

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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HELSINKI COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN DOLE HAILS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE
WINNER LECH WALESZA

COMMISSION NOMINATED SOLIDARITY LEADER FOR PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, Co-Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, today hailed the selection of Solidarity leader Lech Walesa as the recipient of the 1983 Nobel Peace Prize.

The U.S. Helsinki Commission, which monitors human rights and international cooperation in the field of security in Europe, nominated Mr. Walesa for the Nobel honor on January 31. Senator Dole was also the Vice-Chairman of the U.S. Delegation to the Helsinki Review Conference in Madrid, Spain.

"I am delighted with the news that the Nobel Institute has awarded Lech Walesa the Peace Prize," Dole said. "The choice of Walesa is not only a testament to the vision and tenacity of this worker from Gdansk, it is also a testament to the Solidarity Union he continues to lead. In awarding the prize to Walesa, the Nobel Institute has reaffirmed a simple, although remarkable fact -- that the broadly-based human, civil and workers' rights movement in Poland engendered by Solidarity above all was a movement for peaceful change.

"During the tragically short Solidarity era, no lives were lost and much hope was born in Poland. In contrast, the martial law period unleashed violent and massive violations of individual and collective rights. No wonder the Polish people refer to this tragic time as 'the state of war,' Dole said.

"Lech Walesa and his Solidarity supporters always have known that social peace in Poland is only achievable through respect for social justice, just as lasting peace among nations is only possible when governments respect the human dignity of their citizens and their international commitments to human international conduct."

"These goals are far from being accomplished today in Poland and in the world. But the cause is just and no just cause is ever hopeless. In its wisdom the Nobel Institute has made that message abundantly clear today," Dole concluded.