



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE URGES DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION INFORMATION ON TORRIJOS BE TURNED OVER TO SENATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today urged the United States Drug Enforcement Administration to release to the Senate, documents which bear directly upon allegations of U.S. drug trafficking by General Torrijos of Panama. In a statement this afternoon to the Senate, Dole suggested that President Carter personally examine the D.E.A. files and approve their release to "appropriate Senate panels for full investigation." Dole also listed the D.E.A. file references containing information relative to the allegations.

Following is the full text of Senator Dole's remarks today:

### THE PANAMA CANAL AND ALLEGATIONS OF DRUG TRAFFICKING

Mr. President, Panamanian strongman General Omar Torrijos will be in Washington tomorrow to meet with President Carter. Reportedly, they will discuss the proposed Panama Canal treaties, and the recent controversy circulating around differing interpretations of treaty language. There is another serious matter which has just come to my attention, which I hope will also be clarified during Torrijos' visit, or soon afterward. This involves allegations of direct involvement by General Torrijos and other members of his family in drug trafficking in the United States and elsewhere.

Now, obviously the President of the United States cannot select the individual with whom he conducts his negotiations in international affairs. By the same token, however, our Executive branch does have some choice in what is hidden or revealed to the public, which could bear upon these negotiations. It is my understanding that a number of documents now in the possession of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration have been "classified," which bear directly upon allegations of drug trafficking by General Torrijos. Those documents should be immediately turned over to the United States Senate for examination.

I am told that there is presently within the files of the Enforcement Administration a large volume of materials bearing upon this matter.

I am especially troubled to learn that an overt attempt was reportedly made to keep this information out of public purview by moving the intelligence files to another location for temporary safe-keeping. I am advised that, just recently, perhaps to avoid embarrassment, these files were returned to the Drug Enforcement Administration's central office.

Mr. President, I do not like to jump to conclusions, and I don't necessarily believe everything I am told. However, I do consider the source of this information to be sufficiently reliable to give me deep concern about the nature of the Panamanian leader with whom we are dealing. Suggestions that he -- perhaps in conjunction with Fidel Castro -- is involved in an illegal international drug operation is cause enough for concern. The allegation that these drugs are being funneled directly into the United States, and that General Torrijos himself may be profiting directly from drug sales, makes the matter all the more serious.

### SENATE SHOULD HAVE INFORMATION

At the very least, I believe the Justice Department -- and the Drug Enforcement Administration in particular -- should make its findings on this matter known immediately to the appropriate Senate committee or committees, which can then decide what effect the information might have on ratification of the Panama Canal treaties.

Mr. President, I am calling upon the Administration to address this serious matter immediately. I believe that President Carter should discuss the allegations with General Torrijos and request a full explanation. There is no better time for this than tomorrow.

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In addition, it would be useful for the President to examine the 42 reference files in possession of the Drug Enforcement Administration, and approve their release to appropriate Senate panels for full investigation. If any portion of these allegations are found to be accurate, I hope that the necessary information will be made available to all Members of Congress, and to the American public before the Panama Canal Treaty ratification process is completed.

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