

TOPEKA, KAN. -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today predicted the American hostages held in Iran for what would be a full year on November 4th, "will be back in the United States before the end of the month." Dole cited the enormous pressures on the Ayatollah Khomeini caused by the Iran-Iraqi border war, "Iran's almost complete isolation from the international community and its mounting need for spare parts, fuel and other supplies as the final straw that brought them to the negotiating table."

"There is a great deal of diplomatic activity in both Washington and Tehran presently going on in an effort to resolve the hostage issue before the critical November 4th anniversary is reached," Dole said. "President Bani-Sadr, who heads the more moderate element, is known to favor a return of our diplomats as a means to open Iran to normalized relations with the rest of the world. The one-year anniversary has enormous symbolic meaning that will harden attitudes on both sides and, once passed, make it that much more difficult to reach an agreement."

#### Cites Danger of Spread of War

"I'm certain the November 4th date is important to President Carter as well," said Dole, "and it is now in the interests of both Iran and the United States to work out a compromise involving the exchange of the hostages for the unfreezing of the assets and previously ordered, spare parts for the Iranian military. If the war continues and Iran chooses out of desperation to attack other Arabian oil countries, the entire Middle East including Israel could end up in arms, with only the Soviet Union poised to gain. The United States can only hope to influence events," said Dole, "after a dialogue is established with Iran -- and that won't happen until after the hostages are home."

#### Stakes Too High for Carter, Bani-Sadr

According to Dole, "The stakes are too high politically for either President Carter, facing election on the day that makes the anniversary of the hostages' capture, or for Bani-Sadr to allow the present negotiations to fail.

"If I'm wrong," Dole said, "and I don't believe I am, but if the hostages are still imprisoned on November 4th, I would like to suggest that everyone in this country observe a minute of silence at noon on that day out of respect and in prayer for our imprisoned compatriots."

#### Non-partisan Ceremony

"On that date all the political campaigns will be over and every citizen can turn to the real issues which still remain to confront us all, and the hostage crisis will be the most tragic. I would like to suggest to my opponent in the Senate race and to those running for each of the House seats that we meet in Topeka for a simple, bipartisan ceremony, perhaps with Governor Carlin and other members of the State legislature, and representatives of all the community service organizations, to observe a moment of silence in solidarity with the American people."