

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, April 29, 1996*

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CUBA POLICY

DOLE CHALLENGES PRESIDENT CLINTON TO FULFILL COMMITMENTS ON CUBA POLICY - "LITTLE HAS BEEN DONE:" URGES SWIFT IMPLEMENTATION OF "LIBERTAD" & TOUGHER INTERNATIONAL ACTION AGAINST CASTRO'S TYRANNY

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today sent the following letter to President Clinton:

Dear Mr. President:

On February 26, 1996, you announced a series of steps which the United States would undertake in response to the brutal murder of American citizens in international airspace by the armed forces of Fidel Castro. The Congress acted quickly and passed the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity Act of 1996.

Regrettably, in the weeks since your announcement, little has been done. The administration never submitted a legislative proposal to the Congress to allow the use of frozen Cuban government assets to compensate the victims of this crime. No serious action has been taken to limit the freedom of movement of Cuban government officials in the United States. The U.N. resolution on the vicious attack did not condemn it, but only used the word "deplore." According to press reports, officials of your Administration met with senior Cuban intelligence officials to discuss the incident over two months ago. It is encouraging to hear that you plan to meet the families of the victims today.

On March 7, 1996, along with Senator Mack, Congressman Diaz-Balart and Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, I wrote to you and asked that you begin a criminal investigation and seek indictments of those responsible for the act -- an act which Cuban government officials publicly defended and for which they took public responsibility. No results of the investigation have been announced, and no indictments have been obtained. I urge you to lend your personal support to rapid action in this case, including the indictment of all those responsible for the murders.

Mr. President, your welcome but belated support for the Helms-Dole-Burton "LIBERTAD" bill should not be the end of the U.S. response to Fidel Castro's latest atrocity. I urge you to publish the federal guidelines necessary to enforce the LIBERTAD Act. I urge you to seek tougher international action against the Castro dictatorship -- in the United Nations, in the International Civil Aviation Organization and in the International Court of Justice. I hope you will fulfill your pledge to crack down on Cuban officials in the U.S. so they are not free to travel our country and spread their propaganda. Finally, I stand ready to work with you on any legislation necessary to allow expeditious and effective compensation for the families of those murdered by Fidel Castro's pilots.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE

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