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TOPEKA, Kans., U.S. Senator Bob Dole today said the President's recent Air Force Academy speech in Colorado Springs and his decision announced from Midway Island to bring 25,000 American boys home from Vietnam "have moved the search for peace and the credibility of America's resolve to remain strong a notch forward."

"This is true," Dole said, "despite the protests of some so-called 'liberals' in the Congress who appear more concerned about dividing America than in pursuing meaningful peace in Vietnam."

In remarks here at the 20th annual convention of the Disabled American Veterans, Dole added, "The two actions point up this Administration's firmness that American power must be used responsibly--not as a world policeman, but in a way that will preserve peace and freedom."

The academy speech, Dole said, "confirmed America's intention to remain strong as needed as long as the strength is necessary." Withdrawal of some troops from Vietnam, he added, "shows our willingness to reduce our direct involvement overseas if the other side is willing."

Both actions, he said, "reaffirmed U.S. policy to honor and uphold our commitments abroad, not to reject them as some critics have suggested."

"President Nixon, very wisely, has confirmed this country's preference and sincerity for negotiation, not confrontation; for helping to build peace and safeguard freedom in the world, not to retreat from our global responsibilities," he added. "The President also, very wisely, underscored American determination to maintain arms parity and our bases and readiness to move into any area where the power balance is threatened."