

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATE OBSERVERS TO FOLLOW ARMS CONTROL TALKS

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kans.) announced today that a bipartisan group of eleven Senators will be traveling to Geneva, Switzerland this coming weekend in their capacity as official observers to the U.S.-Soviet arms control talks.

On January 3, the Senate adopted a resolution authorizing the Senate Majority Leader and Minority Leader to designate Senators to follow the arms control negotiations.

"The Senators who have been selected as official observers have not only a legitimate, but a crucial role to play in the ultimate success of the arms control negotiations," Dole said. "If, as we all hope, the negotiations produce an arms control treaty, it will be the responsibility of the Senate to ratify it. But the Senate will not be able to act wisely unless it is apprised of how the treaty was drafted and all the details it contains. That is the essential function the Senate observers will fulfill," Dole added.

Dole praised Senate Minority Leader Robert C. Byrd (D-W.Va.) for his leadership and cooperation in setting up the Senate observer group.

Senators accompanying Majority Leader Dole and Minority Leader Byrd to Geneva will be: Albert Gore (D-Tenn.); Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.); Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.); Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.); Don Nickles (R-Okla.); Sam Nunn (D-Ga.); Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.); Ted Stevens (R-Alaska); and John Warner (R-Va.). Malcolm Wallop (R-Wyo.), who was also designated an observer, will not be making the trip.

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These official Senate observers have already received extensive briefings from the Administration and outside arms control experts. The Senate observers will meet with the President tomorrow to discuss the negotiations. In Geneva, the group will be given in-depth briefings by the U.S. negotiators before and after the initial round of talks, and before and after each round during their stay. They will receive classified briefings on Monday, March 11, and Tuesday, March 12.

"I believe all of us in the Senate want these talks to produce a fair, strategically sound, and verifiable treaty," Dole said. "And the participation of the observers should help us achieve that goal."

In addition to fulfilling his role as an official observer to the arms talks, Senator Dole will meet with the U.S. Special Trade Representative, delegates to the General Agreement of Tariff and Trade; and will attend a United Nations Conference on African famine relief.