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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DOLE WILL OFFER RESOLUTION OPPOSING CUBA TIES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Sen. Dole announced today that he will introduce a Senate Resolution on Monday, June 6, to oppose the diplomatic recognition of Cuba, or the lifting of the 1961 U.S. trade embargo against Cuba at this time.

The resolution would express the sense of the Senate that these steps towards normalizing relations with Cuba should not be taken until the following conditions are met:

(1) the Cuban Government provides reasonable compensation for the \$2 billion in U.S. private property confiscated by Castro in 1959; (2) the Cuban Government releases American citizens imprisoned on political charges, and respects the human rights of its own citizens; (3) the Cuban Government withdraws its military troops and advisers from Africa; and (4) the Cuban Government provides reasonable assurances on renewing the anti-hijacking agreement and on the future security of the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

Dole said compliance with these conditions "should be the bottom line before the Carter Administration agrees to normalize relations with the Castro regime." Earlier today, it was announced that the Administration has reached agreement with Cuban leaders on the exchange of mid-level diplomatic personnel. Although President Carter has said that the presence of Cuban troops in Africa, and the expropriated American property are "problems," he has indicated that efforts to restore normal relations with Cuba will proceed.

Senator Dole noted that "I have been repeatedly asking the simple question, why is the Carter Administration so eager to rush forward into an uncertain relationship with Cuba? Castro has made no concessions to us, yet the President seems intent upon sending an American Ambassador to the Island before the year is out. It just seems to me that if we don't use our bargaining chips--recognition and trade--right now, we have no reason to expect concessions from the Communist Cuban leadership later on."

At the present time, 24 American citizens are imprisoned in Cuba, and the State Department considers 8 or 9 of these to be "political prisoners." In addition, between 15,000 and 20,000 Cuban citizens are believed to be jailed because they oppose the Castro regime.

Some 20,000 Cuban troops are stationed in Angola, where they helped the Communist regime to take control last year. Other "military advisers" are located in Ethiopia, Mozambique, Somalia, the Congo, and Morocco.