



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
6 P.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 17, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS
202-224-8947

DOLE SAYS ADMINISTRATION SHOULD INSIST UPON DEMILITARIZATION OF CYPRUS

MIAMI -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) tonight called upon the Carter Administration to work for the demilitarization of Cyprus, now that the Turkish arms embargo has been lifted.

Speaking at the 56th national convention of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA), Dole cited Cyprus as the key to a Greek-Turkish peace settlement.

"It is imperative that we take positive action to encourage an end to military occupation of Cyprus as a first step, a necessary precondition, to resolving the political and territorial problems," he said. "Once demilitarization of Cyprus is achieved, then the intercommunal talks between the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities over territorial and political settlements will proceed much more smoothly."

Dole called upon President Carter to encourage a strengthening of the United Nations security force on Cyprus, to assist demilitarization and provide the protection necessary during the peace process.

Dole also stressed the importance of the United States regaining full use of its intelligence facilities in Turkey, saying that "lack of cooperation by Turkey on this point would be antagonistic and capricious."

The Carter Administration's support of lifting the embargo, he said, unfairly subordinated Greek interests in the region.

"The drive to lift the arms embargo against Turkey minimized the importance of Greece -- in its unique position on the Eastern Mediterranean -- to the security of the free world, at the same time it fostered alarmist fears about Turkish liaisons with the Soviet Union," Dole said. "To be sure, both Greek and Turkish alliances are vital to long-range defense strategy for the free world. But to overstate one to the detriment of the other represents a mistake of monumental proportion."

The lifting of the embargo brings into question the United States' commitment to the rule of law in its foreign policy, he said.

"It is clear that Turkey violated bilateral agreements with the United States,

-2-

as well as a number of international agreements, including the United Nations Charter and the NATO Charter. It must seem strange to the rest of the world that we insist upon adhering so scrupulously to an internationally sanctioned embargo against Rhodesia at the same time -- indeed, in the same week - that we set aside the rule of law with respect to Turkey."

Dole added that human rights considerations seem to have been overlooked in the decision to lift the embargo.

"Despite its early and commendable championing of international human rights, it seems that this Administration has chosen to overlook, or to ignore the issue altogether whenever it suits Administration purposes.

"How can we possibly protest the repression of ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union, and yet 'overlook' the plight of some 200,000 displaced Cypriot refugees -- those driven from their homelands by Turkish invasion forces. Victims of oppression throughout the world appeal to us for consistency of principle in this respect, and the fact that this point was virtually ignored during consideration of the arms embargo does not speak well for our moral credibility."

-30-