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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Following is a statement issued jointly by Senator James Pearson and Senator Bob Dole and Congressman Garner Shriver, concerning Department of Defense actions affecting military bases in Kansas.

Speaking for the three, Dole said; "I was today informed by the Department of Defense that of the four major military installations in Kansas, Departmental action requires no change at Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, some increased civilian activity at McConnell AFB and significant reductions at Forbes AFB.

"In the past several weeks, I have been in touch with Secretary Richardson and the White House to explain and emphasize the impact of Forbes on operations on the greater Topeka community. I have been assured that every possible consideration was given to the maintenance of the Forbes facility, but that compelling national defense and budgetary considerations preclude its continuance. I have today met with Under Secretary of the Air Force McLucas and Air Force Legislative Liaison Major General Boswell, and have informed them of the urgent necessity for taking every possible step in conjunction with the City of Topeka to insure that the economic impact of the Forbes closure is alleviated. Further, I have been in personal contact with officials at the Office of Economic Adjustment in the Pentagon to assure that a forward-looking course for economic stability for Topeka can be charted -- a course that reflects the needs and the desires of the people of Topeka as demonstrated by the officials of the City Government.



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"In addition, I have asked Mayor McCormick of Topeka to come to Washington so that this afternoon he may himself be briefed on the action affecting Forbes and may personally be in contact with personnel from the Department of Defense, and especially the Office of Economic Adjustment so that plans for making the transition can begin immediately. We are assured that all facilities at Forbes, with the exception of those needed by the Kansas Air National Guard, will become available for transfer to civilian purposes.

"With respect to the actual effects of the Forbes ~~closing~~ <sup>reduction,</sup> it should be noted that the 190th Tactical Bombardment Group of the Air National Guard will be retained at full strength at Forbes. In addition, the SAC Satellite facility will be continued in operation. Planned reduction in force for civilian jobs at Forbes will total less than ten."