

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE RAISES POSSIBILITY OF VOTE ON SALT II TREATY

WASHINGTON -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) NOTIFIED PRESIDENT REAGAN THAT IF CONGRESS TRIES TO FORCE COMPLIANCE WITH SALT II THROUGH LEGISLATION, HE WOULD SEEK FORMAL SENATE CONSIDERATION OF THE UNRATIFIED TREATY.

In a letter to the President backing the decision to go forward with conversion of the B-52 bomber, Dole said he was disturbed that some members have indicated they might try to "vitate the B-52 conversion decision."

"Should any such legislative effort be made," Dole said, "it would be my intention to seek instead that the Senate formally consider ratification of the SALT II Treaty itself. That would be the appropriate Constitutional method for determining whether the Senate finds continued SALT II adherence in the national interest or not."

Dole concluded by noting that a vote on the treaty, "would force all of us in the Senate to back up our rhetoric with a vote, so the American people would know how we really stand on this issue."

The text of the letter is on the back.

BOB DOLE
KANSAS

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE MAJORITY LEADER
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 1, 1986

The President
The White House
Washington

Dear Mr. President:

I want to reaffirm my strong support for your decision to go forward with the conversion to air-launched cruise missile capability of the 131st B-52 bomber, without any compensatory reduction in other nuclear forces.

This action sends precisely the right message to the Soviet Union: that we will take whatever steps are necessary to insure our national security and will respond vigorously to Soviet violations of any arms control agreement. Sending that message enhances the prospects of achieving future agreement on significant, equitable and verifiable nuclear arms reductions.

At the same time, I am deeply disturbed that some in Congress have indicated their intention to try to vitiate the B-52 conversion decision, or otherwise force compliance with SALT II, through legislation.

Should any such legislative effort be made, it would be my intention to seek instead that the Senate formally consider ratification of the SALT II Treaty itself. That would be the appropriate Constitutional method for determining whether the Senate finds continued SALT II adherence in the national interest or not. It would force all of us in the Senate to back up our rhetoric with a vote, so the American people would know how we really stand on this issue. And it would allow us to resolve the issue, once and for all.

Sincerely yours,



BOB DOLE
United States Senate