

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE WEDNESDAY, OCT. 22, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 22 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today lashed out at U.S. Senator George McGovern (D-S.Dak.) on comments he made on Vietnam earlier today in the Senate.

Dole called for hearings on S. S. Res. 271, which the Senator and 35 cosponsors introduced Oct. 13. "Rather than placing all the blame on South Vietnam and our government, we should review the role of the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front by holding hearings on this resolution," Dole said.

Excerpts from Dole's remarks follow:

"Mr. President, at a time when the leaders of the Democrat Party are supporting President Nixon's efforts to negotiate a settlement in Vietnam;

"When Senator Fulbright has postponed hearings of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to await the President's speech on November 3;

"When the distinguished majority leader, Senator Mansfield, has indicated the President is moving in the right direction;

"When the past presidential nominee of the Democrat Party, Humbert Humphrey, has expressed confidence in President Nixon's policies.

"Mr. President, in light of these conditions, I seriously question the logic of the speech delivered earlier by the Senator from South Dakota.

"...I find myself wondering if the Senator from South Dakota is not guilty of the same 'dangerous oversimplification' of which he complains. He speaks of 'old schemes of forced killing in foreign crusades'. He said we are fighting 'so blindly to preserve General Thieu in Saigon'. Are these not oversimplifications in the most elemental sense?

"Mr. President, participation in the Oct. 15 moratorium was a matter of conscience for many in this country. Although it is unclear whether those who participated in the moratorium opposed continuation of the war on any basis or merely desired the end of American involvement in the war, it was apparent there are many in this country who are deeply concerned with the war.

"This sentiment did not originate with the Oct. 15 moratorium. President Nixon realized this months ago and has established peace as his Administration's first priority.

"...While the President wants peace, he also realizes that we cannot abandon our commitments without a full realization of the effect of our actions. In Guam, President Nixon outlined a new policy for Asia -- this policy, however, cannot be implemented overnight. Review of our commitments in other parts of the world will continue by both Congress and the President. This is healthy and necessary to a vibrant foreign policy.

"...The Senator from South Dakota has failed to mention the real reason the U.S. has not been able to negotiate a settlement in Vietnam. That reason is the intransigence of the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front. I introduced a resolution...calling on the North Vietnamese to seriously negotiate. I hope the Senator from South Dakota would agree that the North Vietnamese and the National Liberation Front have shown no interest in ending this war other than on their own terms."