



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

6-10-77

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DOLE SUPPORTS CALL FOR SPECIAL PROSECUTOR IN KOREAN PROBE

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today supported the demand by Republican congressional leaders that the South Korean bribery investigation be turned over to a special independent prosecutor.

Dole said he wrote Atty. Gen. Griffin Bell on March 25 requesting the appointment of a special prosecutor. The letter from the senator followed White House statements that President Carter discussed the pending case with the attorney general and directed Bell to conclude the matter expeditiously. A committee of the House of Representatives also has been looking into the matter, which reportedly involves possible illegal payments from representatives of the South Korean government to members of Congress.

On Thursday, Senate Minority Leader Howard H. Baker (R-Tenn.) and House Minority Leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.) said the integrity of the investigation could best be assured by the designation of a special prosecutor outside the Justice Department.

Copies of Dole's letter and Bell's response on May 19 follow:

DOLE TO BELL

"Dear Mr. Attorney General:

"The recent conflicting and confusing news reports about the status on the Justice Department's investigation into allegations of illegal payments to members of Congress from representatives of the Republic of Korea prompt me to write this letter.

"I can appreciate the difficult and very sensitive position you are in and, therefore, recommend the remaining phase of this investigation be turned over to a special prosecutor.

"I look forward to your response."

BELL'S ANSWER

Dear Senator Dole:

"In your letter of March 25, 1977, you suggested that the remaining phase of the Korean bribery investigation be turned over to a special prosecutor.

"In the present case, unlike Watergate, there are no allegations against the Attorney General or other Department officials. There is also no indication of involvement by others in the Administration. Accordingly, I felt that appointment of a special prosecutor for this matter is inappropriate and unnecessary.

"I can assure you that the investigation will be pursued expeditiously, but thoroughly to its full and proper conclusion. No deadlines have been set for the completion of the investigation and no restraints have been placed upon it. It will include vigorous pursuit of all substantial leads."