

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1984

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DOLE CONTINUES TO PRESS FOR NEW MISSION FOR McCONNELL
AIR FORCE BASE
SENATOR MEETS WITH TOP AIR FORCE OFFICIALS, TELEPHONES DEFENSE
SECRETARY WEINBERGER

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today continued to press Air Force and Pentagon officials in order to bring a replacement mission to Wichita's McConnell Air Force Base.

At a 7:45 am EDT meeting in Senator Dole's office, the Kansas Senator met with General Bennie Davis, Commander in Chief of the Strategic Air Command, Verne Orr, Secretary of the Air Force, and General Jim McCarthy, Air Force Legislative Liaison.

"I had a good meeting with these highest level Air Force representatives and reiterated my belief that McConnell Air Force Base is most deserving of a follow-on mission once the Titan II missiles are removed from the Wichita facility," Dole said.

"In fact, Gen. Davis is the man who will make the final mission recommendation to Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, so I am very pleased he came to my office this morning," Dole said. "In my view, McConnell's location in the middle of the country is suited for a replacement mission -- it provides security from enemy attack and a central location for deployment, facts that are attractive to Defense officials. Also, the longstanding relationship between McConnell and the Wichita community has been outstanding and I know this means a lot to the Air Force."

After meeting with the Air Force officials, Senator Dole telephoned Secretary Weinberger to inform him of the morning meeting and to continue to push at the highest levels for a follow-on mission at McConnell.

Additionally, Senator Dole met with Senator Nancy Kassebaum during the weekend in Kansas to coordinate their joint efforts on behalf of McConnell and a replacement mission.