

Bob Dole
U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

NEWS
FROM: SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER



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BOSNIA UPDATE

PLANNING FOR U.N. WITHDRAWAL APPROPRIATE:
UNPROFOR DEPARTURE WOULD CLEAR WAY FOR NATO LIFT & STRIKE;
END TO U.N./NATO "DUAL KEY" ESSENTIAL TO
CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the President's announcement that the U.S. is prepared to offer the support of U.S. forces, including ground troops, to assist in the withdrawal of U.N. Protection Forces in Bosnia should that become necessary:

"In my view, planning for the withdrawal of U.N. Protection Forces is the appropriate course of action. Clearly, as developments throughout Bosnia demonstrate, these forces are in danger and are unable to protect themselves, let alone fulfill their mandate -- despite their continuing courage under difficult circumstances. Ironically, the only protection being provided, albeit unintentionally, is to the Bosnian Serb forces.

"Once U.N. forces are withdrawn, the way would be cleared for NATO to carry out effective air strikes, and for the arms embargo to be lifted against the Bosnians so that they may, at long last, defend themselves. Realistically, without UNPROFOR's withdrawal, the lifting of the arms embargo and robust air strikes against Bosnian Serb military targets, such as ammunition dumps, fuel depots and air fields, cannot occur. Furthermore, the withdrawal of U.N. forces will remove any excuses for opposing the lifting of the arms embargo on Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Secretary of Defense Perry contacted me today regarding the President's decision to provide U.S. forces, including ground troops, if necessary, to assist in the withdrawal of U.N. protection forces. He did not mention any estimates of how many U.S. troops may be required. Hopefully, such assistance will not be necessary. In any case, the Congress will want to discuss these contingency plans with the administration in detail.

"In my view, essential to Congressional support for any operation potentially involving U.S. ground forces will be a firm commitment from the administration that the dual-key arrangements currently in place will be terminated and that the U.N. will not be in command of any such operation. Under no circumstances should any American forces be subject to United Nations decisions on their manner of operations, rules of engagement, or ability to defend themselves, as is presently the case with NATO air forces. Right now, NATO air crews are at risk because U.N. commanders refuse to allow NATO to take normal defensive measures in particular, with respect to addressing the threat posed by Bosnian Serb air defenses."

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