

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE CALLS ON GORBACHEV TO PROVE COMMITMENT TO "GLASNOST"

WASHINGTON -- AFTER SPEAKING TO SOVIET REFUSENIK YEVGENY YAKIR IN MOSCOW BY PHONE TODAY, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) WROTE TO GENERAL SECRETARY MIKHAIL GORBACHEV ASKING THAT THE YAKIR FAMILY BE ALLOWED TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL.

"Proof of your commitment to the principles of openness would be granting emigration visas to the Yakirs, and the many others who wish to be reunited with families in the West or settle in Israel, their spiritual homeland," Dole wrote Gorbachev.

The Yakirs, who first applied for visas 14 years ago, have been adopted by Temple Ben Jehudah in Kansas City. Many members of the congregation were present for the phone call to Moscow.

The Yakir family includes Yevgeny and Rima, and their son Alexander, a political dissident who was recently released from prison.

Text of the letter on the reverse side.

## United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

March 17, 1987

General Secretary of CPSU Central Committee  
Mikhail Gorbachev  
The Kremlin  
Moscow 103132  
RSFSR, USSR

Dear General Secretary Gorbachev:

Earlier today I spoke by phone with Yevgeny Yakir, a Soviet Jew who has been trying to emigrate to Israel with his wife and son for the past fourteen years.

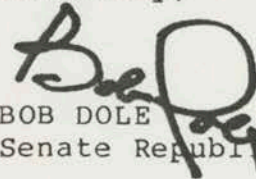
The Yakirs have waited much longer than most for permission to leave. There is no apparent reason for the denial of their application.

I assured Yevgeny that I would not forget his family and would do everything in my power to push for the granting of emigration visas. That is why I am writing.

We in the West are well aware of and heartened by the new spirit of "glasnost," which you have instituted. But we hope for further signs. Proof of your commitment to the principles of openness would be granting emigration visas to the Yakirs, and the many others who wish to be reunited with families in the West or settle in Israel, their spiritual homeland.

I appreciate your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,



BOB DOLE  
Senate Republican Leader