



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE RESOLUTION WOULD RESTRICT ASSISTANCE TO UGANDA

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today introduced a resolution that would restrict visas issued to Ugandan government officials, impose a mandatory embargo on the export of all American military, police and paramilitary equipment to Uganda, and urge the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to present a resolution for consideration imposing a mandatory arms embargo on Uganda by all members of the United Nations.

Following are excerpts from Dole's introductory statement and the text of his resolution:

Mr. President, last week the State Department confirmed that several dozen Ugandan government officials are currently in the United States for training programs with private organizations. At least a dozen of these are enrolled in a training course for helicopter pilots run by an American helicopter company located in Texas. According to the report, the Ugandans are government employees training to pilot police helicopters.

There are two disturbing elements to this matter. First, the present government of Uganda is notorious for its brutal and barbaric treatment of those individuals whom it perceives as political opponents. Both public and private executions have become the standard means for dealing with political opposition since Idi Amin came to power in January of 1971. Both Ugandans and non-Ugandans have suffered the wrath of this capricious dictator. Americans last week were jolted by the uneasy feeling that training programs within our own country may be indirectly assisting in the brutal repression that has terrorized Uganda.

Second, it is particularly disturbing to me, as I know it is to many of my colleagues, that entrance visas for the Ugandan government officials were approved without the knowledge of State Department officials in Washington. It seems that visas for foreign government employees traveling in this country for official purposes have been routinely handled by U.S. Consular employees in our embassies abroad. Although the State Department says that it has since "tightened up" its visa procedures for Ugandans, future policies in this regard seem uncertain at best. I believe it would be useful for the United States Senate to place itself on record with respect to future policy in this area.

For that reason, I am today introducing a Senate resolution which would clearly express the sense of this body with respect to the handling of visa applications submitted by Ugandan government officials in the future. In addition, it calls for a mandatory embargo on the export of all American military, police, and paramilitary equipment to Uganda; and it urges the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations to present a resolution for consideration imposing a mandatory arms embargo on Uganda by all members of the United Nations. This would, of course, parallel similar action taken by the U.N. Security Council against the government of South Africa two weeks ago.

A Barbaric Regime

Within the past several years, the world has become sadly aware of the unspeakable horrors of the Amin regime in Uganda. The rule of law in Uganda is non-existent, and financial mis-management is widespread. Idi Amin has declared himself "President for Life" and has undertaken a bloody campaign to eliminate all potential opposition to his totalitarian government. The official intelligence network within the country constitutes a continuous form of harassment and intimidation for Ugandans in all walks of life.

Estimates of the number of Ugandan citizens who have been mercilessly killed since Amin came to power vary, but Amnesty International reports that between 30,000 and 300,000 Ugandans have fallen victim to this reign of terror.

Soviet and Cuban Involvement

In search of a source of diplomatic and military support, Idi Amin has turned to the Soviet Union for the purchase of fighter aircraft and tanks as well as Soviet instructors to accompany them. Amin's closest friends on the international scene are the leaders of Cuba and Libya, both international outlaws in their own right. Newspapers in neighboring Kenya have reported that large numbers of Cubans are entering Uganda, and Libya is providing Uganda with economic aid. It will not come as a surprise to many that the brutal Ugandan regime displays a definite pro-Marxist tendency in its foreign relations.

South African Embargo

At this time, I believe it is most important that the United States Senate go beyond a simple expression of condemnation for the oppressive Ugandan government. Three weeks ago, our President saw fit to place a mandatory U.S. arms embargo against the nation of South Africa in response to human rights violations of a different scope and nature. I believe it is all the more important at this time for the United States to establish a mandatory embargo on the export of any military, paramilitary, or police equipment to Uganda. Similarly, the same restrictions should be encouraged among all concerned members in the United Nations. And U.S. visa regulations for Ugandan government officials should be revised to prohibit technical training for repressive activities in Uganda.

Resolution

Expressing the sense of the Senate with respect to the export of military weapons and equipment to the Government of Uganda and the granting of visas for the admission of certain Ugandans for training in the United States, and for other purposes.

Whereas the moral intent of United States foreign policy is comprised, in part, of efforts to advance international human rights observance;

Whereas the present Government of Uganda has been responsible for the brutal execution of thousands of political enemies, either real or imagined, since it came to power in January of 1971;

Whereas the United States Senate, on May 25, 1977, expressed its condemnation of the Ugandan atrocities by means of agreement to Senate Resolution 175; and

Whereas recent reports have revealed that some Ugandan officials are receiving technical assistance and training of a military, paramilitary, or police nature within the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls upon the President--

- (1) to prohibit the export of weapons and military, paramilitary and police equipment from the United States to the Government of Uganda, until the President determines that such Government has demonstrated a proper respect for the rule of law and for internationally recognized human rights;
- (2) to declare that the appropriate consular officer may not approve any visa application by any official or employee of the Government of Uganda for the purpose of military, paramilitary, or police training within the United States, unless the appropriate official of the Department of State in Washington has reviewed such application and determined that such Government has demonstrated a proper respect for the rule of law and for internationally recognized human rights; and
- (3) to instruct the United States Ambassador to the United Nations to submit to the General Assembly for consideration during the current session a resolution imposing a mandatory arms embargo on Uganda by all United Nations members.