



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JULY 10, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS
202-224-8947

NAVAL RESERVE, KOREA FORCES NEED BOLSTERING, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today spoke out in favor of increasing the strength of the U.S. Naval Reserve and holding the line on cutbacks of United States military forces in South Korea.

In debate over the Department of Defense authorization bill, Dole spoke against recent cuts that have reduced the Reserve strength from 129,000 in 1973 to the current strength of 87,000. Dole offered an amendment to the bill that would extend the Reserve force to 95,900.

"At a time when military manpower costs are the biggest costs of the Defense budget, and also one of the fastest growing parts, we need to retain and make the best possible use of this cost-effective Reserve force," he said.

Dole warned that the Administration's plan to withdraw some 32,000 American troops stationed in South Korea by 1982 would adversely affect American defense and foreign policy interests.

"It should be remembered that the President's policy of withdrawing all American ground forces in South Korea affects not only the military stability in the region, but reflects upon American credibility and resolve as well," he said.

Dole and Sen. Sam Nunn (D-Ga.) participated in a colloquy covering important questions in the withdrawal proposal.

"I commend the Senate Armed Services Committee for its recommendation that no further troop withdrawals should be made until the secretary of defense has provided a careful analysis of several significant aspects of the program," Dole said. "Given the weight of the factors which are involved, I believe it would be foolish to even consider continuation of this program until such time as the full impact has been meticulously evaluated and considered."