

353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
DECEMBER 23, 1977

Contact: Janet Anderson

DOLE STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT CARTER'S FISCAL 1979 DEFENSE BUDGET

"There are reports from 'authoritative White House sources' that the President has made final decisions to make major cuts in the new Defense budget.

According to the reports, he will recommend a Defense budget for Fiscal Year 1979 of only \$126 billion.

This program is a slash of \$16 billion below President Ford's minimum prudent projection for the same year. It is a substantial cut below the level requested by President Carter for Fiscal Year 1978. It is \$4 billion below the bare-bones request of the Secretary of Defense.

I am astonished at this decision by President Carter. It represents a breach of faith with our allies, to whom President Carter pledged a 3 per cent increase in Defense programs last Spring. It gives credence to earlier reports that President Carter has adopted the discredited theories of unilateral U.S. arms control held by his more extreme advisors. Finally, it places the President on a collision course with a bipartisan majority of Congress, and it seriously undermines the Nation's efforts to negotiate balanced arms control."