

for Jeff

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DOLE SKEPTICAL ABOUT CHINESE ARMS SALES; LETTER TO CARLUCCI ASKS
FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SECRETARY'S "FULLY SATISFIED" COMMENT;
NEW SALES SHOULD BE PUT ON HOLD.

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today sent a letter to Defense Secretary James Carlucci expressing doubt about American arms sales to China and, in particular, Beijing's assurances about its arms sales policy in the Middle East.

In addition to the letter, Dole also noted in remarks on the senate floor that he was concerned by press reports from China quoting Secretary Carlucci as 'fully satisfied' with those Chinese assurances; and that the arms sales allegedly represent no impediment to expanded security ties with, and technology transfers to, China.

"Frankly, many of us in the Senate remain skeptical about Chinese arms sales policies and disturbed by past arms transfers to Iran and Saudi Arabia, among others. Not too long ago -- July 26th -- I sponsored a resolution, which the Senate passed 97 to 0, condemning past Chinese arms sales to the Middle East, and reported discussions with Syria, Libya, Iran and Iraq regarding the future sale of M9 short-range ballistic missiles and other armaments."

The resolution concluded that if the Chinese did not stop selling arms to the Middle East, the U.S. should reexamine agreements -- or contemplated agreements -- providing for arms and technology transfers to the PRC.

"I firmly believe the Senate -- and the American people -- deserve to know more about the nature of these assurances before the U.S. commits to further military and technology transfer agreements with China. I would urge the administration to hold off on signing any new agreements with China until the Senate and the American people have had a chance to see some evidence that China is indeed living up to its assurances," Dole concluded.

The text of Senator Dole's letter to Secretary Carlucci is attached.

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