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WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 1 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said "Rather than concern for prosecution and punishment of the guilty, there appears to be a calculated attempt by some to utilize the My Lai affair to insinuate that it represents the norm in the daily conduct of U.S. military operations in Vietnam."

In a Senate statement, Dole added, "In no way, do I condone or rationalize the willful slaughter of civilian non-combatants, and if the accused in the My Lai affair are found guilty, they should be dealt with as prescribed by law. But I know the current insinuation to be untrue."

Dole referred to a recent briefing of a member of his staff by the Office of the U.S. Army Planning and Operations Division.

Dole said the Division has assured that all U.S. military personnel receive indoctrination in proper humane treatment and handling of civilians and prisoners of war in Vietnam. This is done before and after a soldier arrives in Vietnam.

In addition, the Senator said U.S. Forces are briefed on what constitutes a war crime.

Excerpts from Dole's statement follow:

"...There is an effort by some to imply that violent attacks similar to the isolated incident which took place at My Lai, frequently occur in those areas in Vietnam occupied by U.S. military forces. The My Lai issue has become the latest tool for those strongly opposed to the Administration's Vietnam policy and its program to terminate the war. It appears to be the intention of these individuals to represent the My Lai tragedy as a symbol of all present and future acts undertaken by the Administration in Vietnam.

"I consider such statements not only careless but injurious to the character of the American fighting man.

"...it is inconceivable that anyone should regard what took place in the village of My Lai in March 1968, as in any way representative of the general conduct of the American forces in South Vietnam. The general conduct of the American serviceman in Vietnam, participating in an unpopular war and in the fact of extreme hardships and frustrations, which have characterized this protracted, bloody conflict, has been notably outstanding.

"...The My Lai incident must not be extended beyond its proper perspective and applied to other areas for partisan or personal pursuits. It is not the function of the Senate, at this point, to provide judgement in any respect. Recent statements by the news media offer continued evidence of a lack of concern for individuals, accused of crimes, to be afford a fair trial unprejudiced by prejudgement."