

YEAR-END WRAP-UP:

SENATOR BOB DOLE SAYS U.S. FOREIGN POLICY IN DISARRAY

As the year draws to a close, and I look back upon the Carter Administration's first year in office, it is clear that our national foreign policy is in a confused state of disarray. Where there was once leadership, there is now uncertainty. I have had an opportunity to travel abroad this year, to meet with foreign visitors, and to offer a number of legislative proposals in the United States Senate. For your interest, I will recap some of these efforts:

THE HELSINKI COMMISSION & HUMAN RIGHTS - As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, (the Helsinki Commission) I have attended hearings held by the Commission on Soviet violations of the Human Rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement. As a member of the official United States Delegation, I attended the review conference on the Agreement in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in June and November.

In the Senate, I have introduced several resolutions which reaffirm our support for the principle of equal rights and self-determination for all peoples, especially those in captive nations, urged the United States Delegation to stand firm on examining human rights violations in Soviet-block nations, and urged the President to discuss the violations by the Polish Government of the Human Rights Provision of the Helsinki Agreement during his upcoming visit to Poland.

ASIA - In accord with my longstanding concern about missing American servicemen in Southeast Asia, I have opposed the Administration's efforts to "normalize" relations with Viet Nam while 2500 Americans remain unaccounted for, opposed admission of Viet Nam into the United Nations and sponsored legislation, which was approved by the Senate, to prohibit direct or indirect economic aid to Viet Nam, Cambodia, or Laos. I have also opposed the Administration's planned withdrawal of over 30,000 U.S. ground troops from South Korea and have introduced legislation, cosponsored by a dozen other Senators, which expresses our deep concern about the gross violations of human rights by the Communist Regime in Cambodia.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL - I have strongly opposed the Panama Canal Treaties as submitted to the Senate, and have introduced several constructive amendments to the Treaties which would protect our rights and interests in the Canal Zone. I expect to play a leading role in the formal debate on the Canal Treaties when they are considered by the Senate early next year. On December 28, I traveled to Panama to get a first-hand look at our defense position.

I have also opposed Administration moves towards "normalizing" relations with the Castro Regime in Cuba and have introduced legislation which would precondition U.S. normalization with Cuba on Castro's release of U.S. political prisoners and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Africa.

MIDDLE EAST - In July, I visited Jerusalem to speak to the Convention of the Zionist Organization of America and reiterated my view that Israel needs safe and secure borders. I strongly support the current initiative for peace in the Middle East and have nominated President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin for the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize.

AFRICA - Because I am concerned about an emerging double standard in dealing with Africa, I introduced legislation which would prohibit shipment of U.S. military, paramilitary, or police equipment to Uganda so long as human rights violations continue there.

OTHER FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES - In addition to the legislation discussed above, I have introduced a resolution which reaffirms our strong support for our NATO allies and which restates our determination to defend the territorial integrity of West Germany and other NATO members. In addition, I sponsored a resolution which urges the President to instruct the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to promote an international agreement against the harboring of airline hijackers.