



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE MEETS WITH SOVIETS IN GENEVA, SAYS VERIFICATION QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

GENEVA-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today that he is "more concerned than ever" about verification provisions of the SALT II agreement following more than five hours of meetings with Soviet and American negotiators and other officials in Geneva, Switzerland.

Dole, who is in Switzerland as a Congressional Representative to the Law of the Sea Conference, spent three hours with the Soviets on Wednesday.

"I told them that, while I was uncommitted on SALT II, I was also very skeptical of the current verification provisions. I also listened to their views on the need for a SALT II treaty at this time. I agree that we need an arms limitation treaty-- but I remain unconvinced that we need this treaty, especially if verification remains a major problem, which seems very likely," said Dole.

Senator Dole also met with Ambassador Ralph Earl and General Ed Rowny, American negotiators for the SALT pact.

"We discussed the points outlined in the letter I and eleven of my Republican colleagues released recently-- particularly those concerned with verification and parity," said Dole. "I think I made it abundantly clear that SALT II will not pass unless satisfactory answers are forthcoming from the Administration and the State Department," Dole added.

Dole, who has been the primary organizer of a series of "SALT Information Breakfasts" on Capitol Hill this year, also said that his talks with Europeans have confirmed his belief that they remain skeptical about the SALT II treaty.

"We sometimes forget that it is the Europeans, not the Americans, who will be on the front lines should confrontation between East and West materialize. Any arms limitation treaty that places Europe in jeopardy or tempts the Soviets to move in Central Europe would be viewed with alarm by our allies and should be overwhelmingly rejected by the United States Senate."