



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR RELEASE ON A.M.'s
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1976

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
BOB DOWNEN

DOLE TO PROPOSE PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON M.I.A.'S

Senator Bob Dole will introduce legislation when Congress reconvenes to establish a special Presidential Task Force on American servicemen missing in Southeast Asia. The legislation would mandate that the Task Force be set up simultaneously with any issuance of a Presidential pardon for Vietnam-era draft evaders. Its purpose would be to achieve a full accounting of MIA's, and to make recommendations concerning federal policies relating to the missing servicemen.

Making reference to President-elect Carter's statement that he intends to issue a general pardon for draft evaders, Senator Dole suggested that equal consideration be given the approximately 800 U.S. servicemen still officially listed as "missing" in Southeast Asia. "The President-elect has indicated that he would establish a Presidential delegation early in his administration to pursue accounting efforts," Dole noted. "I feel it would be in the national interest if a Task Force were to be established at the same time that an order of general pardon is issued."

Dole said that his proposal will take the form of a Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of both Houses of Congress that a Presidential Task Force on the POW/MIA issue should be established simultaneously with the issuance of a general pardon for Vietnam-era draft evaders. Hopefully, the Task Force would have an opportunity to visit Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia to seek additional evidence about the fates of American servicemen who disappeared during the Vietnam War. "I believe most Americans will agree that it is equally important to remember our 'Forgotten Americans,' at the same time steps are taken to repatriate those who forgot America," Dole remarked.

95th CONGRESS
1st SESSION

S. CON. RES.

(Note.—Fill in all blank lines except those provided for the date and number of resolution.)

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DOLE

submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge establishment of a Presidential Task Force on MIA/POW's.
Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), Whereas

there are approximately 12,000 convicted or indicted American draft resisters who refused to accept their military responsibility during the Vietnam War era, and who rejected an earlier opportunity to accept clemency and perform alternate service for this country;

Whereas the Department of Defense still lists approximately 800 United States servicemen unaccounted for in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas the governments of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have failed to abide by basic humanitarian principles to provide the fullest possible accounting for all Americans listed in a missing status in their respective territories:

Now therefore, be it resolved, That it is the sense of the Congress of the United States that there should be established, simultaneous with the issuance of a general amnesty or pardon for United States draft evaders of the Vietnam War era, a Presidential Task Force on Prisoners of War and Missing in Action to propose courses of action to achieve the fullest possible accounting for all Americans listed in a missing status in Southeast Asia, including the return of remains, and to make recommendations concerning Federal policies relating to prisoners of war and missing in action.