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# **NEWS** from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

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## DOLE SAYS CARTER B-1 DECISION JEOPARDIZES U. S. SECURITY AND SALT POSITION

Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) charged today that President Carter's decision not to produce the B-1 bomber "opens up a serious threat to the ability of the United States to deter an attack or defend itself, and is a clear signal to the Soviet Union that our negotiating position for the SALT II talks will be one of weakness, not strength."

Following the President's announcement this morning that production of the B-1 will not go forward as recommended by the Defense Department, Dole said, "President Carter is totally inconsistent on this vital issue. First, he killed the B-1 program. Then in the next breath, he said the United States would continue to rely on strategic bombers as one of the three main forces in our strategic defense. However, after more than twenty years of service, the B-52 is not capable of fulfilling the mission requirements for which the B-1 is needed."

The Kansas Senator added, "Apparently the President's main concern was to fulfill his ill-conceived campaign promise to certain factions within the Democratic Party and not the military capability of the United States to adequately defend itself in the 1980's."

"The Administration's bargaining position at the SALT talks has been seriously weakened," Dole said. "How can the United States conduct serious and forceful negotiations with the Soviets when our long overdue strategic bomber program is abandoned and the cruise missile is far from entering the production stage?" "For that matter," Dole said, "the cruise missile itself may be given away at the SALT talks by the Carter Administration in the interest of reaching a quick agreement."

Dole noted the recent House vote to go ahead with B-1 production and pointed out that if the Senate does the same when it considers the Defense Department's appropriation bill in the next few weeks, it would overrule the President. He urged his colleagues "to give a long, hard look at the President's action of today."