

News from Senator

Scott

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE PICKS D'AMATO TO HEAD HUMAN RIGHTS PANEL

FIRST REPUBLICAN AND FIRST SENATOR TO HEAD HELSINKI COMMISSION

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kans.) announced today that Senator Alfonse M. D'Amato (R-N.Y.) will be the first-ever Senate Chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, better known as the Helsinki Commission.

Dole's announcement came following a ceremony at the White House at which President Reagan signed legislation requiring that the Commission Chairmanship rotate between the House and Senate every two years. Dole, Co-Chairman of the Commission since its inception in 1976, worked with former Chairman Rep. Dante Fascell (D-Fla.) to develop panel reforms, including the rotation provision the President signed into law today.

Senator D'Amato will replace Rep. Fascell, who has served as Chairman since the Commission was formed.

"Al D'Amato is a fighter who will not be timid in exposing to the world the human rights violations of the Soviet bloc," Dole said. "He's a hard worker, and will be an outstanding representative for the Senate as Chairman of the panel."

"As a member of the Commission since 1981, Senator D'Amato has taken a leadership role to ensure that the many voices of those crying out for freedom each day are not forgotten," he concluded.