



NEWS from

U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE TO QUESTION INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE DURING SECRET SENATE SESSION

WASHINGTON, D.C.---SENATOR BOB DOLE today released, through his Senate Office, a series of questions regarding the Panamanian government's alleged involvement in international drug operations, which he will raise during the Closed Session of the Senate scheduled for Tuesday, February 21. Dole said he would pose these questions, as well as others, to the members of the Select Committee on Intelligence during Tuesday's private session on the Senate Floor.

In addition, Senator Dole will attend a private briefing by the Intelligence Committee Staff on Monday, February 20, regarding the drug-trafficking documents turned over to the Committee by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration. These documents have never been released to the public in their entirety. Dole said he would want to examine certain specific files that he believes may contain further information about the Torrijos family and its alleged involvement in drug operations.

Following are some of the questions Senator Dole will raise, based on allegations that have come to his attention:

- (1) Do files in possession of the Committee indicate that General Omar Torrijos, if not directly involved, is at least tolerating and/or protecting drug-trafficking operations in Panama?
- (2) Was General Omar Torrijos ever the subject of an investigation by DEA or the United States Justice Department?
- (3) Do Committee files indicate any connection between General Omar Torrijos and President Fidel Castro with respect to drug-trafficking or other contraband operations?
- (4) Was the Senate Intelligence Committee provided with copies of all forty-five Drug Enforcement Administration files listed in allegations provided to Senator Dole on October 13, 1977?
- (5) What matters were discussed during the meeting between General Omar Torrijos and John Ingersoll, Director of the U.S. Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs, on June 22, 1972?
- (6) Is there a sealed indictment against Moisses Torrijos in New York, based on involvement in international drug operations? Do DEA files indicate direct involvement by Moisses Torrijos in drug-trafficking operations?
- (7) What matters were discussed at the White House briefing provided by Attorney General Griffin Bell and DEA Administrator Peter Bensinger on October 3, 1977, pertaining to Panamanian drug operations?
- (8) What is the full story behind the transfer of DEA files from DEA Headquarters to the Washington area field office in early October? Why were the files moved, and can a chain of custody be established at each stage of the transfer?

Senator Dole said that these were some of the many questions he would raise with the Senate Intelligence Committee. He emphasized that these inquiries were based on allegations and incomplete public information about certain matters, and are not intended as accusations. Dole said he realized that the Senate Intelligence Committee may not have complete answers to all of these questions, but he suggested that these points should be raised and discussed during the Closed Session on Tuesday.