

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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BOSNIA & PRESIDENT CARTER

DOLE URGES CARTER TO DECLINE BOSNIAN SERB INVITATION TO MEDIATE

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today confirmed that he has written to former President Jimmy Carter urging him not to accept the Bosnian Serb offer to mediate the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Dole said "the letter expressed my concerns that Radovan Karadzic is not interested in peace, but in public relations and buying time to consolidate his gains in Bosnia through more ethnic cleansing."

"Given the fact that the actions taken by Karadzic and his forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina are in blatant violation of the Helsinki Accords and the U.N. Charter," Dole said after sending the letter, "I would hope that President Carter's firm commitment to human rights and justice will cause him to decline Karadzic's invitation. It's hard to call what the Bosnia Serbs are offering 'concessions,' when they really amount to a return to the status quo -- a managed siege of Sarajevo and the other so-called safe areas."

"I have a great deal of respect for President Carter and his genuine commitment to peace," Dole added. "However, it is my view that additional mediators are no substitute for resolve by the international community to stand firmly against genocidal aggression. Without active U.S. leadership, I fear the West won't have the resolve to fulfill U.N. resolutions in Bosnia, for NATO to meet its commitments to defend the safe areas, and to allow the Bosnians to defend themselves."

Earlier this year, Dole visited Sarajevo and personally witnessed the widespread destruction of homes, buildings, and lives in the besieged Bosnian capital.

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