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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Aug. 20 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) thinks there must be a way to improve airline procedures during "bomb scares."

The Senator speaks from experience -- he was involved in such a scare last weekend.

The plane, United Flight #585, headed for Kansas City, Mo., out of Dulles International Airport, was hardly airborne when it returned to Dulles and landed. Passengers were informed of a bomb scare and directed to deplane so the luggage and plane could be searched.

The passengers, many with carry-on luggage, deplaned and boarded an airport van to await further instruction.

In a letter this week to John H. Shaffer, Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, Dole suggests that in the future, carry-on luggage be checked before the passenger boards the van or that passengers be directed to leave carry-on luggage on the plane so that it can be checked there.

"It would be of little comfort to the passengers if a bomb exploded on the van while the plane and other luggage were being searched," Dole noted.

"In addition," the Senator wrote, "there seemed to be a rather casual evacuation of the plane after the announcement of the bomb scare. It would seem that the procedure could be expedited."

Included in the 80 passengers were Dole's 15-year-old daughter, Robin; Congressman Barry Goldwater, Jr.; Kansas Representative Larry Winn and Interstate Commerce Commission Chairman George Stafford.

No bomb was found and the flight departed Dulles Airport some 2½ hours later.