

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 20, 1990

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DOLE LANDS 30 KC-135R'S IN WICHITA
HOUSE SENATE CONFERENCE AGREE WITH DOLE--
ADD 6 AIRCRAFT AND OVER \$100 MILLION FOR TANKERS

WASHINGTON - THE HOUSE SENATE CONFERENCE APPROVED \$580 MILLION FOR THE KC-135R TANKER PROGRAM LATE YESTERDAY. THE CONFERENCE SPECIFIED THE PURCHASE OF 30 OF THE AIRCRAFT MODIFICATION KITS, A COMPROMISE BETWEEN THE HOUSE PASSED LEVEL OF 24 AIRCRAFT AND THE 36 PASSED BY THE SENATE.

"I HAVE BEEN BATTLING FOR THIS VITAL PROGRAM ALL ALONG," STATED DOLE. THOSE OF US WHO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEM KNOW THAT IN TIMES OF CRISIS YOU CAN'T WAIT FOR CONGRESS TO WAKE UP AND START BUILDING TANKERS -- YOU EITHER HAVE THEM OR YOU DON'T. AND IF YOU DON'T, NONE OF THE OTHER EQUIPMENT MATTERS. CREDIT SADDAM HUSSEIN FOR WAKING UP THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS AND GETTING THEM ON THE BANDWAGON."

"CONVINCING THE HOUSE DEMOCRATS HAS BEEN THE BIG PROBLEM. MY SENATE COLLEAGUES UNDERSTAND THAT WITHOUT THE KC-135R WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MOVE OUR FORCES IN A CRISIS," NOTED DOLE.

"TODAY CONGRESS HAS AGREED WITH ME, THE KC-135R TANKER PROGRAM IS A TOP PRIORITY," STATED DOLE. "DESERT SHIELD HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT THE KC-135 IS THE CRITICAL LINK IN OUR NATION'S ABILITY TO RAPIDLY PROJECT POWER."

THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT GOES BEFORE THE FULL HOUSE AND SENATE EARLY NEXT WEEK. APPROVAL BY BOTH HOUSES IS EXPECTED.