

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
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## **LIFT BOSNIA ARMS EMBARGO**

### DOLE & LIEBERMAN TO RENEW EFFORT TO LIFT U.S. ARMS EMBARGO ON BOSNIA

I intend to offer an amendment on behalf of myself and Senators Lieberman, and others. This amendment provides for the termination of the U.S. arms embargo on the Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina no later than November 15, 1994.

This amendment is intended to set a definitive ending date for the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina. The sponsors of this amendment understand that the U.S. and the so-called contact group have agreed to a phased approach which may lead to the multilateral lifting of the arms embargo. However, we have no guarantees when this will happen, or more importantly if it will happen. And we could be here next year, in the next Congress debating this issue once again -- the only difference being it will be year number three and tens of thousands of more Bosnians will have died.

The reality is that only by lifting this illegal and unjust arms embargo on the Bosnians can we hope to eventually have a just resolution of this conflict and avoid sending U.S. forces to implement a partition of Bosnia.

#### Air Strikes Welcome, But Unlikely to Force Settlement

Today, we learned that the U.N. finally called for limited air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets -- in response to the Bosnian Serbs taking back heavy weapons from a U.N. protected facility in the Sarajevo exclusion zone -- and that these strikes took place. While this action is welcome -- especially from the perspective of slowing the downward slide of U.S. and NATO credibility -- I am skeptical that this action alone will pressure the Bosnian Serbs into a settlement.

In my view the U.S. Congress can make a critical difference -- in letting the Bosnian Serbs know that there is a real deadline -- that there is something more definite than continued meetings of the contact group.

#### House/Senate Conferees Considering Embargo

I am aware that House and Senate conferees on the Defense Authorization bill are negotiating on language regarding the lifting of the arms embargo. The administration sent its representatives up, including the U.S. envoy Ambassador Charles Redman, to persuade the conferees against taking definitive action to terminate this illegal and unjust embargo on Bosnia, arguing that a diplomatic process was underway.

With all due respect to the efforts of Ambassador Redman and the others who have participated in the seemingly endless rounds of diplomatic negotiation, I hope that the conferees will put more weight on the administration's track record in influencing the allies, and on the events in Bosnia right now -- rather than once again, placing their hopes in a diplomatic process that is not backed by anything more than promises of action some time in the undefined future.

We need to take real action -- to take action beyond issuing statements and communiques. By adopting a provision to definitively end the U.S. arms embargo on Bosnia -- even if it is several months away -- we can truly change the dynamic of the process and put some real pressure on the Bosnian Serbs. We can also give the administration some real leverage in its attempt to get the allies to forsake their failed policies.

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