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News from Senator



SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601 (R - Kansas)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1987

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DOLE ASKS PRESIDENT TO PUSH FOR EXTRADITION OF HIJACKER

WASHINGTON -- On the eve of the Venice Summit, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Ks.) and Sen. Alfonse D'Amato (R-N.Y.) wrote President Reagan asking him to press German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on the extradition of accused terrorist Mohammed Hamadei to the United States.

Hamadei has been charged with the hijacking of TWA flight 847 and the murder of U.S. Navy diver, Robert Stetham. Recent reports indicate that the West German government may be negotiating a deal with Iran, under which Hamadei would not be extradited.

Dole said there is no excuse for Bonn's refusal to extradite Hamadei. "The President ought to make that point to Kohl -directly, frankly, no punches pulled. Either West Germany does what is right and sensible. Or, inevitably, there will be serious repercussion for our bilateral relations."

The text of the letter is on the reverse side.

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United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020 June 2, 1987

The President The White House Washington

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare to depart for the Venice Summit, we urge that you place high on your agenda for talks with West German Chancellor Kohl the need for speedy action by Bonn to extradite accused terrorist Mohammed Hamadei to the United States.

Hamadei has been charged with and indicted for murder and other crimes in this country. Our extradition request -- made under clearly established terms of our bilateral extradition treaty -- has been with the West Germans for about five months. Now we see reports that the Bonn Government may actually be negotiating a deal with Iran, under which Hamadei would not be extradited; would have his "wrists slapped" in a sham trial in Bonn; and then would be swapped for West German nationals kidnapped in Beirut.

That outcome would be totally unacceptable to us and, we believe, to the Senate and the people of the United States.

It is easy to talk tough about terrorism. It is harder to act tough, when the time comes. Now is the time for West Germany to act tough; to do what is right. And now is the time for us to make clear that, if West Germany is party to an arrangement under which Hamadei is not brought to justice, it inevitably will have a negative impact on our bilateral relations.

Sincerely yours,

ALFONSE D'AMATO United States Senate

BOB DOLE United States Senate