

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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BOSNIA DISAPPOINTMENT

**NEW "JOINT ACTION PROGRAM" PLAN OFFERS LITTLE HOPE:
DOLE RENEWS CALL FOR END TO ARMS EMBARGO;
ALLIES SHOULDN'T STAND IN WAY OF ALLOWING BOSNIAN SELF DEFENSE**

WATERVILLE, MAINE -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole, in Maine to give the commencement address at Colby College, today issued the following statement regarding the US-European "Joint Action Program" in response to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina:

"I am deeply disappointed at the 'Joint Action Program' agreed to by the Clinton administration in response to the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. This new plan -- which is hardly new -- offers little if any hope of ending the war in Bosnia. Moreover, it amounts to writing off Bosnia as a state by ratifying the status quo on the ground. As we have seen in the hours preceding and following the announcement by Secretary Christopher, while diplomats talk, ethnic cleansing rages on -- and the Bosnian people continue to pay the price.

"And so, once again, I urge President Clinton not to allow our European allies and Russia to block the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnians. Like every other member of the United Nations, Bosnia-Herzegovina has the right to self defense. It has been denied this fundamental right to survival by the U.N. Security Council. The international community may be unwilling to help defend the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina, but it should not stand in the way of the citizens of Bosnia, who for the past 13 months have waged a courageous and desperate struggle against brutal aggression.

"Lifting the arms embargo would not involve the United States in a quagmire, nor would it involve significant U.S. resources. We must allow the Bosnians to protect themselves -- it is the least we can do."

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