

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR NEW ERA IN EAST-WEST RELATIONS IN ADDRESS TO MADRID CONFERENCE ON HELSINKI ACCORDS

WASHINGTON -- In a speech Tuesday morning before the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) in Madrid, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) called on the Soviet Union to take eight steps toward improving East-West cooperation. Dole, who serves as Co-chairman of the Helsinki Commission, was in Moscow last week as head of a congressional delegation for US-USSR trade discussions, and will be attending the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) meetings this week in Geneva.

"I have just returned from the Soviet Union where the improvement of U.S.-Soviet trade relations was widely discussed. I took part in the meetings of the U.S.-Soviet Business Council, where scores of international businessmen expressed their interest in renewed and closer East-West economic ties. Soviet officials were clearly eager to find a way for us to improve relations, not only in trade, but in other areas as well, including arms control. What I said in Moscow, I will say here: The U.S. Congress and the American people seek to develop genuine cooperation with all the European countries, no matter what their social system. East-West harmony is a fundamental objective of American foreign policy," said Dole.

"In my view, what we face is a crisis of confidence. The American people cannot reconcile the harsh realities of the world as we know it with the high ideals embodied in the Helsinki Accords. The people expect us to live up to our word. For us and our allies, the quest for disarmament and the search for peace is inextricably interwoven with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. The two go hand-in-hand."

In his speech, Dole listed eight steps the Soviet Union could take in order to improve East-West cooperation:

1. The easing of impediments to emigration;
2. The resolution of long-term family reunification and binational marriage cases;
3. The release of imprisoned or exiled members of the Helsinki monitoring groups, especially those with severe health problems, and a halt to the harassment of these groups;
4. Cessation of arrests of those who openly defend human rights, national rights and religious rights;
5. The restoration of direct-dial telephone circuit;

An improvement in the availability of economic and commercial information;

improvement in working conditions for journalists

to jamming of western radio broadcasts.

"For five days last week in Moscow high officials of the Soviet government told me that they strongly desired a new and better relationship with us and our allies. Monday night President Reagan reaffirmed his commitment to far-reaching arms control objectives -- a clear signal of our willingness in turn to open a new era of mutual confidence and cooperation between east and west. We can demonstrate by concrete actions our will to find lasting freedom for all mankind," said Dole.

The Helsinki Accords are the centerpiece of detente for East-West cooperation. The Madrid Conference which Dole spoke to is to review the record of member nations who have signed the Accords. There are 35 nations represented in Madrid. The Accords were signed in 1975, and they cover the safeguard of human rights, encourage economic and trade cooperation, and maintain military security.

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