

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 26, 1979

To Senator Bob Dole

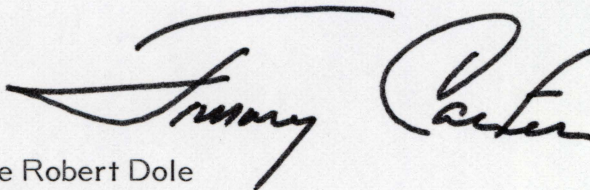
I strongly urge you to support the Panama Canal Treaty implementing bill as it has been reported to the Senate by the Armed Services Committee. This legislation will permit the United States to carry out faithfully the terms of the Panama Canal Treaties of 1977, as approved by the Senate and ratified by the United States and Panama. The Treaties permit us to operate and defend the Canal until the end of the century, with the cooperation of Panama, and thus to ensure that the Canal will continue to be efficiently and safely managed for the benefit of United States and world commerce.

After careful examination of the original Administration proposal for implementing legislation, and of the bill passed by the House of Representatives, the Senate Armed Services Committee has produced a version which I find well suited to the attainment of our national objectives in Panama.

This bill is consistent with the terms of the Panama Canal Treaty. It establishes the Panama Canal Commission as a government corporation, retaining the type of management so successfully exemplified by the present Panama Canal Company. It protects the interests and the security of the Canal work force, whose dedication is essential for the smooth operation of the Canal. And it includes sound financial provisions, avoiding an unmanageable burden on Canal tolls while at the same time setting realistic limits upon the costs to be assumed by the United States for our own benefit.

The Panama Canal Treaties will come into effect on October 1. Many of the changes they entail require advance preparation. I therefore urge the Senate to act promptly and affirmatively, so that there will be no impediment to the timely establishment and strengthening of the new machinery created by the Treaty and by this legislation, and no interruption in the flow of Canal traffic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a distinct "Carter" at the end.

The Honorable Robert Dole  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510