

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE TO LEAD TRIP TO SOUTHERN FLANK OF EUROPE

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) WILL LEAD A DELEGATION OF REPUBLICAN SENATORS -- INCLUDING LARRY PRESSLER (R-S.D.), CHARLES GRASSLEY (R-IOWA), AND DON NICKLES (R-OKLA.) -- TO MEET WITH THE LEADERS OF THREE KEY NATO ALLIES: GREECE, TURKEY, AND PORTUGAL. THE DELEGATION WILL ALSO STOP IN GENEVA, TO EXAMINE THE STATUS OF THE START TALKS AND OTHER ARMS CONTROL ISSUES. THE DELEGATION IS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ON APRIL 29, BE GONE DURING THE SENATE RECESS, AND RETURN ON MAY 7.

Dole indicated that the top items on the agenda would be the status of American bases in each of the NATO countries, burden-sharing, the importance of the Mediterranean region to our ability to project power into the Persian Gulf and bilateral and regional economic issues, especially agricultural trade.

"The recent, unfortunate decision taken by the Spanish to force relocation of our F16s reinforces the importance of the discussions we are now having with both Portugal and Greece," Dole said. "With the trade deficit once again on the rise, that issue is on the front burner, especially for the farm states we represent. And the upcoming U.S.-Soviet summit makes the state-of-play on the START talks critical. So, we are striking while the iron is hot, on these issues," Dole said.

The delegation is scheduled to meet with:

Prime Minister Andreas Papandreou, Greece

Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and President Kenan Evren,
Turkey

President Mario Alberto Soares and Prime Minister Anibal
Silva Cavaco, Portugal

U.S. and Soviet Arms Control Negotiating Teams, Geneva.

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