



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1979

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DOLE TO CONTINUE TO SEEK SECURITY ASSURANCES BEFORE PANAMA IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION ADOPTED

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today said he plans to continue in his efforts to assure that U.S. national security interests are protected before any Panama Canal implementing legislation is adopted.

Dole's introduction yesterday of a motion to link passage of the implementing legislation to the question of possible future Soviet troop involvement in Latin America was credited by House members with having influence in the House rejection of the conference report on the implementing legislation.

"I reject the notion that a piece of paper agreed to under a concealment of the true facts by Panama can prevent the United States from guarding its vital interests in defense, energy and economic considerations," Dole said. "We do our friends in Latin America no favor by turning the Canal over to a potential client of the Soviet Union."

"For that reason I plan to offer a motion to instruct the Senate conferees on H.R. 111 to insist on language which would prohibit U.S. payments to the Republic of Panama if the introduction of Soviet, Cuban or other foreign troops (other than those of the United States) were to occur."

"Until such protective language supporting this proposition is included in the implementing legislation, language which satisfactorily protects the national security interests of the United States and our treaty allies in Latin America, I will do all I can to prevent its passage."