



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS WE MUST NOT FORGET OTHERS HELD IN EAST EUROPE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that, "The release of Soviet dissidents of varying faiths and backgrounds over the weekend is subject to much rejoicing. For some of us who were active in monitoring the case of some of the prisoners who were just freed, the news carried a personal significance and gratification. Exchanges of correspondence with the families of several of the dissidents had bred the feeling that I knew them personally. I was able to identify with their families' anxiety," said Senator Dole.

"It is my sincere hope that all these men will now be able to resume normal lives with their families, and make up for time lost, in the free world nations that are welcoming them," added the Kansas Republican.

"However, at this hour of rejoicing, it is important that the plight of those not as fortunate, who are still suffering in labor camps and in prisons throughout the Soviet Union and elsewhere in Eastern Europe, not be forgotten. During a press conference in New York yesterday, Kuznetsov and others voiced the opinion that their release was not a sign of fundamental change in Soviet policy," said Dole, a Helsinki commissioner.

"I share this belief and I feel as strongly as ever that our struggle for the freedom of all those unjustly held must continue, and that our dedication to the observance of basic human rights must not be diminished by the gains of today," concluded Dole.