



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE PLEASSED BY RELEASE OF U.S. PRISONERS IN CUBA: SAYS OTHER OBSTACLES REMAIN

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole said today that he is pleased Cuba has announced it will release ten American prisoners who are being held there on drug-related charges, but added that "there are additional issues which must also be resolved before the United States restores diplomatic relations with the Cuban government."

"Today's announcement demonstrates that Castro is capable of making concessions on points of concern to Americans. It also reaffirms my belief in the need for a resolute position by the Carter Administration on major issues. It would be foolish for us to back down in any way from our insistence on certain preconditions."

Dole outlined four preconditions included in a Senate Resolution he will introduce Monday:

- (1) Repayment for \$1.8 billion in private American property seized by the Cuban government in 1959;
- (2) Release of all American political prisoners, and better observance of human rights of Cuban citizens;
- (3) Withdrawal of Cuban military troops and military advisers from Africa;
- (4) Renewal of the anti-hijacking agreement and guarantees on the future security of the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay.

Dole's resolution would express the sense of the the Senate that steps toward normalizing relations with Cuba should not be taken until the conditions are met.

The Kansas Senator also noted that none of the 10 prisoners mentioned in the announcements were charged with "political crimes" against the Cuban government. "The State Department says that at least 7 Americans are being held on espionage or on similar politically-related charges," Dole said. "We want to see all United States citizens released from Cuban jails, just as we want to see Americans fully compensated for property which was confiscated by Castro in 1959. We must pursue these demands consistently and firmly."