

Dole asks Bush to appoint MIA panel

The Associated Press
WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole urged President Bush on Sunday to appoint a presidential commission to investigate whether Americans missing from the Vietnam War are still alive in Southeast Asia.

Appearing on NBC-TV's "Meet the Press," Dole was asked about a statement Friday by National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft that he is convinced no Americans missing from the Vietnam conflict are still living.

"I don't know, and I don't think Brent Scowcroft knows," Dole said. "I think what we should do, and what I would like to see happen this week, is for the president to say, 'I'm going to have a presidential commission. We are going to take another look.'"

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— Sen. Robert Dole, R-Kan.

might in effect help some of the families who are distressed." In addition, Dole said, "We might be able to weed out some of these people who, I think, have got something pretty good going here. They indicate to families that they can find their sons or husbands. A lot of money is being spent."

When asked if he was uncomfortable with the way the Pentagon and the administration had handled the issue, Dole said, "I don't think we know precisely. I

think if they would make everything public, we might understand their position. ... I can't believe there are Americans who would turn their back on other Americans."

Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., already has called for a Senate investigation of whether Americans are still held prisoner in Southeast Asia. His move has attracted 41 cosponsors, about twice as many Republicans as Democrats.

In an interview with Kansas

reporters on Friday, Dole said he had discussed his proposal at the White House on Tuesday and "I think we will have some development in the next week."

"Congress is moving on a commission," he said. "My view is it would be better to have a presidential commission; put somebody who really has great credibility as chairman of that commission; put people on the commission, maybe fresh faces who aren't going to be looked upon as having some bias either way."

Judy Smith, a White House spokeswoman, said she knew of no developments on the issue since Scowcroft's briefing on Friday.

Scowcroft's comments at a White House briefing were in response to questions raised about a newly released photograph that some family members said showed three American officers

listed as missing or otherwise unaccounted for from the conflict in Southeast Asia. Another photo, said to show a Special Forces captain lost in 1971, was released last week.

The Pentagon said Thursday that the photo of the three men had passed through the hands of a "ring of Cambodia opportunists led by a well-known and admitted fabricator" of information about missing Americans.

Scowcroft, asked if he believed some missing Americans are still alive, said, "No, I do not."

Ann Mills Griffiths, executive director of the National League of POW/MIA families, said Saturday that Scowcroft's view should not be "misconstrued as reversing the policy of two presidents, which is that information available precludes ruling out the possibility that Americans are still held."

THE WICHITA EAGLE

Saturday, July 27, 1991



It's no go for Wilson Lake plan

Reservoir doesn't meet park standards

By Barry Massey

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The National Park Service has determined that Wilson Lake, near Sen. Bob Dole's hometown of Russell, does not qualify for possible designation as a national recreation area, it was announced Friday.

Dole said he had received a draft copy of a feasibility study by the park service, and it concluded that the lake lacked "nationally significant natural or cultural resources which would support national park system management."

The senator said the study ended most chances that he would push for the lake's inclusion in the nation's park system, but he pledged to continue seeking federal money to improve the lake.

"I never give up on anything, but I think for the time being the park service has said no," Dole said in a telephone news conference with Kansas newspapers and broadcast.

At Dole's request last year, Congress provided \$125,000 to pay for the study of the lake to determine whether it met standards for adding it to the national park system as a recreation area.

According to a statement issued by Dole, the report concluded that the lake site was too small and did not have enough unusual attractions.

The report said "an aggressive land acquisition program" and \$3 million to \$4 million in improvements to lake facilities would be needed before it would merit designation as a national recreation area.

Dole opposes any additional land acquisition for the lake, which covers slightly more than 9,000 acres and has 100 miles of shoreline.

"If we have to go out and acquire more private land, then in my view it's not going to happen," Dole said.

A final report on the study should be released next week, he said.

Friday's announcement by Dole came as no surprise. In recent weeks, there had been reports that the park service study would not find Wilson Lake a proper candidate for the national park system. Dole had even said publicly he expected a negative finding.

