

Bob Dole

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER



NEWS

FROM:

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CASTRO-WHITE HOUSE DEAL

DOLE DISTURBED BY REPORTS OF SECRET PROPOSAL TO VETO CUBAN SANCTIONS IN DEAL WITH CASTRO

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding media reports of a deal offered to Cuban dictator Fidel Castro by the Clinton administration to veto tougher sanctions on Cuba in exchange for the release of political prisoners:

"It is extremely disturbing to hear reports of yet another secret White House deal with Fidel Castro -- this time to veto tougher sanctions on Cuba if Castro released a handful of political prisoners.

"My office has received independent confirmation that such an offer was made by Congressman Richardson in a meeting with Fidel Castro. If this report is true, the White House has once again chosen negotiations with a terrorist state over standing firm for democratic principles.

"If this is not true, President Clinton should personally deny any knowledge of such an outrageous proposal and join in our bipartisan legislation designed to end Castro's reign of terror. Fidel Castro's dictatorship is holding 11 million Cubans hostage.

"I hope the White House will not work with the hemisphere's last dictator in a cynical search for political cover."

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