

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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NATO & RUSSIA SUMMITS

DOLE: U.S. LEADERSHIP NEEDED TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY AND STABILITY

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding President Clinton's upcoming trip to Europe and Russia:

The President's trip to Europe and Russia is a unique opportunity for the United States to exert its tremendous influence and leadership in support of democracy and stability in Europe and Russia. At the NATO, Prague and Russian summits the President will have the opportunity to actively support the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe and in Russia, to promote real means of securing stability in Europe, and to put an end to doubts about the role of the United States in Europe and the U.S. commitment to revitalizing and reshaping NATO.

NATO at Crossroads

NATO is at a crossroads. Whether it will meet the challenges of the present and future will likely be determined at this summit. While a great deal of attention has been focused on the important question of expanding the Alliance, NATO governments must first contend with the need to change NATO's mission from that of defending against the threat of a Soviet attack, to that of securing stability and order in Europe. U.S. leadership in this effort will be critical; without it, we can expect decisions reflecting the lowest common denominator.

Bosnia: Greatest Threat to Stability in Europe

At present, the greatest threat to stability and order in Europe is in Bosnia. I urge the President and other NATO governments to support the immediate implementation of NATO plans for air strikes in Bosnia. Bosnian Serb shelling of Sarajevo is steadily increasing as the summit nears. These attacks are a direct challenge to NATO to back its rhetoric with action. Should the Alliance fail to confront this challenge, NATO could be doomed to go the way of the United Nations -- where resolutions are plentiful, but resolve, effective action and credibility are absent.

Partnership for Peace: Just a Start

If NATO governments embrace this new role of ensuring stability and security in Europe, the logic of expanding NATO becomes increasingly clear. While the Partnership for Peace is a step in the right direction, it is essentially a stop-gap measure -- not a road map for new membership. The Partnership for Peace should not be used as a means to dismiss the legitimate security concerns of the new democracies in Central Europe. For the Czechs, the Poles, the Hungarians and others, the painful memories of abandonment at Munich and at Yalta stand as reminders of the West choosing appeasement rather than principle; NATO's inaction in Bosnia has made these memories more vivid. I encourage the President to move beyond the Partnership for Peace and to work with other NATO members to establish criteria and set milestones for expanded membership in what has been the most successful alliance in modern history.

Russia: Less Shock, More Therapy

In Moscow, the President must reaffirm our support for the transition to a democratic Russia -- to which President Yeltsin is firmly committed. President Clinton and his advisers have made a series of contradictory statements about "shock therapy" and its role in the rise of Russian extremism. I encourage President Clinton to clarify U.S. policy on the pace and nature of economic reform in Russia and indicate that the U.S. supports less shock and more therapy. Democratic and free market reforms

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are first and foremost about people. When the IMF, the World Bank, and the international community ignore the effects of economic prescriptions on the average Russian, it is no surprise that demagogues gain popular support.

Get U.S. Aid to Russia on the Right Track

Congress moved with record speed to approve \$2.5 billion in assistance to the former Soviet Union. Unfortunately, the Administration has not moved with such speed in designing and implementing an effective assistance package. Over the last two months, serious questions have been raised by members of Congress -- on both sides of the aisle -- about the direction and nature of the U.S. aid package. Our assistance must meet the real needs of the people -- not just enrich consultants -- and it must also address our security interests in dismantling nuclear weapons and facilitating defense conversion. In Moscow, President Clinton will no doubt hear President Yeltsin's views on U.S. aid. I hope that upon his return, President Clinton will direct a comprehensive review of U.S. and multilateral assistance to the former Soviet Union and work with the Congress on the necessary adjustments.

It also is possible that Ukrainian President Kravchuk will meet with President Clinton and President Yeltsin in Moscow. I hope President Clinton will use this opportunity to place U.S.-Ukrainian relations on a course of cooperation not confrontation.

Address Need for Reform in Russia's Foreign Policy

Finally, President Clinton needs to address the need for reform in Russian foreign and defense policy. As the Russian government continues to object stridently to the expansion of NATO, Russia's policies in the Caucasus, Central Asia and elsewhere are more reminiscent of the Soviet Union than of a democratic state which respects the sovereignty of its neighbors -- adding to the anxieties of Presidents Walesa and Havel. Just as the United States cannot ignore Russian concerns over NATO's future course, Russia cannot ignore legitimate U.S. concerns over Russia's policies. President Clinton should raise U.S. concerns with President Yeltsin in the spirit of enhancing mutual understanding and cooperation.

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