



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1977

FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY P.M.'s

SINGLAUB DISMISSAL SIGNIFIES CARTER'S "THIN-SKINNED OVER REACTION TO CRITICISM," DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that President Carter's dismissal of Major General John K. Singlaub was a "glaring" and "rather thin-skinned" over-reaction to criticism of his foreign policy.

Dole said the President's removal of the Commander of the 8th U.S. Army in South Korea cast doubt on Mr. Carter's willingness to accept responsible criticism of his policies.

He said the episode would stifle the expression of informed knowledge by military officers about strategic circumstances around the world.

Requests Hearing

He suggested that the Senate Armed Services Committee hear from Singlaub and Administration officials.

Dole questioned the advisability of Mr. Carter's plans to withdraw about 40,000 U.S. troops from South Korea over a five-year period. He said the reduction of forces "will unquestionably create a power vacuum in the South that North Korean aggressors cannot ignore. The military situation in Korea today is essentially stable. If U.S. ground troops are withdrawn, I fear we will have another Saigon on our hands. It is not only a question of military stability, but one of American credibility and resolve as well. The significant reduction of U.S. troops will be interpreted by our allies and foes alike as a disengagement of U. S. interests in the area."

(His Friday statement to the Senate is attached)