



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1977

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

## DOLE STESSES HUMAN RIGHTS, UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION

BELGRADE, YUGOSLAVIA -- "My delegation does not seek to confront but to cooperate, and we do not seek to confuse, but to clarify, and not to weaken but to strengthen [understanding and cooperation in Europe]," Senator Bob Dole today told delegates to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Dole made his remarks in a speech during the morning Plenary Session.

Dole thanked the government of Yugoslavia for the fine job they have done and U.S. Ambassador Goldberg for his excellent work as head of the Delegation.

"The U.S. Delegation," Dole said, "is not only concerned with human rights provisions of the Act, but is dedicated to fulfillment of all its provisions." He pointed out that although President Ford was criticized when he went to Helsinki, he persevered, and President Carter has continued to strengthen America's commitment to the Helsinki Final Act.

"It is significant to note that, whatever the end result, there has been a review of the Final Act and there is a consensus for additional meetings," Dole said of the current Belgrade Review. "This in itself is progress -- painfully slow as it may be."

During his speech, Dole spoke of America as a "nation of immigrants," coming from all over Europe and interested in maintaining their heritage and former homelands. He also mentioned the many meetings he has had with ethnic organizations -- Polish, Hungarian, Ukrainian, Baltic, Czechoslovakian and others -- during which they discussed the right of self-determination for all people. He also pointed out that the U.S. has never recognized the Soviet incorporation of the Baltic states into the Soviet Union and that the Conference does not affect that non-recognition.

"I cite these groups and their concern, not to be provocative or confrontational -- I merely wish to clarify and explain the reasons for the strong concern of my Delegation and my Government in the field of human rights. There is -- in my opinion -- a direct connection between the public perception of the Helsinki process and the ability of Government in the West to carry on the process of detente. Public trials of political dissidents, for example, could have a profound impact on pending or subsequent bilateral and multi-lateral agreements. Most members of the Congress of the United States believe that human rights cannot be subordinated to development, cooperation and security."

"We want to achieve a greater relaxation of tensions, greater respect for human rights, freedom of religion and self-determination of all people. We are going to try to do better ourselves because we are not perfect, and we ask others to do the same." Dole also said the U.S. Delegation will put forward a human rights proposal sometime in the near future.

Dole also mentioned that the U.S. Delegation has been very specific and "to the point" in discussions of human rights violations. He said that while he has been in Belgrade, he has mentioned "to the appropriate officials" specific human rights cases that were called to his attention during his preparation for the Belgrade Review, and that he is hopeful there will be a favorable disposition of the cases.

The Kansas Senator arrived in Belgrade Tuesday for the Belgrade Review of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. He has been a member of the independent U.S. Congressional Executive Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe -- known as the U.S. Helsinki Commission -- since last January. The Helsinki Final Agreement was signed on August 1, 1975 by 35 nations -- including all European states, both Communist and non-Communist, the Soviet Union, the United States and Canada. Delegates from those nations attended the session this morning during which Dole spoke.

Senator Dole will return to the United States tomorrow.