



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 17, 1978

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DOLE ASKS FOR RECONVENING OF HELSINKI CONFERENCE

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today called for a reconvening of the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, known as the Helsinki Conference, in light of recent violations by the Soviet Union of the Helsinki Agreement.

Dole called for the reconvening of the group as he and other members of the United States Helsinki Commission met with Avital Shcharansky, wife of Soviet dissident Anatoly Shcharansky who last week was sentenced by the Soviet Union to 13 years imprisonment for alleged wrongdoing in monitoring the Soviets' compliance with the Helsinki pact.

"Although there is little the United States can do in order to make the Soviet Union adhere to basic standards of decency," Dole said, "the United States and the other Helsinki signatories can try to bring pressure for stricter Soviet compliance with the agreement. We need to take a new look at the enforcement of the pact."

"Where the United States can bring pressure to bear is in our scientific and cultural exchanges with the Soviets. We should not allow the American taxpayers' money to be spent on scientific exchanges with countries that violate the basic rights of their own scientists."

Dole reiterated his belief that a suspension of SALT talks would send a powerful message to the Soviet Union that the United States will not enter any agreements with the Soviets "until we are sure the Soviets will comply."