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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE HITS CARTER'S HUMAN RIGHTS "INCONSISTENCY"

REHOBETH BEACH, DEL. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today criticized the alleged inconsistency of President Carter's overtures to Cuba's Castro and the leaders of Vietnam at the same time he is demanding respect for the human rights of people living in other parts of the world.

"I only wish the President recognized that these standards must apply to all people, in Cuba and Vietnam as in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe," Dole said.

Addressing the Essex County Republican Women's Club, the 1976 Republican vice presidential nominee declared:

"History should remind us that the basic rights of mankind cannot be bartered away for international political and strategic considerations."

NO MORE "BODY BLACKMAIL"

On Tuesday the Senate adopted Dole's proposal to withdraw U.S. financial support of any international lending institution that gives aid to Vietnam, Cambodia or Laos. He accused the Vietnamese of playing "body blackmail" with U.S. military casualties by "discovering" the remains of more U.S. missing-in-action only in return for unrelated concessions from Washington.

Dole said he was puzzled by President Carter's unpredictable friendship with Castro. "Castro still thumbs his nose at us," the senator asserted. "He is not holding out any concessions that I'm aware of. Yet Mr. Carter seems intent upon sending an ambassador to Havana before the year is out. It seems to me that if we use our bargaining chips -- which are diplomatic recognition and trade -- right now, we would then have no reasons to expect concessions from the Communist Cuban leadership later on."