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FOR RELEASE FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 1970

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 20 --- "While U.S. policy in Laos has remained the same since its 1962 inception, Presidents Kennedy and Johnson were inconsistent in its administration," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said today.

Speaking in the Senate, Dole said the fact that the United States has been supplying materials, weapons and logistic support to Laotians has long been public knowledge; but "some of those who are so vocal now about our military involvement were strangely silent from 1962 to 1968."

Reviewing the policy in a historical context, Dole reminded his colleagues that President Kennedy committed the United States in his 1961 State of the Union Message:

We seek in Laos what we seek in all Asia ... freedom for the people and independence for the government. And this Nation shall persevere in our pursuit of these objectives.

Only leaders of the New Left and neo-isolationists could deny that those were "noble aims," Dole said.

The Kansas senator related that the Laos situation deteriorated in subsequent months, and that on May 15, 1962, Kennedy announced he had order additional U.S. military ground and air forces to proceed to Thailand.

At this point, Dole asked those present in the Senate, "Where then were the protests from those who protest in these Chambers today?"

The reasons Kennedy took us into Laos, Dole said, were the same then as they are now --- the Communists had violated the ~~Geneva~~ the Geneva Accords. Signed July 23, 1962, Dole said that despite the Accords' praise by Kennedy as "a milestone in our efforts to maintain and further world peace," that the realy theory behine them was, "if we give the Communists everything they ask for, maybe they will go away." "But as it turned out," he continued, "only America went away."