



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE OPPOSES U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE IN MIDEAST

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today expressed his opposition to any plan that would inject American military forces into the Mideast as a "buffer" or peace-keeping force.

Dole said that a U.S. physical presence in the region would endanger American lives and "create an entirely different role for us in the region -- one that carries no promise for reducing tensions."

Following is the text of the senator's statement:

"The Camp David summit meeting next Wednesday involves both opportunities and risks for all concerned. There will be great pressure on the President to achieve some dramatic breakthrough toward settlement of Middle East differences.

"Yet, the President must keep the complex issues in proper perspective, and avoid the temptation to pressure either party into agreements purely for the sake of a solution. He must bear in mind his proper role as a mediator, an honest broker, rather than as an arbitrator to these complex problems. It is important that Egypt and Israel be allowed to talk freely between themselves about their differences.

"Nor should the President agree to any proposal that American forces be injected into the area as a 'buffer' or peace-keeping presence. Others may seek to drag the United States physically into the midst of the Middle East confrontation. But this would unnecessarily and unacceptably endanger American lives and create an entirely different role for us in the region -- one that carries no promise for reducing tensions. It would expose American troops to terrorist violence, and would suggest that Israel should withdraw from disputed territories, which would be left to an uncertain future. Israel has reaffirmed that its army must remain the 'center pillar' of security in the occupied territories and that American troops can not be a substitute for an Israeli military presence.

"Israel has been a loyal and valuable ally of the United States for 30 years. Beyond moral considerations, our own national security interests remain closely related to those of Israel. Any permanent solutions must necessarily involve ironclad guarantees for the security of Israel. It would be a serious mistake for the United States to break Israel's resolve at the summit simply because the President's prestige is on the line.

"I think all of us recognize that all of the problems of the Middle East can't be resolved in a few days of talks at Camp David. Certainly, the issues surrounding the future of the West Bank are extremely complicated, and will continue to prove difficult to resolve. Perhaps, however, we can be more optimistic about the immediate chances for settling the Sinai territory dispute. I certainly share the hope that the Camp David summit will prove successful in leading to further talks and agreements between Israel and Egypt."