



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, APRIL 20, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE PRAISES RICHARDSON'S WORK AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT LAW OF THE
SEA CONFERENCE, SAYS RESULTS WILL HAVE 'TREMENDOUS
IMPACT'

GENEVA-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today that, "Ambassador Elliott Richardson is doing an excellent job representing the United States at one of the most important conferences of this century."

Dole, who is in Geneva as a Congressional Representative to the conference, met with the American delegation yesterday.

"I was impressed with our team and especially with Ambassador Richardson. I'm not sure many people fully understand the importance of the negotiations currently underway in Geneva, but, in a world of limited natural resources and finite mineral reserves, I can assure you that determination of who should and will have access to the resources on the sea floor is of primary importance to the United States. Elliott Richardson has been a strong advocate for the interests of the U.S.," said Dole.

Negotiations for a new law of the sea treaty have been going on since 1973.

One of the major U.S. interests is deep sea bed mining, according to Dole. "The sea bed mining issues are now apparently the major roadblock to conclusion of the negotiations. Essentially, there are no international rules regulating deep sea bed mining for the mineral "nodules" that lie on the ocean floor. These nodules (copper, manganese, cobalt and nickel) represent a vast potential resource base. The United States has a technological lead, and could, I am told, begin commercial mining in the 1980's. I expressed my hope that this nation would be given the opportunity to utilize its technological abilities to provide world markets with these previously unavailable resources," said Dole.