

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE RESOLUTION ON "ANDREI SAKHAROV DAY" SIGNED INTO LAW BY PRESIDENT

WASHINGTON -- In a White House ceremony, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) watched President Reagan sign into law a resolution authored by the Kansas Republican that designates May 21, 1983 as "National Andrei Sakharov Day."

Dole, Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, says the special day pays tribute to Nobel Peace Laureate Andrei Sakharov, calling attention to the Soviet Government's continuing isolation of this renowned scientist and leading figure in the Soviet human rights movement.

"The peoples of all the world owe a great debt of gratitude to this Nobel laureate and internationally recognized physicist for his noble and selfless contributions to the cause of world peace and human rights," said Dole. "On May 21, Dr. Sakharov will spend his 62nd birthday banished to the closed city of Gorky, where he has been illegally confined by the Soviet Government since January, 1980."

On March 3, 1983, Senator Dole, with Senator Moynihan (D-NY) introduced the Resolution which designates May 21, 1983 as "National Sakharov Day" and authorizes and requests the President to issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe that day with appropriate activities.

"Despite ongoing isolation and harassment by Soviet authorities, Andrei Sakharov has continued to speak out for human rights and world peace, for amnesty for prisoners of conscience, and for international compliance with the provisions of the Helsinki Final Act and the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights," Dole said.

"On May 11, following reports that the Soviet Government might be willing to allow him to leave the Soviet Union, Dr. Sakharov's wife, Elena Bonner, informed Western journalists in Moscow that she and her husband were prepared to emigrate to end the 'nightmarish existence' that they had been subjected to since his banishment. A few hours later, the Soviet news agency TASS, in its international service only, announced that Sakharov would not be permitted to leave the Soviet Union. In light of these latest developments, it is particularly important that we honor this noble and courageous man and continue to express support for Sakharov to choose his place of residence, whether it be inside or outside the Soviet Union," Dole concluded.