

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS ON CONFERENCE TO DISAPPROVE OF MILITARY ENCROACHMENTS IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE

WASHINGTON -- In a letter sent today to House-Senate conferees on the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Bill (H.R. 4473), Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) urged conferees to favorably consider a Dole sense of the Congress amendment prohibiting funding under the act to any country that does not oppose the stationing within its territory of hostile combat forces from outside the hemisphere or Soviet or Soviet-sponsored combat forces.

The Senate agreed to the resolution on October 12, 1979, on a voice vote.

Following is the text of the Dole letter:

Dear _____:

When the Foreign Assistance Appropriations Bill, H.R. 4473, came before the Senate, I sponsored an amendment expressing the sense of the Congress concerning further foreign military encroachment in the Western hemisphere. The amendment was accepted by Senator Inouye on behalf of the committee, and incorporated into the bill as an important statement about U.S. foreign policy goals, and as such affected the vote of many senators on final passage. This amendment does two things:

First, it urges the United States to insure that no further military encroachments are made into this hemisphere; and second, it prohibits funds appropriated under the Act from being made available to any country which does not oppose the stationing within its territory of hostile combat forces from outside the hemisphere or Soviet or Soviet-sponsored combat forces.

We are now all aware of the Russian combat brigade permanently stationed in Cuba, a unit relatively small as far as danger to our shores, but capable of actual or threatened offensive operations against many Latin American nations. At this point there may not be any recourse for the U.S. to effect the removal of these troops, however we do have options to discourage any further incursions in this region by the Soviet Union and others, and to send a signal to radical groups in Panama, Nicaragua, El Salvador and other vulnerable countries about what actions the U.S. will not tolerate.

I urge you and the other members of the Conference Committee to retain this provision in the compromise bill and clearly demonstrate our present and future intentions on this issue.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate