

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE URGES CONGRESS TO RESERVE JUDGEMENT ON JORDANIAN ARMS SALE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS.) today urged his colleagues to "reserve judgement" on the administration's request for the sale of sophisticated weapons to Jordan, "until we have a clearer picture of the true prospects for direct Jordanian negotiations."

Dole said that Jordan has some very legitimate military needs. "Syria, which poses a potential threat to Jordan, has been well armed and massively supplied by the Soviets. King Hussein has assumed high risk by offering to deal with the Israelis."

"King Hussein's commitment to enter in negotiations with Israel under certain conditions on questions such as the future of the Israeli-occupied West Bank is an encouraging step forward," Dole added. "But there are still major, unanswered questions whether meaningful peace talks can begin. One key question is who will represent the Palestinians, and we and the Israelis have the right to examine that matter very carefully. Another hurdle is King Hussein's prescription for an international structure to the negotiations, which would seem to include a role for the Soviets, something we and the Israelis oppose."

"The President is correct that, 'We must be prepared to support those who take risks for peace.' That is why the Congress has approved large sums of economic assistance for Jordan. And we hope that King Hussein's visit to Washington will provide some of the answers we seek on the status of the peace process."