



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS QUESTIONS MUST BE ANSWERED ON SALT II

IOLA, KANSAS-- Speaking before a commencement audience at Iola Junior College today, Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said the Administration will have to answer some "basic questions" if he is to vote for the SALT II Treaty.

Dole rejected the notion that the "burden of proof" must be provided by opponents to the Treaty, as has been suggested by Administration spokesmen.

"For the forty or so Senators who are undecided, including myself, the Administration must prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that this SALT agreement will not weaken our strategic position," Dole said. "To fail to do so is to invite defeat on the floor of the United States Senate."

Wants To Vote For Treaty

Dole has already indicated he would like to vote for SALT II. "All of us pray for peace," he told the commencement audience. "I have lived with the wounds of war. I have seen men die at my feet. No one deserves a peaceful world more than those of us who have seen the horrors of war. But I insist on a peace among equals, a peace that will last. To our children-- and yours"-- we owe nothing less."

Dole, who voted for SALT I, says he fears SALT II "may not be a balanced treaty."

"This is critical since the offensive might of the Soviet Union is the primary strategic threat to the United States," said Dole. "Secondly, and far more important, SALT I was concluded at a time of U.S. nuclear strategic superiority, and with little prospect of our strategic preeminence soon declining. SALT II is being negotiated in an atmosphere of, at best, strategic equivalence

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and with prospects of the strategic balance in the 1980's very ominous.

"The Soviets have made substantial progress on MIRVING their missiles, on civil defense, on "killer satellites" which threaten our communications and control systems, and on improved ICBM accuracy-- the critical variable in ICBM effectiveness.

"Meanwhile, the U.S. has unilaterally cut back on our strategic force. Cancellation of the B-1 was crucial in this respect, given the uncertainty surrounding its replacement, and deferment of the MX land-based missile system extends the time span when U.S. ICBM's are vulnerable. President Carter's defense budgets have represented self-denial in advanced technology for strategic forces and only increases the urgent need for careful consideration by the United States Senate of the strategic equation-- now and into the 1980's-- while Senators consider SALT II," said Dole.