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DOLE ACCEPTS PETITION PROTESTING NORMALIZING OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (far left) recently met with Cuban-American representatives of ten Cuban organizations, who presented him with a petition opposing the Carter Administration's policies towards Cuba. The petition, which was signed by more than 11,300 persons, points to non-compliance by the Administration with a 1962 Senate Joint Resolution which established sanctions against the Castro regime.

Dole, who reported to the Senate about the meeting later the same day, said "There are thousands of Cuban exiles and Cuban-Americans in this country who feel that the Carter Administration's moves towards 'normalizing' relations with Cuba will work to the disadvantage of democracy and human rights observance within Cuba. When I introduced a resolution earlier this year that would have established four pre-conditions to 'normalization' of relations with Cuba, I asked the question: 'Just what is the rush in restoring relations with the Communist government in Cuba?' Today I ask the same question. I hope the Administration will heed the concerns of thousands of native and naturalized Americans who strongly object to a restoration of diplomatic ties with Cuba, at least until important concessions are made by the Castro regime."

Among those attending the hour-long meeting with Dole were Messrs. Fausto Lavilla, President of the National Association of Cuban Journalists in Exile; Roberto Carballo, President of the Association of Bay of Pigs Veterans; Mario Pestonit, Delegate of the Latin Chamber of Commerce; Cristobal Gonzalez Mayo, President of the Confederation of Cuban University Professionals in Exile; Luis H. Vidana, Delegate of the Confederation of Cuban Workers; Claudio Benedi, Delegate of the Cuban Lions Club in Exile; Ruben Gonzalez De La Heria, Delegate of the Municipalities of Las Villas in Exile; Gerardo Mora Adelit, Delegate of the Cuban Representation in Exile; and Humberto Quiñones Del Sol, President of the National Association of Cuban Lawyers, Inc., which is the group that began the petition drive.