

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SALT DECISION IS WRONG SIGNAL --
MUST BE ABSOLUTE LAST CHANCE FOR UNRATIFIED TREATY

WASHINGTON -- Calling it the "wrong signal to the Kremlin", Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) disagreed today with President Reagan's decision to comply with the unratified SALT II treaty by dismantling two more Poseidon submarines.

Senator Dole issued the following statement on the White House SALT II announcement:

ALTHOUGH THE PRESIDENT INDICATED HIS DECISION TO DISMANTLE TWO ADDITIONAL POSEIDON SUBMARINES WAS MOTIVATED PRIMARILY BY STRATEGIC AND ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS, I AM CONCERNED THAT THE DECISION SENDS THE WRONG SIGNAL TO THE KREMLIN. WE CANNOT CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY AN AGREEMENT -- AN UNRATIFIED AGREEMENT, AT THAT -- WHICH THE SOVIETS ARE SO BLATANTLY VIOLATING.

CERTAINLY, THIS ADDITIONAL "MILE" MUST BE THE LAST ONE WE WILL GO ALONE. IF THE SOVIETS DO NOT RESPOND NOW -- BY ENDING THEIR VIOLATIONS, DISCONTINUING THEIR ATTEMPTS TO ACHIEVE A STRATEGIC "BREAK OUT" THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS; AND NEGOTIATING SERIOUSLY IN GENEVA -- THEN WE MUST FINALLY SCRAP THE SALT II LIMITS AND TAKE CARE OF OUR OWN SECURITY NEEDS.

NOVEMBER DECISION WILL BE CLEAR-CUT

THE NEXT MILESTONE WILL COME IN NOVEMBER, WHEN WE MUST DECIDE WHETHER TO GO FORWARD WITH OUR PROGRAM OF CONVERTING HEAVY BOMBERS TO AIR LAUNCHED CRUISE MISSILE (ALCM) CAPABILITY. UNLIKE THE ISSUE OF DISMANTLING POSEIDONS, THE SECURITY AND ECONOMIC CASE FOR THE BOMBER CONVERSION PROGRAM IS CLEAR-CUT. IF THE SOVIETS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO OUR ARMS CONTROL CONCERNS BY THE TIME OF THAT DECISION, WE WILL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO FORWARD WITH THE ALCM PROGRAM.

IT IS UP TO THE SOVIETS. IF THEY SERIOUSLY WANT ARMS CONTROL, WE ARE READY TO DEAL WITH THEM SERIOUSLY. IF THEY DON'T -- AND THAT IS CERTAINLY WHAT THE RECORD SUGGESTS -- WE WILL DO WHATEVER IS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE SECURITY OF OUR NATION AND MEET OUR COMMITMENTS AROUND THE WORLD.

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