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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Dec. 7, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today strongly urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to authorize additional funds to support East Pakistan relief.

In a statement on the Senate floor, Dole said that on Dec. 3, the House Foreign Affairs Committee recognized the severe need for increased financial assistance to Pakistan and that the Committee acted favorably on a proposal authorizing the appropriation of an additional \$15 million in contingency funds for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in East Pakistan. Also, an amendment authorizing the appropriation of excess foreign currencies held in Pakistan was accepted by the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Dole said, "The immediate need in the affected area is for clothes, blankets, food and potable water. Shortly after the disaster, the U.S. Ambassador made an emergency donation of \$52,000 and on November 17, President Nixon announced an initial commitment of \$10 million to assist in the world-wide relief effort."

The Kansas Senator listed the extensive efforts already made by the United States but said, "It is clear that an extensive reconstruction program will be needed for the area...significant delays in starting reconstruction could mean the loss of an entire year before the productive output of the region is restored."

Dole stated, "A.I.D. has already used or earmarked \$11.5 million of the contingency fund for various purposes, including about \$5 million to meet immediate emergency disaster relief needs in East Pakistan. Assuming full appropriation of the FY 1971 request of \$15 million, prior year carryovers, and possible deobligations of prior year funds, total contingency fund availabilities for FY 1971 will be about \$20 million."

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"It is clear that the unallocated contingency fund balance of \$8.5 million will not be adequate to meet the longer-term reconstruction requirements in East Pakistan. Moreover, the use of these funds would totally deplete the contingency fund and, thus, make it impossible to meet other similar emergency and humanitarian needs which will likely arise during the remainder of FY 1971."

Dole said, "It is critical, therefore, that additional funds be made available by increasing the current authorization for the contingency fund to provide the necessary support to East Pakistan for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programs."

"Rapid and constructive U.S. action would have a strong positive public impact in Pakistan and would encourage other donors to participate in the longer-term rehabilitation effort. The assistance also would permit the government of Pakistan to maintain its allocation of funds for overall development directed toward support of such critical programs as population control, agricultural development, education and public health throughout the province of East Pakistan and at the same time permit them to mount a program to meet urgent reconstruction needs in the cyclone-affected districts."