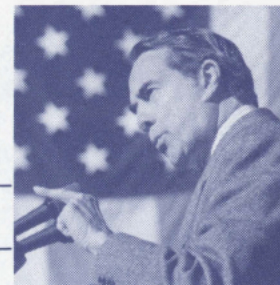


Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 7, 1992

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-5358

U.S. RECOGNIZES CROATIA, SLOVENIA & BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

WE ARE HERE TODAY TO MARK THE RECOGNITION OF THE NATIONS OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND SLOVENIA BY THE UNITED STATES. THOSE OF US HERE HAVE URGED FOR SOME TIME NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES RECOGNIZE THE REPUBLICS OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA WHOSE PEOPLE TOOK TO THE BALLOT BOX LAST YEAR TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY, FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE. WHILE WE WISH U.S. RECOGNITION WOULD HAVE COME SOONER, WE ARE EXTREMELY PLEASED THAT IT HAS NOW COME.

THE PEOPLE OF SLOVENIA PAID A PRICE FOR FREEDOM LAST JUNE WHEN THEY STOOD UP TO THE YUGOSLAV ARMY'S BRUTAL ATTACK; FOR THE PAST EIGHT MONTHS, THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA HAVE PAID A HEAVY PRICE FOR FREEDOM -- THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE LOST THEIR LIVES, MANY MORE WERE WOUNDED; AND, UNFORTUNATELY, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE PEOPLE OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA ARE PAYING THE PRICE FOR FREEDOM.

IT IS MY SINCERE HOPE THAT RECOGNITION BY THE UNITED STATES -- THE LEADER OF THE FREE WORLD -- WILL SIGNAL THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION ON THE TERRITORY OF THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA, SO THAT THE PEOPLE OF CROATIA, SLOVENIA AND BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA CAN FINALLY PURSUE THEIR GOALS AND DREAMS IN PEACE. I BELIEVE THAT U.S. RECOGNITION WILL SERVE TO BOLSTER THE PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS FORCES BECAUSE IT SENDS A DEFINITE MESSAGE TO THE YUGOSLAV ARMY AND THEIR MILITANT HENCHMEN THAT THEIR BRUTAL TYRANNY OF FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED BY THIS COUNTRY.

THERE IS NO LONGER ANY DOUBT WHERE THE UNITED STATES STANDS: IT STANDS WHERE IT SHOULD STAND -- ON THE SIDE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. BUT, LET US NOT FORGET THAT THE RECOGNITION OF THESE THREE COUNTRIES DOES NOT END OUR RESPONSIBILITIES WITH RESPECT TO RESOLVING THE SITUATION IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA -- UNSOLVED PROBLEMS REMAIN: THE PEOPLE OF KOSOVA ARE STILL SUFFERING UNDER THE WEIGHT OF TREMENDOUS REPRESSION AND THE TERMS UNDER WHICH RECOGNITION WILL BE GRANTED TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA ARE BEING WORKED OUT. TODAY'S RECOGNITION IS JUST A FIRST STEP.

I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND MY WARMEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLE OF BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA, CROATIA AND SLOVENIA ON THIS IMPORTANT AND HISTORIC OCCASION.

I AM JOINED HERE THIS AFTERNOON BY DR. FRANE GOLEM, CROATIA'S REPRESENTATIVE, WHO WILL CARRY OUR MESSAGES OF GOODWILL TO THE CITIZENS OF CROATIA.

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