

~~██████████~~
466a

STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ACT
WASHINGTON, D.C.
JUNE 27, 1970

I foresee overwhelming Senate approval of the amended Foreign Military Sales Act and am hopeful the House of Representatives will agree to our changes, so the President may sign the bill into law at the earliest possible date.

The past seven weeks' debate has been extremely valuable to Senate and public understanding of our goals and purposes in Southeast Asia. It has served to illuminate the Congress' role in foreign policy as well as underscore the President's authority, powers and obligations in this field.

By operating in a prospective fashion, following removal of U.S. troops from Cambodia according to the President's commitment, the Cooper-Church amendment provides a valuable statement of strategic, long-term policy for the United States in Southeast Asia. By clarifying the President's authority to protect the forces he commands, the Byrd amendment forecloses any possibility that shadow would be cast on the President's powers in this critical area of his responsibilities. By repealing the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, the Dole amendment removes whatever chance there might be for further abuse of this ill-considered piece of our former policy in Indochina.

The act is not now, contrary to early appearances, a repudiation of the President, nor does it attempt to relegate Executive branch functions to the Congress. The act is a sound reaffirmation of the President's powers to perform his Constitutional duties as Chief Executive of our nation and Commander in Chief of the Armed Services. It is also a responsible expression of Congressional sentiment and a valid exercise of legislative authority.