



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

(R.—Kans.)

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

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Senator Bob Dole said today that he was both "suprised and confused" upon reading the U.S. - Soviet joint statement on the Mideast.

Dole called the statement "fraught with danger. In the first place, it is an abdication of Mideast leadership by President Carter. Secondly, it is another unwise effort to force Israel to recognize the P.L.O."

"It appears President Carter is so determined to hold a Geneva Conference in 1977, that he will risk permanent ruptured relations with Israel to achieve it."

Dole also speculated that the Administration may have joined the Russians in issuing the statement as a way of cooling differences between Russia and the United States before the start of the human rights conference in Belgrade on October 4. "I would hope the joint action will not lessen the Administration's resolve to speak out strongly for the rights of oppressed peoples everywhere at the Belgrade Conference."

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