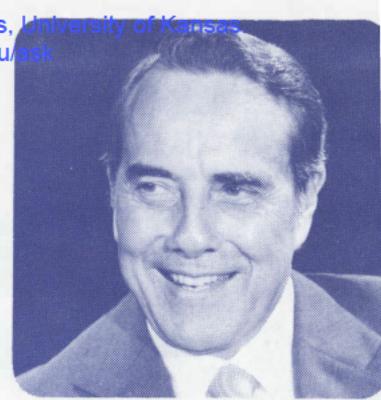


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE MARKS ANNIVERSARY OF HELSINKI ACCORDS — CONDEMNS "FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS" BY SOVIETS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, Co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, today marked the ninth anniversary of the signing of the Helsinki Final Act by condemning the Soviet Union for "flagrant violations" of the accords.

The Soviet Union, along with 31 other nations, signed the agreement in Helsinki to enhance European security through trade, cultural exchanges and the relaxing of military tensions. The recognition of human rights was a fundamental principle agreed to by the 32 signatories.

In signing the Final Act, each signatory pledged their respective governments to uphold all the provisions stipulated therein. Besides the more traditional concerns of military security and economic cooperation, these provisions carved out a legitimate place in East-West diplomacy for subjects of a humanitarian nature such as religious liberty, family reunification and the uninterrupted dissemination of information. Clearly, all the signatories, for the first time, recognized that the way in which a government treats its own citizens can affect that government's relationship with other nations.

Unfortunately, some signatories have flagrantly violated both the spirit and letter of the Final Act. The Soviet Union, and some of her East European allies, continue to jam Western radio broadcasts, restrict freedom of religion, deny their citizens the right, as stated in the Final Act, "to know and act upon their rights," and suppress their peoples' freedom of movement. These violations are compounded by the Soviet government's increasingly vicious campaign in Afghanistan, by their harsh abuse of those who seek to promote human rights within the Soviet Union, including members of the Moscow, Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Armenian and Georgian Helsinki Monitoring Groups, and their contempt for world opinion as illustrated by their silence about the Sakharovs.

As Co-chairman of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have become acquainted with numerous Soviet violations of the Helsinki Final Act, including violations of the family reunification provisions. One such case, the Yakir family of Moscow, is indicative of the Soviet's flagrant disregard of the humanitarian aspects of the Helsinki Accords. Yevgeny and Rimma Yakir and their 28-year-old son Alexander are Soviet Jewish "refuseniks." Since 1973, they have been attempting to emigrate to Israel, and yet they have been continually refused permission to do so. At the same time, the Yakirs have been harassed by the KGB and dismissed from their jobs. At the moment, the Yakirs' hopes are at a very low ebb. In June, Alexander was arrested on charges of draft evasion for refusing to obey a summons to report for military services. Alexander declared that for him to swear an oath of loyalty to the Soviet Army would be an "act of dishonesty and a direct betrayal of his principles." Alexander's trial, and with it the crushing of his family's hopes for emigration in the near future, is scheduled for tomorrow, August 2.

On this ninth anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, we must rededicate ourselves to the promise of the better world envisioned by these Accords and to the work necessary to realize this hope. Through our efforts to ensure Soviet compliance with this historic act, we will bring about an improvement in the lives of those who live under Soviet and East European domination. It is my sincere hope that the Yakir family will one day very soon reap the benefits of improved Soviet compliance. For without these improvements, true security and cooperation in Europe will be very difficult to attain indeed.