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DOLE SAYS CARTER SHOULD 'LEVEL WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE' ON BILLY

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called upon President Carter to "level with the American people" regarding his brother's dealings with the Libyan government.

"I would hope that the President would act immediately to either confirm or deny published reports that officials in the White House had knowledge of Billy Carter's activities and possibly acted to protect him from prosecution," said Dole.

On Friday Dole, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, wrote a letter to Committee Chairman Senator Edward Kennedy (D.-Mass.) asking for immediate hearings on the subject. Dole also wrote Attorney General Benjamin Civiletti asking that all relevant documents be turned over to the committee.

"These new reports of direct White House contact with Billy Carter prior to the Justice Department action are most disturbing. Surely, a full-scale investigation into what appears to be a clear case of influence peddling is warranted," said Dole.

"Most importantly, this affair once again calls this Administration's credibility in the area of foreign policy into question. President Carter would do well, for the good of the nation, to go public with the entire story, rather than let it dribble out, sordid detail by sordid detail, in the press," said Dole.