

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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RWANDA RELIEF

SENATE PASSES DOLE/MOSELEY-BRAUN AMENDMENT PROVIDING \$100 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE; HELPS ADMINISTRATION RESPOND TO COLOSSAL RWANDAN CRISIS

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate this morning unanimously approved an amendment by Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) and Senator Carol Moseley-Braun (D-Illinois) allowing the President to transfer \$100 million in humanitarian relief for Rwanda from other international programs in the legislation. The amendment was added to the 1995 Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary Appropriations Bill.

Senator Dole's statement delivered on the Senate floor follows:

"The scenes of the flood of Rwandan refugees are heartbreaking. Husbands watching their wives die; children alone on the side of the road, next to their dead parents. The situation in Zaire is a humanitarian catastrophe of staggering proportions. Around two million Rwandans have crossed the border into Zaire, only to find severe shortages of food and water. And now, we hear news of an outbreak of cholera which could make the current death tolls skyrocket.

"The international relief organizations were clearly not prepared for this massive flood of Rwandan refugees. I welcome the action taken by the Clinton administration to send A.I.D. Administrator Brian Atwood to assess the situation and the decision to commit an additional \$41 million dollars to provide assistance to needy Rwandans. However, looking at our experience with the humanitarian crisis in Somalia and in Bosnia, these funds will be rapidly expended and more assistance will be needed. We're talking about nearly two million refugees in Zaire -- with little food, little water, no shelter, and no sanitation.

"And so, this amendment is intended to provide the administration with sufficient resources to respond to this colossal crisis. These funds could be used for any type of humanitarian assistance -- food, water, water purification supplies, sanitation equipment, or medicine and medical supplies. It seems to me that America has a responsibility to respond quickly and appropriately to this humanitarian nightmare -- I have no doubt that the American people care about suffering Rwandans and support the U.S. government providing the aid they so desperately need."

Senator Moseley-Braun issued the following statement:

"The magnitude of this humanitarian tragedy compels us to act. The Congress and the President must work together to provide assistance to the Rwandan refugees dying by the hundreds each day in refugee camps. Our humanitarian assistance will save lives. We must do what is right."

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