

300

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

FOR RELEASE A.M.s THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18

WASHINGTON, D.C. Dec. 18 -- The Department of State has endorsed a resolution by U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) calling for Hanoi to make some response to U.S. peace overtures.

The resolution, co-sponsored by 36 other Senators, was introduced Oct. 13.

Text of the letter follows:

"We fully agree with this resolution, which reiterates our fundamental goal of self-determination for the South Vietnamese people and correctly places the blame for lack of progress toward peace on the communist side. It also notes correctly the flexibility our side has shown in attempting to reach a negotiated settlement, and it calls upon Hanoi to do the same.

"The drafters of this resolution have recognized that Hanoi continues to remain inflexible in the hope that pressures in this country will force us to abandon our fundamental goal. This resolution, if endorsed by the Senate, could contribute greatly to an early and honorable settlement by making clear to the other side that the majority of the American people are firmly behind our present efforts to reach an honorable negotiated solution. We would greatly welcome such an endorsement."

Dole said he hoped hearings would be held on his resolution early next year.