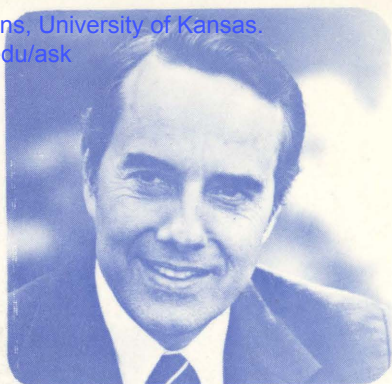


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS EXPLUSION OF U.S. JOURNALISTS MAY HAVE POSITIVE IMPACT

DES MOINES, IOWA-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today said that while he deplores any action which restricts freedom of the press, "It may just be that the decision by the Iranian government to expel American journalists signals a new phase of the hostage crisis."

According to Dole, "I view with mixed feelings the decision by Iran's Revolutionary Council to expel approximately 90 journalists working for American news organizations by Friday. I deeply regret that this will decrease the flow of information we will be able to receive about the hostages. Suppression of freedom of the press is a serious matter, indicative of the nature of the so-called government currently ruling in Iran. But there has been no doubt, all along, that the Revolutionary Council operates using a different definition of 'freedom of the press'. When they allowed foreign journalists into the country, their intent was to have reporters reflect their grievances against the Shah, or, in some cases, to use the American hostages in staged and controlled 'interviews,'" said Dole.

"It may well be that the Revolutionary Council has decided that these tactics are not working. They may now realise that the American public is too sophisticated to be taken in by such crude manipulation-- and that the vast majority of American newsmen and organizations are too principled to cave in to Iranian demands and constraints. It is my hope that this decision may signal the beginning of a new effort to resolve the Iranian hostage crisis. With the watchful eye of television gone, perhaps the Revolutionary Council will get down to negotiating, and give up mugging before the cameras," Dole said.

"Of course," concluded Dole, "it may be that the Iranians think that by removing the press we will somehow forget about the 50 Americans held in Teheran, or about the civil strife going on in Iran's provinces. If that's the case, the Iranians will find they are 'way off base.'"