

FROM: DOLE FOR SENATE HEADQUARTERS
603 KANSAS AVENUE
TOPEKA, KANSAS 66603

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ESKRIDGE, Kans., Sept. 30 -- Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate Bob Dole tonight said United Nations Secretary U Thant "is damaging the cause of peace in Vietnam with his recent remarks about a U.S. bombing halt."

Speaking at a Wabaunsee county Republican dinner, Congressman Dole said, "Far too often the Secretary General has gone beyond his official capacity in suggesting how our country should continue our foreign policy."

"It is unfortunate that he continually criticizes the U.S., particularly when efforts toward negotiations are being made in Paris," he added.

"The United States has taken numerous 'first steps' toward peace," he said. "Since March 31, all bombing and shelling north of the 20th parallel has been stopped. The American build-up of troops has been halted."

The response to these 'first steps', Congressman Dole said "has been a major increase in the infiltration of North Vietnamese regular troops and supplies into South Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and a series of deliberate rocket and mortar attacks on South Vietnamese civilians in Saigon."

"It now seems obvious that if we halted all bombing that then Hanoi would demand withdrawal of all American troops and recognition of the communist National Liberation Front."

"Secretary General U Thant, by his 'no bombing' appeal plays into the hands of those in Hanoi who do not want peace," Dole said. "It seems strange to me that U Thant has so much advice for us and never any for communist Russia."