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Dole supports humanitarian aid to Iraqis

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., says he supports providing humanitarian aid to Iraq to help its people avoid famine.

"I think we need to start taking a look at humanitarian needs. Let's face it, there are a lot of innocent Iraqis," Dole said Friday.

He said any food aid should be distributed through an international relief agency to "make certain it goes to the people and not Saddam Hussein and the people who surround him."

Saddam has "literally drained his

country of any wealth and he's starved his people and deprived his people," Dole said.

Dole's comments, in a telephone news conference with Kansas broadcasters and newspaper reporters, came as the U.N. Security Council's sanctions committee agreed to lift an embargo on food to Iraq.

Dole said Iraq was a "pretty well devastated" by the war and the continuing rebellion had made the country "chaotic."

Despite that, Dole said he did not expect Saddam to voluntarily give

up power. He did express hope that opposition groups would put aside their differences and form a united front against Saddam.

"If he leaves, that's fine. We'll take our chances on a new government. It can't be any worse than Saddam Hussein," Dole said.

On other subjects, Dole said:

• The first troops of the Army's First Infantry Division would return

to Fort Riley from the Persian Gulf in late May. He speculated that it would take up at least a month for the full division to finish its return.

• Israel is "going to have to show some flexibility in negotiations" for a broad peace settlement in the Middle East. However, Dole also suggested that Arab nations should take the first step by recognizing Israel's right to exist.



Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., takes a close look at a bust of himself, given by Armenian sculptor Friedrich M. Sogoyan, in the background, on Capitol Hill Tuesday.

Sculptor goes 'bust' for Dole

By Barry Massey
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new Bob Dole arrived at the Capitol on Tuesday. This one was made of bronze.

What arrived was a 150-pound bust of the Kansas senator. An Armenian artist presented the sculpture in appreciation of Dole's work on behalf of Armenia and victims of an earthquake there in 1988.

"In Armenia, we know that Sen. Dole has very warm feelings toward the Armenian people," said Friedrich Sogoyan, the sculptor who lives in Moscow. He spoke in an interview after the bust was unveiled.

Dole has long championed Armenian causes in Congress, in large part because an Armenian-born physician, Dr. Hampar Kelikian, performed orthopedic surgery on the senator's war injuries.

Armenia is one of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union. In

1989, Dole and his wife, Elizabeth, delivered relief supplies to Armenia and helped raise money for earthquake victims.

Sogoyan, who spoke through a translator, said he wanted the sculpture to "show the courage ... of this great man who in this difficult historical time still has not forgotten the problems of the Armenian people."

"These type of people are not born every day," Sogoyan said of Dole. "These people who are not just concerned with their own people's problems but the fate of a small people that lives in the mountains ... a country that could disappear."

Sogoyan, 54, has been widely acclaimed as a sculptor in the Soviet Union. He won the 1984 Lenin Prize, one of the country's highest honors, for a 30-foot-high World War II memorial in Kiev.

Sogoyan also was the creator of a large statue given to the American Red Cross this month in rec-

ognition of U.S. earthquake relief efforts.

The artist came up with the idea of a sculpture of Dole — "a gift from my people" — during his first encounter with the senator on a trip to the United States.

An Armenian group visited with Dole last June, and the artist said: "I had the desire to sculpt him. I really didn't know that it would come to pass because every artist has their dreams and wishes."

A month later, Dole posed for Sogoyan in sessions over three days in the Capitol.

Dole traveled to the Soviet Union in August 1990. He met with Sogoyan in Moscow. A bronze portrait of Dole was given to the senator, and he saw a working model of the bust.

Dole displays the portrait, which is of the senator's head, on a mantle in a reception room in his leadership office.

Hutchinson News Sunday, March 24, 1991

Dole leads GOP attack on Democrats' war vote

By Barry Massey
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Shortly after the fighting ended in the Persian Gulf War, the partisan shouting about the battle began on Capitol Hill.

The prime targets are those mostly Democratic lawmakers who voted against a Jan. 12 resolution to authorize President Bush to use military force against Iraq. Republicans, including Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas, are pressing the attack.



Dole

"I think we're all accountable for our votes," Dole said in a recent news conference.

He made it clear that the GOP should aggressively use the war vote against Democrats in upcoming elections.

"They use everything against us," Dole said of the party that holds a majority in the House and Senate. "If the war had gone the other way, we'd been torpedoed by now."

In the Senate, the war-making resolution passed 52-47, with 45 Democrats opposing the president along with two Republicans. Dole and Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., supported Bush.

In the House, 183 members voted against the resolution authorizing the use of force — 179 Democrats, three Republicans and one Independent. All of the Kansans, including both Democrats, supported the use of force.

Some Democrats have criticized the GOP tactics of using the war for political gain.

In a speech on the Senate floor, Sen. Albert Gore, D-Tenn., one of 10 Senate Democrats to back the use of force, described a recent Republican mailing as "an intentional effort to win votes by poisoning our national politics."

Gore urged the president to "stop those who are trying to earn a fast political buck off one of our nation's finest moments."

