

MANSFIELD
MONTANA

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United States Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

July 2, 1971

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U.S. SENATE
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Honorable Robert Dole
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

Your letter of July first was received this morning and read with interest.

As you know, any Member has the right to have the Senate go into a Closed Session, the only requirement being a second. I, of course, would not object to your request because I think it deals with a most important subject and would stand ready, along with the Minority Leader, to consider any date which you would wish to propose.

Must close now, but thanking you for calling this matter to my attention, and with best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

Mike Mansfield

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 2 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) wrote Senate leaders Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) and Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) yesterday in response to the recent disclosure of classified government information by a Member of the Senate.

The text of Dole's letter follows:

Events of recent days relating to the disclosure of classified government information by the Member of the Senate have been of great concern to myself and other Senators. This concern is heightened by the fact that the President has provided the Senate with the complete classified study of the United States' Vietnam policy during the Kennedy and Johnson Administrations.

Since this full set of documents apparently contains much highly sensitive information which has not been obtained by the press, I believe it is important that the guidelines and procedures governing the Senate's dealings with this material be clearly understood. To better assure that there be no misapprehensions about the responsibilities imposed by the Standing Rules of the Senate and federal statutes relating to classified documents and confidential information, I believe it would be well for the Senate to discuss these subjects in Executive Session soon after returning from the Independence Day recess.

I respectfully urge your consideration of this proposal, for it seems the good order and decorum of the Senate compel our prompt attention to these matters.

Also yesterday, the Kansas Senator contacted U.S. Sen. Jennings Randolph (D-W. Va.), chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Works, expressing his concern that Sen. Mike Gravel from Alaska disclosed the classified information under the auspices of the Public Works Building and Grounds Subcommittee. Dole is a member of the Public Works Committee.

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 2 --- Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) responded favorably today to U.S. Sen. Bob Dole's suggestion that the Senate look into the procedures governing the Senate's dealings recently with classified government information.

Yesterday, Dole of Kansas wrote Senate leaders Mansfield and Hugh Scott (R-Pa.) expressing his concern for "Events of recent days relating to the disclosure of classified government information by a Member of the Senate." The Kansas Senator suggested in the July 1 letter that the Senate review the situation in view of the fact that the "documents apparently contain much highly sensitive information which has not been obtained by the press."

In Mansfield's letter to Dole today, the Majority Leader pointed out that "any Member has the right to have the Senate go into a Closed Session;" but concerning Dole's request, he said "it deals with a most important subject" and that he and Scott would fully cooperate with the Kansas Senator in directing the Senate to review the responsibilities imposed by the Standing Rules of the Senate and federal statutes relating to classified documents and confidential information.

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FOR FULL TEXT OF DOLE LETTER, REFER TO PREVIOUS JULY 2 DOLE NEWS RELEASE, OR CONTACT DOLE OFFICE.