

58



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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BRING S.E. ASIAN AID PROPOSALS TO EARLY VOTE, DOLE URGES

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The rapidly deteriorating situation in Cambodia and South Vietnam dictates the need for a reassessment by the Congress of its attitude toward additional aid to Southeast Asia, according to U.S. Senator Bob Dole.

"The Congress will be facing a Southeast Asian situation that is entirely changed since the beginning of the Easter recess a week ago," says Dole. "There seems to be no chance whatever that either country can survive more than a few days, or at best a few weeks, without additional military aid from the United States. In these circumstances, Congress cannot delay consideration of additional aid beyond next week. If we don't take up the issue immediately when we go back in session on April 7th, we may as well do nothing at all. Delay much beyond next week will be tantamount to a "no" vote, in any event," Dole adds.

According to estimates, the South Vietnamese military supplies, already short, will reach critical levels in the next four to eight weeks. "The uncertain supply prospect is undoubtedly affecting troop morale," Dole says. "To those who argue that the fall of South Vietnam is imminent and inevitable, I say we can't know how great the psychological boost of a favorable aid decision by the Congress would be to the forces there. One thing is clear to me -- humanitarian aid alone gives them a chance, at best, for survival. Military aid might give them a chance for freedom, and I intend to support it if it is brought to an early vote in the Senate. Our support should not depend solely on who leads the government. The departure of Premier Lon Nol from Cambodia and the possibility that President Thieu will be replaced is not my concern. My concern is the fate of the 25 million people and their chances for freedom."