

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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PEACE POWERS UPDATE

SENATE ADOPTS MAJORITY OF DOLE PEACE POWER PROVISIONS; GOOD START ON CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT OF U.N. PEACEKEEPING

Washington -- Late Tuesday night the U.S. Senate adopted a series of amendments offered by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole regarding U.N. peacekeeping. Senator Dole today made the following remarks on the Senate floor:

Prior to consideration of the State Department authorization bill, I introduced the Peace Powers Act, to bring greater accountability, congressional oversight, and U.S. interests into the peacekeeping decision-making process.

My amendment to the State Department authorization bill was based largely on the Peace Powers Act with the exception of the foreign command issue, which I decided to defer. Although the Mitchell substitute to my amendment was adopted by the Senate, I am pleased that the Senate also adopted the majority of the provisions in my original amendment -- 12 out of 15 sections -- in a series of amendments to S.1281.

With bipartisan support we have made a good start -- we have begun to establish real congressional oversight of U.N. peacekeeping. I would like to thank the managers of the State Department bill and the distinguished Majority Leader for working with me and the cosponsors of my bill to make this possible.

The adoption of my amendments on peacekeeping demonstrate that the issue of U.N. peacekeeping is not a partisan one.

This is not about partisanship. It is about the Congress and the Executive. It is about the relationship between the United States and the United Nations and the role of the Congress in that relationship.

Right now there are no check and balances. The U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations votes on a peacekeeping operation and the Congress gets the bill. There is no formal or even informal consultation prior to such votes in the Security Council.

But, this is not just about funding, this is also about policy: namely whether and to what extent the United States should subcontract its policies to the United Nations Security Council -- which does not necessarily reflect U.S. interests or values. And, the wisdom of granting authority for military operations to Boutros Boutros-Ghali as has been done on the matter of air strikes over Bosnia.

Yesterday's New York Times editorial commenting on my amendment was wrong on the facts -- I suggest that next time the editors read my amendment before they pick up their pens. It was also dead wrong on the argument that congressional initiatives which seek to assert control over U.N. peacekeeping limit U.S. options to either unilateral action or no action.

Let me say once again. This legislation only limits U.N. peacekeeping -- not operations pursuant to U.N. Security Council decisions, such as Desert Storm, not NATO operations, and not other multilateral operations.

To date the successes of U.N. peacekeeping -- if we can call them that -- have been few and far between. In Bosnia, U.N. peacekeepers count artillery shells falling on Sarajevo and escort, but do not protect, humanitarian aid convoys. Even Cambodia, which has been anointed as the exemplary U.N. peacekeeping operation, is marred by human rights violations on the part of peacekeepers, corruption and mismanagement.

(more)

The Administration is reported to be completing its presidential review of U.N. peacekeeping and will be briefing the Congress in a week or two.

I look forward to hearing the Administration's proposals and working with the Majority Leader and the relevant committees on this matter further in the coming months. I hope that we will be able to construct a lasting framework for the difficult issues of war and peace in a manner consistent with the respective powers of the Executive and the Congress.

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SENATE ACTION ON PEACE POWERS ACT **12 OF 15 SECTIONS ADDRESSED IN S. 1281**

Congressional notification before U.N. Security Council votes on peacekeeping (section 5 of PPA; section 167 of S. 1281, Pressler Committee amendment).

Congressional notification of assistance to the United Nations (section 8 of PPA; section 168 of S. 1281, Pressler Committee amendment).

Comprehensive annual peacekeeping funding request (section 9 of PPA; Dole amendment to S. 1281).

No "raiding" of Defense Department funds for U.N. peacekeeping (section 12 of PPA; Dole sense of Senate amendment to S. 1281).

Full reimbursement for Defense Department "in-kind" contributions (section 11 of PPA; section 170 of S. 1281, Pressler Committee amendment).

Reduced U.S. assessment for peacekeeping to general U.N. budget level of 25% (section 13 of PPA; Dole amendment to S. 1281).

Access for U.S. manufacturers to U.N. peacekeeping contracts (section 14 of PPA; Dodd amendment to S. 1281).

Steps to ensure safety of Americans captured during U.N. peacekeeping operations (section 15 of PPA; Dole amendment to S. 1281).

Withholding 20% of U.S. peacekeeping contributions until Inspector General appointed (section 17 of PPA; Dole-Pressler amendment to S. 1281).

Annual report on U.S. involvement in U.N. peacekeeping activities (section 10 of PPA; section 169 of S. 1281, Pressler Committee amendment)

Transmittal of U.N. resolutions and reports to Congress (section 6 of PPA; Dole amendment to S. 1281).

Purposes of Peace Powers Act (section 2; Mitchell amendment to S. 1281)

Human rights report on U.N. peacekeeping (not in PPA; Dole amendment to S. 1281).

In addition, intelligence sharing (section 16 of PPA) will have Committee hearings and financial reporting requirements (section 7 of PPA) will be the subject of a letter from Secretary of State Christopher.