



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE REJECTS "CONCESSIONS" TO CUBA, OTHER COMMUNIST REGIMES

Senator Bob Dole today told his colleagues in the U.S. Senate that the United States "should not jump the gun" in normalizing diplomatic relations with the Communist governments of Cuba, Vietnam, and China. In a statement delivered on the Senate floor, Dole rejected suggestions by some Members of Congress that the U.S. should take unilateral steps to curry favor with those regimes. He also expressed concern about on-going Administration talks with Cuban and Vietnamese officials.

In his remarks, Dole stated: "It is important that one fundamental factor be clearly understood at the outset: the three Communist governments have as much and more to gain from improved relations with the United States, as we have to gain from the arrangement. Consequently, it would be a serious mistake--both politically and morally--for us to forge ahead with unilateral 'good faith initiatives' until all outstanding differences with those governments have been fully explored and discussed. We, as a nation, have much to offer and much to expect in return. Concessions on our part must be fully matched by substantive reciprocal concessions on the part of those with whom we would deal. And I believe there should be no formal reinstatement of diplomatic relations--and much less any discussion of economic assistance--until agreements have been reached, and genuine progress made towards resolving major problems as we see them."

The "major problems" referred to by Dole include: reimbursement for American property seized by Communists in Cuba and Mainland China when those governments came to power; the unresolved accounting for MIA's in Vietnam; the presence of Cuban troops in Angola; continued atmospheric tests of nuclear weapons by the Communist Chinese; and the regular violations of basic political and human rights in all three nations.

In recent weeks, there has been considerable public discussion of improved relations with Cuba, China, and Vietnam. The Carter Administration earlier this week sent the first high-level U.S. delegation in 16 years to initiate talks with Cuban leaders, and "normalization" talks with Vietnamese Communist officials are planned in Paris during the first week in May. Several Members of Congress who recently visited Cuba have urged that the American trade embargo against that nation be lifted as a first step towards restoring diplomatic ties. Some Congressional delegations returning from visits to Mainland China in recent years have also suggested that the U.S. formally recognize the Communist government, and withdraw support for the Nationalist Chinese government exiled in Taiwan.

Dole denounced proposals of foreign aid for Vietnam or diplomatic recognition of the Communist Chinese and Cuban governments until they make substantive concessions on matters of American concern. "My point is simply this," Senator Dole emphasized. "Improved relations between the United States and Cuba, or Vietnam, or the People's Republic of China, do not depend upon a unilateral decision by the United States. Instead, those three governments must make some tough decisions on their own based on the intensity of their desire to improve relations with our government. There is absolutely no reason why policymakers in the United States should feel obliged to bend over backwards to curry favor with these Communist regimes. If we expect our traditional allies in Latin America and South Africa to respect human rights standards, why should we ask any less of the Communist governments? If there must be concessions made, let them be made bilaterally."