



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE RESOLUTION WOULD DEMONUCE DEMOCRATIC KAMPUCHEA OF CAMBODIA:

URGE CARTER TO PROTEST HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- On Friday, Senator Bob Dole will introduce a resolution placing the U.S. Senate "clearly and directly on record as denouncing the regime of the Democratic Kampuchea" in Cambodia. The Resolution will also urge President Carter "to take effective measures to register the deep concern of the American people about the gross violations of human rights in Cambodia."

Following are excerpts from the remarks Dole will make when he introduces his Resolution:

HUMAN RIGHTS IN CAMBODIA

Mr. President, I want to call the Senate's attention to what is perhaps the most brutal and inhumane situation existing in the world today. It is the plight of the Cambodian people, under the rule of the Communist Party. At a time when this Congress and this Administration are focusing increasing attention upon human rights violations around the world, it is indefensible to ignore what has been taking place within Cambodia, or the "Democratic Kampuchea" as it is called by the Communist regime.

In recent days, both the President and some members of this body have been highly critical of rights violations carried out by the government of South Africa. As much as recent incidents in South Africa may concern us, they are greatly overshadowed by the gross brutality that's been a hallmark of the Communist Cambodian regime ever since it came to power two and one-half years ago. Yet, our own government has failed to register the horror and condemnation that the Cambodian situation so well deserves.

DOLE RESOLUTION

For that reason, I am today proposing that the United States Senate place itself clearly and directly on record as denouncing the regime of the Democratic Kampuchea. Furthermore, we should urge the President to take effective measures to register the deep concern of the American people about the gross violations of human rights in Cambodia, just as it has been proposed with respect to South Africa in Senate Concurrent Resolution 60, which was reported by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee earlier this week.

SECRECY AND SLAUGHTER

The Communist government of Cambodia is, indeed a deviant within the international community. Widespread executions and sub-human living standards have shocked all but the most insensitive governments of the world. The Cambodian reign of terror harkens back to mankind's most primitive and uncivilized condition, and the Cambodian regime has been commonly considered the cruelest since that of Nazi Germany.

Mr. President, despite the extraordinary secrecy and slaughter which characterize the Cambodian regime, there has been no international denunciation of the regime. There has been no official condemnation by the United States, other than a resolution passed by the House of Representatives on September 27 of this year.

BACKGROUND OF BRUTALITY

Phnom Penh, the capitol of Cambodia, was captured by the Khmer Rouge on April 17, 1975 following the collapse of the democratic government. In an effort without parallel in modern history, the Communist regime immediately forced the mass evacuation of four million city residents into the countryside. It has been estimated that as many as four hundred thousand of the evacuees perished during the forced marches to the rural living areas.

Despite the mine fields and arm patrols that guard Cambodia's borders, more than 25,000 refugees have managed to flee to Thailand since 1975, and some 60,000 have fled to Vietnam within the past year.

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In September of this year, the House of Representatives passed a resolution of condemnation, similar to the one I am proposing today. Although the matter of human rights violations is not-- and never should become -- a partisan issue, the Republican National Committee did adopt a resolution at its meeting in New Orleans on September 30, calling upon President Carter to instruct the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to introduce a resolution censoring the brutality of the Cambodian government.

SENATE ACTION NEEDED

Earlier this year, I introduced an amendment to the International Monetary Organization Authorization Bill to ensure that no U.S. contributions to international financial institutions could be used to prop up the brutal Communist regime in Cambodia, as well as those in Laos and Vietnam. That amendment passed the Senate by a vote of 58 to 32 on June 14, but was later watered down considerably in Conference.

I urge the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to act promptly on this resolution. Hearings on the Cambodian repression should be conducted.

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