

NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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DOLE SEA LEVEL CANAL AMENDMENT TO BE CONSIDERED

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole's amendment (#10) to strike the provision of the Panama Canal Treaty that commits the United States to build a sea-level canal in Panama should this country decide to build a new canal will be considered by the Senate at 1:00 p.m. today.

"The provision was originally proposed by the Carter Administration," Dole said, "and was accepted reluctantly by Panama during Treaty negotiations. Even so, it is detrimental to the United States' interests for several reasons and should be eliminated. General Torrijos has indicated on several occasions that he would not object to removing it from the Treaty."

Among the disadvantages of the provision cited by Dole were:

- 1) The United States could not build a new Canal outside of Panama, even if Panama refused to allow it within her territory;
- 2) It is not clear that Panama is restricted from allowing other nations to build such a Canal through her territory;
- 3) Neither the Soviet Union, nor any other nation would be restricted, as would the U.S., from building a sea-level Canal anywhere in Central America.

Cosponsors to Dole's amendment include Senators Cannon, Burdick, Goldwater, Tower, Hanson and Garn.