



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

BOSNIA UPDATE

DOLE RENEWS CALL TO WITHDRAW U.N. FORCES **AND LIFT BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO**

Tuesday, UNPROFOR units in the U.N. declared safe haven of Tuzla again came under attack by Bosnian Serb forces. Once again, these forces requested NATO air strikes. And once again, the U.N. special representative, Yasushi Akashi, turned down their request.

Well, the Nordic battalion can't count on Akashi to come to their defense, but the Bosnian Serbs can. The Bosnian Serbs have an overwhelming advantage in tanks and artillery, but their biggest advantage appears to be Akashi and his refusal to use NATO air forces at his disposal -- even when U.N. forces are under direct and serious attacks by Serb forces.

I don't know how many times U.N. forces have requested air support. I would like to know, but apparently the Pentagon does not keep track of these requests -- which is odd in view of the administration's support for this NATO-U.N. arrangement.

The bottom line is that the U.N. protection forces are not protecting Bosnians -- they can hardly protect themselves. The only rational way out of this absurd situation is to withdraw UNPROFOR and lift the arms embargo so that the Bosnians can defend themselves. As I mentioned here last week, if the administration does not move to lift the embargo in the near future, Senator Lieberman and I will offer our bill once again, as an amendment to pending legislation. Lifting the embargo is the right thing to do and the smart thing to do. Now is the right time to do it.

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* Remarks delivered on the Senate floor, approximately 11:40 AM.