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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

WASHINGTON, D.C. MARCH 14 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kans.) said that he was inclined to support the modified ABM system proposed by President Nixon today.

Dole stated, "The paramount question must be our national security. President Nixon, very wisely, in my opinion, has determined our nation requires that we defend our retaliatory forces against both the Russians and Chinese. This decision will be far less costly than the system advocated by former President Johnson as the emphasis will be on the protection of our missile bases rather than large cities.

"It is important to note that the Nixon system provides the flexibility needed to keep a number of options open. Since the emphasis is on defense, not offense, President Nixon's decision should not hinder arms talks or the possibility of a summit meeting with the Russians.

"The stakes are too high to delay or to do nothing. Either course would make Americans "sitting ducks" for potential enemies."

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