

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

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CUBA SANCTIONS

**PRESIDENT CLINTON'S WEAK ACTIONS DON'T MATCH HIS TOUGH RHETORIC:
IF PRESIDENT IS SERIOUS ABOUT PRESSURING CASTRO, HE MUST OFFER
UNQUALIFIED SUPPORT TO EMBARGO BILL DETERRING FOREIGN INVESTMENT**

COLUMBUS, GA -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding President Clinton's announcement on U.S. policy towards Cuba:

"It's a shame that President Clinton's weak actions today did not match his tough rhetoric. I regret that President Clinton reversed only part of his misguided and counterproductive decision to ease sanctions on Fidel Castro's brutal dictatorship. It was wrong to ease sanctions in 1995, and it would have been right to reimpose all of them today. As I said at the time, easing sanctions did nothing but give a propaganda victory to Castro. President Clinton also announced that he will seek reparations for the victims of Castro's air assault, and took steps to limit U.S. air travel to Cuba. I support these measures as steps in the right direction. But, after months of moving the wrong way -- toward coddling Castro -- President Clinton has yet to understand that the only way to deal with Castro's tyranny is with real firmness and pressure.

"Unfortunately, President Clinton has also not unequivocally endorsed the one measure that Castro truly fears -- legislation tightening the embargo on Cuba. The White House led a filibuster and issued veto threats against the legislation last year. Now President Clinton is starting to see the light. I expect House and Senate negotiators this week will agree on a tough version of the Helms-Dole-Burton 'LIBERTAD' legislation overwhelmingly passed last year by both houses of Congress. Shutting down investment in Cuba will pull the plug on Fidel Castro's economic lifeline. I intend to get this bill on President Clinton's desk as soon as possible, with the critical provisions to deter foreign investment in Cuba.

"If President Clinton is serious about supporting democratic change in Cuba -- and if he is serious about ending Fidel Castro's reign of terror -- he will endorse our legislation without qualification. Anything less sends the worst message to the last dictator in the Western Hemisphere."

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