

FOR RELEASE AFTER 3 PM SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 12 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here today that he will introduce a resolution in the Senate Monday calling for North Vietnam and the National Liberation Front to respond to President Nixon's repeated proposals to negotiate a peaceful settlement in Vietnam.

Dole said the resolution would urge that North Vietnam and the NLF "promptly take" five steps:

- 1) Acknowledge that a just and mutually-agreed settlement is the best hope for lasting peace;
- 2) Show at the Paris peace talks the same flexibility and desire for compromise which the Allies have clearly demonstrated over the past year;
- 3) Agree to direct negotiations between representatives of the NLF and of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam as proposed by the latter;
- 4) Withdraw their insistence on Allied surrender through their demand for the overthrow of the Government of the Republic of Vietnam as proposed by the latter;
- 5) Provide information on the status of U.S. Prisoners of War held in North Vietnam and by the National Liberation Front, and give evidence that these prisoners are being treated humanely in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Convention.

Dole made the announcement at a kickoff meeting of KaMPAC, a new separate political action arm of the Kansas Medical Society here.

"If there is criticism for following past policies, for not changing, for being inflexible and unresponsive, let this criticism be directed where it rightly belongs--at Hanoi," Dole said.

"They are the ones who have not made reasonable suggestions. They have not made meaningful gestures toward peace. They are the ones who have not expressed willingness to reach viable compromises."

"What do the critics of Richard Nixon's Vietnam policy want?", Dole asked. "Is it tyranny in South Vietnam, or is it peace at any price? Or is it a game which noted political columnist David Broder calls 'The Breaking Of The President'?"

"We are withdrawing troops, not adding them. We are scaling down U.S. combat operations, not intensifying them. We are increasing participation of South Vietnamese forces, not discouraging it.

"The question is no longer whether our direct involvement in the war will escalate, but how rapidly our troops will be brought home," he said. This is a fundamental fact that has been obscured and ignored."

"Equally ignored is the fact that peace in Vietnam cannot be achieved with only overtures of peace from the South Vietnamese and the Allies. At this point, it's Hanoi's turn to move."