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FOR RELEASE AFTER 12 NOON, THURSDAY, JULY 30

WASHINGTON, D.C. July 30 -- Expressing disappointment that North Vietnam has not responded to a telegram sent by 89 Senators, U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said he hopes the North Vietnamese will at least acknowledge its receipt.

The letter, stating American concern for captive and missing servicemen, was sent to the Premier of North Vietnam, Pham Van Dong, on July 13. The letter was sent by registered mail and a notifying telegram preceded it.

"The absence of any response is unfortunate," Dole said. "It was hoped that a letter from so many members of this body and representing such a broad spectrum of political philosophies might stimulate some meaningful response from North Vietnam.

'We are still hopeful that the North Vietnamese will at least acknowledge receipt of the letter.

"It may be that the resumption of the Paris talks, with Ambassador Bruce at the head of our delegation, will bring this response. We all earnestly hope that Ambassador Bruce will be able to achieve a complete agreement on the end of hostilities and restoration of peace. Of course, such a settlement would include as a major element the release of all Americans being held, whether their status is officially acknowledged or not.

"For the time being, however, we in the Senate, as well as concerned Americans everywhere, must continue to press North Vietnam and the Viet Cong for information on detained and missing American servicemen and for assurances that they are being treated in accordance with the standards of international law and basic humanitarian principles."

Dole made the statement on the Senate floor.