

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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225-2715

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AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530
AREA CODE 316
SW 3-3423

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

CONGRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF JULY 17, 1967

"DITCHING" THE CANAL

President Johnson has announced he will soon sign and bring three treaties on the Panama Canal to the Senate for approval. The first treaty nullifies the original agreement of 1903 with Panama; the second treaty provides for building a so-called sea-level canal; the third one concerns "status of forces" agreements for the defense of the Canal, the Canal Zone, Panama, and the Western Hemisphere.

The President initiated these treaties and is responsible for their contents. Approval of them would profoundly alter the Canal's operation. It is doubtful the Canal could still serve U. S. interests if it were no longer operated under direct U. S. control and sovereignty which guarantee the independent and safe operation of the Canal for all maritime nations.

The recent closing of the Suez Canal and repeated Communist demands that strategic waterways be under "international control" demonstrate the necessity of continuing U. S. control. Therefore, these treaties must be questioned in view of basic, objective principles of U. S. sovereignty which, if endangered, could conceivably involve our nation in a lengthy crisis in Panama.

MEDDLING IN THE CONGO

Congressional criticism of the President's decision to send American planes and troops into the Congo serves timely notice that there is not and will not be any support in similar circumstances for this kind of meddling in internal affairs of other countries. On the basis of known facts, there was not the slightest justification for intervening in what is apparently just another internal Congolese disturbance. The President can count upon support when he is forced to intervene in a foreign country pursuant to a treaty obligation or when some vital national interest is at stake but not when neither justification is present.

PHONY WAR ON CRIME

The "war on crime" can only be called a phony war in light of Attorney General Ramsey Clark's announcement of the regulations restricting the use of wiretaps and electronic listening devices. These regulations go far beyond restrictions on wiretaps and bugging imposed by the President two years ago. In spite of testimony before the President's Crime Commission that electronic surveillance is the single most valuable weapon in law enforcement's fight against organized crime, the Administration prefers to conduct the war at twenty paces. Thus in this war, organized crime will surely win and the American people, the ultimate victims, will surely lose.