

403

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE OCTOBER 28, 1971

WASHINGTON, D.C., OCT. 28, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today called for a "careful but critical" evaluation of United States support of the United Nations.

Dole said he was deeply concerned by developments in the U.N. which suggested to him the incipient decline of the political credibility of that organization.

Dole stated: "The propagandistic wording of the resolution which removed the Republic of China was suggestive of the cynicism and political decay demonstrated by that ill-fated fore-runner of the U.N. -- the League of Nations -- at the time when fascist Italy was callously over-running Ethiopia. Then, as is the case this week, the assembled delegates countenanced the effective disregard of a nation at a time when it seemed "politically expedient" to do so."

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COMPLETE TEXT ATTACHED:

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SENATE FLOOR STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - OCTOBER 28, 1971

THE CHINA VOTE AND U.S. SUPPORT FOR THE U.N.

I rise to express my concern over the expulsion of the Republic of China from the United Nations. This action is offensive on a moral basis, and it raises serious questions about the ability of the UN to function as a positive force in world affairs. But this action is regarded by the Senator from Kansas as particularly inauspicious at a time when the United Nations appears to be -- by the admission of its own Secretary General -- on the brink of insolvency. For this reason, among others, I do not share the desire expressed by certain of my colleagues that U.S. funding to the United Nations should be dramatically slashed at this time. Such an action would perhaps be interpreted as petulance. However, I do believe that the Congress should exercise its responsibility to the American people. We should undertake a thorough and hard-headed review of the many categories of U.S. support for the United Nations. This should be done, not out of vindictiveness, but rather in the light of the tendency of the United Nations to spend money -- much of it ors -- out of proportion to its resources and then fall back on the good will of the American people to bail it out. The present fiscal insolvency of the United Nations would now appear to be compounded by an element of moral decay and poor political judgement, for by the expulsion of the Republic of China, the UN expunged from its rolls one of that organizations most reliable supporters and regular contributors.

DECLINE OF CREDIBILITY

The Senator from Kansas is deeply concerned by developments which suggest to him the incipient decline of the political credibility of the United Nations. The proagandistic wording of the resolution which removed the Republic of China was suggestive of the cynicism and political decay demonstrated by that ill-fated fore-runner of the U.N. -- the League of Nations -- at the time when fascist Italy was callously over-running Ethiopia. Then, as is the case this week, the assembled delegates countenanced the effective disregard of a nation at a time when it seemed "politically expedient" to do so. The moral outrage committed against the people of the Republic of China is of the same order as the League's toleration of Mussolini's conquest of Ethiopia.

NEED FOR RESPONSIBILITY

I do not question the desirability of including the People's Republic of China as a member of the United Nations or its seating on the Security Council. However, I firmly believed in the right of the Republic of China to remain as a member of the U.N. General Assembly.

The Senator from Kansas also believes in the on-going need for the United Nations, that such an organization must demonstrate adherence to a reasonable standard of political integrity. I believe that those Nations which voted for the expulsion of the Republic of China did so largely in the interests of political expediency and economic opportunism. If such conduct is to become a habit at the United Nations, and there is evidence to suggest that this is the case, then the Senator from Kansas believes the United States should undertake a careful but critical evaluation of our support of that organization.

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U.N. - p2

REVIEW OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

I would like to bring to the attention of this chamber the fact that United States' voluntary contributions to the United Nations and its special programs and agencies have been roughly twice as great as our assessments. I would like to cite some specific examples of this pattern. Our cumulative total assessments by the U.N. from 1946 through 1970 have come to \$584,953,000 or 32% of the regular U.N. budget. When our assessments for other U.N. special agencies are totaled for this period, they amount to \$551,491,000, and average from 25% to 30% of the respective U.N. agency budgets.

However, our voluntary contributions to the United Nations special programs and agencies have totaled \$2,353,419,000. This support has accounted for up to 83.01% of their operating budgets. Notable among these voluntary figures are the 58.58% U.S. contributions to the U.N. relief and works agency, 50% for U.N. population activities fund, 40% for the U.N. childrens' fund, and 38.42% of the U.N. food and agriculture program.

The cumulative total support of the United States for the United Nations from 1946 to 1970 amounts to \$9,189,900,000. For the year 1971, the United States has been assessed \$56,312,170 or 31.52% of the U.N.'s operating requirements.

These amounts are substantial and represent the relatively large United States commitment to the activities of the United Nations. These activities have not however, bound the United Nations to the political desires of commitments of the United States. The suggestion by some among us who feel that the outcome of the China vote represents the United Nations coming of age frankly puzzles me. For, on the whole, this country has served the United Nations in a manner which has not been suggestive of self interest. At this time, an insolvent United Nations will need our support more than ever before if it is to escape paralysis.

It is my opinion that in the future, we should sustain the United Nations as our membership requires and our own political and national interests merit. However, I cannot in good conscience recommend that we continue present levels of support without a careful assessment of our own interests.

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