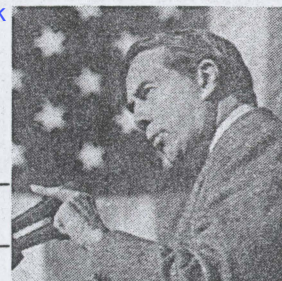


*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JULY 2, 1992

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

## **FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT**

WASHINGTON - SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) HAS CALLED FOR SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT WHICH PROVIDES ECONOMIC AID TO THE EMERGING DEMOCRACIES IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM HIS STATEMENT.

IT IS TIME TO PUT ASIDE PARTISANSHIP, AND PASS THIS BILL. IN DOING SO, WE WILL ADVANCE OUR PRINCIPLES, REAFFIRM OUR POSITION AS LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD, INCREASE OUR SECURITY, AND BOOST OUR ECONOMY.

THE SENATE HAS BEEN SLOW TO ACT. BUT REGARDLESS OF WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN, WE AT LAST HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TODAY TO STAND UP AND BE COUNTED ON THIS BASIC ISSUE: WILL AMERICA KEEP ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE IN THE GLOBAL EFFORT TO ASSIST THE FLEDGLING DEMOCRACIES OF THE FORMER SOVIET UNION?

THE FREEDOM SUPPORT ACT BUILDS ON THE SOLID FOUNDATION OF ON-GOING PROGRAMS OF ASSISTANCE TO THESE REPUBLICS. IT CALLS FOR A PARTNERSHIP OF GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NEW POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

BUT LET'S MAKE IT CLEAR: THIS BILL IS NOT A "BLANK CHECK" FOR ANYONE. IN COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS, WE HAVE CAPPED TOTAL AID AUTHORIZATIONS AT REASONABLE LEVELS. WE HAVE CONDITIONED AID TO ANY REPUBLIC ON GOOD FAITH CONDUCT BY EACH OF THESE NEW STATES IN SEVERAL IMPORTANT AREAS -- HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC REFORMS, NON-PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY, AND AVOIDING THE USE OF MILITARY FORCE AGAINST OTHER STATES.

THE CONDITIONS WE HAVE PLACED ON OUR AID ARE IMPORTANT CONDITIONS. THEIR AIM IS TO DISCOURAGE IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS, SUCH AS AZERBAIJAN'S AGGRESSION AGAINST ARMENIA AND THE PEOPLE OF NAGORNO-KARABAGH, AND ITS IMPOSITION OF A DEVASTATING BLOCKADE AGAINST ARMENIA. AND IN THAT CONTEXT, TOO, I WANT TO SAY A SPECIAL WORD ABOUT THE AMENDMENTS WE HAVE PASSED DEALING WITH THE BALTICS AND WITH CUBA'S DANGEROUS NUCLEAR PROGRAM, WHICH HAVE STRENGTHENED THIS BILL.

AMERICA MUST LEAD. BUT AMERICA CANNOT DO THIS JOB ALONE. WE CAN'T AFFORD IT, AND WE SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TRY. WE ARE NOT THE ONLY NATION WITH A GREAT STAKE IN WHAT HAPPENS IN THE FORMER SOVIET UNION.

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