



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

354

(R.-Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, December 23, 1977

Contact: Kim Wells

DOLE ASKS FEDERAL COURT TO PREVENT RETURN OF CROWN OF ST. STEPHAN TO HUNGARY

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS -- Senator Bob Dole will file a lawsuit later today in Federal District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, in an effort to prevent President Carter from returning the Crown of St. Stephan to the Communist Government of Hungary.

"I am taking the unusual step of asking a Federal Court to halt the planned return of the Crown of St. Stephan to Communist Hungary on behalf of Hungarian-Americans and the millions of freedom-loving citizens of Hungary for whom the Crown is a symbol of hope and freedom. To return the Crown to the current Hungarian regime would be a blow to the political ideals and patriotic dreams of the Hungarian people", Dole said.

The Crown of St. Stephan, known as the Holy Crown of Hungary, was given to Duke Stephan of Hungary in the year 1000 by Pope Sylvester II. Duke Stephan then became the first King of Hungary.

The Crown was taken from Hungary in November, 1944, by the Hungarian Crown Guard to prevent it from falling into the hands of Soviet troops which were occupying Hungary. It was delivered to American forces which had entered Austria and has been in United States possession since the end of World War II.

The Crown symbolizes the declaration in the Hungarian Constitution that sovereignty derives from God and the Nation and not from military power. For this reason, Hungarians object to the return of the Crown while 200,000 Soviet troops keep Hungary under Soviet domination.

Dole's lawsuit is based on the constitutional power of the United States Senate to ratify treaties between the United States and foreign nations. "The return of the Crown of St. Stephan without United States Senate approval is tantamount to entering into a treaty between the United States and Hungary without the required two-thirds majority vote of the Senate as required by Article II of the United States Constitution", Dole said.