



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1978

## SHCHARANSKY SENTENCE IS A SORRY REFLECTION ON SOVIET SOCIETY, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Following are the remarks of Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) on the sentencing today of Anatoly Shcharansky:

Today the unhappy spectacle of the Soviet government devouring its finest citizens continued as Anatoly Shcharansky was sentenced to 13 years imprisonment. This talented young man who has so many productive years ahead of him, will be forced to work at hard labor designed to break his health and will.

The disgraceful series of trials that culminated with today's conviction is a sorry reflection on Soviet society. The second most powerful country in the world, with nuclear weapons, tens of thousands of tanks, a mighty fleet and millions of men under arms, trembles before the courage of individuals like Anatoly Shcharansky who threaten this mighty empire with a few words of truth. An army of secret police had to be organized to protect the Soviet rulers from the image their lawlessness creates in the world.

## SOVIETS WON A HOLLOW VICTORY

The Soviet authorities appear to have won a victory today. They succeeded in their efforts to put Mr. Shcharansky away where his simple statements of fact will no longer reach the ears of decent people in the world who stand appalled at the horrors perpetrated against Soviet citizens who dare to be different, to be creative, to be honest.

Yet the victory of the Soviet Union today is a hollow one. Anatoly Shcharansky is the real winner. He has remained steadfast in his assertions of the truth, he has remained strong in the face of brutality, he remains noble in the midst of barbarism.

No court verdict in the world, no prison sentence, no matter how long and unfair, will change the fact that Anatoly Shcharansky is right and his tormentors are wrong.

## ILL-ADVISED STATEMENTS

Those of us who feel strongly about the plight of Shcharansky will search our consciences in an effort to be sure we did all we could on behalf of this courageous man. Clearly, the Soviets intended, from the very outset, to strike down all that Shcharansky represents.

But I can not help but wonder what thoughts are running through the mind of the President's ambassador to the United Nations, who could not resist adding his ill-considered comments to the sensitive negotiations being conducted by the secretary of state. How convenient it must have been for the Soviet judges to know that there was a "sympathetic" politician placed in one of the highest positions in the U.S. government. One would have been hard-pressed to think of a scenario that could worsen the situation for Shcharansky. Andrew Young's "inspired" efforts on behalf of Soviet repression should not go unnoticed.

## LET US LEARN FROM SHCHARANSKY'S COURAGE

I feel great sorrow at the outcome of this trial, but then no one expected any other verdict. Perhaps the people for whom we should most feel sorrow are the citizens of the U.S.S.R. who must endure a system that hates truth and common decency and routinely destroys its finest sons and daughters. Let us voice our strong protest against the savagery of the events that have been transpiring in the Soviet Union and let us learn a lesson from the sordid circus trial. Let us know full well what kind of people we are dealing with when we meet the Soviet officials with whom we are forced to reach agreements. Let us have no illusions about them. Let us deal with them from strength, let us deal with them on the basis of truth. Above all, let the courage of Anatoly Shcharansky and his colleagues be a model for us all.