



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS SOVIET UNION'S HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD NOT IMPROVING

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS -- The Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact nations "have absolutely no respect for religious liberties and national rights. They totally disregard those provisions of the Helsinki Final Act which call for freer emigration and for reunification of families," Senator Bob Dole declared Saturday night in Chicago. Dole, a former Vice-Presidential candidate and Republican National Chairman, made the statement during his speech to a meeting of the Republican Heritage Groups Council.

"The Helsinki Commission hearings which I have attended have made clear to me the fact that regardless of the progress we may have made with the Soviet Union in certain areas of technological and economic cooperation, we have made little, if any, real headway in the human rights arena," said Dole, a member of the Commission. "The Soviet Union today is what it has always been -- a totalitarian state committed to the obliteration of even the most mild resistance to its continuing policy of repression of individual, religious, and national rights."

The Kansas Senator praised President Carter's human rights stand and added that the only reservation about the President's crusade, "is the fear that it will not last. Given his reversals on a number of other important issues, it is possible that he may decide to soften his approach towards the Soviets at Belgrade, especially since some of our allies in Western Europe appear to be pushing him to that end. To insure that this will not happen, Congresswoman [Millicent] Fenwick and I introduced a Joint Congressional Resolution last week calling upon the official United States delegation at Belgrade 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' and to insist that the full Conference agenda include a presentation and thorough discussion of all violations of the Helsinki Final Act."

Dole also said he is encouraged about the future role of ethnic Americans in the Republican Party. He said he agrees with Carter pollster Pat Caddell's assessment "that the weakest link in the Democratic chain is ethnic Americans. They are disappointed with the Democrats and are ready to vote for our Republican candidates if we are willing to cultivate their support."