

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE WRITES SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
ON REPORTED NEAR-LAUNCH OF TITAN II IN KANSAS --
REQUESTS IN-DEPTH REPORT

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today requested immediate answers from Pentagon boss Caspar Weinberger on published reports that a Titan II ICBM missile was almost accidentally launched in November 1980.

After learning the details of a story by Jack Andersen to be published in this weekend's Parade Magazine which alleges a near missile launch, Dole wrote a letter to the Secretary of Defense. Currently, Kansas is the site of 18 Titan II missiles.

The following is a text of the letter:

I have been informed of the allegations published recently that a Titan II missile was almost accidentally launched three years ago during a routine reliability test near McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita.

Although I fully understand that these charges are mere allegations by a reporter, I urge you to take immediate action to answer these statements with the facts so that the citizens of Kansas and every other state will know the truth of the matter.

As you know, the consequences of an accidental ICBM launch are staggering. Therefore, I request that an in-depth report on this subject be sent to me as soon as possible so that I can reassure my constituents.

When I return from Kansas, I will be eager to meet with you to discuss this matter. If these allegations prove false -- as I hope they will -- I will lend my assistance in getting the word out.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

-30-