



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. --

## DOLE ASSAILS OPENING OF CUBAN MISSION IN WASHINGTON

Senator Bob Dole said today that he sees no justification for the exchange of 'interest sections' between the United States and Cuba at this time. An official Cuban mission opens its headquarters in Washington today for the first time in 16 years.

"The arrival of the Cuban mission is hailed by the Carter Administration as a major step forward in American foreign policy," Dole said, "Yet there has been no reduction in Cuban revolutionary mischief around the world; there has been no reimbursement for confiscated American property in Cuba; and there has been no release of American political prisoners by Fidel Castro."

Senator Dole pointed out that information has recently come to light from former U.S. Prisoners of War that Cuban troops were present in North Vietnam during the war, and participated in the torture of Americans. "This is consistent with what we already know about the cruel treatment of prisoners by the Cubans, and about the government's unwarranted intervention overseas," Dole said. "Castro's revolutionaries have long been meddling in activities overseas that would earn Cuba the outraged condemnation of the Third World--if Cuba were Great Britain or the United States."

Dole said he believes the large majority of American people are skeptical about President Carter's so-called 'new relationship with Latin America.' "They look at our latest posture towards Cuba and the Panama Canal, and they wonder just where this Administration is going," Dole remarked.

According to the State Department, Cuba still maintains some 20,000 military and civilian personnel in Africa, and holds at least 20 Americans prisoner in Cuban jails. There are reports that as many as 15,000 Cuban nationals are imprisoned because of their opposition to the Castro regime.

"Both the Cuban and Panamanian dictatorships rack up poor scores in the categories of human rights and political rights for their citizens," Dole said. "A large percentage of people in this country feel we are buckling under to 'tin-horn' Marxist pressures and closing our eyes to human rights violations on these issues. If this is what President Carter's 'new relationship with Latin America' entails, I suggest we reconsider the old one."