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FT. RILEY, Kans., May 16 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) tonight said he is concerned about "some anti-military statements of some opponents of the proposed Safeguard anti-ballistic missile system."

In a speech here to over 600 men of the Association of the U.S. Army, Dole said, "The critics are sincere in their opposition to the ABM plan, but it is unfortunate that some cast unwarranted doubt and discredit on the value and competence of our military officials in the process."

Pointing out the Pentagon decision-making process involves an "inter-play" between top civilian and military advisors, Dole said, "Of course, they sometimes have divergent views. But within their opinion differences and similarities, they are also dedicated people, whose daily job happens to be the security of their country and the safety of their countrymen."

He noted the Defense Secretary and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, "after careful observation and thorough research of the need for ABM and Nixon's modified plan", unanimously support the President's position.

"It is a mistaken notion of some ABM critics that somehow it is bad to be capable of protecting ourselves," Dole said. "And it is a mistake to believe the Pentagon seeks to envelop the American people in a rigid, militaristic society."

He added, "And who can give any credence to the idea that any President of the U.S. and his cabinet would initiate and support a defense program that was not intended to be in the best interests of the entire nation?," Dole asked. "Two Presidents -- Johnson and now, Nixon -- on the basis of the best information and intelligence reports available, determined there is a need for an ABM system, and President Nixon has recommended a modified plan."

"President Nixon, in his May 15 Vietnam message to the American people, has reaffirmed his dedication to peace and to seeking non-military solutions to end the war," Dole said. "I believe he, very wisely and at acceptable public cost, has added significantly to the credibility of our deterrent posture and to the security of the American people with his ABM posture."