

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER  
(202) 224-6521

## DOLE URGES FREEDOM FOR SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, citing possible opportunities for improved relations with the new Soviet Union leadership, sees this as a ripe time for President Reagan to work for the freedom of imprisoned Jews and other dissidents in the U.S.S.R.

As a result, Majority Leader Dole this week introduced a new Joint Resolution in the Senate supporting United States efforts in urging the release of Anatoly Scharansky and "all other prisoners of conscience" and "long-term 'refuseniks'".

Sen. Dole, introducing the resolution, said, "With the resumption of arms control talks and the planned meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary (Mikhail) Gorbachev later this year, it is my hope that we will see an improvement in the status of Soviet Jews. Their treatment has historically been upgraded when relations between the superpowers are less hostile."

He continued, "I offer this resolution as a plea to the Soviet government and as a reminder that Americans are a people who have strong compassion for the oppressed, undying love for freedom and an unwavering intolerance of the deprivation of basic God-given rights."

Sen. Dole noted that the issue of Soviet Jewry is "inextricably linked to the resolution of other issues confronting our two nations. It remains high on our agenda...and I am optimistic the time is ripe for a renewed dialogue on the question."

Dole's resolution, S.J. Res. 161, calls for the release of Scharansky, Yosef Begun, Ida Nudel, Vladimir Slepak and thousands of others who he said continue "to be kept in the Soviet Union against their will", undergoing "great suffering" and "harassment".

The resolution is similar to one introduced in the U.S. House and passed there as an amendment to the foreign aid bill.