

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FREEING OF AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN IRAN OFFERS HOPE, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) expressed relief that some of the more than 60 American hostages held in Iran were to be released today, but urged that American negotiators stand firm in their resolve not to negotiate on the future of U.S.-Iranian relations until all the hostages have been freed.

Dole, who has supported Administration efforts to gain release of the hostages, said, "Although I am buoyed by the freeing of the approximately 12 women and blacks, we must remember that there are more than 50 Americans still being forcibly held. Certainly, this break seems to indicate that the Ayatollah Khomeini and the revolutionary students are beginning to understand the seriousness of their actions.

"It is important that we continue to throw our support behind President Carter as he negotiates. For the families of those who are still held, we offer our prayers and point to the hope that today's action gives us for the eventual safe release of all the hostages.

"The United States cannot afford but to remain adamant in the face of this attempt at blackmail. We cannot negotiate our future with Iran while the rulers of that country brazenly abuse the rights of our citizens and hold in contempt international understandings about the treatment of foreign diplomats."