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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1977 CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON BOB DOWNEN

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CARTER REMARKS ENCOURAGE MORE CUBAN INTERVENTION IN AFRICA, DOLE SAYS-

WASHINGTON, D.C.--SEN. BOB DOLE said today that President Carter's weekend forecast of strengthened U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba in the next few weeks can be interpreted as a "clear go-ahead signal for further Cuban intrusions in African politics."

"Coming as it did less than a month after Cuban military 'advisers' began arriving in Ethiopia, Carter's unilateral initiative to restore relations with the Castro regime is little short of endorsement of that activity," Dole said. "It indicates, in effect, that Castro's stepped-up efforts to export Marxism to Angola, Ethiopia, and other nations in Africa and Asia do not offend the United States and that, in fact, new avenues of trade and credits may be forthcoming to help ease the economic pinch at home."

President Carter, in making his observation, had stated that the U.S. "would like very much for Cuba to refrain from this intrusion into African affairs in a military way." Dole characterized that statement as a "rather polite expression of wishful thinking," and said the U.S. must show more resolve in insisting upon withdrawal as a pre-condition to better relations.

Await Good Faith Initiatives From Castro

Dole reiterated his feeling that the Cuban government has "much more to gain from improved relations than do we," and he maintained that the U.S. should await "good faith initiatives" by the Castro regime.

At present, 24 Americans are held as prisoners in Cuba. In addition, the Cuban government owes U.S. citizens and businesses some \$2 billion in payment for property seized in 1959, and it has allowed the anti-hijacking agreement with the U.S. to expire without showing a willingness to renew it. Senator Dole said that "In the interest of human rights and clearly defined American interests, we should withhold any diplomatic or economic ties with Cuba until Castro makes tangible progress towards resolving these concerns."