

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 10, 1988

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DOLE ANNOUNCES PERMANENT RESIDENCY FOR WOJCIK FAMILY

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) today announced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has approved the request for permanent residency of Wichita State University professor and Polish exile, Dr. Zbigniew Wojcik, his wife, Barbara, and his two children, Marcin, 13, and Pauline, 7. Senator Dole has worked closely with the INS in obtaining residency status for the family.

"INS officials alerted my office that official notification was sent to the Wojcik's this morning. Dr. Wojcik and his family need no longer fear that they will be required to return to Poland to face almost certain persecution. We are proud to claim them as Kansas' newest permanent residents," said Dole.

Wojcik assumed an 18-month appointment as Associate Professor of Computer Science at Wichita State University in February, 1986, after making several applications with the Polish government. However, the visitors visas of his family were revoked after Wojcik had already arrived in the United States and assumed his new post.

In November, Senator Dole announced that the Polish government had reversed its decision and would allow Dr. Wojcik's family to come to the U.S. The release by the Polish government was made after Senator Dole contacted the Helsinki Commission on behalf of the family and requested that the names of the Wojcik family be placed on the list of divided families at the U.S. State Department.

The State Department regularly presents the list to Polish authorities and urges them to issue passports to family members in accordance with the family reunification provisions of the Helsinki Final Act, of which Poland is a signatory. Senator Dole also worked closely with Saint Paul's Newman Center in Wichita to obtain the official emigrant status from INS.

Dr. Wojcik received both his B.S. in Electronics and M.S. in Electronics and Computer Science from the Technical University of Warsaw. His Ph.D. was earned in Computer Science from the Systems Research Institute of The Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw. Dr. Barbara Wojcik also earned her Ph.D. from the The Polish Academy of Sciences in Statistics and Operations Research. Dr. Zbigniew Wojcik had been an active member of the Solidarity movement prior to his departure from Poland.