The Army Corps of Engineers and the state maintain and operate Wilson Lake as a flood control and recreational project. The lake, which is a few miles north of I-70, is known for its sandstone bluffs and unusual rock formations caused by wind erosion.

The lake began operation in 1964, and is the fifth-largest reservoir in the state.

According to report excerpts released by Dole, the park service found Wilson Lake of "regional and statewide significance as a recreational resource."

Dole took solace in such portions of the report, which had found "lots of pluses" with the lake.

The report said the lake "has potential for further enhancement and marketing of existing recreational facilities by current management as well as facilities that may be developed in the future."

Dole has made it clear he would push for such development.

The Senate has approved a proposal by Dole to provide \$900,000 next year to improve camping areas, build an amphitheater and new boat ramps, docks, a swimming area and dressing rooms at the lake.

Dole likened the Wilson Lake study to a recent park service decision to oppose a proposal to establish a national prairie monument at a ranch in the Flint Hills.

"For the time being, we're sort of like the Z-Bar Ranch," Dole said. "The park service has said we don't qualify."

The Salina Journal Tuesday, July 30, 1991 5

Dole proposes broader Bush power

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole on Monday proposed giving President Bush the authority to use military force if necessary to eliminate Iraq's nuclear weapons capability.

Dole, in a statement on the Senate floor, said he would offer the proposal as an amendment to a defense budget bill, which the Senate is expected to consider this week.

The proposal would authorize the president "to use all available and

appropriate means" to eliminate Iraq's capability to produce nuclear weapons.

A U.N. deadline passed last week for Iraq to disclose its nuclear, biological and chemical weapons programs.

Dole, R-Kan., said he hoped that further military action against Iraq could be avoided. But he said his proposal "will not equivocate on our determination to see that Iraq's nuclear capability is wiped out, once and for all, one way or another."

The Salina Journal Monday, July 29, 1991

Dole urges presidential panel on MIA reports

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republican leader Bob Dole urged President Bush on Sunday to appoint a presidential commission to investigate whether Americans missing from the Vietnam War are still alive in Southeast Asia.

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"I don't know, and I don't think Brent Scowcroft knows," Dole said. "I think what we should do, and what I would like to see happen this week, is for the president to say, 'I'm going to have a presidential commission. We are going to take another look.'"



Dole

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"We might be able to weed out some of these people who, I think, have got something pretty good going here. They indicate to families that they can find their sons or husbands. A lot of money is being spent."

When asked if he was uncomfortable with the way the Pentagon and the administration had handled the issue, the Kansas Republican said, "I don't think we know precisely. I think if they would make everything public, we might understand their position. ... I can't believe there are Americans who would turn their back on other Americans."

Sen. Bob Smith, R-N.H., has called for a Senate investigation of whether Americans are held prisoner in Southeast Asia.

Hutchinson News Saturday, August 3, 1991

Dole disagrees with Roberts' GATT stance

By Ray Hemman

The Hutchinson News

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., thinks it is too soon to draw a diplomatic line in the sand over trade issues.

Dole, during his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists, disagreed with Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan. Roberts has called on the United States to withdraw from the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade talks if progress on agriculture is not made by Dec. 31.

Earlier this week, Roberts proposed that if a Dec. 31 deadline is not met, the U.S. should implement a marketing loan for wheat and feed grains, eliminate set-aside requirements for farmers to participate in farm programs, revamp and expand the Export Enhancement Program, and increase export subsidy funding by \$5 billion annually.

"I hope we can reach some agreement on agriculture," Dole said. "I'm not quite as anxious as Pat to throw down the gauntlet, because these things take time. We can't dictate what they do in France, Germany and other countries. We can certainly persuade, cajole and all these things."

"But in the final analysis, a lot of this is politics. The politics of it indicate that it is going to be very

difficult. The politics in this country are going to be very difficult. We are not going to sell our farmers short just to get some agreement that might be palatable somewhere else."

