

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO UPDATE

BOSNIAN PRIME MINISTER TO SENATORS:
"THE HOPES OF THE BOSNIAN PEOPLE ARE TURNED TO THE
UNITED STATES SENATE. ... IT IS NEVER TOO LATE FOR JUSTICE"

Washington -- On the eve of a U.S. Senate vote to terminate the U.S. arms embargo against Bosnia, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) and Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT) received the following letter from Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic:



The Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

May 11, 1994

The Honorable Senator Dole
The Honorable Senator Lieberman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Dole and Lieberman:

On behalf of the people and government of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, I would like to thank you for your tireless efforts in support of the inherent right of a sovereign and independent state, a member of the United Nations, to defend itself against aggression and genocide. We know that the vote on the lifting of the arms embargo is tomorrow and we hope that the Senate will overwhelmingly support it. Tomorrow, the hopes of the Bosnian people are turned to the United States Senate.

We want peace but peace is not possible without a balance of power. Without securing a balance of power, that is, arming the Bosnians, there can be no just peace. For almost two years, our delegation participated in all peace talks sponsored by the international community. While we were negotiating with a gun to our heads, more than two hundred thousand people have been killed.

The illegal arms embargo imposed on Bosnia and Herzegovina has been respected by the international community and thus we have been unable to defend ourselves. That measure has not helped to achieve peace. Isn't it high time for the international community to change its approach?

We Bosnians are grateful to the American people for all the help they have provided so far. We do not believe that America should go into the history books as a country that kept the victims of fascist aggression defenseless. If the rest of the world is making a mistake, should America also make the same mistake? Isn't it high time to correct this mistake?

Please let your colleagues know that we fully support this measure and that we hope and pray for its passage. And as Edmund Burke said: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". It is never too late for justice.

Sincerely,


Dr. Haris Silajdzic
Prime Minister