

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NO PAY-OFFS TO TERROIRST KHOMENI FOR U.S. HOSTAGES

WASHINGTON -- SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) TODAY URGED THE ADMINISTRATION TO CONTINUE USING ALL AVAILABLE CHANNELS TO SEEK THE RELEASE OF AMERICANS HELD HOSTAGE IN LEBANON, BUT OPPOSED MAKING ANY DEALS WITH TERRORISTS THAT MIGHT ENCOURAGE MORE HOSTAGE-TAKING.

"If Iran is willing to help us get our hostages out, no strings attached, that's great," said Dole. "We'd be foolish not to look for or take up that kind of offer. But I'm against paying Khomenei or anyone else any blackmail. And I hope we're not going to be negotiating with Teheran as long as it continues to be involved in, and supports, international terrorism. In the long run, that kind of dealing with terrorists will only produce more, not fewer, hostages."

Dole refused any comment on the specifics of recent press reports alleging Administration contacts with Iranian officials.

Dole concluded his remarks by saying, "The bottom line is, it's time now for a little watchful waiting."