

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, February 8, 1994

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

LIFT BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO

WASHINGTON -- Fifty-one U.S. Senators, led by Senate Republican leader Bob Dole and Senator Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut), today sent the attached letter to President Clinton expressing their support for unilateral action by the United States to lift the U.S. arms embargo against Bosnia:

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-7020

February 8, 1994

The President
The White House
Washington

Dear Mr. President:

Saturday's bloody massacre in Sarajevo's marketplace shocked the world and emphasized, once again, the imperative of taking immediate and effective action to provide the Bosnian government with the means to defend its citizens. The people of Sarajevo are not being strangled; they are being slaughtered. As allied and U.N. floundering over these past twenty-two months has demonstrated, strong measures cannot be taken without decisive U.S. leadership.

We are therefore writing to indicate our strong support for lifting the U.S. arms embargo -- an option which you have supported since you assumed office. Recently, the Senate by a vote of 87-9, adopted an amendment urging that the U.S. arms embargo against Bosnia and Herzegovina be immediately terminated and that military equipment be provided to the Bosnian government upon request. In our view, if the United States takes the first decisive step, our allies will follow.

We believe that what is at stake in Bosnia is not just the future of its citizens, but international law and the credibility of the United Nations. The United Nations is guilty of tolerating aggression against Bosnia and Herzegovina, a U.N. member state. That violation of international law has been compounded by denying Bosnia its fundamental right of self-defense as guaranteed in Article 51 of the U.N. Charter. The U.N. Security Council has adhered to an illegal arms embargo -- originally instituted against the former Yugoslavia -- which ensures that the Bosnians are unable to defend themselves against brutal aggression.

The U.N. Security Council also passed resolutions establishing Sarajevo and other cities as "safe" areas. Saturday's massacre should leave no illusions that those U.N. resolutions have any meaning or relevance. NATO planes fly daily over Sarajevo while Serbian forces shell innocent civilians. Bosnian government officials have stressed time and time again, that they do not want U.S. ground troops, they only want to be able to acquire the means to defend themselves. We share those

(more)

views.

Mr. President, in our view, lifting the U.S. arms embargo against Bosnia offers hope of bringing this war towards a just resolution, and in a manner which does not require the deployment of U.S. ground forces. The proposal by some of our allies to pressure the Bosnian government into signing an agreement dismembering Bosnia and Herzegovina, and then sending troops, including U.S. forces, to ensure that such an unjust settlement is implemented, is unlikely to be supported in the Congress.

Mr. President, the time to act is now. The consequences of the United States doing nothing to counter international aggression will be felt around the globe for years to come. We stand ready to support you at this critical moment.

Sincerely,

J. L. ...

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Dennis DeConcini

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Nick ...

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Strom Thurmond
JAMES M. Jeffords

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Paul Wellstone

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Connie Mack

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Larry Pressler

Carl Levin

Walter
Al Hunt

Dirk Kempthorn

Just Lott

Don Nickles

Bob Smith

Malcolm Wallop

Joe Biden

Bob Cramer

Jay Byrnes

Al Singer

Don Tingle

Jim Walsh

Robert F. Bennett

Paul R. Luby

Richard H. Lugar

Jeff Sessions

Dale Bumpers

Tom Vukobratovic

Ed Keating

Tom Harkin

Chuck Robb

Barack Obama

Spencer Abraham
Max Baucus