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LENDIR, N.C., March 15 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) tonight said the effect of President Nixon's modified ABM system is to "greatly enhance the ability of the United States to deter a massive enemy attack."

Speaking here at the Caldwell County Lincoln Day dinner, Dole said, "President Nixon, very wisely and at an acceptable cost, has added significantly to the credibility of our deterrent posture and to the security of the American people."

Cautioning Americans to "hold fire before you unjustly criticize the Nixon safeguard plan," Dole added, "The President's program is the result of many, many days and weeks of probing study, discussion and debate with the nation's foremost leaders in science, the military and government with priority consideration of what is the best course for our national security."

"The program is not provocative to the Russians, the Chinese, or to any other potential enemy," Dole said. "The Nixon plan is defensive, not offensive, and has built-in flexibility to keep a number of options open should the national security demand an alternative approach."

"Rather than hinder arms talks or the possibility of a summit meeting with the Russians," he added, "the Nixon plan will go a long way toward making both events more possible and more fruitful."