

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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LIFT BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO

**U.S. SHOULD LEAD EFFORT TO LIFT EMBARGO, ACT ALONE IF ALLIES
WON'T FOLLOW: IS FURTHER FUNDING OF U.N. PEACEKEEPING FORCE
JUSTIFIED? TAXPAYERS GETTING BIG U.N. BLUFFS FOR THE BUCK**

ELMIRA, NEW YORK -- The following are remarks of Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole prepared for delivery tonight at the Souther Tier County Republican Dinner in Elmira, New York:

Today the Bosnian city of Gorazde is on the verge of collapse and the United States, together with NATO, is on the verge of losing its credibility in world affairs. The events of this past weekend are evidence that the United States has abdicated the leadership role it assumed in February when Sarajevo was rescued. Since then, we have turned over the reins to the United Nations -- which has already lost all credibility in the former Yugoslavia.

Gorazde: A Humanitarian Catastrophe

With more than 300 people killed in Gorazde, 1,100 wounded, 30,000 people displaced from their homes, and Bosnian Serb forces shelling the city's water power plant and hospital, the situation in Gorazde is a humanitarian catastrophe. Yet, the U.N.'s response has been to issue more statements and to pull out U.N. peacekeeping forces. Meanwhile, President Clinton has taken the position that the United States and NATO cannot take action unless authorized by the United Nations. I reject that view. The United States does not have to wait on the United Nations to establish U.S. policy toward Bosnia.

Not Getting Peacekeeping We Pay For

The U.N. peacekeeping record in the former Yugoslavia is one marked by failure. This year, the United States will spend at least \$300 million to fund UNPROFOR in the former Yugoslavia, but we are not getting the peacekeeping we are paying for. The fact is that UNPROFOR has not carried out resolutions passed by the U.N. Security Council, such as Resolution 836 which authorizes the use of force to protect "safe havens" such as Gorazde. Instead of getting protection of so-called safe havens in Bosnia, the U.S. taxpayers have gotten big bluffs for the buck. It's no wonder the Serbs have now called the U.N.'s bluff.

Serious Questions About U.N. Funding

We have reached the point where we must consider whether further funding of UNPROFOR can be justified -- especially since the presence of UNPROFOR troops are cited by our allies as a key obstacle to lifting the arms embargo against the Bosnians. And so serious questions must be asked when UNPROFOR's mandate expires on the 30th of April; expansion of UNPROFOR at this time may be the worst option for the protection of Bosnians. If the United Nations is unwilling to take measures with NATO to protect Bosnian enclaves it has committed to protect, UNPROFOR forces should be withdrawn and the Bosnian Army should be armed.

American Leadership Needed to Lift Embargo

Therefore, I call upon the President to resume a serious effort to lift the arms embargo against the Bosnian government. President Clinton indicated today that he still favors the lifting of the arms embargo against the Bosnians. However, this cannot and will not occur without U.S. leadership. The President should make it clear that the United States is ready to and will lift the embargo unilaterally if our allies and other members of the U.N. Security Council refuse to go along. Unlike the embargo against Iraq, this arms embargo violates the U.N. Charter and Bosnia's right to self-defense. Lifting the arms embargo may not help the people of Gorazde who are on the brink of death, but it may save other Bosnians from the dangers of U.N. indecision and appeasement.