

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE INTRODUCES RESOLUTION REGARDING ARREST OF L.A. TIMES REPORTER

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today introduced -- for himself, and Senators * Hubert Humphrey and Clifford Case -- a resolution which was immediately referred to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for immediate action. It is expected that the resolution, regarding the arrest of Robert C. Toth in Moscow, will be considered by the full Senate later today. Following is the full text of a statement Senator Dole will give at that time:

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DOLE

Mr. President, I rise this morning to introduce a resolution on behalf of myself and my distinguished colleagues, Mr. Humphrey and Mr. Case.

It is a sense of the Senate Resolution which addresses the recent arrest and interrogation of Mr. Robert C. Toth, a respected Los Angeles Times staff member who was about to complete a three year tour of duty in Moscow.

The Soviet action is clearly an unwarranted interference with the legitimate pursuit of a professional activity which the Helsinki Final Act, signed by the Soviet Union, recognizes in clear and unmistakable language.

The treatment accorded Mr. Toth is the latest in a series of violations of the Helsinki Final Act perpetrated by the Soviet Union. All of them, have very ominous overtones. Given the fact that the Belgrade Conference begins this morning, the United States Senate cannot remain silent.

Yesterday, we passed an amendment which called for a strong U.S. posture at Belgrade. Today, we must ask for:

- A complete accounting from the Soviet Union of the circumstances which led to the arrest and subsequent interrogation of Robert C. Toth,
- The use of every legal means to expedite his speedy and safe return to the United States,
- The referral of this Resolution, which underscores Senate concern, to the Secretary of State to be brought to the attention of proper Soviet authorities.

Resolution

To express the sense of the United Senate regarding the arrest and interrogation of Mr. Robert C. Toth by the Government of the Union of the Soviet Socialists Republic.

Whereas, the Soviet Union recently arrested Robert C. Toth, an accredited United States reporter completing a three year assignment in Moscow;

Whereas, the Soviet Union has rejected an official U.S. protest and has refused Mr. Toth permission to leave the Soviet Union; and

Whereas, both of these actions are a gross violation of the Helsinki Final Act which states clearly that "the participating states reaffirm that the legitimate pursuit of their professional activity will neither render journalists liable to expulsion nor otherwise penalize them": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that it is the sense of the Senate that:

- (1) The Government of the United States should continue to press for a complete accounting from the Soviet Government of the circumstances which precipitated the arrest of Robert C. Toth; and
- (2) Every legal means should be expended to obtain the immediate release and safe return of Mr. Toth to the United States; and
- (3) The Secretary of the Senate is hereby directed to provide a copy of this resolution to the President for transmittal to appropriate officials of the Soviet Union.