

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Wednesday, August 24, 1994*

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## **CUBA POLICY UPDATE**

### **CUBA POLICY HAS FAILED; DOLE URGES NO DEALS WITH CASTRO, ISOLATE CUBAN DICTATOR**

President Clinton's advisers just announced an expansion of facilities at Guantanamo, indefinite detention of Cuban refugees, and possible safe havens throughout the hemisphere -- but not a word about Castro stepping down immediately. Instead of calling around the hemisphere for "safe havens," President Clinton's goal should be to make Cuba a safe haven -- a safe haven without Castro for all Cubans.

President Clinton's new policy on Cuba has failed. The flow of refugees fleeing Castro's tyranny has accelerated since last Thursday -- more than 7000 since the policy shift. President Clinton's Cuba policy punishes the wrong Cubans: freedom seekers are apprehended while Castro gets off scot-free.

The continued refugee flow demonstrates once again that Cuba is not Haiti. News reports quote an administration official saying "it's not clear why the Cubans aren't reacting as expected." It may not be clear to the administration, but it's pretty clear to me: Cubans continue to flee because it is the first time in years they can leave without being shot in the back, murdered at sea, or thrown into a political prison by Castro's regime.

#### **Administration's Failed Half-Measures**

After strong criticism last week, the Clinton administration decided to include some half-measures to increase pressure on Castro. I support efforts to tighten the screws on Castro -- including consideration of a blockade as mentioned by White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta. However, the administration has spent more time denying a blockade is an option than they have developing a strategy to bring freedom to Cuba.

The administration has been quick to interdict Cubans but slow to do anything against Castro. The anti-Castro measures -- halting airplane charters, stopping remittances, condemning human rights violations -- have not been implemented. Some question their effect on the Cuban people. The administration has no strategy for a transition to democracy in Cuba. They announced a series of stop-gap measures but there is no plan and no long-term policy. There is concern that a hidden agenda of normalization with Cuba will emerge.

#### **Call for Castro to Step Down**

The administration will not even call for Fidel Castro to step down immediately. We have all heard months of calls for Cedras and other Haitian military leaders to resign, but there is silence about Castro. Castro has a 35 year track record of murder, tyranny, export of terror, and human rights abuses. Why the reluctance on the part of the Clinton administration's policymakers? Do they think Castro can contribute to a democratic Cuba? I don't know anyone who thinks Castro will be the midwife for Cuban democracy. The administration's first step should be to call for the immediate removal of Castro from power -- no conditions, no waffling. Castro's ideology and ambition have created the Cuban crisis, and it will not be resolved while he clings to power.

#### **Make Serious Effort to Isolate Castro**

Second, the administration must make a serious effort to build an international coalition to isolate Castro. Going to the United Nations to condemn Castro's human rights violations is not enough. If tough sanctions are good enough for Haiti, that should be the goal for Cuba. The administration should call an

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emergency meeting of the Organization of American States to address the lack of democracy in Cuba. Castro's denial of freedom to the Cuban people should be a hemispheric concern -- a Latin American problem just as much as it is an American problem.

Approach Canada & European Allies

Third, the administration should approach Canada and our European allies on the Cuban crisis. It is their investment and their tourists which provide Castro far more cash than remittances to help starving Cubans. Castro poses a clear threat to American national security through his cynical export of his people. Our allies need to understand that we will not tolerate continued subsidy of a regime that threatens American security.

Don't Let Castro Dictate American Foreign Policy

It is morally and politically bankrupt to punish Cuban freedom seekers, while letting Castro off the hook. Many Cubans have died in the last few days trying to leave Castro's terror. Castro has now successfully dictated American immigration policy. He should not be allowed to dictate our foreign policy. During the campaign President Clinton promised to support democracy in Cuba and to oppose deals with Castro. Not all of his national security personnel share those views. Many of them were the architects of President Carter's efforts to normalize relations with Castro in the 1970s. This administration has normalized relations with Vietnam, and offered aid to North Korea. Cuba should not be added to that list.

The President should renounce any deals with Castro. He should instead pursue a foreign policy that envisions a Cuba without Castro.

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\*Remarks delivered on the Senate floor, approximately 1:25 PM.