The state's senior senator also said he would propose funding to study the former Forbes Air Force Base at Topeka as an alternate base site for the B-2 stealth bomber.

"There's been a lot of rumors," Dole said. "It would be fair to say we've been making discrete inquiries about that possibility (Forbes) being considered for the B-2. Some would say that with all these bases closing, why not put them there. It doesn't work that way. They've got to spend a lot of money. It occurred to us it might be a lot less expensive to take a look at Forbes Air Force Base."

The controlling issue, however, is how many B-2 bombers ultimately are built, Dole said. If 15 of the planes are built, no additional bases will be needed.

"We believe it (Forbes) can be rehabilitated at less cost than some of the bases that are being closed," he said. "If they shut off production at 15 planes, there won't be B-2s at Forbes. ... I believe we should produce at least 60 to 75 of the bombers."

Drought declared 'severe'; forecast predicts little relief

From wire reports

HAYS — They now call it severe.

And the long-term forecast for rain holds little promise of the drought's subsiding.

Even Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., would like to see widespread rains across Kansas.

In a telephone press conference Friday, Dole predicted that Congress will eventually approve some type of disaster assistance.



Dole

"I think there will be a farm disaster bill in September or October," he said. "But it may not be as generous as past bills."

Dole was unable to predict how much money might be allocated, but said that current proposals range from \$340 million to more than \$1 billion.

The National Weather Service, based on conditions existing as of July 27, now classifies much of Kansas — including an area that covers Ellis County — as being in a severe drought.

The measure is based on the Palmer Drought Index, a slow-moving indicator of moisture conditions that gives equal weight to different locations.

The central crop-reporting district is an 11-county group stretching from Ellis and Rush counties on the west to Dickinson and Marion in the east.

That district now has a Palmer rating of minus 3, just enough to enter the severe stage of the ranking order used. The north-central district, located just north of the central district, had a rating of minus 3.1, also indicating a severe drought.

Ellis County, as of Friday, is 5.48 inches behind normal on moisture.

For the year, only 9.23 inches of rain have fallen in the area. In 1989, for comparison, 11.43 inches of rain fell by the end of July; 1989 was considered one of the worst droughts on record.

Conditions are not, however, as severe as in 1956, the driest year on record in Hays. Through July 1956, only 7.27 inches of rain fell; for the year, a total of 9.21 inches fell.

South central Kansas, covering 13 counties, had a ranking of minus 3.8 — severe, close to what would be considered an extreme drought.

Other areas of the state are either in what is considered a moderate or severe drought, with the exception of northwest and southwest Kansas.

Southwest Kansas is in the middle of a mild drought, while northwestern Kansas is barely hitting the drought phase.

The forecast holds little promise of breaking the drought.

The 10-day forecast, from Tuesday to Aug. 10, calls for near-normal temperatures and near-normal levels of precipitation, said Phil Riffe, a National Weather Service specialist at the Topeka weather bureau.

Meanwhile, the state's new Emergency Drought Response Team decided to continue to monitor dry conditions after holding its first meeting Friday.

The team made no recommendations to Gov. Joan Finney on actions she should take to alleviate the impact of dry weather.

Steve Hurst, director of the Kansas water office, chairman of the 25-person team, said drought conditions in the north-central, central and southeastern parts of the state are considered severe. Conditions are moderate in the northeast and mild in the southwest parts of Kansas.

However, the team declined to recommend to the governor that any part of the state be declared under a drought emergency yet.

Hurst said the team should keep tabs on the situation until its next meeting later this month.

The Salina Journal Wednesday, July 31, 1991 7

Dole urges Schwarzkopf head MIA commission

By The Journal Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole Tuesday reaffirmed his call for a presidential commission to investigate whether American prisoners of war remain captive in Southeast Asia.

Dole suggested that someone of the stature of Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf head the commission.

