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NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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SERBIAN SANCTIONS

ONLY FIRST STEP TO STOP "BUTCHER OF BELGRADE" MILOSEVIC

LAST WEEKEND, THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL VOTED TO IMPOSE COMPREHENSIVE SANCTIONS ON SERBIA.

THESE SANCTIONS ARE LONG OVERDUE. THE SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSED SANCTIONS LEGISLATION THREE WEEKS AGO. AND, THERE ARE MANY OF US WHO SUPPORTED SANCTIONS LEGISLATION, INTRODUCED BY THE DISTINGUISHED SENATOR FROM NEW YORK, SENATOR D'AMATO, MORE THAN EIGHT MONTHS AGO.

BREAD LINE SLAUGHTER

FOR MONTHS NOW, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN DYING AS A RESULT OF SERBIAN PRESIDENT MILOSEVIC'S BRUTAL AND BLOODY LAND-GRAB IN CROATIA AND BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA. BUT, LAST WEEK, THE WHOLE WORLD WITNESSED THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT PEOPLE IN A BREAD LINE IN SARAJEVO. THESE SCENES -- MORE THAN ANY STATISTICS -- TRULY CAPTURED THE MURDEROUS INTENTIONS OF THE BUTCHER OF BELGRADE AND HIS HENCHMEN. IT WAS THIS TRAGIC EVENT THAT MADE THE WORLD DETERMINED TO PUT AN END TO MILOSEVIC'S REIGN OF TERROR.

WHILE THE U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL WAS VOTING ON THE SANCTIONS RESOLUTION, IN BELGRADE, THOUSANDS OF SERBS, INCLUDING MANY YOUNG PEOPLE, PROTESTED AGAINST THE MILOSEVIC GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR WAGED BY IT AGAINST BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA AND CROATIA. DAYS EARLIER THE HIERARCHY OF THE SERBIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH DISTANCED ITSELF FROM THE POLICIES OF THE MILOSEVIC GOVERNMENT AND THIS WEEKEND, THE SERBIAN DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION BOYCOTTED MILOSEVIC'S SHAM ELECTIONS.

SANCTIONS FIRST SYMBOLIC STEP OF WORLD'S RESOLVE

BUT, IN MY VIEW, THESE SANCTIONS ARE JUST THE FIRST STEP -- AND A STEP THAT IS, AT THIS POINT, LARGELY SYMBOLIC OF THE WORLD'S RESOLVE TO STOP THE "BUTCHER OF BELGRADE" MILOSEVIC NOW -- BEFORE MORE PEOPLE ARE KILLED AND BEFORE HE MOVES HIS FORCES INTO KOSOVA TO ANNIHILATE THE TWO MILLION ALBANIANS WHO ARE TRAPPED THERE.

I AM NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT SERBIA'S HARDLINE PRESIDENT WILL RESPOND TO INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC PRESSURE -- WHICH WILL NOT BE FELT OVERNIGHT -- OR EVEN THE POTENTIAL SUFFERING OF HIS OWN PEOPLE. AND, I DOUBT THAT MILOSEVIC YET COMPREHENDS THAT HE STANDS AGAINST THE ENTIRE WORLD.

THE LATEST CEASEFIRE NEGOTIATED BY THE UNITED NATIONS IN BOSNIA LASTED LESS THAN TWO HOURS. THEN HEAVY SHELLING OF THE CAPITAL AND AERIAL BOMBING -- WITH MIG AIRCRAFT FROM SERBIA -- BEGAN, ONCE AGAIN.

(MORE)

BOSNIA RUNNING OUT OF TIME

THE PROBLEM BEFORE US IS THAT IT WILL TAKE TIME FOR EXTERNAL AND INTERNAL PRESSURE ON MILOSEVIC TO BUILD, BUT THE PEOPLE OF BOSNIA DO NOT HAVE TIME.

MILLIONS OF PEOPLE ARE STILL STARVING THROUGHOUT BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA. FOOD SENT BY THE UNITED STATES AND OTHER COUNTRIES NEVER REACHED THE NEEDY. THE RED CROSS PULLED ITS PERSONNEL OUT LAST WEEK FOLLOWING AN ATTACK ON A RED CROSS TEAM BY SERB FORCES IN WHICH ONE PERSON WAS KILLED.

CREATE "SECURITY ZONE"

WHILE U.N. RESOLUTION 757 DEMANDS THAT CONDITIONS BE CREATED TO FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN AID, INCLUDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SECURITY ZONE, NO DEADLINE HAS BEEN SET FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS.

WHO WILL CREATE THESE CONDITIONS? AS I MENTIONED BEFORE, YESTERDAY'S CEASEFIRE LASTED LESS THAN TWO HOURS. MORE THAN 15 CEASEFIRES WERE AGREED TO IN CROATIA BEFORE ONE TOOK HOLD. AND DESPITE THAT CEASEFIRE, AT THIS MOMENT DUBROVNIK IS BEING SHELLED AS ARE OTHER PARTS OF CROATIA. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT ONE THOUSAND SHELLS HAVE FALLEN ON DUBROVNIK IN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS FURTHER DAMAGING WORLD-RENOWNED HISTORIC MONUMENTS. IT DOESN'T TAKE A GENIUS TO FIGURE OUT THAT MILOSEVIC HAS NOT BEEN INTIMIDATED BY THE U.N. SANCTIONS. HE SEEMS AS DETERMINED AS EVER TO CONTINUE HIS GENOCIDAL WAR AGAINST BOSNIA AND ITS PEOPLE. SO THE WORLD BETTER NOT WAIT FOR HIS COOPERATION AS A PRECONDITION TO HELPING THE PEOPLE OF BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA WHO ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.

STEPS TO HELP THE SUFFERING

THEREFORE, THE FOLLOWING STEPS NEED TO BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY:
(1) THE AIRPORT IN SARAJEVO NEEDS TO BE REOPENED AS THE CORE OF A SECURITY ZONE; (2) FOOD AND MEDICINE MUST BE DELIVERED TO THIS SECURITY ZONE; (3) THESE SUPPLIES MUST BE DELIVERED TO OTHER REGIONS OF BOSNIA UNDER MILITARY ESCORT -- SINCE CONVOYS OF FOOD AND MEDICINE LED BY HUMANITARIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE BEEN ROUTINELY ATTACKED BY SERB FORCES.

(4) TO FACILITATE THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN AID, AND IN VIEW OF CONTINUED AERIAL BOMBING BY SERB FORCES, THE UNITED NATIONS AND/ OR NATO MUST ADDRESS, AS A TOP PRIORITY, THE MATTER OF CLOSING THE AIRSPACE OVER BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA.

FURTHERMORE, IF ATTACKS ON DUBROVNIK DO NOT CEASE IN THE VERY NEAR FUTURE, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A NAVAL BLOCKADE MUST ALSO BE ADDRESSED.

THE CATASTROPHIC WAR IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA HAS ALREADY CLAIMED THE LIVES OF THOUSANDS, DESTROYED ITS ECONOMY, AND MUCH OF ITS HISTORY AND CULTURE, IN EFFECT DWARFING THE WAR IN CROATIA -- WHICH ITSELF WAS UNPRECEDENTED IN SCALE IN EUROPE SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR. FOR NEARLY A YEAR THE WORLD LOOKED THE OTHER WAY WHILE MILOSEVIC AND HIS FORCES PLUNDERED, KILLED AND OCCUPIED IN THE NAME OF A "GREATER SERBIA." SO NOW, THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS FINALLY COMMITTED ITSELF TO STOPPING MILOSEVIC, IT MUST FOLLOW THROUGH ON THAT COMMITMENT.