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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, June 20, 1977

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## DOLE COMMENTS ON VICE-PRESIDENT MONDALE'S JUNE 17 SPEECH ON MIDEAST

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Following is a text of a floor statement today by Senator Bob Dole:

"On Friday last, Vice President Mondale addressed the World Affairs Council of Northern California on a subject of deep concern to all Americans -- peace in the Middle East.

That speech was properly commended by my colleagues in the Senate, and I certainly wish to associate myself with their commendations. The Vice President's remarks clearly signal a new effort by the Carter Administration to understand the problems of the Middle East. It represents a significant effort to undo some of the damage which has been done by a precipitous and ill-conceived attempt to define for another sovereign state what its negotiating position should be in circumstances which go to the very heart of that nation's ability to survive.

The Vice President has explained that President Carter had no intention of dictating a peace or imposing our views, but that the President had given his implied endorsement of Arab objectives merely "to stimulate fresh thought". Whether we accept or reject that explanation is irrelevant. I sincerely hope that our friends in the Arab nations accept it.

## LET ISRAEL MAKE ITS FOREIGN POLICY

As the Vice President attempts to chart a new course in this very dangerous sea, I would hope and I would urge that our government refrain from taking any action or making any statement which denies the government now being formed in Israel its right to conduct its foreign policy in a manner consistent with the wishes and best interests of the people of Israel. Whether the course the new government takes will be precisely the same as that of the old government remains to be seen. But its right to maintain or alter that course is undeniable, and there can be no virtue in our doing anything which further conflicts with that right or its free exercise.

Further, I would hope and urge that the leaders of the Arab world would not be led to believe that they can obtain through the United States government concessions that they have been unable to obtain from the government of Israel. Nothing would do more to damage the progress which has already been made, part of which has been the public acknowledgement by Arab leaders of Israel's right to exist.

Finally, I must disagree with the Vice President's view that "it would be increasingly difficult to achieve small diplomatic concessions when the ultimate shape of a peace agreement remains obscure". The ultimate shape of a peace agreement must remain obscure so that the process of achieving concessions can go forward. This is the essence of the negotiating process which will define "the ultimate shape of peace". To see it otherwise is to try to justify meddling the name of mediation. I trust that was not the Vice President's intention.