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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE RECEIVES MORE D.E.A. MATERIAL

PALM BEACH, FLA -- Senator Bob Dole today told the Palm Beach Forum Club that the United States Drug Enforcement Administration has provided him with an additional 64 pages of materials relating to Panamanian drug operations. Dole said this second delivery of materials from D.E.A. files -- in response to his Freedom of Information request filed last October -- contained newspaper clippings, transcripts of United States television news broadcasts, and tearsheets from the Congressional Record, all of which is generally available to the public. "It took me four months just to get an authorized copy of my own statement in the Congressional Record," Dole noted. Other heavily sanitized documents from D.E.A. files were also included.

Senator Dole suggested that officials in the Justice Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration "are beginning to feel some heat" from public pressure to learn the full story about involvement by Panamanian government figures in drug trafficking operations. It is for that reason, Dole said, that D.E.A. files continue to "dribble out on an irregular basis."

At the request of Dole, the Senate has scheduled a closed Session on Tuesday, February 21, to discuss allegations that General Omar Torrijos, members of his family, and other figures in the Panamanian government may be directly involved in drug operations affecting the United States.