



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1978

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CARTER NOW ISOLATED ON PANAMA CANAL TREATIES, SAYS SENATOR DOLE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole said today that President Carter's continuing statements of opposition to Senate Amendments or Reservations to the Panama Canal Treaties places him in a "more and more isolated position." In a statement to the Senate after it reconvened today, Dole cited recent indications by the Senate Leadership, and by Panamanian General Omar Torrijos, that substantive modifications of the Treaties would be acceptable.

"At this point, it seems that only the Carter Administration remains adamantly opposed to substantive Treaty modifications," Dole remarked. "The President's refusal to consider Senate Amendments or Reservations is vaguely reminiscent of President Woodrow Wilson's intransigence towards Senate modifications to the Versailles Treaty of 1919. The result of that stand-off, of course, was defeat of the Treaty."

Dole made the comments as he introduced three additional Amendment proposals to the Panama Canal Treaties now pending before the Senate. The first proposed Amendment would authorize the United States to maintain certain military installations within Panama after the year 2000, subject to a separate base agreement between Panama and the United States. Under the proposed Treaties, the U.S. would have to remove all troops and bases from Panama by December 31, 1999.

The other two Amendments would eliminate restrictions against the U.S. negotiating with a third country for construction of a new interoceanic Canal, and prohibit the stationing of troops or bases in Panama after Treaty ratification by any country other than Panama or the United States.

Dole, the first Senator to propose or introduce amendments to the treaties, earlier introduced 6 Amendments and 2 Reservations and also introduced as amendments the language contained in the Carter-Torrijos joint statement.