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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE ASKS FOR CLARIFICATION OF IMPOUNDMENT ACT REGARDING NEUTRON BOMB DEFERRAL

Washington, D.C . ---- Today, Senator Bob Dole along with three other Senators, has sent a letter to the Comptroller General of the United States asking to clarify an interpretation of the Impoundment Act of 1974. In response to President Carter's decision to defer production of the neutron bomb, Dole believes that such unilateral action by the Executive Branch may have been in violation of the Act. Senators McCLure, Domenici, Nunn, and Baker also signed the letter with Dole.

While it appears that special Congressional review and disapproval procedures are available if the President decides to produce enhanced radiation weapons, there does not appear to be any language which allows Congressional review if the President decides to defer the production of such weapons. Dole feels that the lack of specific language in the Act was never intended to insulate any such decisions from Congressional review.

In a statement made earlier today, Dole said he was "asking for an interpretation of the legal effect of the Impoundment Act on President Carter's decision." "I simply want to know what authorities are available to the President to defer production of such weapons like the neutron bomb without the prior review and consent of the Congress," Dole continued.

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