



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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SALT II SHOULD NOT BE SOLD 'LIKE SOME DIPLOMATIC SNAKE OIL,' DOLE SAYS

FT. LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- In a speech here today, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) urged Senate caution and deliberation in examining the pending strategic arms limitation agreement, and warned of the dangers of 'romanticizing' the treaty.

Addressing a luncheon meeting of the Florida Republican Women's Club, Dole said, "SALT II ought not to be romanticized. It ought not to be sold like some diplomatic snake oil, guaranteed to produce miracles among nations and make the world safe for the peacelovers.

"SALT II ought not be approved, unless we make certain it will strengthen the forces of peace and stabilize the balance of power."

Dole asserted that he had not yet formulated a firm position for or against the treaty, and would not until he has seen the initial draft.

"I remain open-minded but still wary of entering into an agreement which would ultimately rely upon Soviet honor for enforcement," he said. "History has taught this senator to be wary of making any agreement with the Soviets that does not carry within its framework a guaranteed process of verification. I pledge to fight hard for such independent verification. If I don't get it, then I won't go along with SALT II. If I don't get it, I will urge other senators to reject illusions -- or delusions -- caused by Presidential songs of arms control and disarmament.

"I would like to support the new SALT treaty -- I supported the first one. But such support will be withheld until and unless I am convinced that it meets our national security needs. Even now, it is still possible for us to regain the initiative. Military experts estimate that the current trend toward Soviet superiority could be reversed for less than \$4 billion per year, for eight years.

"But budgets alone do not safeguard a nation. Even modern military weaponry is useless without the direction of a strong foreign policy. That direction seems lacking today. Drift and disarray mark our approach to the world. To reverse that trend will require the leadership of a strong and determined president. That's the kind of leadership we should offer the American people."