

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1987

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DOLE SAYS AMERICAN HELD IN MOZAMBIQUE MUST BE RELEASED

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Ks.) issued the following statement on efforts to gain the release of an American citizen being held in Mozambique.

LIKE ALL AMERICANS, I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE FATE OF AN AMERICAN CITIZEN, AND SIX OTHERS, BEING HELD -- REPORTEDLY AGAINST THEIR WILL -- IN MOZAMBIQUE.

I DO NOT WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN MAKING CHARGES, OR CASTING ASPERSIONS UPON THE INTENTIONS OR THE INTEGRITY OF ANYONE -- WHETHER IN MOZAMBIQUE OR IN THIS COUNTRY. NOW IS NOT THE TIME FOR POLITICS, POLITICAL EXPLOITATION OR PUBLIC RELATIONS.

THE IMMEDIATE TASK IS GETTING THE AMERICAN, AND THE OTHERS BEING DETAINED, RELEASED -- SAFELY RELEASED. THAT IS A TOTALLY NON-POLITICAL GOAL. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH OVERALL AMERICAN POLICY IN MOZAMBIQUE. IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MELISSA WELLS. ACCOMPLISHING THE RELEASE HAS ABSOLUTELY NO POLITICAL OVERTONES -- AGAIN, EITHER IN MOZAMBIQUE OR HERE.

SO I HAVE WRITTEN VERY SIMILAR LETTERS TO THE PRESIDENT OF MOZAMBIQUE, MR. CHISSANO, AND THE PRESIDENT OF RENAMO, MR. DHLAKAMA, URGING THAT BOTH AGREE TO SOME BASIC, OBVIOUS CRITERIA TO EFFECT A RELEASE.

TO RENAMO, I HAVE INSISTED THAT THE RELEASE BE TOTALLY UNCONDITIONAL, UNDER A CEASEFIRE, AND AS SOON AS SAFE CONDITIONS FOR THE RELEASE CAN BE ARRANGED. TO FRELIMO, I HAVE URGED THAT IT AGREE TO A TEMPORARY CEASEFIRE, IN THE AREA WHERE AND THE TIME WHEN THE RELEASE IS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED, SO IT CAN PROCEED SAFELY. TO BOTH, I HAVE SUGGESTED USE OF THE RED CROSS, OR OTHER REPUTABLE, NON-POLITICAL INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION.

I HAVE ASKED EACH SIDE TO REPLY -- AND THAT COULD EITHER BE TO ME, AND I WOULD TURN THE REPLIES OVER TO THE ADMINISTRATION; OR DIRECTLY TO THE ADMINISTRATION. I AWAIT THE REPLIES FROM EACH.