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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ACCUSES VIETNAM OF PLAYING "BODY BLACKMAIL": CALLS FOR HALT IN PARIS TALKS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today predicted that Congress would reject any program of aid or trade with Vietnam and called on the American delegation in Paris to halt further discussion.

Dole accused the Vietnamese of playing "body blackmail" with the United States -- a game Dole labelled as "insulting to this country and extremely painful for the families of Americans still listed as Missing in Action."

"Everytime Vietnam seeks additional concessions from the United States, they conveniently 'discover' the remains of more American M.I.A.'s. These actions, and their entire attitude toward our search for information about M.I.A.'s, are totally indifferent to basic human decency and should not be tolerated," Dole declared. "We should insist on immediate disclosure of all information of this kind before resumption of the so-called negotiations."

Dole also suggested that the United States was "misguided in rushing to normalize relations with Vietnam. Our willingness to embrace Communist Vietnam -- at the same time we are undercutting our allies in South Korea -- must be eyed with grave concern by our friends throughout South East Asia."