



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

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## **U.N. PEACEKEEPING AMENDMENT**

### **DOLE AMENDMENT ESTABLISHES CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT** **IN U.N. PEACEKEEPING DECISIONS**

This amendment is with two exceptions, identical to S. 1803, the Peace Powers Act, which I introduced last week together with 12 cosponsors. Three more senators have now added their name as cosponsors of this amendment. The legislation has also been introduced in the House by Congressman Hyde.

Some may ask why the attention of the Congress has turned to U.N. peacekeeping. The fact of the matter is that the United Nations is now engaged in peacekeeping operations in more than 20 countries with some 80,000 personnel. The United States taxpayers will be asked to pay \$1 billion more this year for peacekeeping, than the \$401 million already appropriated by Congress for that purpose.

#### **U.S. Assistance to U.N. in Absence of Congressional Oversight**

But, we're not just talking about financial obligations. U.S. military personnel are increasingly involved in U.N. operations. Let us not forget that twenty-nine Americans lost their lives, and 170 more were wounded, to carry out a U.N. mission in Somalia that began as feeding hungry Somalis and evolved into law enforcement and "nation-building."

Substantial financial and military assistance is being provided to the United Nations, and, in ever more creative ways -- to avoid Congressional oversight and to circumvent legislative restrictions. For example, tanks are being leased to Boutros Boutros-Ghali to circumvent a Congressional prohibition on aid. Votes in the U.N. Security Council commit U.S. forces and U.S. dollars to U.N.-initiated operations in places from Georgia to Liberia, from Mozambique to Western Sahara, yet, these votes to begin new or to expand existing peacekeeping operations are made in the absence of consultation with Congress.

In addition, intelligence is being provided on an ad hoc basis -- despite the fact that the United Nations includes such states as Libya, Iran and North Korea as members.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Secretary General's position seems to be growing in authority and shrinking in accountability. Boutros Boutros-Ghali asserts veto power over the use of NATO air power in the former Yugoslavia, while thumbing his nose at U.S. proposals for an independent inspector general at the United Nations.

The rate of assessment for the U.S. share of peacekeeping keeps increasing. And, new "assessments" keep piling up with no discussions with Congress on how to pay for old ones.

In sum, United Nations peacekeeping -- both at headquarters, New York, and in the field -- is out of control.

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