

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BRENT BAHLER  
(202) 224-6521

### DOLE: 'COST OF FREEDOM CAN BE HIGH'

Washington, DC -- Recounting his own Army service during World War II, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) told fellow members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars that "one thing I learned from being in war, from seeing my men die, and from being wounded myself, it would be the cost of freedom can be enormously high."

Speaking to the VFW's mid-winter conference in Washington, Sen. Dole said, "It seems the thing we worry about the most is the cost in dollars - whether the defense budget will be \$310 billion, or \$315 billion, or whatever, whether that is too much or too little, and whether we can afford to spend that much.

"Let me make this point very clearly: Whatever it costs to insure our defense, whatever that figure is, we can't afford not to pay it. And whatever we need to do technologically, in terms of new weapons and better training, we have to pay that cost, too.

"But ultimately we have to stack up our responsibilities and our obligations. We have to stack up the threat we face. And let's not kid ourselves, the threat is enormous. And then we have to pay whatever it takes to fulfill those responsibilities and meet those threats.

"Because, sure enough, unless we provide adequately for our defense today, we will be paying later. And in a currency that goes way beyond dollars: the lives and blood of American soldiers.

"So the first lesson is freedom costs dearly. But we must pay that cost. And the second big lesson is the defense of freedom starts here, with the defense of America. But it extends around the globe - in the form of hundreds of thousands of servicemen and servicewomen, in foreign countries on every continent and in every corner of the globe.

"And in the form of NATO and the other alliances which underpin our global security network, and which tie our own defense to that of other nations.

"This global effort is an enormous burden and responsibility. But it must be borne, for two reasons. First, our own freedom depends directly on the strength of the free

world, and on the freedom of our allies and friends. They are the frontline - our frontline. If they fall victim to tyranny, then we cannot stand free.

"Our alliances must be a full partnership. Those who have fought overseas, or visited the American military cemeteries and seen the rows and rows of quietly eloquent crosses know how faithfully America has lived up to its side of the partnership.

"Our allies must, too. And the battlefields are strewn with their dead, too, in even greater numbers than ours. Their soldiers - for example in NATO - are more numerous than our own.

"But we must also call upon them to bear the material costs of our alliances in even greater measure. Our allies in western Europe and in Japan must pay their fair share of the defense system which protects us all. As a reflection of their own greater prosperity. And in reflection of what is at stake for us all.

"There is a second sense in which our fight for freedom is global. And it is that our own freedom is jeopardized whenever and wherever others are enslaved. Conversely our own freedom is enhanced and the cause of freedom is strengthened whenever the forces of freedom can expand their frontiers.

"That is why I am proud to reaffirm my support for programs to aid freedom fighters around the world. My own freedom is directly connected to the outcome of the struggles of these others - of the contras in Nicaragua, of Jonas Savimba and his UNITA forces in Angola, of the struggle of the freedom fighters in Afghanistan and Kampuchea, and in many other corners of the globe.

"The struggle to bring peace has been long and hard. But the struggle to preserve the peace may be even harder. It requires the determination, courage and unity. And it requires the wisdom to understand where we are, and the vision to chart a better course and a more secure peace for the future.

"The president has provided us with an important part of that vision. It is called the Strategic Defense Initiative. It offers us, for the first time, the opportunity to turn away from a doctrine which says America and the Soviet Union can only be secure as long as both are defenseless or which says that the American and Soviet people can be safe only as long as both can be wiped out 30 minutes after the commencement of a nuclear exchange. It is more than just irony that such a doctrine is called MAD (Mutual Assured Destruction).

"SDI offers us a second promise - the opportunity to achieve the goal that American presidents since Dwight Eisenhower have sought but which only Ronald Reagan has turned into a realistic possibility: an agreement on substantial, equal and fully verifiable reductions in the stocks of nuclear weapons on both sides.

"We cannot give away, or legislate away, our chance for a future less threatened with nuclear annihilation. We cannot turn our backs now on the promise of SDI," concluded Sen. Dole.