



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, June 3, 1996

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

NATO EXPANSION

DOLE ANNOUNCES INTRODUCTION OF NATO EXPANSION BILL

DETROIT, MI -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole announced today that a bipartisan group of Congressional members will be introducing legislation tomorrow to facilitate NATO enlargement. Senator Dole's statement follows:

"Tomorrow, a bipartisan group of Members of Congress will be introducing 'The NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act.' This legislation is intended, as its name states, to facilitate the NATO enlargement process -- by actively assisting emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe so that they may eventually qualify for NATO membership. NATO enlargement has had strong bipartisan support in the Congress. This legislation builds on earlier bipartisan efforts, including 'The NATO Participation Act of 1994' which was Congress' first attempt to assist in this process.

"Unfortunately, the process of NATO enlargement appears stalled. This legislation reflects the view of many in the Congress that the enlargement process must be jump-started and expedited. This bill will do so by providing concrete technical assistance to countries that have made the most progress toward achieving the criteria for NATO membership.

"The NATO Alliance is a defensive alliance and poses no threat to any nation. NATO has enlarged its membership on three occasions since 1949. In my view, the inclusion of emerging democracies in Central and Eastern Europe that meet the criteria for NATO membership will further contribute to the stability and security of Europe."

###