

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1980

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CONGRESS SHOULD REMAIN IN SESSION UNTIL IMPLICATIONS OF
IRAN-IRAQ CONFLICT ARE FULLY ASSESSED

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today urged Congress to remain in session "until the full implications of the Iran-Iraq conflict can be weighed in terms of U.S. interest and international security."

"The battle presently being waged over access to the Persian Gulf is a local war at the moment, but we are not sure where it will lead," Dole said.

Emerging from a high-level briefing for members of Congress by National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brezezinski and Deputy Secretary of State Christopher, Dole urged the Congress to delay next week's recess until "the intentions of the belligerents become clearer and the ramifications on the rest of the world can be assessed."

"Apparently neither Iran nor Iraq expected this conflict to escalate so quickly," Dole said, "and neither is quite sure when it will end. So far we have not been able to determine if Iraq plans to follow up its initial successes with a deeper penetration into Iran. This teacup tempest could blow up in our faces, seriously affecting long-term world oil supplies, undermining the stability of other Arab oil states in the region, and perhaps even drawing the superpowers into confrontation.

"It seems to me that it would be better for Congress to be on hand until the danger is passed. While we're at it, we could finish up our legislative agenda and perhaps pass out tax cut bill."