

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS  
202-224-8947

DOLE URGES PRESIDENT CARTER TO EXTEND VIETNAM TRADE EMBARGO

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today sent a letter to President Carter urging him to extend the U.S. trade embargo against Vietnam, which is due for review on Sept. 14.

The embargo, which has been in effect since the government of South Vietnam was overthrown in 1975, will be lifted unless the President determines that it is within the United States' national security interests to continue it.

"This embargo is a significant factor in our current relationship with the government of Vietnam," Dole said, "and I believe that its extension is justified by the deplorable state of human rights in Vietnam, the lack of full government cooperation in the location of missing American servicemen, and severe restrictions against emigration from Vietnam."

Dole asked the President to provide a statement of his views on the issue, addressing questions such as: Will the embargo be allowed to expire? Will the need for it be reasserted? Do we have a distinct policy in this regard?

The trade embargo of Vietnam was initiated in 1975 by President Ford. Legislation was passed in 1976 amending the Trading with the Enemy Act, so that any and all embargoes must be reviewed every two years by the president. The Treasury Department is required to send a memo to the president on this matter.