

STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
ON THE SENATE FLOOR  
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mr. President, I send to the desk an amendment to the Foreign Military Sales Act (H.R. 15628). I ask that it be printed and ordered to lie on the table. I also ask that the text of the amendment be printed in the Record at the end of my remarks.

I may offer this amendment as a substitute for the language of the amendment submitted yesterday by the distinguished Senator from Kentucky (Mr. Cooper), the distinguished Senator from Idaho (Mr. Church), and others, because I feel it would more fully accomplish the aims than that amendment.

Let me point out that I share the concern of the Senator from Kentucky and the Senator from Idaho. They have long distinguished themselves and this body by their sincere dedication to the wise direction of this country's foreign policy.

Like them, I, too, have had some misgivings over the recent turn of events in Indochina and am not fully convinced the use of American troops within Cambodia was required either to protect present U.S. troop positions in Vietnam or to secure the Vietnamization process.

However, I have great faith in President Nixon -- in his wisdom, his courage and his desire to do everything in his power to protect American troops while pursuing their withdrawal at the fastest possible rate.

The Cooper-Church amendment expresses a legitimate Congressional concern that the conflict in Vietnam not be broadened or expanded into the surrounding nations and kingdoms. The distinguished Senator from Kentucky said as much in his statement on May 7.

However, I am concerned there be no limitation on the President's power to protect U.S. military forces.

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I have therefore chosen language which does clearly state Congress' intention that the war not be expanded and at the same time avoids any possible interpretation which would lead any foreign or domestic party to think the President's power to protect our men has been hamstrung in any fashion.

I am highly concerned that the conflict in Indochina not be broadened or expanded. I am more concerned, however, that nothing be done to jeopardize the safety of our forces or the President's power to protect them.

This amendment would accomplish the purpose of expressing Congressional sentiment. It would also clarify some questions which the Cooper-Church proposal does not fully resolve.

I ask and urge the support of my colleagues for this amendment to insure the utmost safety and security for our troops in Southeast Asia.

#### THE AMENDMENT

Intended to be proposed by Mr. Dole to H.R. 15628, an Act to amend the Foreign Military Sales Act,

viz: Strike out section 7 and insert in lieu thereof the following:

Sec. 7. The Foreign Military Sales Act is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section:

Sec. 47. Prohibiting Use of American Ground Combat Troops in Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia.--In line with the expressed intention of the President of the United States, no funds authorized or appropriated pursuant to this Act or any other law shall be used to finance the introduction of American ground combat troops into Laos, Thailand, or Cambodia without the prior consent of the Congress, except to the extent that the introduction of such troops is required, as determined by the President and reported promptly to the Congress, to protect the lives of American troops remaining within South Vietnam.