



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, JUNE 24

WASHINGTON, D. C. --- Following are texts of two introductory statements today by Senator Bob Dole:

## NO COMMITMENTS TO AID VIETNAM

Mr. President, The amendment I am offering is short and to the point. It provides that none of the funds appropriated in this Act can be used for the purpose of making a commitment of United States reparations, aid, or credits to the socialist government of Vietnam, Laos, or Cambodia. This is accomplished by barring the use of any of these funds for the salaries of those diplomatic personnel in the State Department who might otherwise make such a commitment during negotiations with the Vietnamese in Paris, or elsewhere.

I would just point out that the language of my amendment is virtually identical to that of an amendment offered by my distinguished colleague from Ohio, Mr. Glenn, one week ago when we were discussing the State Department Authorization bill. That amendment was accepted without objection by any Senator, and I trust that no one will have any serious objections to this amendment either.

The amendment I am offering at this time, like that attached to the Authorization bill, will in no way inhibit or restrain United States negotiations with the government of Vietnam. It simply prohibits any commitment on the part of our government to extend financial aid to the communist government in Vietnam, or to its compatriots, Laos, and Cambodia.

## REFLECTS PUBLIC OPINION

Mr. President, It is not necessary for me to go into great detail regarding the reasons for my offering this amendment. The facts are well known to all: The socialist governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have provided next to no cooperation in our demands for a thorough accounting of missing Americans in Southeast Asia. Almost 2,500 Americans are still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia, and the majority of these were lost within Vietnam's territory. We know that there can never be a full accounting for all of these individuals; we are not expecting that. But what the American people do expect -- and what we in Congress must insist upon -- is a reasonable demonstration of cooperation on this issue. Eleven bodies were returned to the United States earlier this year. The Vietnamese government says 20 more will be returned within a few months. I continue to feel that we can expect much better results than this from a sincere accounting effort undertaken by the Vietnamese. Even 10 percent of the 2,500 who are missing would amount to 250 identities.

The public as a whole understands that the Vietnamese are primarily interested in obtaining U.S. recognition and aid so that they can proceed with plans to redevelop their devastated economy. It is becoming increasingly apparent that the Vietnamese are hoping for an exchange of American bodies for American dollars. This can never be acceptable. It must be made entirely clear to the Vietnamese that there will be no commitments of aid in the offing. Once that is understood, I sincerely hope we will see better results in the long overdue accounting for those missing Americans.

(Second Statement Follows....)



INSIST ON FULL PAYMENT BY CUBA FOR AMERICAN LOSSES

Mr. President, This amendment would provide that none of the money in this Appropriations bill can be used for a settlement of U.S. claims against the Cuban government at less than the full value of those claims. This relates specifically to private property which was confiscated by the Cuban government following Castro's rise to power in 1959. This includes both claims by private individuals, corporations, and churches and charitable organizations.

On July 6, 1972, the U.S. foreign claims settlement commission certified that the principal value of all private U.S. claims for expropriated property totaled slightly more than \$1.8 billion dollars. This was the sum total of 979 individual corporate claims, 4896 individual claims, and 36 claims by religious or charitable groups. My amendment would protect the rights and interests of all these American claimants, and insure that they receive full compensation for their property.

AN ISSUE THAT MUST BE SETTLED

In my opinion, this is one issue that must be settled before we complete "normalization" efforts with the Cuban government. Just last week, when this body considered the State Department's Authorization bill, the Senate approved an amendment offered by the distinguished majority leader containing the following language: "That the vital concerns of the United States with respect to the basic rights and interests of U.S. citizens whose persons or property are the subject of such negotiations be protected."

At that time, the Senate clearly went on record with respect to the importance of this issue. What we are doing today would simply reiterate in more specific language that same concept.

My amendment does not require full payment of the \$1.8 billion dollars in one lump sum, nor does it rule out negotiation of a repayment schedule over a period of time. But it does insure that American citizens will receive full compensation from the Cuban government for their property after seventeen long years.

While my amendment does not rule out the establishment of diplomatic relations prior to an agreement on this issue, it should be clear in the legislative history that the Senate expects this matter to be resolved as expeditiously as possible. In my opinion, it would be inexcusable for this administration to institute formal relations or trade with Cuba before the claims by our own citizens are resolved. And when they are resolved, it should be at full value for their loss.

I might point out that this does not preclude negotiations on the issue itself. It also does not affect any claims for U.S. government property seized by Castro. Its sole purpose is to protect those Americans who will have no direct input into the negotiations but whose property is at stake. It protects the principal value of that property but does not necessarily insist upon payment of interest. I firmly believe that the Cuban government should pay interest on the property, but I realize that that factor could be subject to some negotiation.

Thus, I think my amendment is more than fair. It is an issue that must be resolved, and resolved in the interest of Americans, not Cubans. Mr. President, my amendment is fully endorsed by the Joint Corporate Committee on Cuban claims, which represents both individuals and businesses whose property was taken by Castro. I ask unanimous consent that, at the conclusion of my remarks, there be printed a copy of a communication I have received from the committee, along with a partial list of those whose property was expropriated.

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