

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

THE ABM TREATY INTERPRETATION

THE SENATE IS NOW FULLY IMMERSSED IN THE ISSUE OF THE ABM TREATY INTERPRETATION--AN ISSUE OF PROFOUND IMPORTANCE TO AMERICA'S DEFENSE. THREE COMMITTEES HAVE UNDERTAKEN HEARINGS ON THE SUBJECT, AND SENATORS HAVE RESPONDED ENTHUSIASTICALLY TO THE PRESIDENT'S OFFER OF EXTENSIVE CONSULTATIONS. SOME SENATORS HAVE SPENT MANY HOURS READING THE RECORDS AND HAVE BEGUN TO SHARE THEIR RESULTS WITH US.

AS WE PROCEED WITH THIS DISCUSSION WE SHOULD KEEP TWO POINTS CONSTANTLY IN MIND.

FIRST, THERE IS--AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN--CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY AND DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE STUDIED THE RECORDS. THE SENATE HAS NOT SPOKEN WITH ONE VOICE, AND I DOUBT THAT WE WILL. I AM SURE THAT ALL MY COLLEAGUES AGREE THAT WE OWE ALL WHO HAVE TAKEN THEIR TIME TO EXAMINE THIS MATTER CAREFUL AND COURTEOUS EXAMINATION OF THEIR VIEWS.

SECOND, WE MUST KEEP IN MIND WHAT WE ARE DOING AND WHAT WE ARE NOT DOING. WE ARE DOING OUR PART TO INSURE THAT ALL RELEVANT FACTORS HAVE BEEN THOROUGHLY EXAMINED, AND THAT ALL POINTS OF VIEW HAVE BEEN HEARD. WE ARE NOT, SHOULD NOT, AND CANNOT MAKE THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION FOR HIM. IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, IT IS PRESIDENT REAGAN WHO WILL HAVE TO DECIDE UPON A REASONABLE INTERPRETATION OF OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE TREATY.

SOME HAVE ALLEGED THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN IS "UNILATERALLY" CHANGING OUR OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE ABM TREATY--NOTHING COULD BE FURTHER FROM THE TRUTH. PRESIDENT REAGAN HAS SHARED HIS ANALYSES, AND THE RECORDS UPON WHICH THEY ARE BASED, WITH US. HE WELCOMES OUR VIEWS. NOW WE MUST GIVE HIM OUR COUNSEL IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT WE HAVE ONLY ONE PRESIDENT.

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