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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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NEW YORK, NEW YORK--Senator Bob Dole today said that the United States must demand a unified stance from other petroleum-importing countries in the face of the international oil crisis.

Pointing to the February conference in Washington between major oil-importing countries, Senator Dole said a unified consumer posture is essential to dealing with last year's 400 percent increase in the price of foreign crude oil

"The oil price increases will have a staggering impact on every country. The pressures and temptations for each nation to go off on a 'me first' rush for advantages in the face of this adversity are strong. But such a selfish and shortsighted course would only make the situation worse," Senator Dole said.

"A fragmented posture by the importing countries would give the producers maximum leverage for their price and supply manipulations. If they can isolate and subdue each consumer country, on at a time, they will be able to squeeze the last drop of money, concessions and preferential treatment out of each one. There is almost no limit to the demands they might make -- from promises to build new refineries and to supply steel and manufactured goods, all the way to delivery of nuclear weapons.

"For this reason alone, America must insist on cooperation and unity from Europe and Japan. Their alarm and possibly selfish tendencies cannot be allowed to jeopardize the future for the whole industrialized free world. I believe we have every right -- and in this case the obligation -- to exert whatever pressure is necessary to achieve unity.

"To begin with, where would most of these countries be today without the United States and our heroic rescue of Europe from Hitler's tyranny? How would their splintered and ineffective governments have resisted the thrust of militaristic Communism in the postwar era without the might of America in NATO to protect them? And where would the German, French, Italian and other European economies be today without the generosity and vision of America's Marshall Plan?

"I do not know the precise answers to those questions. But I do know that without America's contributions, efforts and sacrifices over the last 35 years, these oil-thirsty countries would be a lot more concerned with slave labor camps, purges of intellectuals and suppressions of free thought than they are about oil today. So I say it is high time for America to lay it on the line with our friends, refresh their memories and put them on notice that their survival -- and ours too -- depends on cooperation in meeting the oil crisis."