



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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NORTH KOREA AGREEMENT

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN POLICY P.R. BLITZ LEAVES QUESTIONS UNANSWERED: CONGRESS SHOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE NUCLEAR ACCORD

SPRINGFIELD, IL -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

"While I supported President Clinton's handling of the recent situation in Iraq, I have very strong reservations about the latest agreement with North Korea. We all want to see a nuclear-free Korean peninsula, but the President's foreign policy p.r. blitz hasn't answered a number of serious questions raised by many arms control experts.

"When it comes to nuclear weapons, it would appear that the President's policy is to reward rogue nations for violating their treaty obligations, offer 'customized compliance,' worry about crucial aspects of verification later, and thrust the problem on a future administration. The jury is still out on whether this strategy will ultimately work, but you have to wonder about signing a non-binding 'framework' with a nation that hasn't lived up to previous binding agreements. This so-called 'agreed framework' may not solve the problem, and it certainly postpones it. We have given up our right to verify how much weapons grade material and how many nuclear weapons North Korea might have for at least five years. In exchange, we will legitimize a brutal dictatorial regime and reward them with badly needed economic assistance.

"As I have said before, Congress should examine this agreement carefully and determine whether it is in America's long-term national interests."

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