



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, AUGUST 3, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS
202-224-8947

DOLE SAYS U.S. SHOULD ALLOW 15,000 CAMBODIANS TO IMMIGRATE

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today proposed that the United States allow 15,000 Cambodian refugees now concentrated in refugee camps in Thailand to immigrate to the United States.

Dole, in an amendment to the State-Justice Department appropriations bill, proposed that Congress recommend to the attorney general that he use his existing power of parole granted under the Immigration Act to allow the Cambodians to immigrate as a special group.

Dole said that although in June the attorney general announced a special immigration program for 25,000 Indochinese refugees, the Cambodians are helped least of all those affected by the program.

"Ironically, those who have left the worst hell of all among the Indochinese countries -- the Cambodians -- are those who will be helped the least by the new parole program," Dole said. "This is simply because permission to come to the United States is granted in priority order: 1) To those who have close family relationships in the United States, and 2) To those refugees who were directly employed by the United States government in the past. Few Cambodians qualify for either of these criteria. And these two categories alone fill virtually all of the parole numbers authorized by the new program."

Under the Dole proposal, 7,500 Cambodian refugees would be paroled to the United States during each of the next two fiscal years.

Dole indicated that each month an average of some 50 Cambodians make their way to one of four refugee camps in Thailand. The camps, he said, are located close to the Cambodian border, where they are in danger of reprisals from the Communists.

ASKS FOR CLOSING OF U.S. OFFICE IN HAVANA

In another amendment to the appropriations bill, Dole proposed that the U.S. suspend funding of the "Interests Section" office in Havana because of Soviet interference in African affairs.

"In my opinion, it is time we discard the illusion that Cuba is ready to take its place among the community of responsible, peaceable nations," he said. "Despite the hopes of this administration and, before that, of the Ford administration, the Castro regime has shown itself to remain a client tool of Soviet interference on the African continent."