



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE CALLS FOR STRONG AMERICAN STAND AT BELGRADE

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today introduced a concurrent resolution calling for the official U.S. delegation to the Belgrade Conference to "reiterate in clear and unequivocal terms the commitment of the American people to human rights in the context of an ultimate enlargement of human freedom throughout the world." The Dole resolution also provides that the American delegation "insist on a full conference agenda which includes the presentation and thorough discussion of all violations of the Helsinki Final Act, especially those related to universal humanitarian ideals."

The Final Act was signed at Helsinki in 1975 by 33 European nations, Canada, and the United States at the conclusion of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. The Belgrade Conference, scheduled to begin on June 15, will bring together the 35 signatory nations to review compliance with the provisions of the Final Act.

In 1976, Congress established the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe--commonly referred to as the Helsinki Commission -- to evaluate and encourage compliance with the Final Act. Senator Dole has served on the Commission since January along with five other Senators, six Congressmen, and three members of the Executive branch.

In introducing his resolution, Senator Dole mentioned the fact that he had attended Commission hearings devoted to freer emigration, family reunification, religious liberties and minority rights. "These hearings", stated Senator Dole, "have helped me realize that regardless of the progress the United States may have made with the Soviet Union in certain areas of economic and technological cooperation, we have made little, if any, headway in the human rights arena. The Soviet Union remains today what it has always been -- a totalitarian state intent upon the obliteration of even the most mild resistance to its policy of repression of individual, religious, and national rights."

"America", concluded Senator Dole, "is a beacon of hope for those who resist totalitarian domination of their lives. We cannot abandon these brave people. We must continue to make every effort to call the world's attention to the present state of affairs in Eastern Europe. We have an opportunity to do so at Belgrade but we must remain steadfast and true to our basic human rights commitment. This resolution will go a long way towards strengthening our resolve and permitting our delegation to present a position which truly reflects the will of the American people."