



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE SAYS SALT II WILL REQUIRE AMENDMENTS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) this evening responded to President Carter's address to the Congress on the signing of the SALT II treaty by calling for a vigorous appraisal of the treaty in the coming Senate hearings and debate, including "the necessity for some clearly worded, substantive amendments."

"The assurances the President has received on the backfire bomber, for instance, simply do not provide this nation with enough safeguards to ensure our national security and safety during a potential future confrontation," Dole said. "President Brezhnev gave his personal assurances, but one of the reasons the Administration asks us to ratify the treaty now is precisely because we don't know what posture a successor regime might have concerning arms control talks. We also don't know what weight they might give to Brezhnev's previous assurances."

"The fact that assurances are required and understandings are needed on the backfire issue only makes it more evident that this bomber is important enough to be included in the limitations of the treaty itself. The backfire has the range and capability of striking the United States with nuclear weapons, and no one even makes the attempt any longer to say that it doesn't. In hearings last year, testimony from the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency revealed that:

'While we believe it unlikely that the Soviets would violate these assurances during peacetime, there are no assurances that will ensure that backfire would not be used against the continental United States in time of war.'

"This is but the most obvious example of many weaknesses I perceive in this treaty. Whether the treaty can be amended to correct them without having to recommit it for further negotiations with the Russians remains to be seen."

In reacting to Brezhnev's statement that the Senate should not alter the treaty, Dole said, "The United States is not a totalitarian society and our president is not a dictator who presents his legislature with a fait accompli. The President, I am sure, realizes there will be a vigorous debate on the treaty, and the Senate will be a full and equal partner; that's the American system."