

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1980

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CARTER MAKES SALT II A "HALLOWEEN SURPRISE"

WASHINGTON - Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today accused President Carter of "playing Halloween 'trick-or treat' with the SALT II Treaty, trying to scare voters away from Ronald Reagan in the last weeks of the campaign."

"It's obvious that President Carter is trying to add the SALT II treaty ratification issue as a kind of Halloween's surprise to his list of scary statements attempting to portray Governor Reagan as a warmonger. I think it sets a dangerous precedent on an issue of such great strategic importance to our national security.

"The fact is, President Carter himself asked that the treaty be withdrawn when the Russians invaded Afghanistan last January and said then that his opinion of how much the Russians could be trusted had changed more in those three weeks than in his first three years in office. Well, if this isn't just another example of Carter's deceptive campaign tactics, what I want to know," said Dole, "is just what has changed since then?"

Sudden Talk of Ratification Two Weeks From Election

"Why, with two weeks before the election, is President Carter suddenly talking about having the Senate ratify SALT II as soon as possible? There are as many Russian troops in Afghanistan as there ever were, and reports that more may be sent in soon. Russian policy has not changed in other areas either. Presently the Soviet Union is deadlocking preparations for the Madrid review conference on the Helsinki Accords, the great human rights treaty signed by President Ford and Brezhnev. Nowhere do we see any basis for President Carter's opinion about the Soviet Union to change, and in fact the U.S. is sitting on the edges of the Iraq Iran war right now hoping Russia won't intervene in some way," Dole said.

Dole has returned to Washington during the campaign recess to work with his staff on priorities for the post election legislative session. "There are a great many hard issues involving the day to-day running of the government that the Democratic leadership refused to vote on before going home to face the voters," said Dole. "We must take care of the national budget for next year and look at the Farm Bill, windfall profits, unemployment compensation, the Superfund, tax cuts and revenue sharing before Congress can adjourn."

SALT II Cannot Be Considered

"There is no way that the Salt II treaty can be considered again this year and the President knows it. He raises the spectre of nuclear war as a hobgoblin to make the public forget his small record on both defense and foreign policy issues. There's a saying that 'consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds', but in President Carter's case he has proved inconsistency can be used just as well."