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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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EXCERPTS FROM A STATEMENT BY
SENATOR BOB DOLE
MARCH 5, 1978

CARTER IN AFRICA: A SORRY SAFARI

Whatever else President Carter may say about his recent visit to Africa, he cannot claim to have met with any notable success in resolving the two African problems of most concern to Americans today: Soviet interference in African affairs, and peaceful transition to stable governments in Rhodesia and South West Africa (Namibia).

In fact, if anything, the President's trip served only to further disillusion our traditional allies in Africa, encourage political factionalism, and did nothing to discourage Soviet adventurism on the continent.

SOVIET CHALLENGE IN AFRICA

Regrettably, the Soviet Union appears to have selected the African continent as a staging ground for a strategic showdown, to test the will of the United States, and of our leadership. So far, I fear we have failed the test.

I hasten to remind my colleagues in the Senate that accumulated gains of this type by the Soviet Union in Africa are just as significant as a Soviet lead in strategic weapons -- a prospect we are trying desperately to prevent at this very time. Coupled with Administration concessions on the SALT Treaty now under negotiation, our submissions in Africa spell real trouble for future strategic balance between the Soviet Union and the United States.

The Senator from Kansas was joined by a dozen of his colleagues on March 7 in proposing a resolution urging American support and endorsement for the Rhodesian settlement. Instead, the State Department, on March 27, declared the settlement "illegal."

The President's rhetoric with respect to the futures of both Rhodesia and Southwest Africa favors external forces intent upon destroying reasonable internal settlements reached by moderate leaders. This is all the more confusing because the internal settlements appear more democratic and multiracial than any government the guerrillas might construct.