

FOR RELEASE:
SUNDAY, 6:00p.m.
December 4, 1977

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DOLE NOMINATES SADAT, BEGIN FOR NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today nominated Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Manhem Begin as recipients of the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts on behalf of peace in the Middle East.

In a letter to the Nobel Peace Prize Selection Committee in Oslo, Norway, Dole said:

"War falls upon armies and civilian populations alike and vast numbers are required to prosecute it and more are condemned to suffer by it. Peace, however, may be achieved through the deeds of single individuals. Today, in the Middle East, two men reach toward such an achievement, and now invite others to join with them in forging plows and pruning hooks where sword and spear once prevailed.

Whether they shall succeed is yet to be determined. Without their wise and courageous efforts, however, and the beginning they have made, it is certain that peace would have remained only a hope in the hearts, rather than a genuine possibility in the councils of the governments involved. Such courage and wisdom should be rewarded. They have our prayers of gratitude and we trust that these find favor in the eyes of God. But here on Earth no acknowledgement of efforts in behalf of peace conveys the inspiration, nor exceeds the dignity and force, of the Nobel Peace Prize.

In acknowledgement of their efforts, and in the hope of inspiring others to emulate their efforts, I herewith nominate as recipients of the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize Manhem Begin, Citizen of Israel, and Anwar Sadat, Citizen of the Arab Republic of Egypt."

On Nov. 16, in a speech before the United Synagogue Biennial Convention in New York, Dole had first suggested that Begin and Sadat receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Dole praised two West German legislators who have made similar nominations - "In this season of miracles, it bodes well that representatives of the German people should nominate a Jew to receive the single most prestigious award bestowed by mankind", Dole said.