

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1977

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
BOB DOWNEN

DOLE RESOLUTION WOULD ESTABLISH CONDITIONS FOR
RESTORING RELATIONS WITH CUBA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Following is a statement made by Senator Bob Dole today upon introduction of his resolution establishing conditions for restoring relations between the United States and Cuba:

Mr. Dole: Mr. President, I am today introducing a Senate resolution to express opposition to normalization of U. S. relations with the Cuban government until certain preconditions are met. On Friday, the Administration announced that a mutual agreement had been concluded to permit the exchange of mid-level diplomatic personnel between our two governments. Negotiations leading to this agreement were conducted in private, outside the realm of public scrutiny and comment. It now appears likely that the Administration will proceed with efforts to fully restore diplomatic relations with the Castro regime, and to lift the sixteen year old trade embargo against Cuba. Because I believe that the Cuban government must demonstrate preliminary good faith on its part, and because I feel strongly that Congress and the American people should provide input into this major policy development, I have offered a resolution to provide guidance in resuming normal relations with Cuba.

My resolution would express the sense of the United States Senate that there should be no formal U. S. recognition of the government of Cuba and no partial or complete lifting of the 1962 U. S. trade embargo against Cuba, until Fidel Castro's regime has met certain conditions. Those conditions are: (1) compensation for U.S. property confiscated by Cuba in 1959; (2) release and repatriation of American citizens currently imprisoned in Cuba on political charges, along with progress towards observance of the human rights of Cuban citizens; (3) withdrawal of Cuban military troops and military advisers from Africa; and (4) renewal of an anti-hijacking agreement with the U.S. and guarantees for the future security of the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay.

These four conditions reflect the major conflicts between the U.S. and Cuba for the past seventeen years and, in my opinion, should constitute the minimum concessions we expect from Castro before we restore diplomatic recognition and trade.

We Hold the Bargaining Chips

It is important that one fundamental factor be clearly understood at the outset: the communist government in Cuba has as much and more to gain from improved relations with United States, as we have to gain from the arrangement. Consequently, it would be a serious mistake for us to forge ahead with unilateral concessions until all outstanding differences between our governments have been fully explored and at least partially resolved. We, as a nation, have much to offer and much to expect in return. Concessions on our part must be fully matched by substantive, reciprocal concessions on the part of the Cuban government. And I believe there should be no formal reinstatement of diplomatic relations, nor resumption of normal trade patterns, until agreements have been reached and genuine progress made towards resolving major disagreements as we see them.

It is also important that American policy makers realistically distinguish between Castro's initiatives which are dictated by economic necessity, and those which might reflect genuine moderation in his policies of terror and repression. Our policy makers must recognize that the Communist regime's ideological foundations remain unchanged, and they must insist on certain preconditions before any further consideration of normalized relations takes place.