

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
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## **IRAQ UPDATE**

**DON'T EASE SANCTIONS UNTIL IRAQI COMPLIANCE WITH ALL U.N. DEMANDS:**  
**U.S. SHOULD BE PREPARED TO ACT UNILATERALLY, SHOULDN'T GUT DEFENSE:**  
**CONGRESS BEEFED UP ADMINISTRATION REQUESTS FOR KEY WEAPONS**

**TETERBORO, NEW JERSEY --** Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement:

"Russian diplomats today tried to come to the rescue of their old friends in Baghdad. The American response should be clear: appeasement of Saddam Hussein will not work, and is not acceptable. The U.S. should announce it will veto any effort to ease or lift sanctions on Iraq without full compliance with all U.N. resolutions. The United States cannot allow Saddam Hussein to force a multi-million dollar troop deployment every time he sends an armored convoy south. If the United States cannot get United Nations agreement to take firm multilateral action preventing Iraq from repeating this week's threat, the United States should be prepared to act unilaterally.

"But America will not be able to act unilaterally if we continue down the road of gutting rather than responsibly cutting American defense. Saddam Hussein's on-again, off-again threat to invade Kuwait highlights the dangers. The fact is that \$127 billion cannot be chopped from the U.S. defense budget without paying a price. Iraq's move toward Kuwait may have been designed to test President Clinton. While the test may have been passed so far, future tests may be harder to pass without adequately armed forces.

"The facts are clear: the Carter Administration proposed buying more tanks, more combat aircraft and more ships in the days of the 'hollow forces' of the late-1970s than the Clinton Administration did this year. It is also clear that Administration proposals were inadequate in a number of key weapons systems now deployed in the Persian Gulf: everything from upgraded M-1 tanks and B-52 bombers to anti-tank weapons and Patriot missile research. That's why Congress approved substantially more than the Clinton Administration asked for in 10 major weapons systems critical to the Persian Gulf deployment. If not for the leadership of Senators Inouye and Stevens, American armed forces would be stretched even thinner than they are today.

"Some in the Administration have bristled because concerns were raised about the impact of budget reductions on American defense capabilities. But Republicans and Democrats in Congress have been raising such concerns for many months. That is why Congress increased spending for critical areas above the Administration request. I have absolute confidence that our fighting men and women are the best in the world -- and they must always be given the tools to accomplish their mission."

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