

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1985

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DOLE MEETS WITH LEADERS OF GREEK-AMERICAN COMMUNITY
JUNE 20, 1985

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole met with about 60 leaders of the Greek-American community, who were in Washington for a leadership gathering. At Dole's invitation, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Alan Simpson (R-Wyoming) and Senator Larry Pressler (R-South Dakota), Chairman of the European Subcommittee of the Committee on Foreign Relations, also met the group.

Dole briefed the group on the status of deficit reduction and tax reform legislation. He urged that the Greek-American leaders, many of them prominent businesspeople, support the Senate-passed budget reduction package, which will produce more than \$300 billion in deficit reductions over a three-year period. He also outlined the difficulties of trying to pass effective tax reform, noting that "everyone is in favor of reform until you start to tamper with tax loopholes which benefit them."

Turning to foreign affairs, Dole underscored his long record of strong support for Greece and outlined the reasons for the enduring friendship between the American and Greek people: a common democratic heritage, mutual security interests as members of NATO and extensive economic and commercial ties. Reflecting that friendship, Dole reminded the audience, "the United States has given nearly \$7 billion in foreign assistance since the end of World War II, more per capita than to any other nation except Israel." At the same time, he candidly acknowledged that there were currently some problems in American-Greek relations, involving such issues as American aid for Turkey, Cyprus and misunderstandings with the Papandreou Government.

Senator Dole stressed that the United States must strive to maintain good relations with both Greece and Turkey and expressed the hope that those two countries "will not close the doors to each other." The Senator strongly supported the UN Secretary General's initiatives to start direct negotiations between the Greek and Turkish communities on Cyprus and welcomed the recent agreement of the Greek Cypriot community to return to talks.

In concluding his remarks, the Senator said, "Dialogue is the key to resolving problems. We need dialogue between Greece and Turkey and, we in this country -- the supporters of Greece like those in this room and the supporters of Turkey -- we need to talk to each other, too."