

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER INCIDENTS IN FRANCE IN LETTER TO AMBASSADOR

(WASHINGTON)-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today sent a letter to the French Ambassador to the United States expressing his concern about incidents of violence that have been committed in recent weeks against Jewish citizens.

Dole, who is a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, wrote, "I have long been a proponent of human rights and equal justice for all, regardless of race or religion. It is of fundamental importance that the people of France respond to this most recent wave of anti-Semitism in an effective and forthright manner. It is equally important that Americans speak up on this issue to ensure that the days of the holocaust remain a tragic memory and not a living horror."

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

STANDING COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FINANCE
JUDICIARY

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 8, 1980

Ambassador Francois de Laboulaye
Embassy of France
2535 Belmont Road, N.W.
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Ambassador de Laboulaye:

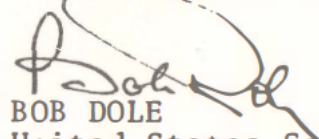
In recent days, I have grown increasingly concerned over the incidents of violence in France directed against the Jewish community of your country.

As you know, last Friday a bomb killed four people outside a Paris synagogue. A Jewish-owned grocery store in Grenoble and a bar in Marseille were the targets of bombing attempts yesterday, and dozens of Jewish stores or homes were attacked in Montpellier in southern France and several smaller towns. As are the American people, I am uneasy and apprehensive over this latest outbreak of anti-Semitism and corresponding terrorism.

Many of us have hoped and prayed that the racism, hatred, death, and destruction practiced by Hitler and the Nazis during World War II had ended with the victory of the Allied governments. Given the tragedies of the holocaust, it is frustrating and despairing to see again such anti-Semitism, especially in a nation that has long been the leader in Europe in according Jews equal rights.

As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have long been a proponent of human rights and equal justice for all, regardless of race or religion. It is of fundamental importance that the people of France respond to this most recent wave of anti-Semitism in an effective and forthright manner. It is of equal importance that Americans speak up on this issue to ensure that the days of the holocaust remain a tragic memory and not a living horror. I would request that you transmit my views to your government in Paris.

Sincerely yours,


BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD: dg