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DOLE WOULD AMEND CANAL TREATY WITH CARTER LANGUAGE

Washington---Senator Bob Dole said today that he will introduce on Monday two Senate Amendments to the proposed Panama Canal Treaty containing language identical to that in the joint statement issued by President Carter and General Torrijos of Panama on Friday. "The statement was a step in the right direction," Dole said, "and since the leaders of both nations have agreed upon this more specific language, then it should be incorporated into the Treaty itself." Dole maintained that there is no reason to leave the language in the Treaty ambiguous if a more specific agreement on defense and passage rights has been reached.

Following is the full text of Senator Bob Dole's statement:

"There can be no doubt that the joint statement issued Friday by President Carter and General Omar Torrijos was a step in the right direction in clearing up confusion over our defense and passage rights under the Panama Canal Treaty. But it doesn't end there. The solution is not that simple.

"Since the leaders of both nations have agreed upon this more specific language, it should be incorporated into the Treaty itself. There is no longer any justification for leaving the Treaty language ambiguous, if the Panamanians are willing to accept General Torrijos' pledge on their behalf.

"It is important to remember that this joint statement, by itself, is not binding. It has no legal effect. Neither Carter nor Torrijos will occupy positions of authority when the Treaty provisions take effect in the year 2000, so there must be some basis in law to insure that their pledge will be honored.

"For that reason, I am prepared to introduce on Monday two Amendments to the Treaty on Permanent Neutrality, concerning our permanent defense and passage rights through the Canal. My Amendments will contain language identical to that in the Carter-Torrijos statement, which was itself closely phrased to Amendments I had introduced in September.

"The Carter-Torrijos agreement disproves the notion that re-negotiation of certain parts of these Treaties is impossible--that this is 'the best Treaty we can get.' In fact, improvements in these Treaties are both possible and practical, and I believe that Congress has a responsibility to continue to press for direct clarifications and improvements. The joint statement last Friday would never have been made if Congressional pressure for clarification had not been exerted."