

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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HAITI INVASION & CONGRESS

CONGRESS SHOULD DEBATE PROPOSED HAITI INVASION;
PRESIDENT SHOULD SEEK APPROVAL OF CONGRESS & AMERICAN PEOPLE

OMAHA, NE -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

"The Clinton administration has apparently decided to invade Haiti without seeking authorization from the U.S. Congress. The administration has spent plenty of time in the last few weeks lobbying the United Nations and the Caribbean Community, but they have yet to make a convincing case to Congress or the American people. Congress should have the opportunity to vote -- up or down -- on the issue of authorizing war in Haiti. In 1991, President Bush sought the approval of Congress before the liberation of Kuwait in Operation Desert Storm. President Clinton should do the same before ordering American troops to invade Haiti.

"There is no U.S. national security interest at stake in Haiti. But if President Clinton believes American interests are at stake -- and if he wants to credibly use the threat of military force -- he should make his case to the Congress and the American people. If President Clinton makes his case to the Congress, authorization will greatly strengthen his hand. If he cannot make his case here at home, American troops should not be put in harm's way in Haiti. In my view, there ought to be full Congressional debate of the proposed Haiti invasion -- even if President Clinton chooses not to come to Congress on his own."

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