

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
MONDAY, JULY 25, 1983

CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON  
(202) 224-6521

## DOLE ENCOURAGES OTHER SENATORS TO VISIT SOVIET UNION,

### INTRODUCES SENATE RESOLUTION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today on the Senate floor encouraged his colleagues to travel to the Soviet Union, so that votes on national security and arms control will be based on actual experience, rather than perception. Dole, who led a congressional delegation to the Soviet Union in November, made his suggestion in a Sense of the Senate Resolution.

"Of all of the relationships that our national security treats, surely none is as fundamental as that with the Soviet Union. Much of the concern underlying the MX debate in the Defense Authorization bill was about the perceptions that Senators have of the Soviet Union and their defense posture. And virtually all of the debate about arms control - from freeze to build-down to my own triad plan - involves perceptions about the Soviet Union," said Dole.

"We are not called upon to negotiate with the Soviet Union, but we are called upon repeatedly, to vote for costly programs of national defense significance that depend upon judgments of Soviet behavior, and allocations of their own resources. Surely, few of our votes are as important as those which involve our view of the only other nuclear superpower on this earth."

"Now, we can and do differ strongly about the best way to deal with the Soviet Union, and about the advisability of this or that proposed defense system, or arms control approach. But we all can share the view that the Soviet Union is of central importance to the United States, and as long as that is true, we do well to understand as clearly as possible that land, its people, and its rulers," said Dole.

"Since that is the case, we should devote some time to getting to know the Soviet Union at firsthand. I know that my visit to that country last November has been of considerable help to me as I have considered a range of matters from defense and arms control to my proposal for a long-term grain agreement. Other Senators, I believe, have had similar reactions. We understand a bit more about the Soviet Union from having been there and from having talked with the people, the leaders, and seen what we can of the country," said Dole.

"Now I am under no illusions that visitors - and certainly visiting United States Senators - would ever get a free rein to roam about the Soviet Union as we might prefer, and talk to people at will. That simply doesn't happen, and won't happen. But I think that we are sharp enough to know facades when we see them, to recognize a Potemkin Village when it is presented, to discount what we see and hear, and to learn what we can in the process."

....MORE

"I was therefore surprised to learn recently that as with the House, a clear majority of Senators has never visited the Soviet Union. One wonders why this is the case. The Russians themselves have often noted that visitors become more anti-Soviet because of impressions gained during their visits. Is there some fear that Senators will be accused of junketing? Well, Moscow is not Paris in the spring at any time of year. People who are stationed at our Embassy there are admired for their dedication, not for their living conditions," said Dole.

"I could and perhaps should share experiences and impressions about the Soviet Union, which remain vivid in my memory. But instead, I will urge the general principle of travel to the Soviet Union. That majority which has never been there should be encouraged to go. That minority of Senators which has already made the trip should consider returning at appropriate intervals to update their knowledge and impressions."

INTRODUCES SENATE RESOLUTION

"This is clearly a matter of personal concern to all Senators, Republican and Democrat, liberal and conservative, from whatever part of the United States. During the course of our service here, we are called upon frequently to make judgments on the national security. We exercise our constitutional responsibilities in the area of national defense and foreign policy. Our Senate committees hear witnesses who are expert in these fields, and we listen to them because of their special knowledge, often including travel and firsthand expertise. And then we deliberate and vote accordingly, with great care," said Dole.

"That is why I today offer a Sense of the Senate Resolution encouraging travel by members of the Senate to the Soviet Union, and I ask that it be printed in the Record. It has as its aim a better informed Senate, on that relationship which is central to our foreign policy and national defense."