

BOB DOLE

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243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

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225-2715

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GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530

AREA CODE 316

8W 3-6423

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, D.C. 20515

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS
SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1967

FOR RELEASE AFTER 3 P.M.
SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1967

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans), speaking at the Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention in Garden City, urged caution before encouraging increased trade, or "building bridges", with Communist countries.

Congressman Dole reminded his audience that it had been just 18 months since he participated in a "Veterans Day" program in Garden City on November 11, 1965. "Since then," Dole said, "American deaths in Viet Nam have increased from 1,000 to nearly 11,000 dead, and the toll of wounded sharply increased from 4,259 to over 64,000."

Dole said, "Before we clamor to build bridges -- remember that practically every American plane that has been shot down over North Viet Nam has fallen victim to Soviet-made and Soviet-supplied surface-to-air missiles, planes, or anti-aircraft batteries. It has been recently estimated that approximately 80% of the weapons and strategic materials of war have been supplied by Communists in Viet Nam, not by the Red Chinese, but by the Soviet Union and their Eastern European satellites. Yes, trade conceivably might be a useful tool in our repeated attempts to bring peace to the world, but let us, if we must use it, use it as a tool of peace and not as an expedient, one of whose by-products is to permit the enemy to continue war. Let us use trade intelligently in pursuit of peace, by at the very least demanding and obtaining meaningful concessions that will bring the world a step closer to peace. Let us demand of the Soviet Union and the Eastern satellites that the price of trade is a clear demonstration that peace, not war, is their intention. But above all, at this time, it seems hardly consistent to think seriously about "building bridges" with Communist countries, while we bury young men daily who have died fighting Communist aggression.

"Have you heard of a single Russian or Chinese Communist reported as a casualty of the Viet Nam War? You have not, and I would dare speculate that you will not. What you see reported weekly is American and Vietnamese casualties. The question all of us must answer, veteran and non-veteran alike, is ---- is trade so sweet and profits so desirable as to be purchased at the price we now pay in death and agony?"