

Bob Dole

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER



NEWS

FROM:

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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

U.S. - RUSSIA SUMMIT

WASHINGTON - Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

"It is clear this summit was more successful in atmospherics and ceremony than in substantive results. I was disappointed to see the President was unsuccessful in halting the Russian sale of nuclear reactors to Iran. The failure to make headway with Russia at the summit is particularly disappointing in light of the President's decision not to attend V-E Day ceremonies in Britain, France or Germany. It is also regrettable that there was no progress on the tragic situation in Chechnya. News reports indicate that Russian attacks on Chechen civilian targets resumed just hours after the summit's conclusion.

"Clearly the Congress will be reassessing relations with Russia in the wake of the summit's failure. Our assessment will include a review of all U.S. assistance programs to Russia, as well as other options to prevent Iran's acquisition of nuclear technology. We will also take a very close look at the implications of the joint statement on theater missile defense systems. The United States must remain engaged with Russia, but we must do so with our eyes open. The U.S. is not helping the cause of Russian reform and its supporters by glossing over differences on Iran, NATO expansion, arms control, Chechnya, Bosnia or other issues."

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