



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1978

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
BOB DOWNEN

DOLE URGES REJECTION OF ARMS SALE PACKAGE: TO OFFER DISCHARGE MOTION ON COMMITTEE ACTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole said today that "all [arms sale proposals] should be rejected at this time, and reconsidered after a comprehensive peace settlement has been reached in the Middle East." The Kansas Senator also announced that he will offer a motion to discharge the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from further consideration of the proposals so that they may be considered by the full Senate, unless the motion is offered by Senator Proxmire. Following is the text of Dole's statement today:

Mr. President, it is my present intention, on Friday of this week, to offer a motion to discharge the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from further consideration of the Middle East arms sales proposals, thus bringing the matter to the Senate floor. Such a motion would give the entire Senate an opportunity to discuss and dispose of Senate Concurrent Resolutions 81, 82, 83, and 84, introduced by my distinguished colleague, Mr. Proxmire, on May 1. The Resolutions express disapproval of all four proposed aircraft sales to Israel, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has already conducted hearings on the Resolutions, and has been considering the relative merits of them for several days.

In accordance with Section 601 of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976, I intend to offer this motion in the belief that this controversial arms sales "package" should be brought directly to the Senate floor for a vote although it is uncertain what action the Foreign Relations Committee may decide to recommend during their session scheduled for noon on Thursday, I feel that the entire Senate should have an opportunity to pass judgement on this critical issue in any event.

The President has submitted a so-called "compromise" proposal to sell an additional twenty F-15 jet fighters to Israel, in a last minute effort to salvage his proposal. When the Senate Foreign Relations Committee meets on Thursday, it is possible that they may agree to the "compromise" arms proposal, and refrain from reporting the resolutions of disapproval to the Senate floor. In that case, all four sales would go through without further Senate consideration: fifty F-5's for Egypt; seventy-five F-16's for Israel; thirty-five F-15's for Israel; and sixty F-15's for Saudi Arabia. My motion on Friday would seek to bring the matter to the Senate floor anyway, so that there may be full exploration and consideration by all of the members. In my opinion, this is appropriate.

It is this Senator's opinion that all sales should be rejected at this time, and reconsidered after a comprehensive peace settlement has been reached in the Middle East. To pour such a large volume of sophisticated weapons into the Middle East at this time would be akin to fueling a powder keg. Whatever our personal views on this matter are, however, it is important that we have the opportunity to examine the issue and pass judgement on it. For this reason, steps should be taken to bring the issue to the Senate floor for a vote.