



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- MARCH 29, 1973

WASHINGTON, D.C., MAR. 29, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole said today that "this is a proud day for America and a happy occasion for all its citizens ... the end of our involvement in Vietnam." But Dole added, "In this time of rejoicing for our returned men and relief at the end of our involvement in the conflict, we must keep alert to the more sobering, but no less crucial situation of some 1300 men who are classified as 'Missing in Action.'"

Dole, in a speech on the Senate floor, related the account in this morning's papers concerning the surprise announcement of the release of Army Captain Robert T. White of Williamsburg, Virginia. He had not been heard of since his plane was shot down on November 15, 1969.

The Kansas Senator asked, "How many other Captain Whites are among the 1300 MIAs and others who we still list as POWs throughout North and South Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia? As Captain White's case shows, some may be alive; they may be prisoners. And we must fulfill our obligation to them through insistence on our rights to verification, information and inspection as provided in the Paris Agreements."

"The bracelets which many of us still wear cannot yet be removed," Dole said, "and we cannot allow our relief and joy at the return of these first 557 to diminish our dedication to seeing the most complete and thorough verification of those who are still MIA."

"We must carry on with our commitment," Dole said, "so that the tremendous sacrifice of the hundreds on thousands who served, were hospitalized and paid the greatest price for freedom will not have been in vain."