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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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END BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO

DOLE BILL ENDS U.S. ARMS EMBARGO AGAINST BOSNIA: AMERICA MUST SUPPORT BOSNIA'S RIGHT TO SELF-DEFENSE

Today I am introducing the Bosnia-Herzegovina Self-Defense Act of 1993 -- a bill which terminates the U.S. arms embargo against the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and authorizes no more than \$200 million in military assistance to the government of Bosnia-Herzegovina. I am pleased to have as cosponsors, Senators Lugar, Gorton, D'Amato and Wallop. The issue of lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnian government is not just a question of fairness, but of the rights of Bosnia as a sovereign state and member of the United Nations.

I believe that lifting the arms embargo is the least we can do and I urge the administration to resume the course it set out on four weeks ago. The United States should lead the way in doing what is right. The international community may choose not to follow through on collective defense, but it should not and must not stand in the way of Bosnia's right to self defense.

Good Policy Takes Back Seat to Multilateralism

I know that the President is committed to a multilateral approach -- I support this approach. But, it seems that multilateralism has become the primary goal and good policy the secondary goal. Is the United States going to pursue multilateralism for multilateralism's sake? Or is the United States as the world's only superpower going to construct the best policy and then work to forge a consensus? In my view, it is no great achievement to get an agreement on a policy which amounts to the lowest common denominator.

President Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher remain that the lifting of the arms embargo against Bosnia remains the "preferred option." Some would argue that we should wait for the Security Council to take action to lift the embargo, but this bill offers an alternative to waiting.

UN Embargo Violates UN Charter

On September 25, 1991, at the request of Yugoslavia, the U.N. Security Council adopted Resolution 713, imposing a mandatory international embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment to Yugoslavia.

This U.N. Security Council action was taken prior to the independence of Bosnia-Herzegovina, prior to the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina's admission into the United Nations, and prior to the onset of aggression against Bosnia. The fact is that the

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arms embargo was placed on the former Yugoslavia -- a state which no longer exists.

Article 51 of the U.N. Charter states, "nothing in the present charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security."

Arms Embargo Impairs Bosnian Self-Defense

It is obvious that the measures taken by the Security Council to date in response to the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina have been inadequate to maintain international peace and security. To the contrary, continued application to Bosnia of the arms embargo that was imposed on the former Yugoslavia has impaired and continues to impair Bosnia's right to self-defense, thereby encouraging further aggression. To put it plainly, the arms embargo has rendered Bosnia virtually defenseless against Serbian forces which inherited the vast military resources of the Yugoslav army. As a result, more than 70% of Bosnia is occupied, more than 2 million Bosnians are homeless, and more than 150,000 people have died.

Should the United States be tied to an unjust policy in a U.N. Security Council resolution which because of changed circumstances now violates the U.N. Charter? In my view the answer is "no." The arms embargo doesn't make any sense in policy or legal terms.

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