This press release is from the collections at the Robert J. Dole Archive and Special Collections, University of Kansas.
Please contact us with any questions or comments: http://dolearchive.ku.edu/ask

B DOLE
STRICT, KANSAS

OUSE OFFICE BUILDING
EA CODE 202
225-2715

MMITTEES:
GRICULTURE
MENT OPERATIONS

RICT OFFICE:
DERAL BUILDING
END, KANSAS 67530
REA CODE 316
SW 3-5423

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COUNTIES:
BARTON, CHEYENNE, CLARK, CLOUD, DECATUR, EDWARDS, ELLIS, ELLSWORTH, FINNEY, FORD, GOVE, GRAHAM, GRANT, GRAY, GREELEY, HAMILTON, HASKELL, HODGEMAN, JEWELL, KEARNY, KIOWA, LANE, LINCOLN, LOGAN, MEADE, MITCHELL, MORTON, NESS, NORTON, OSBORNE, OTTAWA, PAWNEE, PHILLIPS, PRATT, RAWLINS, REPUBLIC, ROOKS, RUSH, RUSSELL, SALINE, SCOTT, SEWARD, SHERIDAN, SHERMAN, SMITH, STAFFORD, STANTON, STEVENS, THOMAS, TREGO, WALLACE, WICHITA

WASHINGTON, D. C.
MONDAY, JULY 31, 1967

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans), a member of the Foreign Agricultural Operations Subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture, has returned from a 9-day visit to the Mid-East, which included Lebanon, Cyprus, and Israel, as well as the West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip now controlled by Israel.

The purpose of the visit to the Mid-East was to obtain a firsthand look at the Arab refugee problem in the event further requests for U. S. food aid are made. Congressman Paul C. Jones (D-Mo.) was chairman of the group. Also making the trip were Congressman Eligio de la Garza (D-Tex); Frank Ellis, Director, Food for Freedom Service, AID; and Clarence R. Eskildsen, Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs, Department of Agriculture.

Congressman Dole stated that in his opinion the recent Israeli-Arab conflict has created many additional problems for the refugees and those agencies maintaining them. At the end of the recent Israeli-Arab conflict, Israel was in control of nearly one-half of the Palestine refugees, some 234,000 in Gaza and nearly 450,000 in the West Bank, formerly of Jordan, now controlled by the Israelis. In addition, nearly 200,000 refugees fled the so-called "West Bank" area at the outbreak of hostilities across the Jordan River and are now in an area of Jordan designated as the "East Bank". As a result, the government of Jordan is facing a massive emergency relief problem. Other refugees fled to Syria and others are still unaccounted for. A total of more than 1.3 million refugees are registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency, and a majority of these have been maintained by UNRWA since 1950. The United States, since 1950, has contributed some $387 million or approximately 70 percent of the total UNRWA budget.

"In my opinion," Dole said, "there will be no lasting peace in the Mid-East until a solution has been found for the refugee problem because it is at the psychological center of Arab-Israeli hostility. Without question, U. S. financial and moral support has been indispensable to the Arab refugees since 1950, but I believe that other countries, including the oil-rich Arab countries, should shoulder more of the burden. From an administrative standpoint, UNRWA may perform capably, but the efforts of this organization have not solved the problem and, in fact, have perpetuated it. Thousands of the refugees have lived in refugee camps for nearly 20 years, but have never worked. This has compounded the problem, and in many instances, second generation refugees and their families live in the camps. Nonetheless, our country has a moral responsibility, and while there appears to be no immediate need for additional food aid in the area now controlled by Israel, additional aid may be needed in the "East Bank" area of Jordan, as well as in Syria, which has approximately 100,000 'displaced' persons."