Dole suggested that the first political casualties of the Persian Gulf War will be those Democrats who opposed the war and are considering a presidential bid in 1992. "I think, for anybody running for president, they might as well wait a while," he said.

Dole and other Republicans argue that Bush benefited powerfully from the successful outcome of the war.

Even Kansas Democrats concede that there is at least a short-term gain for Bush.

"It clearly helps the president. I think he is coming out smelling like the proverbial rose on all of this," said Rep. Dan Glickman, a Wichita Democrat.

But he and Rep. Jim Slattery, a Topeka Democrat, argue that Democratic hopes in 1992 have not been shattered by Bush's leadership in the war.

"I happen to believe that by 1992 the American public is going to be focused on the domestic agenda," Slattery said.

"There is an eternity between tomorrow and the election," Glickman said. "And ultimately, the country will begin refocusing its attention on America's economic role in the world, jobs, health care and those kinds of issues."

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Dole's office works on troop timetable

By Alan Montgomery
The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole said Friday his office was trying to compile both a list of all Kansas soldiers still in the Persian Gulf and a schedule of when each unit would be coming home.



Dole

Dole said he didn't think the troops were being used in "cleanup details," whether that

meant picking up debris or clearing minefields.

"I don't think so," he said. "It just takes time to redeploy to the United States. If we have the capability to do it (clear minefields), we may be able to do it without much danger."

The senator spoke during a conference telephone call with several Kansas news agencies.

When asked if Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf was "in the doghouse" with President Bush after seeming to question the timing of the president's decision to halt the ground war in Iraq, Dole said he thought the issue had been laid to rest when the two men talked

Thursday. The general apologized to his commander in chief during that talk, the senator said.

Dole said the general had been thrust into the limelight after the 100-day war and "there might be a tendency to get carried away" in post-war interviews.

"We've all made mistakes," he said. "We've all assumed facts that might not have been total facts. This, perhaps, could be a lesson for him ... to be more cautious in the future."

In regard to the tornado damage in Kansas, Dole said he was aware that Gov. Joan Finney had declared a disaster area in a portion of the storm path. Such dec-

larations are forwarded to Washington, where federal disaster funds can be issued to help the stricken area.

Dole said he was waiting for a full report on the damage. It should be noted, he said, that only people with uninsured losses are eligible for federal disaster aid.

Gov. Finney on Thursday declared the city of Willowbrook a disaster area. Tuesday's tornado caused an estimated \$5 million damage in the city of 100 people. Losses to rural farms and residences totaled about \$2.7 million, officials said.

In answer to other questions, Dole said:

■ There are people, including Sen. Phil Graham, who want Dole's wife, Elizabeth, to run for a North Carolina U.S. Senate seat in 1990. Graham has some survey information that apparently sheds favorable light on Mrs. Dole as a candidate, he said.

■ Economic indicators show that housing starts are up 16.2 percent and are leading the nation's economic recovery. "The Midwest enjoyed the biggest gain of any region," he said.

■ He has not yet decided whether he will run for reelection. "My view is, there is still plenty of time," he said.

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Dole Plans to Welcome Big Red One's Return

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole hopes to be among the well-wishers greeting troops when they return to Fort Riley in May.

And he hopes their welcoming is used to honor veterans of all wars.

Dole, R-Kan., told Kansas journalists in a telephone news conference that an advance group of First Division soldiers from Fort Riley should return the third week in May.

It may take until the end of June before all of the soldiers return, he said.

Asked what he would say to the soldiers, Dole said he would tell them that Kansas definitely "produced some well-disciplined Americans to fight this war."

"We have soldiers who served in Grenada, Panama, Vietnam, Lebanon," Dole said. "It seems to me this is an opportunity for Americans to honor all veterans, specifically the Gulf war veterans and then the Vietnam veterans."

"It's time to finally recognize some men and women who were literally snubbed or ignored when they came home from Vietnam."

Dole hadn't received word about when members of the Kansas National Guard's 170th Maintenance Co., based in Goodland, Hays and Colby, would return. He said they probably would return later than the Big

Red One soldiers.

As for developments in the Gulf region, Dole said, "Things are in chaos" in Iraq, and the country is devastated. Turmoil abounds, with Kurdish rebels fighting loyalists of Saddam Hussein in some areas and Muslims challenging the loyalists in the south.

Because of the devastation in Iraq, Dole said, he supported humanitarian aid such as food to the Iraqis.

"There are a lot of innocent Iraqis who are poor and starving," Dole said.

He said the aid should be distributed through the Interna-

tional Red Cross or a United Nations organizations to make sure it gets to the people who need it.

As for negotiations to bring a lasting peace to the Middle East, Dole said Israel has to be more flexible in dealing with its Arab neighbors.

"Israel doesn't have to give before the Arabs, but they all need to talk and work out their problems," Dole said. "If their Arab neighbors would recognize Israel, that would be a big step."

Dole noted that one UN resolution calls for Israeli's granting land for peace.