

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **CUBA POLICY**

**CLINTON CUBA POLICY HAS FAILED DISMALLY -- "ENOUGH IS ENOUGH": IN WAKE OF CASTRO'S AIR ASSAULT, CUT OFF TRAVEL TO CUBA, TIGHTEN EMBARGO, STAND WITH DEMOCRACY, NOT WITH CUBAN DICTATOR**

**PHOENIX, AZ -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:**

"The Clinton policy of going soft on Castro's Cuba has failed dismally. In 1994, President Clinton made a secret deal with Fidel Castro and put America on the side of a Communist dictator suppressing his people's right to emigrate freely. Last year, President Clinton eased sanctions on Cuba in a futile effort to win Castro's approval, and he allowed Castro to enter the United States and travel freely around New York. While Castro's visit was applauded by the liberal elite, it was an affront to those who believe in democracy in Cuba. In recent months, American fellow travelers have made their pilgrimage to Havana -- seeking business and putting the best face on Castro's tyranny.

"Castro has demonstrated his contempt for the carrots dangled by the Clinton White House and his utter disregard for civilized behavior. Castro has smashed the frail democratic opening in Cuba by arresting and harassing the peaceful internal opposition in recent days. Castro's MIG jets have now attacked and murdered American citizens -- in broad daylight, in the Straights of Florida, and in international airspace.

"Enough is enough. Secretary of State Christopher announced today that the Clinton Administration would go to the United Nations in response to this incident. That's fine, but it's three years too late. The Clinton Administration spent months building a U.N. coalition for action against Haiti, the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, but it has done nothing comparable to mobilize international opinion against Castro's Cuba. If President Clinton had spent his efforts isolating Fidel Castro instead of flirting with him, democratic change in Cuba would be that much closer. It's time to ask our Allies in the Hemisphere and around the globe to shut down all civilian air traffic to Cuba, just as the international community has done to Libya in response to Libya's terrorism in the skies.

"President Clinton should immediately order the Department of the Treasury to vigorously enforce the ban on American travel to Cuba -- no more allowing American CEOs to fly to Havana and lay the groundwork for lifting the trade embargo, and no more looking the other way as Castro's American ideological soulmates enrich the Cuban economy. President Clinton should also endorse the Helms/Dole/Burton 'LIBERTAD' legislation passed by both houses of Congress. I intend to ensure that this legislation gets to President Clinton's desk in the near future. This legislation tightens the embargo on Castro, and its final passage will present President Clinton with a clear choice -- to stand with the democratic aspirations of the Cuban people, or to stand with the Hemisphere's last dictator defying change at all costs."

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