

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FEBRUARY 10, 1993**

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CLINTON BOSNIA PLAN

CLINTON PLAN ON BOSNIA FALLS SHORT: DOLE CALLS FOR TOUGHER INTERNATIONAL ACTION

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN RESPONSE TO THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN TO DEAL WITH THE ONGOING WAR IN BOSNIA-HERCEGOVINA:

"The Clinton plan is more old than new. It's a disappointment because it is far less than the tough action he promised during the campaign. His plan won't be near enough to stop the bloodshed and ethnic cleansing, so I doubt the Serbs will back off.

"I support the President's decision to send a special envoy to the negotiations in New York, but I believe that the Vance/Owen plan is fundamentally flawed and thus, we should not build on it. The Vance/Owen plan doesn't need minor editing, it needs a major overhaul.

"The immediate enforcement of the no-fly zone is long overdue. As for possible U.S. troop commitments, in my view, we need to know a lot more about the details of any plan, its enforcement mechanisms, the potential role of U.S. forces and the participation of other countries, before a decision can be made on whether to send U.S. troops -- and even then I am seriously concerned about the wisdom of getting involved on the ground in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Let's not forget, this is a U.N. problem, not just a U.S. problem.

"In the absence of military pressure on Serb forces -- such as the threat of NATO air strikes and lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian government -- there is little hope that the killing of civilians will stop. Since last April we have watched the destruction of Bosnia-Herzegovina while negotiations dragged on.

"The Clinton plan does not address the question of how to stop this brutal war and prevent its spread into Kosova and Macedonia. Clearly economic sanctions have not worked to date, so tightening these sanctions can't be expected to produce significant results.

"Basically what is needed is a whole new approach, not just words, but real action, tough measures against the perpetrators of this aggression. I hope the Clinton plan works, but I'm not optimistic."

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