

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## STATUS QUO REMAINS UNCHANGED SAYS DOLE IN REACTION TO CARTER SPEECH ON CUBA

WASHINGTON-- "President Carter, tonight, took no action, nor gave no indication that he intends to take any action, that would alter the status quo with reference to the presence of a Soviet combat brigade in Cuba," said Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) Monday night, following the President's speech. "I find this very disappointing, in light of the fact that he specifically said his actions would alter the situation in a statement he gave to the press prior to the speech."

Dole did say he approved of the actions Carter proposed in the Caribbean.

"But these actions should not have been prompted by Senator Church's statement last August concerning the presence of a Soviet combat brigade. We have neglected Latin America for years and the President's moves are long overdue. But if it takes this kind of development to get the President to move, then perhaps in one sense it has served a useful purpose," said Dole.

Dole also said he "respectfully disagreed" with the President's assessment of the need to push forward with the SALT treaty negotiations.

"I still believe we should have told the Soviets: 'No. We will not go forward on SALT until this troop situation is resolved.' The President would have had some leverage-- and, I believe, the support of the Congress and the American people. Once again, what we have here is a problem of leadership. The President let this issue get away from him, and he continues to let events manage him, rather than vice versa."