



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
JUNE 1, 1978

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DOLE CALLS FOR EMBARGO ON COMMERCE DEPARTMENT FUNDS FOR CUBA

HARTFORD, Conn. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that he will offer an amendment to the Commerce Department appropriations bill this summer to provide that none of the department's funds be used for salaries or other expenses connected with efforts to restore trade relations with Cuba.

"In view of Cuban aggression on the African continent, as well as Cuban unwillingness to compensate Americans for \$1.8 billion in confiscated property, I see no reason to appropriate our tax dollars to assist Cubans with their faltering economy," Dole said.

"The Communist regime in Cuba is eager to obtain American food, industrial equipment and technology, because its economy is basically defunct. Without the \$3 million to \$4 million a day his government receives from the Soviet Union, Castro's situation would be precarious indeed.

"Cuba's economic crisis is already weakening Castro's regime and draining the Soviet paymasters as well. The relatively small potential that the Cuban market would offer to American business does not override the more significant, detrimental aspects of bilateral trade. To trade with Castro would be to prop up his economy and to subsidize, indirectly, his foreign adventures. So long as he persists in spreading death and destruction abroad, Castro can keep his sugar, cigars and rum."

Earlier this year, the Commerce Department sent a delegation to Cuba to tour production facilities and explore possibilities for lifting the American trade embargo against Cuba. Dole said his proposed amendment would bar such activity during the coming fiscal year.

Dole announced yesterday that he would seek to bar State Department funds for continued operation of the U.S. Interests Section office in Havana, as well.