Poland or elsewhere would have severe repercussions.

Dole and Boschwitz also asked Republicans to sign a letter to the President, sponsored by Senator Alan Cranston (D.-Cal.), expressing deep concern over the plight of the fate of people seeking to leave the Soviet Union. The letter, signed by 54 Senators, including 21 Republicans, requests that the President raise this issue to the Soviets at the Madrid Conference.

"We are especially concerned that mention be made of the plight of the Jewish population and other minority populations in the Soviet Union. It is clear from press reports and intelligence reports that the Soviet Union is not living up to the human rights provisions contained in the so-called 'third basket' of the Helsinki Agreement," said Senator Dole.