



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
202-224-8953

DOLE CALLS FOR LIFTING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST ZIMBABWE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today announced his support of the Hayakawa-McGovern resolution (S. Con. Res. 8) which would lift U.S. sanctions on Zimbabwe (formerly Rhodesia), concurrent with the holding of elections in that nation.

"Last year the Congress passed the International Security Assistance Act which directed that sanctions against Zimbabwe be suspended upon a presidential determination that the present government there had made a good faith attempt to negotiate at an all-parties conference and that a freely elected government had been installed with the participation of all political and population groups. The interim government led by Mr. Ian Smith did agree to meet with all parties at a conference; however, the Soviet-supplied, Marxist-dominated groups known as the Patriotic Front declined to participate," said Dole.

"As a result the white minority government moved ahead on its own in its plans for a transition to black majority rule. In January a new constitutional blueprint was ratified for the establishment of a new Democratic government--a government which for the first time would allow all population groups an opportunity to vote and hold office. This historic election will occur in less than four weeks, on April 20, 1979. It now appears extremely likely that the new era ushered in on that date will meet the preconditions we in this body required for the lifting of economic sanctions," Dole said.

"A great many critics of the Ian Smith regime--and I too have many serious reservations about the legality, the motivations and the actions of that government--have claimed that this new election will change nothing, and that the election itself is a sham. The Senator from Kansas is convinced however, that the white minority in Rhodesia has at last seen the futility of its racist, bigoted programs. This transition to a full-participation, majority rule government is a meaningful change, a real, first step of progress.

"These critics claim that because the new constitution still reserves 28 percent of the seats in Parliament for the white minority we must reject the entire process of change. There are many countries we recognize today in Africa that are not known for their attention to democratic freedom, due process, and human rights. This by no means excuses Rhodesia. But there is a ferment of change in detectable amounts in Rhodesia and South Africa of which we must work to take advantage," said Dole.

"The black moderates within Zimbabwe warmly embrace this compromise opportunity for a peaceful transition. They do not want to see the massive white flight that would come about if the Patriotic Front had its way. It would take decades to recover from the damage to the economy and technology such a flight would cause. Instead they hope to see the orderly transition of power that accompanied the change from colonial status in Kenya," said Dole.

"The Administration, in the inflamed rhetoric of Andy Young, would deny any formula that does not include the Marxist terrorists. Why cannot we at least try to support a moderate, democratic and pro-Western government on a continent that is often hostile to our national interests? Why should we insist that a violent, pro-Soviet guerilla group--without sufficient internal support to grasp power by legitimate means--be included in any settlement? The Administration tells us that it is not reasonable to support an amendment that leaves out such a large and troublesome group as the Patriotic Front--that no solution would be viable while opposing armies remain in contention," said Dole.

-MORE-

-2-

"This is the political reasoning of appeasement and capitulation. We did not follow that course in the Middle East when we achieved the historic treaty between Egypt and Israel--excluding the large and troublesome terrorist group called the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Administration should have learned from that experience that it is not possible to compromise on every position, not when your opponent's stance calls for the complete rejection of your every right to existence.

"The Soviet Union, the last imperialist country on earth, is involved in a giant pincer movement on the West, closing in on vital, strategic areas in the Mid-east and the Horn of Africa. Russia has many untapped natural resources, but they would like to get control over the oil in the Arabian states and the raw materials in Africa indispensable to the machinery of American defense. Western Europe, perceiving a pattern of American withdrawal and retreat throughout the world, will be forced into an accommodation with the U.S.S.R. if they see their vital sources of supply coming under the sway of pro-Soviet governments. The "Finlandization" of Europe would leave the United States in a vulnerable and dangerous position, standing virtually alone against an aggressive enemy.

"We must encourage the moderate governments of Africa. We must give every opportunity for the new government in Zimbabwe to succeed. Our embargos and sanctions serve only to drive the white minority into a circle of covered wagons. Our constrictive involvement can improve the conditions for success or failure for this desperate last chance experiment.

"I urge the lifting of sanctions concomitant with the scheduled elections. I also would hope that the United States would show a greater willingness to work for progress and democracy with those truly representative, legitimate parties who are pro-Western. The Egyptian-Israeli agreement gave us the lesson that we cannot remain aloof from those crises that threaten global strategic interests. We must commit ourselves to involvement.

"I would just like to add that utilizing white minority representation to enhance the smooth transition to a majority rule government has ample precedent among some of Zimbabwe's strongest critics. In Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia provision was made to avoid economic and technological disaster by allowing disproportionate minority participation in the post-colonial governments," said Dole.

-30-