



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

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CONTACT: BILL KATS
202-224-8947

DOLE WELCOMES SHIFT TO NEW 'HARD-LINE' ADMINISTRATION POLICIES

BOSTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that the administration's reported decisions to airlift peacekeeping forces into Zaire, to sell defensive arms to Somalia and to halt further SALT treaty negotiations until Soviet concessions are made, "are a welcome confrontation with reality, and a partial repudiation of this administration's earlier bankrupt policies, which have caused concern among many members of Congress for some time now. The naive trust in Soviet intentions and the laissez faire attitude towards African developments, which characterized this administration for 18 months, may now be giving way to a more practical view of international politics."

Dole said the new hard-line image that the President seems inclined to project, probably stems from three sources: extremely low levels of public support for the President's foreign policies; election year pressures on Congress, which necessarily have an impact upon the President's proposals; and the inevitable linkage between Soviet aggression in Africa and the SALT treaty negotiations."

Dole said that foreign policy decisions during the early days of the Carter administration may have resulted in Soviet and Cuban "miscalculations" in determining their own foreign policy objectives.

"Every United States president has been 'tested' by Communist challenges early in his term of office," he said. "President Kennedy faced the Berlin crisis. President Ford was confronted with the Mayaguez affair. Brazen Soviet advances in Africa, in the face of on-going SALT talks, indicate their expectations that these provocations would go unchallenged. The consequences have been unfortunate for all concerned."