

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### DOLE CELEBRATES RETURN OF HOSTAGES WITHOUT RANSOM

WASHINGTON, DC -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said he "welcomed the long-anticipated release of the American hostages from captivity" in Iran today and praised Under Secretary of State, Warren Christopher, and his team for "the dedication and hard work over the last few days that led to the agreement between President Carter and the government of Iran. This seems to be a decent agreement, one the United States can live with and brings our hostages home in honor. This was important because for the future safety of all Americans traveling abroad, particularly those representing our government, we could not afford to pay ransom to the kidnappers in Tehren.

### NO RANSOM IN AGREEMENT

"It is my understanding," Dole, who is Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said, "that under the terms of the agreement, only Iranian assets frozen by the President after the takeover of the embassy are being exchanged for the hostages. No American funds will be transferred. The Finance Committee will examine the agreement in detail, particularly those sections dealing with Americans, including the hostages themselves and their families, who have claims against Iran, to make sure that the rights of our citizens are safeguarded and not made a new "hostage" to the Khomeini government.

"The most important thing right now," Dole said, "is that our fifty-two diplomats and citizens held hostage these many months are finally safe and restored to us. The American people have never been so unified over a common goal, and we give thanks that our prayers were answered. Despite the anger and the frustration, we never gave up hope. There is no question that the government of Iran bears a heavy responsibility for this reprehensible, criminal act, which they acknowledge by their acceptance of this agreement. It will probably be a very long time, if ever, before U.S.-Iranian relations can even approach their formerly good level.

"High on the agenda of the Reagan Administration, I would think," said Dole, "would be a clear policy announcement that the United States would not, in the future, negotiate with terrorists and kidnappers, whether they be individual criminals or nations with criminal intent. The United States must be powerful enough to deter foes, but in those areas where power is unavailing, the safety of our people will only be assured if criminals know that there will be no ransom, nothing to be gained by taking hostages. The agreement reached in Algiers appears to fulfill that condition, for nothing is given to Iran except what it lost when it embarked on its ruinous policy on November 4, 1979."