

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
*Friday, September 16, 1994*

*Contact: Clarkson Hine*  
*(202) 224-5358*

## **HAITI DIPLOMACY**

**DOLE URGES PRESIDENT TO DISPATCH HIGH-LEVEL EMISSARY TO HAITI:**  
**DESPITE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES, NOT TOO LATE FOR CREATIVE**  
**DIPLOMACY; DON'T SHOOT FIRST & ASK QUESTIONS LATER**

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK --** Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

President Clinton told the American people that the U.S. had "tried every possible way" to resolve the Haitian crisis without war. Unfortunately, many options were not pursued and many roads were not traveled. It is not that all options have been exhausted, it is that the Administration has painted itself into a corner.

It is not too late to slow down the war train. All Americans want to see an end to the military reign of terror in Haiti. But the stakes are too high to ignore peaceful options -- as they have been ignored or foregone for months.

Some of the lost opportunities and misfires in the Administration's Haiti policy include:

- \* Prior to the October 30, 1993 deadline in the 10-point Governor's Island Accord, numerous actions were to have occurred, including a general amnesty, and the naming and confirmation of a new Prime Minister. Virtually all comment has centered only on the point requiring the retirement of General Cedras.
- \* On October 11, 1993, the U.S.S. *Harlan County* was turned back by a crowd of Haitian thugs, severely undermining U.S. credibility.
- \* On October 20, 1993, I first suggested the idea of a fact-finding commission or mediation by the Vatican to address the Haitian crisis.
- \* On December 14, 1993, the widely respected Prime Minister appointed by Aristide, Robert Malval, resigned after months of being systematically excluded from all decisions by Aristide. His anguished resignation letter was made public a short time later. U.S. diplomacy should have strengthened Malval's legitimate role, rather than passively sitting on the sidelines.
- \* In February 1994, a group of Haitian parliamentarians came to the U.S. with a plan which was approved by the U.S. and the United Nations -- but it was rejected by President Aristide and the effort languished.
- \* On April 26, 1994, after months of diligent effort, the President's Special Representative on Haiti was fired. Ambassador Lawrence Pezzullo's offense was trying to build a political center which would have required compromise by all parties -- compromise was rejected by President Aristide.
- \* On May 5, 1994, I formally proposed the creation of an independent fact-finding commission, modeled after the successful Kissinger Commission on Central America under President Reagan.

(MORE)



- \* On June 9, 1994, concerted Administration lobbying reversed prior House of Representatives approval of a "safe haven" proposal for Haiti authored by Congressman Porter Goss (R-FL).
- \* On July 1, 1994, 48 democratically-elected members of the Haitian Chamber of Deputies wrote to the U.S. Congressional leadership supporting a bipartisan commission to seek a peaceful solution.
- \* On July 13, 1994, I offered an amendment to establish a bipartisan Congressional commission to examine Haiti policy. It was defeated after strong opposition from the Administration. That commission's term would have expired August 27, 1994.

In sum, the Administration has repeatedly rejected alternatives and refused to use creative diplomacy to address the Haiti crisis. Now, American men and women are poised to risk their lives to put Aristide back in power. At many junctures over the last 12 months, the President and his advisers have chosen a course that results in a confrontation that is not in America's national security interest. While it is helpful to have the support of the United Nations, it is a mistake to deny Congress an opportunity to debate the use of force in Haiti.

In my view, we should not shoot first and ask questions later. I urge President Clinton to postpone invasion plans and instead immediately dispatch a high-level emissary to Haiti, an emissary not with an ultimatum but with a mandate -- a mandate to seek a peaceful solution to Haiti's tragedy. This individual should have impeccable credentials and wide bipartisan respect, someone such as retired General Colin Powell. Such an emissary could engage the democratically elected Parliament, and all sectors of Haitian society in the search for a peaceful resolution which furthers democracy and human rights in Haiti.

###