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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE PRAISES PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT TO MAINTAIN U.S. STRENGTH

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Commenting on President Nixon's Thursday night address to the nation, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today made the following statement:

"Richard Nixon is the President who not only brought an end to the Vietnam war, but brought this nation its greatest progress toward Arms Control in a quarter century. If he says that the proposed defense budget represents a vital investment in peace, then I should think that those who are interested in peace would be disposed to give him the tool he needs to pursue it.

"I cannot agree with the arguments of those who say that in light of the success of the SALT talks, we can now afford to let our guard down. We cannot allow ourselves to be lulled into a false sense of security. If we do, we may one day wake up to find ourselves the second ~~more~~ <sup>most</sup> powerful nation in the world -- a weakened position I am not willing to accept for this country.

We have further SALT negotiations to pursue -- in the hopes this time of limiting offensive arms. We have the prospect of Mutual Balanced Force Reductions in Europe. This would be the worst conceivable time to unilaterally cut back on our military strength, just when the prospects for mutual cutbacks look so promising."