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DOLE SALUTES GOLDBERG FOR STAND IN BELGRADE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole, member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation In Europe, issued the following statement today;

"I salute Ambassador Arthur Goldberg for his strong representation at the Helsinki Conference in Belgrade, citing specifically some of the numerous Soviet violations of human rights. The Carter Administration's espousal of human rights in recent months has been inconsistent, selective, and frequently mute where violations by Communists or pro-Communist governments have been involved. The Administration now appears to have returned to a strong stand on this vital issue, and every American can look with pride and satisfaction to the role of the U.S. delegation to the Helsinki review conference.

"The Soviets warn that any reference to their violations of human rights constitutes interference in Soviet internal affairs. For sixty years, oppression has been an internal affair in Russia and among her captive nations. The message of Helsinki, now restated by Arthur Goldberg, is that human rights are not the internal affair of any nation, but rather the legitimate concern of mankind itself.

"Ambassador Goldberg has been warned typically, by the Soviet delegate, with having U.S. human rights violations made public. The Ambassador has welcomed such revelations, and so he should. America doesn't need Russia to instruct her where human rights are concerned. Whenever human rights in America are alleged to be under attack, a free press is quick to highlight such allegations, and a free judicial system is available to alleviate them wherever they may exist. The Soviet delegate simply reveals how little the Communist leadership understands of the workings of a free nation.

"I have today sent to Ambassador Goldberg the following cable:

Dear Ambassador Goldberg:

I was deeply gratified, as I'm sure all Americans were, to read of your strong stand against the Soviet oppression of Anatoly Scharansky, Yuri Orlov, and Alexander Ginzburg and other Soviet dissidents in Belgrade yesterday.

As you know, I have been one among several who have been waiting impatiently for this issue--the fundamental issue--of the review conference--to be joined.

Your own long and admirable commitment and service to the cause of human rights made it inevitable that the issue would be met. You have once again demonstrated that the United States holds the initiative in that area of national and international endeavor beneath which all else is subsumed: the area of human liberty.

I salute you and your great work.