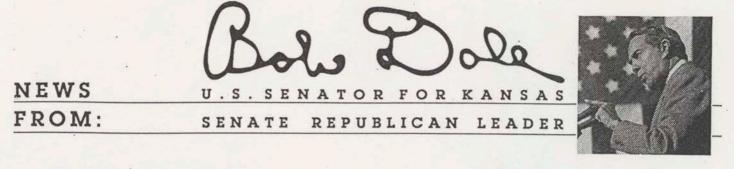
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BOB GATES

GATES IS THE RIGHT MAN FOR CIA POST

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today praised President Bush for selecting Robert Gates to be the CIA's new Director.

"Bob Gates is a seasoned pro who has earned the respect of members on both sides of the aisle with his expertise, dedication and commitment to America's national security," Dole said.

"I have watched him operate under pressure, counseling presidents, cabinet members and congressmen. He has the right stuff to meet this important new challenge," Dole said.

"It was Bob Gates who came to my Capitol Hill office at the President's request to brief the congressional leadership during the first minutes of Operation Desert Storm," Dole said. "He was a key player in our historic success in the Persian Gulf War.

"I am especially proud that Bob is a fellow Kansan who will continue to honor our state with his leadership and patriotism."

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