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MOVE OLYMPICS OUT OF MOSCOW, DOLE SAYS

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) suggested today that rather than cancelling or boycotting the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics, "that we move them to a site more compatible with the Olympian principles of international brotherhood and peace" because of the recent Russian invasion of its neighbor Afghanistan.

"The United States must protest such a cold-blooded and ruthless decision by the ruling Soviet Politburo just six months before all the nations of the world are invited to compete in peace and harmony at Moscow," Dole said.

"Recent years have seen nationalistic propaganda and even terrorism play a heavy role in the supposedly non-political Olympic games. In 1976 virtually the entire continent of Africa boycotted the Montreal Olympics, and before that we had the Palestinian terrorists at Munich. This year the Olympic Committee told Taiwan it couldn't participate unless it changed its official name, flag and national anthem.

"One way we can de-politicize the Olympic games is to move them permanently to a neutral site. An excellent choice would be Greece, the birthplace of the games, but we could also take a look at Geneva, or even New York, home of the United Nations. In any event, it would be a big mistake to go ahead with the Olympics in Moscow.

"We made that mistake with Hitler at the 1936 Berlin Olympics, and we would be sending all the wrong signals not only to the Soviet Union but to non-aligned nations if we carried on with 'business as usual.'"

Dole suggested Montreal, Munich, Los Angeles and New York as possible alternate sites for this year's games.