"The bottom line is we need to put this to rest," Dole said. "It seems to me that it's time for a presidential commission. We need someone with credibility to head it."

Dole's remarks came after a meeting with 10 other Republican senators and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. The meeting included a classified briefing on the prisoner of war issue by Pentagon officials.

"We owe it to the families and to

the veterans in America ... to see that every possible lead is followed," Dole said.

Although there is talk of creating a congressional commission to study POW issue, Dole spokesman Clarkson Hine said the senator is convinced that a presidential commission would be more effective.

Last week, a photograph reportedly showed Donald "Butch" Carr alive in a 1990 photo. Carr, an Army captain, was shot down in 1971, and he has been declared dead. Carr's cousin, Patty Fancher, lives in Salina, Kan. Dole urged Carr's relatives in Kansas to keep the faith.

"I feel encouraged and would say to the families of those in Kansas who have loved ones still missing, don't give up hope," Dole said.

Dole said the Carr case was specifically discussed during the meeting. He said that without revealing what was said in the classified briefing that the Carr situation was "different and unique."



Dole

Saturday, August 3, 1991 The Salina Journal

Dole plans weeklong tour of Kansas towns

Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., will conduct a whirlwind tour of northwest and north-central Kansas the next nine days, with stops also in Kansas City, Manhattan and Wichita.

The tour begins with Dole attending the Shrine Bowl Parade in Manhattan from 3 to 4:30 p.m. today and a speech to the Military Order of World Wars 71st Annual Convention at 7:30 p.m. today at the Hyatt Regency in Kansas City.

Dole plans to attend the anniversary reception for the Kansas Air National Guard and groundbreaking for the new Guard building at 10 a.m. Sunday in Wichita.

Northwest and north-central Kansas stops include:

Sunday
■ Noon, Veterans Memorial honoring local troops, Ellis County Courthouse, Frontier Park, Hays. Parade and picnic in honor of area veterans to follow.

Monday
■ 7:30-8:45 a.m., Russell, public meeting at the Elks Lodge.
■ 9:30-10:45 a.m., Ellsworth, public meeting at Ellsworth County Courthouse.
■ 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., Minneapolis, public meeting, Country Club.
■ 1:45-3 p.m., Concordia, public meeting.

Veterans of Foreign Wars.
■ 3:45-5 p.m., Beloit, public meeting, First National Bank.
■ 5:45-7 p.m., Osborne, attend Osborne County Fair.

Tuesday
■ 8-9:15 a.m., Hays, public meeting, Vagabond Best Western.
■ 10-10:45 a.m., Plainville, public meeting, D&E Cattleman's Restaurant.
■ 11:15 a.m.-noon, Stockton, public meeting, Country Inn.
■ 12:45-2 p.m., Phillipsburg, public meeting, Bico's Restaurant.
■ 2:45-4 p.m., Norton, public meeting, Town & Country Restaurant.
■ 4:45-5:45 p.m., Hill City, public meeting, Graham County Courthouse.
■ 6:30-7:30 p.m., Wakeeney, attend Trege County Fair.

Wednesday
■ 8-9 a.m., Quinter, public meeting, Q Inn Motel-Restaurant.
■ 11:15 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Hoxie, public meeting, Sheridan Inn.
■ 1:15-2:30 p.m., Oberlin, public meeting, American Legion.
■ 3:15-4:30 p.m., Atwood, public meeting, Midwest Energy.
■ 5:30-6:45 p.m., St. Francis, public meeting, Senior Center.
■ 6:30-7:30 p.m., Goodland, public meeting, Elks Lodge, followed by the Northwest Kansas Fair at the fairgrounds.

Thursday
■ 8-9:15 a.m., Colby, public meeting Deep Rock Cafe.
■ 10-11:15 a.m., Oakley, public meeting, Little Cafe.
■ 12:30-1:45 p.m., Mountain View, Sharon Springs, public meeting, Parish Hall.