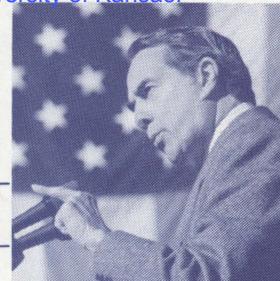


Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 1, 1994

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NORTH KOREA

DOLE STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MCCAIN AMENDMENT

I am pleased to be a cosponsor of the McCain amendment which expresses the sense of congress on U.S. policy toward North Korea.

The nuclear crisis in North Korea was sparked by North Korea's refusal last February to permit the International Atomic Energy Agency to conduct special inspections. Four weeks later North Korea announced that it would withdraw from the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

After months and months of diplomacy -- including direct talks with the North Koreans -- the Administration is no closer to resolving this issue than when the North Korean announcement was made. Sure, North Korea has suspended its withdrawal, but it has agreed to stay in the NPT on its own terms only.

On January 4, 1994, Undersecretary of State Lynn Davis announced that North Korea had agreed to allow inspections of seven declared sites -- but, not challenge inspections of undeclared sites. Nevertheless, about two weeks later, the North Koreans once again rejected the iaea's inspection demands.

Clearly, direct diplomacy and offers of concessions -- such as the canceling of "team spirit" exercises and light water reactor technology -- have gained us nothing. On the other hand, the North Koreans have gained almost one year to further develop their nuclear weapons program. News reports citing U.S. intelligence estimates indicate that North Korea probably already possesses the nuclear materials needed to build one or two bombs. Moreover, the North Koreans have been testing the no dong missile, and may have an intermediate range ballistic missile in development.

Nevertheless, until now the Administration's approach has been all carrots and no sticks. Yes, the North Koreans are having their carrot cake and eating it, too.

It is high time to chart a new course, and the course outlined in the McCain amendment is the way to go. Pyongyang must be told in no uncertain terms that the United States will not tolerate a North Korean nuclear capability. Period. And, the United States must show -- through its actions, not its words -- that we are committed to taking the unilateral and multilateral steps to back up our position. We must seek to isolate North Korea economically and we must demonstrate our commitment to South Korea by increasing our military presence in the Pacific and proceeding with joint U.S.-South Korean military exercises. The President has before him a request from the U.S. Commander in South Korea for patriot missiles. I hope that the President will not only expeditiously approve that request, but review other options for beefing up South Korea's defensive capabilities and our military presence in the region.

Some may ask, what is at stake in North Korea? What is at stake is the safety of 37,000 U.S. troops in South Korea, the security of South Korea, the stability and prosperity of Asia, the integrity of the nuclear nonproliferation treaty, and finally, the credibility of the United States.

If we fail to get tough now, we will have to live with the consequences of a nuclear North Korea which can threaten and coerce our friends and trading partners in Asia, and further spread nuclear technology and materials to hostile, terrorist regimes and groups.

The time is now for the President to take a firm stand. I hope that my colleagues will support the McCain amendment.

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