



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON  
BOB DOWNEN

"LAST FLIGHT TO PANAMA:" DOLE MESSAGE

Senator Bob Dole today sent a letter to each of the ten United States Senators scheduled to depart for Panama on Friday, January 27, saying "it is vital that we protect essential national interests" under new Treaty arrangements.

The delegation, to be headed by Senator Alan Cranston of California, is expected to be the last to visit Panama and the Panama Canal before the proposed Canal Treaties reach the Senate floor for debate. More than 50 Senators have made the trip since the Treaties were signed last September.

The full text of Senator Dole's letter follows:

As you prepare to visit Panama and the Panama Canal, I want to call your attention once again to the Amendments and Reservations I have proposed to the pending Canal Treaties.

It is important, I think, to update our relationship with our long-time ally, and to revise the mutual relationship that administers the Canal. However, in doing so, it is vital that we protect essential national interests. It now appears likely that the Senate will adopt certain modifications to the Treaties submitted last September, and I want to call your attention to my proposals, including the following:

- Incorporate the Carter-Torrijos "statement of understanding" on U.S. defense and passage rights directly into the Neutrality Treaty;
- Eliminate the restriction against negotiating with any third State for construction of a new sea-level Canal;
- Authorize a separate base agreement to permit U.S. retention of some military installations in Panama after the year 2000.

My other proposals are attached, and I urge you to consider each of them carefully.

I feel sure that your visit will demonstrate to you why it is important that we safeguard our interests with certain revisions in the proposed Treaties. On your return, I would be happy to discuss any of these points with you.