

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, July 22, 1994

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TV MARTI

DOLE SUPPORTS FUNDING FOR TELEVISION & RADIO MARTI

WASHINGTON - An amendment to 1995 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Bill sponsored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) to cut funding for Radio-TV Marti was withdrawn when overwhelming opposition made its defeat certain. However, the Senate unanimously adopted the Dole-Mack amendment condemning the recent Cuban government attack on an unarmed tugboat carrying Cuban refugees. Senator Dole's statement supporting the funding of Radio & TV Marti and the text of the amendment follow:

There could be no worse time to propose this amendment. Just over one week ago, the Cuban government brutally murdered up to 40 refugees who were trying to flee Castro's tyranny. Innocent men, women, and children were forced overboard -- after trying to surrender and trying to return to port. That act is the just the latest example of Fidel Castro's continuing, crushing stranglehold on the Cuban people.

The amendment before this body would cut off funds for Television Marti. The Subcommittee, under the leadership of Senator Hollings, wisely restored funding for TV Marti which was cut by the House. This is not a partisan issue. The administration wants money for Radio and TV Marti. The administration's advisory panel on Radio Marti and TV Marti concluded, "the United States interest is served by [Radio and TV Marti] continuing to air." I want to support the President and support TV Marti.

Why should we cut off TV Marti? Some say Castro is jamming the signal. In my view, the fact Castro is scared enough of TV Marti to devote scarce resources to interfere with its signal is important. It shows just how much Castro fears objective news and independent information.

Let's not send a signal to Castro that his resistance is reason to end our efforts to support freedom. We did not end Radio Free Europe or Radio Liberty because the Soviet Union jammed their signals. Radio and TV Marti are the only way the Cuban people can hear about how their countrymen were killed ~~trying to reach freedom last week.~~ Let's not shut that channel down. Let's not hand Castro a victory a week after the murder of innocent Cuban women and children.

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